

January 2010

Sustainability Now is the monthly bulletin from Sustainability South West (SSW), the region's independent Champion Body for sustainable development. SSW is a registered charity and its Mission is:

'To champion and assist action now to achieve a South West that is genuinely sustainable: resilient, healthy, productive, socially-just and living within environmental limits.'

New Decade – Next generation

As we move into the second decade of the 21st century, how can our young people engage with big sustainability issues like their future food and energy security in an era of climate change?

Sustainability is about long term well-being so the role and fate of the next generation is crucial. We must engage young people and enlist their support, creativity and energy if our communities are to be fit for the 21st century. They will need new sustainability skills to contribute to the transition ahead. There are multiple 'wins' to be gained from this approach, from new training and jobs to motivating disaffected young people (with potential to dissuade anti-social behaviour) and ensuring that solutions and new facilities/services are 'owned' by young people. The engagement of young people will strengthen the impetus for change and help the next generation to be more resilient to the big changes on their horizon.



The National Children's Bureau has teamed up with SSW to host a **free workshop** on Monday 25 January at The Watershed, Bristol.

'**Involving children and young people in sustainable solutions for the future**' is an interactive event for decision and policy makers from all sectors and will include hearing directly from young people. Please come along to learn more about this issue and help to explore and promote its enormous potential. Contact Liz Zachary at lzachary@ncb.org.uk or on 0207 8436330 to book and for more information see '[Up & Coming](#)', below.

Let's support our young people to get more involved in decision making about how we are going to deliver a more sustainable future for the South West and work with them to actually make it happen!

This month's other SustainabilityNow headlines at a glance:

- ◆ [New faces at Sustainability South West – welcome to our new Board Members](#)
- ◆ [Government Food Strategy launched](#)
- ◆ [Planting Places awards – applications deadline extended to 1st February](#)
- ◆ [Free personal Carbon Card](#)
- ◆ [On your radar](#)
- ◆ [Up & Coming: Events around the region](#)

New faces at Sustainability South West – welcome to our new Board Members

SSW recently recruited for enthusiastic advocates from a range of sectors to join our Board Membership. The six new Members to join the Board are:

Higher education: **Dr Stephen Sterling**, Schumacher Reader in Education for Sustainability & Associate Director, Centre for Sustainable Futures, University of Plymouth; Senior Adviser, Higher Education Academy ESD Project

Workplace action: **Nigel Costley**, Regional Secretary, South West Trades Union Congress; Director and Vice-Chair, Equality South West; Member of Regional Economic Task Group; Board Member of Regional Employment and Skills Partnership; Member of the South West Learning and Skills Council

Workplace action: **Emma Burlow**, Regional Manager Environmental Business Support, Business Link

Media/Communications: **Stephanie Moore**, Director, Red Earth PR

Food production: **Tim Appleton**, Group Technical and Sustainability Manager; and Group Technical Compliance Manager, Duchy Originals Ltd

Local government: **Darren Hall**, Bristol Partnership Manager

Government Food Strategy launched

Food 2030, the Government's new food strategy, has been published this month. It is the first of its kind in over 50 years and draws on many of the comments received from last year's public consultation. SSW has been engaged in this issue through its sustainability summit for Board Members and guests on "What a truly sustainable food system would be like" and by preparing recommendations in liaison with other organisations across the region to respond to the Food 2030 consultation. These recommendations include:

- Consumers and food producers to wield more power over our food supplies
- A move away from large retailers setting the agenda
- A complete re-valuing of healthy food production as an essential ingredient that keeps our vital life support systems going

Food 2030 sets out the vision of what Government wants the food system to look like in 2030, and how it can get there. It is available on Defra's food pages at www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/food/strategy/index.htm.

The SDC's Commissioner for food, Tim Lang, said: "For the first time, this strategy recognises the need for us to consume and produce food in much more sustainable ways. It clearly acknowledges that we can't continue as we are if we want to address the challenges of unhealthy diets, climate change and global food security. In outlining this strategy for a sustainable and secure UK food system in a global context, government is providing the vision and leadership that many...have long been advocating. It represents a recognition, which the SDC has long advocated, that policy needs to integrate thinking on both supply and demand." He continues, "The focus on defining and supporting sustainable diets...is particularly welcome. We recognise that this raises thorny issues, including reconciling the environmental and health impacts of meat and dairy production with the legitimate concerns of producers and consumers. The strategy's emphasis on skills is also to be commended, as is its focus on the importance of working both regionally and internationally. These elements will require ongoing leadership and commitment."

Planting Places Awards – last chance to apply: deadline extended to 1 February

The 3rd Planting Places awards – recognising greenspaces that are making fantastic contributions to the sustainability of their communities – is open for applications until 5pm 1 February 2010. The awards, coordinated by SSW, are open to applications from any public greenspace in the South West of England. This includes everything from parks, community gardens and allotments to green routes (ie cycle paths), play spaces and even cemeteries and rooftops. The greenspace can be any size. It can be privately funded, community, conservation group, NHS Trust or council land, but it MUST be free and accessible to the public, and for public use and enjoyment. Applications can be submitted by a local community group, local authority, NGO, NHS Trust, private organisation or individual. Completed applications can be returned to lynn.gibbons@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk. For more information visit the Planting Places website: www.plantingplaces.org.uk or call SSW 0117 929 0989.



Free personal Carbon Card



The Fair Shares, Fair Choice (FSFC) climate campaign has calculated a climate safe and globally fair personal carbon allowance for everyone in the UK in 2010 - 3.8 tonnes. To receive a **free 2010 Carbon Card**, 'Sign Up' as a supporter of the principle of 'fair, safe carbon shares for everyone' at

www.fairsharesfairchoice.com and email Freiny Miles with your address: freiny.miles@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk.



FSFC doesn't short change the less well-off or climate safety (the formula aims to keep global temperature rise to within a 2 degree increase). It is based on the principles of an internationally recognised model - the UN backed 'Contraction and Convergence.' It calculates per capita carbon budgets which take account of the different needs of developed and developing nations. The FSFC website also offers **free resources** to help you work out and reduce your carbon footprint or contact Freiny for resources to use at your own climate change event.

On your radar?

Date for your diary: SSW's annual Local to Regional conference will take place on Tuesday, 23 March at The Watershed, central Bristol.

Watch this space - full details of SSW's annual conference will be available soon. If you would to register your interest, please send your details to freiny.miles@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk.



UWE Built and Natural Environment best practice interview: Davis Langdon on changing procurement strategies

BNE TV, the UWE online TV service, has just made available its third best practice interview. It features Simon Rawlinson from Davis Langdon answering questions on how procurement strategies have changed in the construction industry over the last 20 years and particularly during the current economic downturn. Questions include: What constitutes value in a building project? Is ignoring the building lifecycle a fundamental weakness? What is the impact of the current economic downturn? View it at: www.bne.uwe.ac.uk/cpe/bnetv/davis/default.asp.

Sustainable Places for Health and Well-being report

Drawing on examples and research, this report for health trusts, planners, policymakers and premises providers shows how good planning can have a positive impact on public health, how health trusts can cut carbon and costs by co-locating services, and how designers can influence people's well-being. View the report at: www.cabe.org.uk/files/future-health.pdf.

Higher Education Academy's Education for Sustainable Development Project Newsletter

The January edition of the bi-monthly ESD newsletter is available at: <http://tinyurl.com/enews-3-3>.

Useful publication for carbon footprint advice?

'Climate Action', produced in association with the United Nations, has lots of practical advice to help businesses and other organisations to reduce their carbon footprint. The third edition coincided with the recent climate change negotiations in Copenhagen. For more info see: www.climateactionprogramme.org/publication/.

Infrastructure solutions for climate change

The Town & Country Planning Association's latest annual conference (held in London on 1 December) focussed on cutting-edge climate change infrastructure solutions (both adaptation and mitigation) achievable through the planning system. Presentations are available online at: www.tcpa.org.uk/pages/tcpa-annual-conference-2009.html.

A new local authority tool for 'walkability'

Living Streets has published a toolkit to support local authorities across Scotland improve the walkability of their communities and tackle health inequalities in the process. The toolkit is relevant to transport planners, road engineers, town centre managers and access, sustainable development and health improvement officers. The case studies, trends, approaches and solutions outlined are relevant to any UK local authority context. See: www.livingstreets.org.uk/resources/.

European Fair: 'Education for sustainability' presentations

The 3rd European Fair on Education for Sustainable Development was held in Hamburg in October, providing European organisations with an opportunity to exchange ideas and expertise. The Fair focused on renewable energy and climate issues and how best to integrate these topics into the curriculum. Presentations can be viewed at: www.haw-hamburg.de/esd2009.html#c43555.

European finance for implementing local energy schemes

Many regions and cities do not have the technical capacity to develop large energy efficiency and renewable energy programmes. The European Commission has established ELENA (European Local Energy Assistance) to help public bodies implement investment programmes in areas like retrofitting buildings, sustainable construction, heating schemes and green transport. A share of the technical support costs for preparing, implementing and financing a programme is covered (for instance feasibility studies, business plans and tendering processes). For more information see: www.eib.org/products/technical_assistance/elena/index.htm.

South West rewarded

Congratulations to South West businesses picking up national awards for their eco methods and services:

- Devon's YouGen and Devon/Bristol based Selfsufficientish topped public votes against the likes of The Guardian online to win 2009 **Green Web Awards** for best 'Green Living Advice Sites' and 'Eco Blogs and News' respectively. Congratulations also to Bristol's ECO-tube, runners up in the Social Media Hero category. For more info see www.nigelsecostore.com/green-web-awards/vote/.
- SSW's 2008 C+ Carbon Positive Award overall winners the Commercial Group have picked up another honour, winning the 2009 **Carbon Trust Low Carbon Innovation Awards** 'Smart Deployment of Clean Technologies: Private Sector' award. The Cheltenham-based office services company won the award for reducing the carbon footprint by revolutionising its fleet of delivery vehicles. Congratulations also to runners up in the 'Technology Innovation: Industry' category, Cheltenham based Spirax Sarco for their development of a closed steam system that enables energy to be recovered and 'recycled' into boilers, the first of its kind. Full details at: www.carbontrust.co.uk/news/news/whats-new/Pages/Innovation-Awards-2009.aspx.

Up & coming...events around the region

Make Money, Not Waste 2010: Practical Solutions to Practical Problems, support and advice for SW food and drink producers, 21 January, Exeter Race Course

A **free** event is full of practical solutions to help businesses save money, resources and time. The event will focus on resource efficiency and waste management, with industry experts sharing their knowledge and expertise through a programme of presentations and workshops. Visit <http://makemoney2010.eventbrite.com> for more details.

Building Health - Planning & Designing for Health and Happiness, 22 January, UWE, Frenchay, Bristol

Planning and design can play a pivotal role in tackling urgent challenges such as health inequalities, sedentary lifestyles and obesity. Housing growth and regeneration provide opportunities to 'build in' health from the start and to improve existing environments. Conference delegates will hear from speakers from a range of disciplines, case studies from the UK and Europe and learn about successful strategies, tools and techniques. All delegates can register for free access to two distance learning topics on Healthy Urban Planning from the MA in Spatial Planning at UWE. Visit www.architecturecentre.co.uk/events/buildinghealth.htm for more info and to book.

Art, Ecology and the Economy exhibition, 23 January - 28 March, CCANW, Haldon Forest Park, Exeter and Duchy Square Centre for Creativity, Princetown

The project takes the form of an exhibition over two venues. Its aim is to demonstrate how environmentally friendly approaches to manufacture and collaboration can help make the creative industries more profitable. In turn, they will show how profitable creative industries impact on other important regional industries, particularly tourism, by providing products and services that enhance local distinctiveness. The exhibition is accompanied by several day-long forums at both venues. Admission £10/£8 - booking essential. Call 01392 832277 or email info@ccanw.co.uk for more information.

Over to YOU

Remember – we're your independent sustainability champs – and as an independent charity we're here to act as a critical friend for the common good. If you're involved in action for sustainability – let us know and we can champion it! Equally if you're experiencing barriers to adopting a more sustainable approach let us know so we can feed back messages on your behalf. Also let us know about local and regional events coming up over the next month for inclusion in the next edition. **Contact Freiny Miles at freiny.miles@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk.**
Deadline for submissions: 10 February 2010.

Other news from SSW available from:

www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk

Regular updates on **SSW coordinated projects** available:

Sustainability Shaper – the SW's sustainable development framework

www.shapersw.net

Fair Shares, Fair Choice – campaign for fair, safe carbon shares for all

www.fairsharesfairchoice.com

Sustainable Health SW – supporting the region's NHS trusts

www.sustainablehealthsw.org.uk

Planting Places – networks for SW urban greenspace project

www.plantingplaces.org.uk

Please note Sustainability South West's change of contact details (since 1st July 2009):

Sustainability South West, 3rd Floor, Bush House, 72 Prince Street, Bristol BS1 4QD t. 0117 929 0989

www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk Registered Charity no.1106125 Company Ltd no. 3899945

Feedback: As a network of influential individuals your feedback on *Sustainability Now* is very valuable. Send comments to info@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk (let us know if colleagues would like to be added to the e-distribution list).

Back issues: at www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk/sustainability_now

Unsubscribe: To be removed from this distribution list please contact info@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk

Disclaimer: Views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of SSW's membership as a whole.