

SustainabilityNow



March 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.'

Which way leads to a sustainable future? Introducing SustNav...



Both our financial and natural resources are under increasing pressure – so:
Should we focus on reducing inequalities or reducing carbon?
Should we invest in improving well being or renewable energy?
Should we revive our worker bee population or our employment figures?

A sustainable future means **all** of us helping to do **all** of these essential things **but in a joined-up way!** This is the most efficient path we can travel along if we want to be resilient to the 21st century changes coming our way.

If this journey sounds a little complicated to navigate, help is at hand!

Sustainability South West has been working with the support of regional partners to create an online decision making tool based on the region's sustainability principles. The tool, along with a promo film, will be launched next month but **Sustainability Now** readers can take a preview peek at the South West's refreshed principles at:

www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk/news/which_way_leads_to_a_sustainable_future_introducing_sustnav.../. To mark our launch we will be announcing the organisations and key decision makers who already publicly endorse the application the principles. If you'd like to be on that list, please contact Freiny Miles, freiny.miles@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk by Tuesday 20 April.

The journey to a sustainable future must be beyond party politics and in the lead up to the general election we will be asking political parties if they endorse the *SustNav* sustainability principles.

SSW uses the *SustNav* principles as the basis of training and appraisals (see information about a [new training offer](#), below). There are uncharted waters ahead of us and we'll all need to support each other to find the way – but let's at least agree to use the same set of principles to get us there.

This month's other SustainabilityNow headlines at a glance:

- ◆ [Unspent Budget? Get Sustainability Training for Next Year](#)
 - ◆ [New Indicators on Regional Progress towards SD](#)
 - ◆ ['Future Prosperity for the South West? - on yer bike!](#)
 - ◆ [Fair Society: Healthy Lives - The Marmot Review](#)
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Unspent Budget? Get Sustainability Training/Support for Next Year



Sustainability South West is offering flexible, CPD accredited **Training/Assessment Vouchers**

With the end of the financial year and the Easter break looming many of us are flat out completing projects, sorting out our finances and planning for the year ahead. It's the time of year when it can be

tempting to opt for the 'quick fix', especially where there are boxes that need ticking or 'use it or lose it' budget situations. If you're panicking about unspent training budget and feel you or colleagues would benefit from a sustainability 'brush up', we're currently offering discount training/consultancy vouchers which you can cash in on a range of options throughout 2010/11.

How it works: We will invoice you for payment in this financial year and you can then use your voucher to cover the cost of training or sustainability assessments during 2010/11, to a timescale that suits. Buy tailored training days for your team, sustainability assessments of particular strategies, projects or plans or just a single place on one of our CPD accredited courses.

Training Courses (*in-house: up to 25 delegates; or £95 per place at training venues around the region*):

- **Making Sense of Sustainability (CPD accredited), Applying sustainability principles to maximise the benefits and minimise the pitfalls:** Introduces a simple and accessible decision making tool which will allow you to maximise the sustainability of all your policy/strategy and delivery and to avoid costly mistakes. This half day training will prepare you for the increasing requirement to 'sustainability proof' policy and delivery.
- **Sustainability Master Classes (CPD accredited), Leadership for Sustainability:** Workshops to increase sustainability understanding and to promote collaborative, efficient and sustainable working across public sector agencies/service delivery areas. Introduces a sustainability decision making tool, offers the opportunity to share ideas and concerns with peers and identifies best practice from the South West and beyond.
- **Full day training** also available – a combination of an introductory morning session with an afternoon workshop using the sustainability decision making tool to best suit your needs.

Independent Strategic Assessments and Support:

Through independent strategic assessments, SSW can work with you to apply the nationally recognised *SustNav* sustainability principles to any emerging plan, policy or strategy eg: Community Strategies; Local Development Frameworks; Local Area Agreements; Multi Area Agreements; Corporate Plans.

Previous clients include: *Government Office for the South West, South West Regional Development Agency, Wessex Water, South West Strategic Health Authority, Natural England, Bristol City Council, Plymouth City Council, Exeter City Council, Somerset County Council, Dorset County Council, South Somerset District Council, Defra.*

Comments from participants:

"I came away with a great understanding of principles and measures to assess sustainability"

"A eureka moment about a project I worked on"

"I can now take this tool and use it in all aspects of my project and development work"

To purchase your voucher (any value starting from £95) or for more information please email clare.mitchell@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk or telephone 0117 929 0989.

SSW is a Registered Charity and all revenue derived from fee based activities supports our charitable aim to promote sustainability.

New Indicators on Regional Progress Towards SD

Defra have published an update of 46 measures of regional progress towards sustainable development in England.

For each Government Office region a fact sheet has been produced with commentaries on each indicator and an assessment of overall progress. The indicators show the highs and lows for each of the regions and are, as far as possible, consistent with the national UK Government indicators (published each year in 'Sustainable Development Indicators in Your Pocket').



Using the traffic light system the South West scored just one 'red', meaning clear deterioration (for 'bird populations – farmland'), with all other 41 category assessments scoring green or amber.

There is also an update on a new measure of environmental equality. It indicates that in each region, deprived areas are more likely to have the least favourable environmental conditions.

To access the indicator summaries and regional factsheets, visit:

www.defra.gov.uk/sustainable/government/progress/regional/index.htm.

Future Prosperity for the South West? – on yer bike!

South West is worst for Traffic Congestion, Access to Bus Services and Rail Fare Costs: Prosperity Depends on Transport Improvements

The South West's future depends on improving its transport infrastructure, MPs have warned in a report from the South West Regional Select Committee.

The report shows that the region has some of the worst performing areas in the country in terms of traffic congestion, access to bus services, and the cost of rail fares.

The Committee say the region needs:

- a coherent voice when bidding for transport improvements
- regional bodies and local authorities must do more to improve public transport, cut congestion, and boost walking and cycling
- an increase in expertise within the South West's regional bodies and local authorities to ensure effective transport planning

MPs were critical of the lack of transparency in recommending projects for central Government funding through the Regional Funding Advice process (in the most recent round the majority of funding supported car use), accused of scant regard for Government targets to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and air pollution.

The Committee did welcome the creation of the Transport and Infrastructure Board, and accepts that decision making processes have improved.

Chair of the Committee Alison Seabeck MP said, "The South West needs a new direction in transport if it wants to be economically successful in the future. As oil prices rise and climate change gets worse the region's heavy dependence on cars will become increasingly problematic. Regional Agencies and local authorities must make sure people across the region have access to affordable, clean and reliable alternatives to get them from A to B."

Although the report refers to rising oil prices and climate change in relation to car dependency, it did not extend this thinking to air travel – despite the rise in passenger numbers and the Government's own carbon reduction targets. Instead the report called for better regional links with Heathrow and says of air travel "**We support the airports of the South West and recognise the contribution they can make to the economic wellbeing of the region. We recognise that without investment in alternatives that are quick and reliable, many people will choose to fly.**"

Full report at: www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmselect/cmswest/146/146i.pdf.

Fair Society: Healthy Lives – The Marmot Review

Review of health inequalities calls for a sustainable approach to tackle health issues, climate change and social injustice

The Marmot Review looks at tackling health inequalities in England post 2010. The Review concluded that health inequalities are a social justice issue. The report questions whether economic growth is the most important measure of UK success and proposed that tackling social inequalities in health and tackling climate change must go together.

The report recommended to Government "that economic, environmental and social policies be co-ordinated and framed by Government so as to create a basis for strong local partnerships between the NHS and regional development agencies, local and regional government and social care. "

The report also found measures such as active travel, promoting green spaces and healthy eating bring about co-benefits for both health and carbon emissions but warned opportunities for healthy, low-carbon living should be distributed in ways that favour people with low incomes and so help to reduce their vulnerability to ill-health.

Further recommendations for Government included:

- Preventative public health to be a shared responsibility between service providers
- Public funds to be invested in active travel, green spaces, healthy eating and energy efficiency
- Further work should be undertaken on carbon rationing to reduce the UK's carbon footprint more fairly

For Executive Summary see: www.ucl.ac.uk/gheg/marmotreview/FairSocietyHealthyLivesExecSummary.

'Planting Ideas for a Better Green Infrastructure' Master class series

These master classes, organised by Sustainability South West and Natural England, are an opportunity for all those engaged with the investment and delivery of green infrastructure (GI) across the South West to further explore and share the multi functional benefits that GI provides. Each session offers learning from national academics and experts. Delegates will explore issues and apply knowledge to their places, helping ensure more effective delivery of GI in new or regenerated places and communities across the South West. The master classes are suitable for specialists, strategists and managers in business, social and environmental sectors, including housing, land management, planning, community development, sustainable development, education and tourism. Classes will also benefit those involved with economic regeneration to understand how to unlock the extra economic and well being benefits that GI can provide.



- 23 April, 2010: **URBAN FOOD ...how Green Infrastructure can 'step up to the plate'** (Bristol)
Key Class Leader: Professor Martin Caraher (Professor of Food and Health Policy, City University London)
Project presenters include: Food Up Front and Capital Growth (London)
- 10 May, 2010: **NATURAL ECONOMY...unlocking the economic value of the natural environment in the South West region** (Exeter)
Key Class Leader: Will Williams (Director, Natural Economy Northwest)
Presenters from SW Region include: Charlie Plowden

Spaces are limited to a maximum of 20 delegates for each class, if you would like more information contact Lynn Gibbons on lynn.gibbons@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk or phone 0117 929 0989.



South West Ecotown

St Austell in Cornwall is one of four communities in southern England to share £60m of Government cash to build 'eco show homes' as part of the wider ecotowns agenda.

The communities will receive funding to build 600 new homes to exacting environmental standards. They will also meet some social criteria, with a third of the properties expected to meet local affordable home standards. The ecotowns will showcase sustainable building techniques including super insulation, smart metering, renewable energy, water and waste reduction measures and electric car charging points. The funding will also improve transport links, including rapid routes for buses, green travel hubs and facilities for electric cars and bikes.

For more information see: www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1459501.

On Your Radar?

Have a sustainable Easter

Be waste aware this Easter. For a free consumer guide to packaging, and what you can do to minimise its impacts and support better packaging, download SSW's leaflet 'Packaging Unwrapped' at:

www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk/assets/files/pdf/consumer_packaging_guide.pdf.



Shaping Our Future report

'Shaping Our Future' – a new report from the joint ministerial and third sector task force on climate change, the environment and sustainable development – highlights the third sector's significant potential to contribute to a sustainable future. It emphasises opportunities for the sector to show leadership, provide sustainable public services, create green jobs, support people in making pro-environmental choices and help build resilient communities. Download the report at:

[www.green-alliance.org.uk/uploadedFiles/Our Work/Final%20Task%20Force%20Report%2012.3.10.pdf](http://www.green-alliance.org.uk/uploadedFiles/Our_Work/Final%20Task%20Force%20Report%2012.3.10.pdf).

Suburban Neighbourhood Adaptation for a Changing Climate (SNACC)

The University of the West of England (UWE) led research project, 'Suburban Neighbourhood Adaptation for a Changing Climate' considers how existing neighbourhoods can be best adapted to reduce climate change impacts at both home and neighbourhood scale. Bristol features as one of the case studies. Find out more at: www.ukcip-arcc.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=630&Itemid=542.

Renewable and low-carbon energy capacity methodology – guidelines for regional authorities

New guidance, from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), to help regions support the UK's target of producing 15% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020 is available. The methodology details how regions can calculate their renewables potential, addressing wind speeds, available roof space and the potential for onshore wind, biomass and hydro power and solar energy. Regional Development Agencies, together with new local Leaders' Boards, will be the authorities responsible for targets. To download the guidance, visit www.info4local.gov.uk/documents/publications/1497400.

Sustainable Community Infrastructure report

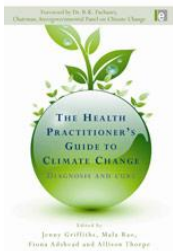
This new report, from the UK Green Building Council and Zero Carbon Hub, details how Local Development Frameworks could be key to the delivery of community scale heating, waste disposal, waste re-use and water harvesting. The Sustainable Community Infrastructure Task Group has been examining the issues facing industry, local government and policymakers in connection with the deployment of integrated, cost effective, low carbon infrastructure. For the report Executive Summary see: www.ukgbc.org/site/resources/show-resource-details?id=641.

Our School Building Matters toolkit

A new toolkit has been published by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment to help teachers maximise the learning opportunities of school building/refurbishment – it includes a crash course in architecture and curriculum linked activity ideas www.cabe.org.uk/files/our-school-building-matters.pdf.

UKCP09 marine and coastal projections support

New pages have been added to the Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership website to help users make the most of the latest UK Climate Projections 2009 (UKCP09) marine and coastal projections. Visit: www.mccip.org.uk/projections.



Staff Pick: The Health Practitioner's Guide to Climate Change book

This book provides a comprehensive study of the ways in which climate change and health interact and overlap. It includes clear recommendations for adaptation and building healthy, sustainable low-carbon communities. It highlights the need for partnership working and for collaboration with other professions and groups. Highly readable and a useful reference for health professionals and anyone concerned about health policy. Available to purchase for £18.99 at: www.earthscan.co.uk/?tabid=74742

Up & Coming...Events around the region

WWF's Earth Hour, 8:30pm, 27 March

Sign up to Earth Hour – WWF have set a target of one billion people around the world switching off their lights for one hour to show they care about climate change. You can see how your part of the UK measures up on WWF's interactive county sign-up map at https://earthhourmap.wwf.org.uk/sign_up/ - and find out how many more sign-ups it takes to top the chart (Bristol currently leading the South West counties!). Add your name to the campaign and switch off the lights on 27 March at 8.30pm, see <http://earthhour.wwf.org.uk/>.



Health, Wealth & Happiness: What Makes a Prosperous Region? 31 March, Assembly Rooms, Bath

What do we envisage when we wish each other a prosperous New Year? How can we make it happen for people in our region? The South West Observatory's 7th Annual Conference will bring together a broad range of expertise to consider how distinct notions of prosperity are correlated, how to articulate and measure a common understanding of prosperity, and how to bring it about. Speakers include SSW President Jonathon Porritt. Cost: £100/£150. To book visit: www.swo.org.uk/events/conference-2010.

Climate Change and Your Business, 12-2pm, 1 April, Cadbury House, Congresbury, North Somerset

North Somerset Enterprise Agency and North Somerset Council are running a free lunchtime forum for North Somerset businesses to meet environmental experts and discover how to reduce their carbon footprint and benefit from improving environmental performance. Info: Hazel Wintle on 01934 418118.

Sustainable Building Materials: Health, Carbon, Life. 20 April, Great Bow Wharf, Langport, Somerset

What makes building materials sustainable? How can they enable sustainable design? What qualities do they have to help protect and enhance historic buildings? How can they be used for meeting the Code or BREEAM? This seminar aims to increase understanding of sustainable building materials. To book, visit: www.ecostrust.org.uk/jcms/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=92&Itemid=79.

Earth Day 2010, 22 April



While climate change is the greatest challenge of our time, it also presents the greatest opportunity – an unprecedented opportunity to build a healthy, prosperous, clean energy economy now and for the future. Earth Day Network is galvanizing millions who make personal commitments to sustainability. Earth Day is an opportunity for individuals, corporations and governments to join together and create a global green economy. Join the more than one billion people in 190 countries that are taking action for Earth Day:

www.earthday.org/earthday2010.

Commercial CSR Day, 22 April, Cheltenham Racecourse

The Commercial Group's free annual CSR Day brings together industry leaders nationwide to share environmental best practice and to help businesses keep Corporate Responsibility at the heart of their agenda. Find out more at:

www.csrdays.co.uk.



Make Mine an Eco Home, 28 April, Great Bow Wharf, Langport, Somerset

This interactive seminar/course is for homeowners, self-builders, landlords and anyone else wishing to get great ideas and a good grounding in how to carry out a sustainable building or refurbishment project.

Visit www.ecostrust.org.uk/jcms/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=92&Itemid=79 to book.

CoaST One Planet Tourism Change for Good Big Bash, 28-29 April, Bedruthan Steps, Cornwall

CoaST's 7th annual event is a Celebration of Collaboration and Collective Clout, bringing together its members, friends and partners to highlight the collective work of sustainable tourism. Delegates will enjoy a wide variety of speakers, field trips, discussions and workshops. Cost: £10 per day for CoaST full members, £20 basic members and £50 non members. For more information and a booking form call CoaST on 01872 562 057 or email info@coastproject.co.uk. Bookings must be received by 1 April.

Saving energy, effective recycling, climate change & making money: an event for tourism-related businesses in Somerset, 30 April, Genesis Centre, Taunton

Limited places at a free event for tourism businesses in Somerset, with presentations from Envirowise, Somerset Waste Partnership, South West Climate Change Impacts Partnership and South West Tourism. Contact John Carter: jdcarter@somerset.gov.uk.

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, get in touch so we can feedback messages on your behalf. And 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: close of 16 April 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 – linking greenspace and sustainability in the SW

www.plantingplaces.org.uk

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