

SustainabilityNow



October 2009

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.'



If sustainability is the golden compass, can you help us chart the way?

The recent 'Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress' report (a review into the usefulness of GDP as a measure of societal well-being, commissioned by the French President, Nicolas Sarkozy) concluded that those currently heading up our economy and societies "are like pilots trying to steer a course without a reliable compass" (report available at www.stiglitz-sen-fitoussi.fr).

With GDP – long challenged from the sidelines as a legitimate measure – and accompanying economic models in a tailspin, where can we turn for more illuminating notions of progress? Now, more than ever, sustainability principles need to be our compass points when plotting a course for a resilient future (for the South West's sustainability principles see www.shapersw.net).

So what are you like at map reading? Do you have a sustainable sense of direction? Sustainability South West (SSW) – the region's independent Champion Body for sustainable development – is looking for enthusiastic advocates from a range of sectors to join our membership. Membership is an opportunity to exchange ideas, make connections, inform practical projects and spot challenges and opportunities for your sector.

We'd like to hear from individuals with experience and influence in the following areas: media/communication; higher education; food production; local community action/workplace action; energy production; regeneration; transport & governance. We are particularly keen to welcome new members with a private sector background to complement the current make-up of our vibrant cross-sector membership.

We're on a mission to promote a region which is 'resilient, healthy, productive, socially-just and living within environmental limits'. Some of the waters may be uncharted but, if you think you're up for the challenge, please throw us a line!

Julian Dennis & Leslie Watson
Chair & Director, Sustainability South West





For background information about the organisation please refer to our most recent annual review which can be found on our website at www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk (see 'About SSW').

For an information pack describing the role and benefits of a Sustainability South West Member and how to apply, please contact Freiny Miles at freiny.miles@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk or call the SSW office on 0117 929 0989. Deadline for applications is 5pm Monday 26 October.

This month's other *SustainabilityNow* headlines at a glance:

- ◆ [*Fair Shares, Fair Choice campaign receives over 400 new Sign Up's!*](#)
- ◆ [*Free resources for your climate change event*](#)
- ◆ [*Further sustainability appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West*](#)
- ◆ [*Defra food security debate*](#)
- ◆ [*Citizen consultation: World Wide Views on Global Warming*](#)
- ◆ [*The Sust'ometer: What's hot and what's not*](#)
- ◆ [*On your radar*](#)
- ◆ [*Up & Coming: Events around the region*](#)

Fair Shares, Fair Choice campaign receives over 400 new Sign Up's!

SSW attended the Organic Food Festival (12-13 September, Bristol), hosting a Fair Shares, Fair Choice stand providing free climate change information to the public, including challenges to reduce your carbon footprint and carbon footprint calculator worksheets. The weekend was a great success with over 400 people adding their name to the supporters list for the campaign, supporting the principle of "globally fair and safe carbon shares for everyone". Thank you to Wrington Greens, Pukka Herbs, Green People and RDA Organic for donating competition prizes. You can add your name to the supporters list and find information to help you reduce your carbon footprint at www.fairsharesfairchoice.com. For free climate change resources for your own event, see below.



Free resources for your climate change event / film screening

If you are holding a climate change awareness event for your staff or members of the public, contact SSW for free educational resources including Carbon Calculator worksheets, tips and challenges for low carbon living, exclusive Carbon Cards showing a 'fair share' of carbon for each person every year until 2017 and a 4 minute film! Email freiny.miles@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk with your event and contact details. You can also check out www.fairsharesfairchoice.com for more ideas and to add your name to the supporters list of the principle of 'globally fair and safe carbon shares for everyone'.



Further sustainability appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West

The Government has given the go-ahead to a further appraisal of whether proposals for the Regional Spatial Strategy for South West England (SW RSS) are the most sustainable way forward for the region, pushing back the final version, expected in June 2009, to next year. The Government wishes to be satisfied that the Sustainability Appraisal of last year's Proposed Changes to the SW RSS tested reasonable alternatives to those Areas of Search for strategic housing, business and other development which were added or amended following consideration of the Examination in Public Panel's report. The new Appraisal is expected to take until early in the New Year. In the light of the Appraisal's findings the Government will then decide what action to take to complete the SW Strategy to provide the clarity and certainty about the future framework for growth in the region.

Defra food security debate

Defra has launched the food security debate - a consultation on securing sustainable food supplies in Britain. They are asking for on-line feedback to inform the Government's food policy agenda and strategy, along with the action plan later this year. In addition they are asking for comment on the set of draft indicators. Deadline for feedback is 16 October. SSW will be submitting a response. Please see Defra on-line Discussion paper: <http://sandbox.defra.gov.uk/food2030/> to contribute to this debate.

Citizens from 38 countries call for urgent action on climate change at Copenhagen: 88% of UK participants called for urgency in agreeing a global climate deal

Over 38 countries in 6 continents participated in the first-ever global citizen consultation: World Wide Views on Global Warming, discussing climate change and future policy. The message from the citizens to the political negotiators was clear: We do not have time to wait any longer! 4,400 citizens around the world spent their Saturday responding to the same 12 questions. One of the clearest statements from all countries deals with urgency: 90% of the citizens answered that it is urgent that the political leaders reach a global agreement at COP15. To see results for UK:

<http://results.wvviews.org/new2/?cid=1298&gid=blank&ccid=blank&cgid=blank&question=blank&rec=0>.

Sussed!

👍 **Work starts on low carbon homes at Osprey Quay on Portland.**

Building work has started on a new low carbon housing scheme on Portland, Dorset that aims to be an exemplar of green development. Sustainable developer ZeroC, in partnership with the South West Regional Development Agency, is building 77 low carbon homes on RDA-owned land at Osprey Quay. All of the homes are being built to Level 4 of the Code for Sustainable Homes, and will reduce carbon emissions by more than half compared with conventional new build properties.

👍 **Sustainable Food and Farming refreshed delivery plan**

Cornwall, Devon and Gloucestershire have adopted the Sustainable Food and Farming refreshed delivery plan 'Changing Landscapes, Changing Outlooks' well – this has included Devon County Council fulfilling *Education and Awareness of the Links between Farming, Food and the Natural Environment* by developing a teaching resource called "Landscape Farming and Food" by their Sense of Place team, made available to all schools in the county.

So Last Century...

👎 **Dairy industry risk of disaster** Milk production is at its lowest level for 20 years with more than one producer a week selling off their dairy herds. NFU Cymru's milk board chairman Mansel Raymond issues warning of a potential dairy industry disaster saying belated Government recognition of a threat to future food supplies had probably come too late to stop the exodus. Milk yield slumped from a peak of 14 billion litres in 2002-03 to 12.76 billion litres last year – a 'massive cutback' that left the UK only 60 per cent self-sufficient in milk. The slump is continuing, with 33 million fewer litres produced between April and July this year compared with 2008 – despite the best spring weather conditions for three years. Story at www.farmersguardian.com/dairy-industry-sleepwalking-into-disaster-nfu-cymru/27330.article.

👎 **South West's car dependency revealed**

Research shows for the first time how dependent we are on our cars. With the highest 'cost of public transport relative to car', the SW also places just 7th of 8 regions when considering 'Who has the best travel options?', graded 'E+' and scoring just 49% due to 'Public transport being expensive and it's hard to take a bus'. The SW is also only second bottom for number of 'journeys mainly by walking or public transport'. Report summary available at: www.bettertransport.org.uk/system/files/car-dependency-scorecard-summary.pdf.

👎 **Investment in high carbon growth** Whilst RDA investment into buildings for the Flybe Training Academy are planned to be sustainably constructed – they are to house new flight simulators amongst other things - if the South West wants its aspiration to be the leading region for a low carbon economy to be credible it must not only invest in low carbon initiatives but stop investing in growth in high carbon activities. Let's hope that the engineering skills gained can be applied to the development of low carbon goods and services. After all "there is no high carbon future"...

On your radar?

The 3rd Floor

The 3rd Floor of the Arnolfini building, Bristol, has become a meeting place for organisations, businesses and community groups involved with sustainable innovation, collaboration and action, within and beyond Bristol. Organisations already involved with The 3rd Floor include: The Converging World, The Schumacher Institute for Sustainable Systems, Forum for the Future, Sustainability South West, The Arnolfini, Business in the Community, The Association of Sustainability Practitioners, Under the Sky, Social Change and Development (SCAD) and The Hub. A wide programme of workshops and events has been developed – see 'Up and Coming' for a sample of October events and for full listings visit www.the3rdfloor.org.uk/. To be added to the mailing list for the monthly newsletter, email reception@the3rdfloor.org.uk.



350 International Day of Climate Action, 24 October 2009

Over 1600 actions have been pledged in 131 countries, united by a common call to action on October 24. The day calls for a fair global climate treaty - an international plan that meets the latest science and gets us back to safety, within 350 parts per million CO₂ in the atmosphere. For details of all SW events, from festivals and workshops to parades and film screenings, visit www.350.org/map#/map/50.94003/-2.63403/7.

The Handbook of Sustainability Literacy: Skills for a Changing World

The handbook has now launched its multimedia companion resource, which includes additional chapters and interviews: www.sustainability-literacy.org.

Energy Saving Week 19-25 October

This year's theme is waste - to help people across the UK stop wasting their time, money and energy! Each day has been assigned a mini-theme: Monday: Wasteful behaviour and Launch day; Tuesday: Warmer homes day (Insulation); Wednesday: Smarter driving day (Transport); Thursday: Switch off/turn down/turn off day; Friday: Buy better day. To find out what's happening in your area during the week, contact the Energy Saving Trust advice centre on 0800 512 012. Visit www.energysavingtrust.org.uk for more info.

SORTED

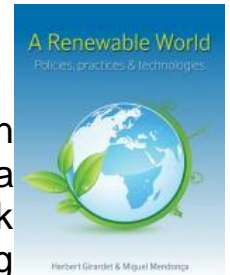
The EAUC has launched its new look SORTED (*Sustainability Online Resource and Toolkit for Education*) website: www.eauc.org.uk/sorted/home.

Up & coming...

A Renewable World - Energy Ecology Equality, 7.30pm

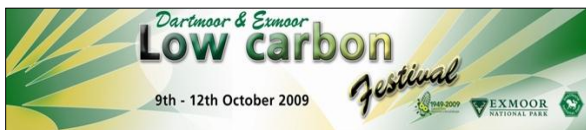
9 October, Bush House, Bristol

A The Converging World Climate 350 Campaign event in association with the World Future Council, launching "A Renewable World", a flagship publication from the World Future Council. This practical book builds on the best thinking and doing from around the world, looking at renewable energy technology, policy, finance and application, energy efficiency, sustainable agriculture, sustainable cities, future justice, democracy, relocalisation and more. A great opportunity to network, meet the authors and discuss these important topics. See www.the3rdfloor.org.uk/.



Footsteps Towards a Better Climate, 7.30pm, 9 October, Truro Cathedral, Cornwall

Truro Cathedral is behind a campaign to get Cornwall's voice heard at the Copenhagen Climate Summit in December. An open meeting has been convened on 9 October in order that the voice of the ordinary people of Cornwall can be heard. There will be guest speakers and a chance to view the supporting climate change exhibition which includes free Fair Shares, Fair Choice resources to work out your carbon footprint. To find out more and to sign the Cornish Declaration visit www.trurocathedral.org.uk/hot-topics/hot-topics.php.



Dartmoor & Exmoor Low Carbon Festival, 9-12 October

The South West's largest low carbon festival announces more than 15 events for all interests giving the ultimate excuse to visit Exmoor and Dartmoor this October. The Festival, a partnership between Dartmoor and Exmoor National Park Authorities, will promote low carbon living in and around the region's two National Parks, hosting community organised events for all ages to enjoy. The majority of events are free – for details visit www.lowcarbonfestival.co.uk.

Making it Green in the South West, 14 October, BAWA Centre, Filton, Bristol

The South West TUC is leading a regional green workplaces project to harness the reach of trade unions to change environmental behaviour in the workplace. This event looks at how to promote a green manufacturing recovery. Speakers include Frances O'Grady, TUC Deputy General Secretary and Jack Dromey, Unite Deputy General Secretary. To find out more, email amos@tuc.org.uk or visit www.greenworkplacesouthwest.org.uk.

The Winds of Change – climate hearing, 7pm, 15 October, 3rd Floor, Bush House, Bristol

A Climate Hearing is an exciting and moving event to enable people who are experiencing the impact of climate change the chance to make their voices heard. Elvis Sukali from Malawi, co-author of "The Winds of Change" an Oxfam climate change report, will be a guest speaker. The report is available at www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/climate_change/poverty-environment-malawi.html. For more event details, see www.the3rdfloor.org.uk/.

Leadership and Sustainability, 1 - 2pm, 15 October, Bush House, Bristol

Professor Steve Onyett will be facilitating a dialogue on leadership and sustainability as a preview to the ASP all day event on leadership and sustainability in December. Event part of The 3rd Floor programme, in association with The Association of Sustainability Practitioners, see www.the3rdfloor.org.uk/.

Cornwall Sustainable Building Trust event: Survival of the Retro-fittest, 16 October, The Eden Project

It is understood that to stand any chance of mitigating against serious and unpredictable changes in our Climate we need to reduce climate changing gas emissions by 80% by 2050. New build will be covered by net Zero Carbon on all new buildings by 2019 - but how do we treat existing buildings and heritage stock? Expect some "Home Truths" and great presentations of case studies and some interactive workshops from this one day event. For full information and to book see www.csbt.org.uk. 2 for 1 concessionary tickets are available.

An Introduction to Sustainability, 20 October, 10:30am – 2:00pm, Bush House, Bristol

A half-day workshop delivered by Sustainability South West to: ◦

Demystify sustainability and provide you with a good understanding of the topic ◦
Include a hands-on opportunity to undertake a basic sustainability appraisal of a project, strategy or decision-making process relevant to you ◦
Provide a relaxed and supportive environment in which to explore sustainability issues and network with peers and sustainability practitioners.

Learning Outcomes: The training will give participants a basic understanding of sustainability and sustainability principles relevant to all sectors and experience of how to appraise a project plan, strategy or decision-making process against sustainability principles. Follow up on-line support will be available to support participants implement their learning.

Cost: £99 (private and public sector organisations) / £70 (voluntary sector). Lunch is included.

Quotes from previous 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 take this tool and use it in all aspects of my project and development work”*** ***“Very interesting way of approaching sustainability”***

For more information and to book email

clare.mitchell@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk, call 0117 929 0989 or visit www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk/advice_and_info/introduction_to_sustainability_training_course/.

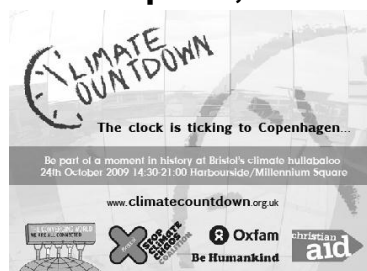
Water “our most important resource”, 20 October, Royal Agricultural College

Seminar from the South West Rural Update: looking at rain harvesting - the options available for rural business and local agricultural when managing their water, focusing on both the financial and the environmental savings. For more information contact Beverley.Allen@rac.ac.uk.



Bristol Climate Countdown, 2.30 – 9pm, 24 October, Millenium Square, Bristol

Oxfam, The Converging World and Christian Aid launch an afternoon of fun to highlight the need for action on climate change and the importance of the right deal being negotiated at the Copenhagen Climate Summit. SSW will be hosting a climate change information stand – visit us at the Fair Shares, Fair Choice stall. There'll be music, dancing, films, art, speakers and much more - log on to www.climatecountdown.org.uk for full details. If you would like to volunteer and help in the preparations then contact Joel Tait at volunteers@climatecountdown.org.uk and if you would like a stall/exhibition contact rdavey@christian-aid.org.



Green Solutions Festival, 24 October - Sunday 1 November, Paignton Zoo, Devon

The DEBI award winning zoo are hosting an entire week dedicated to demonstrations, competitions, games and activities focussing on reducing your impact on climate change. Visit SSW's Fair Shares, Fair Choice stand to work out your carbon footprint and enter our eco-prize draw. Further event information will shortly be available at: www.paigntonzoo.org.uk/news-events/events-detail.php?id=100.

Closing Loops, Opening Minds: Educating for a greener future, November 2 - 6, residential at Schumacher College, Dartington Teachers: Ken Webster, Blake Bower, Craig Johnson

Climate change meets the recession and energy resource limits. A low carbon future is promised. How do we educate for sustainability, beyond the personal responsibility context? Drawing on systems thinking and innovations in design, business and community enterprise, this course presents a coherent approach for those wishing to transform their schools, organisations and educational practices to reflect changing employment and skills opportunities. Fee (all inclusive residential): Businesses: £1,200 / Individuals, NGOs, Educational & Public Sector Organisations: £700 with 10% reduction for South West residents. For full details and to book, visit: www.schumachercollege.org.uk/courses/closing-loops-opening-minds-educating-for-a-greener-future.

South West Forum annual conference: "Value, voice and vision", 3 - 4 November, Thistle Hotel, Cheltenham

Speaker topics include: Valuing the voluntary sector: the RDA perspective, Sir Harry Studholme, Chair, South West Regional Development Agency; Voluntary voice: why it matters, Peter Bungard, Chief Executive Gloucestershire County Council; A vision for volunteering, Sukhvinder Kaur-Stubbs, Chair, Volunteering England; Stronger together, weaker apart, Simon Blake, Chair, Compact Voice and a formal debate: "Commissioning public services from voluntary organisations is making them become arms of the state". Visit www.southwestforum.org.uk/ for full details and booking information.

“Are We There Yet?” Journeys of Student Engagement in Sustainability, 3 November, University of Gloucestershire

A national forum to share good practice and explore opportunities for improving student engagement in sustainability within higher education. The conference will showcase volunteering and community initiatives and campus activities. The first 50 places will be free of charge. E-mail spang@glos.ac.uk for more details.

A Changing Climate for Maritime Biodiversity: linking science to practice, 5 November, Met Office, Exeter

One day conference to address issues surrounding maritime biodiversity and adaptation to climate change. The aim is to support action to help marine, coastal and estuarine biodiversity adapt to the impacts of this changing climate in the South West by bringing together scientific evidence and examples of good adaptation practice. For further details and to book your place visit: www.biodiversitysouthwest.org.uk/res_cc_c01.php.

Renewable Futures 2009: Power For Growth, 10 - 11 November, Assembly Rooms, Bath

Renewable Futures is Regen SW's annual conference and trade show, and the biggest renewable energy event in the South West of England. This year it will focus on how in the South West we can not only recognise and be realistic about the challenges that sustainable energy businesses are facing, but also how we can look ahead beyond the recession and focus on powering up for growth. The exhibition and conference will be held over two days – with the South West Green Energy awards in between. For full details and to book visit http://regensw.eventhq.co.uk/renewable_futures_power_for_growth_and_the_south_west_green_energy_awards.

Sustainability, Climate Change and Tourism: Challenges posed by the global economic crisis, 25 November, Bournemouth University

A seminar and discussion forum being held by The International Centre for Tourism and Hospitality Research. Fee: Students/Retired: £20; Other Delegates: £50. For more information and to book a place, contact Dr. Vijay Reddy on 01202 961520 or mvreddy@bournemouth.ac.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 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 us at info@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk**

Deadline for submissions: close of Friday 30 October 2009

Other news from SSW available from: www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk

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

Fair Shares, Fair Choice – the SW's growing low carbon movement

www.fairsharesfairchoice.com

Sustainability Shaper – the SW's sustainable development framework

www.shapersw.net

Planting Places – networks for SW urban greenspace project

www.plantingplaces.org.uk

Please note Sustainability South West's new contact details (as of 1st July):

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

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