

September 2010

SustainabilityNow is the e-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.'

Planting Places... How 'green' does our region grow?

A report from Planting Places – still cultivating local green space

In 2006, following feedback that the broader sustainability benefits of green spaces were underappreciated by decision makers, SSW established the Planting Places project to raise the profile of green infrastructure (GI) within the region.

Four years on, the project is still going strong. It has organised an annual award scheme showcasing the green spaces that are making fantastic contributions to community sustainability (first run in 2008); run an expert GI masterclass series with Natural England; and, most recently, produced a Briefing Note outlining the potential of urban green infrastructure networks. The Briefing Note provides an accessible overview of the links between GI and sustainability – useful 'ammunition' for those stressing the importance of multifunctional GI within development plans (visit www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk/projects/planting_places/ to download the Briefing Note or contact us on 0117 929 0989 for a paper copy).



More generally Planting Places has provided a forum for practitioners and experts from a range of sectors – covering health, play, heritage, travel and access, biodiversity, climate change adaptation and mitigation and 'one planet' lifestyles – to exchange ideas and information with the mutual benefit of developing more integrated approaches. Using green infrastructure to join up the dots has highlighted that most of us are aiming for the same thing; thriving, resource efficient communities supported by a healthier environment (i.e. sustainability!).

However, recent SSW research suggested that despite high knowledge of the sustainability potential of GI amongst practitioners, action is hampered by the lack of joined up thinking at the strategic and national level (something we stressed in a recent report to Defra). We hope that the increased focus on localism and explosion of community interest and involvement in green spaces is an opportunity for local agencies to build on the knowledge and best practice already available.

With the continued support of Natural England and the in-kind support of other partner organisations, Planting Places has big plans for the upcoming months. Next steps include the launch of our 2011 awards (details on how to apply will appear in our November issue of Sustainability Now) and further masterclasses in partnership with Natural England. In particular, we look forward to working more closely with GreenSpace (SW) the regional network of local authority parks and green space professionals to better support community delivery of easily accessible, safe and attractive green spaces.

For more info about Planting Places and how GI can contribute to sustainability, visit www.plantingplaces.org.uk and to stay up-to-date with GI activity and best practice in the region visit the Green Infrastructure Network SW portal at www.ginsw.org.uk. SustNav, the online sustainability decision-making tool, also includes specialist guidance for GI practitioners at www.sustnav.org.uk/specialist-guidance/green-infrastructure.

This month's other SustainabilityNow headlines at a glance:

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- ◆ [Free resources for your climate change event](#)

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Work for a council? Training and support subsidy available from SSW

Sustainability South West (SSW) has been awarded **funding to work with up to five local authorities** in 2010-11, on a first come first served basis. The subsidy can be used for sustainability staff training (at both executive and officer level) and on the application of a sustainability framework to highlight compatibilities and incompatibilities across policy and delivery and identify opportunities for more integrated approaches. The programme can be tailored to suit the particular needs of your authority.

We understand that the forthcoming SR10 announcement will have significant impacts on local government. The combination of reducing financial resources with increasing pressure to improve public service delivery presents a tough challenge. The programme offered provides a framework for identifying the least sustainable activities (which can be prioritised for cost cutting) and could also help you to avoid policies which may prove to be costly – whether financially, socially or environmentally – in the long term. If you are interested in partnering with us in this subsidised programme, or to find out more, contact SSW on 0117 929 0989 or email Leslie.Watson@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk.

New SustNav decision making workplace pack available

A new workplace pack is available to help with sustainable decision-making: **free SustNav sustainability DIY rulers and notepads** incorporating the 10 sustainability principles are now available – email your details to: Freiny.Miles@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk.



For orders of five or more we ask that you make a charitable donation to SSW for the cost price (£10 per five packs – cheques payable to 'Sustainability South West', send to: SSW, 3rd Floor, Bush House, 72 Prince St, Bristol, BS1 4QD). For more resources, visit the SustNav website (www.SustNav.org.uk) which offers free tools based on the principles including a workplace Sustainability Checklist and Assessment Toolkit to help you to make the best of any plans, projects or policies. There are Big Issues offering the lowdown on key sustainability issues; a growing section of specialist guidance; training opportunities to develop your own sustainability skills; and ideas for Sustainable Living. Visit www.SustNav.org.uk and follow SustNav on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/sustnav>.

Awards season

This month various local, regional and national awards are open for applications from organisations and groups looking to celebrate and promote sustainability successes:

- **Cornwall Sustainability Awards:** Open to Cornish or Isles of Scilly business or community working to minimise negative impacts on the environment whilst maximising the benefits to society. The awards aim to encourage, reward and gain recognition for some of the excellent work local businesses are doing to improve their sustainability. Deadline 24 September. Award categories and application details at: http://cornwallsustainabilityawards.org/award_categories.html.
- **Devon's Environmental Business Awards:** The DEBI Awards celebrate the excellent work being undertaken by Devon businesses, community groups and schools to help preserve and protect the environment we live in. The five categories are: Climate Change Innovation; Environmental Goods and Services; Sustainable Devon; Food, Farming & Fishing and Environmental Champion. Closing date for entries is 27 September. More information available at: www.debi-online.org.uk.
- **2010 South West England Green Energy Awards:** Celebrate the success of sustainable energy in the region! This year categories include: Best business innovation; Most proactive local authority; Best Community Initiative; Best renewable energy scheme; South West sustainable energy champion and Sustainable energy photo of the year, community focus. Deadline: 13 September. See: www.regensw.co.uk/events/regen-sw-events-/green-energy-awards-2010.
- **Environmental Pioneer Awards:** Nominations are now being accepted for the Environment Agency's inaugural Environmental Pioneer awards, taking place on 24 November. The awards recognise organisations leading the way on environmental performance; pioneering new ways to reduce emissions and pollution; that have introduced sustainable business practices; and that consistently go further than required by law. For more information on how to apply and to nominate organisations visit: www.neilstewartassociates.com/sw118/awards.php.

Grant funding awards currently available include:

- **Community Wildlife:** Big Lottery Fund and the BBC's new programme offers grants between £300–£10,000 to projects that bring communities together to improve or protect the natural environment by raising awareness of threatened wildlife or places. Up to £2 million is available across the UK. The programme is open to organisations including voluntary and community organisations, schools, town and parish councils, and statutory health authorities. Deadline for applications: 22 September. Info and application forms available at: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_community_wildlife.htm?regioncode=-sw.



- **Calling all SMEs!** Do you have a commercially viable, innovative and low carbon business idea or technology? Could you benefit from a cash injection of £40,000? If you've answered 'yes' you can apply for the Shell Springboard Awards. Deadline: 5 November. Entry info at: www.shellspringboard.org/.
- **Ideas to Create Social Change** UnLtd and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation are inviting individuals to apply for funding awards to create social change in attitudes and approaches regarding getting older and to create solutions to make a lasting difference to an ageing population. Applications are particularly welcomed from individuals over 50 years old (although anyone over the age of 16 can apply). There are 30 start-up funding awards of £2,500 and three development awards of £15,000. Deadline: 30 September. Further info at: www.rise-sw.co.uk/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=1177.

Free resources available for your climate change event

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 short four minute film! Email freiny.miles@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk with your event and contact details (your event could also feature in Sustainability Now). Visit www.fairsharesfairchoice.com for more ideas and to add your name to the supporters list backing 'fair and safe carbon shares for everyone'.

Sussed!



Cycling accessibility project in Bristol A new cycling project for disabled adults and children has been launched by Bristol City Council and charity Cycling Projects. The All Abilities project aims to make cycling more accessible to people who find it difficult to ride standard bicycles. See: www.betterbybike.info/cycling-project-helps-disabled-people-aim-high.



South West Awards for All grants A total of 55 SW organisations (nearly half based in Devon) have been awarded a total of £395,257 from the Awards for All fund. **Earthlinks UK** in Dartington gets £9,900 to encourage people to be greener and eat healthier foods with events to teach people about the benefits of climate friendly food. **Woolacombe Allotment and Garden Association** will use £9,500 to improve a community space used to grow organic fruit and vegetables for local residents and educate children about healthy living and the production of natural ingredients. **Shaftesbury Home Grown** in Dorset are awarded £10,000 to develop a social enterprise promoting local food production through the creation of a community farm for the benefit of local residents. Find out about all 55 awards at: www2.biglotteryfund.org.uk/pr_290610_sw_a4a_food_for_thought_as_lottery_cash_benefits_south_west_groups?regioncode=-sw.



Cycling impact A cycling programme led by the National Obesity Observatory and Sustrans with six UK towns, including Exeter in the South West, shows the positive impact an increase in cycling has on public health. Results show a 10% reduction in the number of people classified as physically inactive with cycling increasing an average of 27% in the six towns - growth rates similar to the most cycle-friendly European cities, and matching growth seen in London. For more info see: www.dft.gov.uk/cyclingengland/cycling-cities-towns/.



More jobs if invest in sustainable transport A new report by Ekosgen has found that investing in more sustainable transport modes (like rail) creates more direct and indirect jobs than investing in less sustainable modes (like the motor industry). With transport slated to take a big hit from public spending reductions the report highlights what could be at stake for jobs as transport budgets are re-shaped. More info at: <http://rail-news.com/2010/07/19/new-report-shows-sustainable-transport-is-better-for-jobs-than-motor-industry/>.

So Last Century...



Deception on the menu Trading standards has revealed three-quarters of restaurant, pub and cafes were found to be making bogus claims of "fresh", "local" or "hand-made" dishes on their menus which turned out to be using factory farmed meat, frozen fish or cash and carry food. Full story at: www.independent.co.uk/life-style/food-and-drink/news/for-fresh-read-frozen-false-claims-made-by-restaurants-revealed-2051288.html.



Sustainable schools strategy to be scrapped The national sustainable schools strategy is one of the recent victims of government policy overhauls and spending cuts. Resources may be tight, but scrapping the strategy altogether sends a very negative signal to those that are using the framework. We hope that schools at the early stages of their sustainability journey will not be discouraged and that the sector continues to develop and share best practice.



Supermarket baggage Tens of millions more carrier bags have been handed out by Britain's biggest supermarket chains than last year, the industry missing its target of halving the number of plastic bags used in 2006 for the second consecutive year and derailing attempts to reduce the environmental impact from billions of disposable bags. Read more at: www.independent.co.uk/environment/green-living/supermarkets-lose-heart-in-green-war-on-plastic-carrier-bags-2058840.html.

The Sust'ometer:

On Your Radar?

Equality Act 2010: What do I need to know? A series of simple summary and "Quick Start" guides on the Equality Act 2010 have been produced setting out what the new laws will mean for business, the public sector, the voluntary sector and the public, helping people understand their new responsibilities and rights. Download via: www.southwestforum.org.uk/index.php?content=nw_item&news_id=1461.

Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment Results are available for the first year of Natural England, Defra and the Forestry Commission's survey on how people use the natural environment in England. Visit: www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/enjoying/research/monitor/default.aspx#results.

Energy Leaflets to spread the resource saving message at home and work The South West TUC, with Severn Wye Energy Agency, has produced seven leaflets around home energy use including Energy Suppliers and their Services and Low or No Cost Energy Saving Tips. Download at: www.greenworkplacessouthwest.org.uk/?page_id=444.



TUC Green Workplaces publication: Greener Deals – Negotiating on Environmental Issues at Work This guide is aimed at trade union reps and members with an interest in having a practical impact on environmental issues in the workplace, and in particular climate change. It offers advice on mapping union organisation around green issues, negotiating with your employer on environmental issues and encouraging other trade unionists to get active at work. See: www.tuc.org.uk/economy/tuc-18200-f0.cfm.

Free WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme) resource efficiency initiatives for businesses The **Rippleffect**, **Rethink Waste** and **Green Street** are new initiatives from WRAP, delivered in three monthly online training modules. The Rippleffect is for all business types, providing a simple structured approach to businesses save water and money – visit www.wrap.org.uk/rippleffect. Rethink Waste is for manufacturing businesses to reduce waste and save money – visit www.wrap.org.uk/rethink. Green Street is a virtual tour to help businesses become more resource efficient. It consists of a hotel, restaurant, public house, office and factory. Each building has a variety of hotspots containing tips and advice on how to make that item more resource efficient – see www.greenworkplacessouthwest.org.uk/at-home/.

SDC report – The Future is Local: Empowering communities to improve their neighbourhoods This report from the Sustainable Development Commission follows an in-depth study into improving the sustainability of existing neighbourhoods and includes a review of over 80 inspirational case studies. “The Future is Local” advocates an integrated, area-based approach to retrofitting buildings and upgrading community infrastructure. The benefits include: reduced cost and disruption; engaging communities; and unlocking smarter finance. Download at: www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/the-future-is-local.html.

Walk4Life campaign The Walk4Life campaign launches this month promoting activities to remind people how easy, cheap, enjoyable and healthy walking is. ITV West and West Country will be covering the campaign with an ITV led event in Bristol for ITV's Walk4Life Day, 26 September. A new website launches on 13 September for people to discover and try local walks with routes they can explore on their own or as part of a led group. Find out more: www.walk4life.info/.



SMEasure free energy monitoring website tool for schools, universities and researchers

The education sector can benefit from a free to use energy monitoring website – www.smeasure.org.uk/. Users can track energy consumption by adding weekly meter readings to receive personalised graphic displays and assess the energy efficiency of a building to ultimately cut costs from lowering consumption.

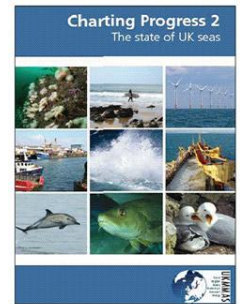
New climate change toolkit for planners A RIEP funded toolkit developed by Regen SW, South West Councils and regional partners is available for local authorities to help with the delivery the Climate Change Supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1. The toolkit covers climate change adaptation and sustainable energy and is aimed principally at Policy Officers, Development Management Officers, Elected Members and other LA officers. Available at: www.regensw.co.uk/climate-change-pps/.



Beyond the Tipping Point film available for screenings A new 30 minute film Beyond the Tipping Point, directed by Dr Stefan Skrimshire of Manchester University, is available free to campaign and community groups, policy organisations and educational institutions. It looks at issues such as the effect of ‘tipping points’ on motivations to act on climate change, and what will sustain the activities of environmental groups and campaigners when these dates have passed. Any interested group is invited to screen the film and hold a discussion in their local area.

For a screening pack email your group/event details to: beyondthetippingpoint@gmail.com. For further info and the trailer visit: <http://beyondthetippingpoint.com/>.

Start Living Advice Centre in Cabot Circus, Bristol HRH The Prince of Wales opened the new centre to launch his Start initiative in Bristol. Start (www.startuk.org) is a national initiative by The Prince's Charities Foundation to promote and celebrate sustainable living. ‘Start living’ provides a location where businesses can showcase, demonstrate, research, exhibit and launch products and services that enable people to use natural resources better.



Charting Progress 2 marine data for South West The UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy (UKMMAS) community has prepared Charting Progress 2, following on from Charting Progress to provide a more structured, co-ordinated approach to the assessment and monitoring of UK seas. Advances made towards the UK's shared vision of 'clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas' are illustrated and each of the eight regional seas are analysed. For the South West, see: <http://chartingprogress.defra.gov.uk/western-channel-and-celtic-sea-region-4>.

Online climate change compendium for planners The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) has developed a climate change compendium signposting key websites, guidance, research, case studies and giving advice and supporting information on climate change. Visit: www.rtpi.org.uk/item/2993&ap=1.

Eco-Tube: What's your view? This video sharing website aims to provide a slice of eco reality. It's a one stop video portal allowing viewers to make up their own minds about the issues facing our civilization and how they can go about playing their part in changing the world. Visit: www.eco-tube.com/.

Biodiversity and Climate Change - a summary of impacts in the UK A new booklet – a compilation of published sources – is available providing information on climate change impacts in the marine, terrestrial and freshwater environments. Download it at: www.jncc.gov.uk/page-5145.

DA21 looking for Trustee's DA21, a charity encouraging climate-friendly and sustainable communities in Dorset, are currently looking for new Trustee's to join the Board. Contact, Perwina Whitmore, Chair da21 Trustees, on: perwina@da21.org.uk. You can visit their new website at: www.sustainabledorset.org.uk and also view DA21's latest bulletin, featuring sustainability and community grants available, at: www.da21.org.uk/publications/newsletters/da21%20news%20bulletin%20Summer%2010.pdf.

Bristol and The Rainforest A short film linking destruction of the rainforest with the daily lives of people in Bristol. View at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=7uCzYPFbzCE.



Cycle hire survey The Association of Train Operating Companies are carrying out research into the potential for cycle hire at UK rail stations, including gathering case study evidence and interviewing stakeholders. They are keen to get the views of as many cyclists and rail passengers as possible and have produced a short web survey for completion at: www.surveymonkey.com/s/cyclerail.

Open Consultation

Consultation open for responses which could impact on sustainability in the region and wider

The Setting of Heritage Assets: English Heritage guidance

English Heritage, Open: Now, Close: 26 November 2010

The planning policy framework for the historic environment, including policies and guidance on setting, has been provided by Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment and its supporting Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide, published in March 2010. English Heritage is asking for comments on draft guidance on the interpretation of the policies and guidance on setting, and in particular on (a) the definition of setting; (b) the contribution that setting makes to the heritage significance of places; and (c) approaches to assessing the implications of change within setting, visit:

www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/advice/advice-by-topic/setting-and-views/heritage-assets/.

Up & Coming...Events around the region



Organic Fortnight, until 17 September, including The Organic Food Festival, 11 – 12 September, Bristol Harbourside

Soil Association Organic Fortnight is the UK's biggest celebration of all things organic. Get involved during the fortnight and discover why organic is good for your well-being and the planet, is kind to animals and wildlife and allows us make a big difference – simply through the way we shop. The Organic Food Festival, a highlight of the fortnight, is back on 11 and 12 September at Bristol Harbourside. Now in its tenth year the festival celebrates organic fare with hundreds of stalls selling food and drink, organic clothes and beauty products and a range of activities, see: www.organicfoodfestival.co.uk/.

Heritage Open Days – free site access, 9 – 12 September, across England

Free entry to 4,000 Heritage sites across England is available on Heritage open days featuring several sites not normally open to the public. Visit www.heritageopendays.org.uk/ for more details.



Home Energy Day, 11 September, Somerset Hall, Portishead

The day includes exhibits from renewable energy companies, home insulation, grants and the new feed-in tariff. Case studies will show how to reduce energy use and cut carbon by 80% in a variety of homes. There will also be a cafe, energy activities, displays and presentations. Free entry. For more info see: www.ecojam.org/interact/events/home-energy-day.



Bristol Green Doors, 11 – 12 September, Open houses all over Bristol

Over 50 households will open their homes showcasing measures – from no-cost to high-cost – that reduce domestic energy consumption and promote low-carbon living. Visitors will see and discuss renewable energy installations and retrofitting work with the householders and learn from their experiences. Visit: www.bristolgreendoors.org/.

Community Organisers – Workshops, 13 September, Bristol and 15 September, Plymouth

Are you a community activist, represent a community or voluntary organisation or work in a local authority or public body? If so you may be interested in attending these workshops hosted by Government Office for the South West. The Government is proposing to train community organisers to create a Big Society and would like to know your opinions and ideas to make this a success. The workshops are being held in Bristol and Plymouth to help local people work together to make their community a better place to live. To book and for further info contact: heather.milsom@gosw.gsi.gov.uk.

Edible As\$ets; Securing money for your food initiative, 14 September, Paintworks, Bristol

This event, organised by Sustain, will explore possible avenues for food projects and enterprises to become more financially viable in a practical way. Workshop themes include: Community finance, Service delivery and tendering for contracts, Getting down to business-trading, business planning and marketing and Governance (including an overview of the structure, systems and processes concerned with running a sustainable food enterprise). Cost: £20/£30 non-members. Following on from Edible Assets there will be a **South West and Bristol focused Networking Event** (£5) to hear from local food projects and organisations working to make their local food system more sustainable. For more information on both events and the booking form visit: www.sustainweb.org/localactiononfood/local_food_events/.



Sustainable Cities – Building the Future: Low Carbon South West event, 17 September, Bath Innovation Centre, Bath

This half-day networking seminar looks at international businesses and technologies that are reducing carbon and making cities more responsive to the pressure of today's population. Speakers include Dr. Maria-Heleni Nikolopoulou, University of Bath, and presenters from BRE. Cost: £10 (including lunch). Info and booking form at: www.regonline.co.uk/custImages/279246/Sustainable%20Cities%2017.9.10.pdf.

Low Carbon Business Breakfast, 21 September, Bath Innovation Centre, Bath

Low Carbon South West is holding its inaugural networking breakfast in association with the Bath Innovation Centre. An opportunity to hear about new developments in the sector and make new connections in the region. Cost: £10 (including breakfast). For more information visit: www.lowcarbonsouthwest.co.uk/index.php?option=com_jevents&task=icalrepeat.detail&evid=84&Itemid=83&year=2010&month=09&day=21&title=lcsw-bath-breakfasts&uid=a32f6e8dc6b02341a01afeff66d5f7c3.

Kilter Beyond Theatre Presents: Roots Replanted, a tale of love and vegetables, until 26 September, Bristol and Bath

Outdoor theatre performances on allotments in Bath, Bristol and beyond! The performance shows a tale of love and the land, investigating food-security in the fast approaching post-oil world, the quirky characters look to the past and the future. Booking info at: www.kiltertheatre.org. Tickets range from £5 – £9.



New jobs, New skills conference: Emerging opportunities for unions in the low carbon economy, 27 September, The Genesis Centre, Somerset College, Taunton

This Unionlearn Skills event, hosted by Recession & Recovery Project and the South West TUC Green Workplaces Project, will look at issues including: What's the union role? What's in it for women? What do union representatives need? There will be discussions on how to meet demands for more resource efficient working practices and adapt to climate change and information provided on new jobs emerging in the low carbon economy, with examples of new technology, re-skilling and training available and workshops and case studies throughout the day. Register at: www.unionlearn.org.uk/newjobsnewskills.

CONVERGE: A Challenge to Today's Economics, 28 September, Bush House, Bristol

This free conference will explore the concept of global equity in the light of Earth's biophysical limits. Participants will bring experience and knowledge of community engagement, policy and politics, economics, environmental science, systems analysis, and more, promising broad and deep discussions. Register by contacting: alice@schumacherinstitute.org.uk.

South West Public Health Residential School, 29 – 30 September, Dartington Hall, Totnes

There are a limited number of places available at the 14th South West Public Health Residential School. The event will include workshop sessions on topics such as: Healthy Workplace Programme; Delivering health services in a changing climate; Public involvement in research; New communication technologies in public health and The Marmot Review. For further info contact: Rachel.juffs@gosw.gsi.gov.uk. Register via: www.calderconferences.co.uk/delegate-registration.php.

Renewable Energy – Learn how to become an accredited installer! Dates throughout September, Schumacher College, Dartington, Totnes

Schumacher College in partnership with PPL Training have a range of accredited courses combining theory and practice for anyone interested in becoming qualified to install PV, Solar Thermal and Heat Pump systems. The various courses will run at selected dates during September. For further details see: www.ppltraining.co.uk/training/renewable-energy-courses-3-in-dartington.htm.

Changing Climate: Changing Business: everything you ever wanted to know about climate change adaptation and never dared ask..., 6 October, Genesis Centre, Taunton

This free workshop is for destination management officers and trainers and those involved in working with tourism businesses in a training and skills context. The session will provide understanding, knowledge and delivery materials to assist delegates in raising awareness of the challenges and opportunities of climate change and extreme weather, and how to adapt, within the tourism industry. Places will be given on a first-come, first-served basis. Email becca.eastman@environment-agency.gov.uk for a booking form.



Green Infrastructure Delivery in a Difficult Financial Climate – The Economic Case, 7 October, English Riviera Centre, Torquay

The Devon LAA2 / CIWEM SW Annual Conference aims to bring together some of the region's leading Green Infrastructure practitioners to discuss the reasons why GI should continue to be delivered in the current economic climate. The conference will demonstrate the significant role GI can play in delivering sustainable communities and how planning services, green space managers and local authority leaders can use it to deliver wider objectives. Cost: £30. Book by 17 September – for booking form and programme email: tracey.weaver@southhams.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: 27 September 2010.**

Other news from SSW available from:

Follow SSW on Twitter:

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

SustNav – Sustainability Principles to navigate your way to lasting solutions www.sustnav.org.uk

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 South West www.plantingplaces.org.uk

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Feedback: Your feedback on *SustainabilityNow* is valued. Email: info@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk.

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

Special thanks to SSW volunteer Alison Pring for her support with the production of *Sustainability Now*.

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