

SustainabilityNow



September 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.'

Sustainability = a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts...

...judging by your responses to last month's editorial, many of you agree that it is *this* fundamental message of sustainability that is still not hitting home.



We continue to lack a truly integrated, joined up approach to our planning and practices. A genuinely sustainable approach would lead to a healthy, productive, socially-just world existing within the planet's natural limits but right now we are continuing to:

- Develop different aspects of public policy in splendid isolation from each other eg high carbon transport plans vs. carbon reduction targets.
- Rely on flawed and unproven schemes to reduce dangerous climate change eg new research reveals the failure of Emissions Trading Scheme (see www.guardian.co.uk/business/2009/jul/20/carbon-emissions-trading-system-sandbag).
- Believe that setting targets will automatically result in achieving them eg even if (and it's a BIG if) Copenhagen climate talks agree a 350ppm CO2 target – what and how will each of us actually do to meet this?
- Act as if the inevitable price of 'progress' is depletion of the earth's finite resources, damage to ecosystems and increased global inequalities ie GDP does not account for social and environmental costs!

There is heated debate about causes and priorities, from population management to the redesign of capitalism. There is much talk and much searching for someone/something else to blame – conveniently rendering our own personal responses of little consequence.

Interestingly, politician John Prescott has been charged with helping pre- Copenhagen negotiations along at an international conference later this month. Interviewed on this he said, "We are fighting for the principle of carbon tones per capita – that is the fairest way forward. What we are beginning to witness is a whole new set of rules for economics, based on rationing resources." We have been revisiting the concept behind our own Fair Shares, Fair Choice carbon reduction campaign (www.fairsharesfairchoice.com). It recognises natural resource limits, the total global population that relies on them and that individual choice/rights come with responsibility.

It's the ultimate inconvenient truth – we cannot have our cake and eat it too!!

Sustainability is the only way we can have our share now and leave some for the future - so let's learn again that simple childhood lesson – how to 'share and share alike' because we are all part of a bigger whole.

This month's other SustainabilityNow headlines at a glance:

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- ◆ [Up & Coming:](#) Organic Food Festival • Bristol International Kite Festival • Taste Local Food & Drink Festival, South Gloucestershire • British Food Fortnight • All Our Futures 2: Investing in our Future...by Design • Make Mine an Eco-Home • Sustainable Energy Conference, Engineering a Low Carbon Future • Smarter Travel: People and Logistics - ASP Learning Event • How to Meet the Code for Sustainable Homes • ENVEC: Making Sustainability Happen in a Changing Climate • Understanding BS8901 • Bristol's Climate Countdown • A Changing Climate for Maritime Biodiversity: Linking Science to practice
- ◆ [Over to YOU!](#) SSW's new contact details (as of 1st July)

Food for Thought

"The UK will need to change the way food is produced and processed so that we continue to enjoy healthy affordable food in the decades ahead", Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Secretary Hilary Benn claimed as he published the country's first food security assessment. The challenges will be to ensure the sustainability of the UK's food supply. In particular we will need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to a changing climate here and overseas that will affect what food can be grown and where and how it can be grown. The assessment also highlights the availability and effective use of water to produce food – the need to get more 'crop per drop' – and the depletion of fish stocks. The UK Food Security Assessment is part of a package being published, which also includes: Food 2030, an online discussion seeking views on the future of our food system;

Food Matters: One Year On; Draft indicators for the sustainability of the food system. The food strategy for the future will be published following an online consultation which closes on 16 October. For more information, including access to the consultation, visit www.defra.gov.uk/foodrin/security/.

New Sustainability Training Courses

Sustainability South West are currently developing sustainability training courses to demystify sustainability and provide practical tools to embed sustainability into plans, projects and strategies. Specialist training can be provided on a range of topics including: 'Sustainability and Comprehensive Area Assessments'; 'Sustainability and Communications' and 'Sustainability and Climate Change'. Please contact SSW to express your interest and discuss your requirements, email clare.mitchell@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk or call 0117 929 0989.

An Introduction to Sustainability: next date - Tuesday 20 October, 10:30am – 2:00pm, Bush House, Bristol. Cost: £99 (private and public sector organisations) / £70 (voluntary sector). Lunch is included.

This half-day workshop will: ◦ 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.

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"*

Participants receive a Continuing Professional Development 'certificate of attendance' and up to 5 points towards your learning record. For more info. email clare.mitchell@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk or call 0117 929 0989.



Free climate change resources for your 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 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 for the principle of 'fair and safe carbon shares for everyone'.

The Sust'ometer:

Sussed!

👍 National Trust launches 'Window Food' campaign: Turn 600 acres of ledges into veggie patches People living in the UK's five million flats have the biggest challenge when it comes to finding space to grow food at home but a new National Trust initiative has been launched to challenge urbanites to transform their window sills into tasty vegetable gardens. Food grown at home is fresher, tastes better, and is better value and saves carbon emissions by not needing storing or transporting. Window Food is part of the National Trust's 'Food Glorious Food' campaign to show everyone they can grow their own – look out for over 300 events taking place at National Trust properties between now and October, where experts will be giving growing advice and free seeds. See www.nationaltrust.org.uk/food.

👍 "Bristol one of 'greenest' UK cities" Bristol is one of the greenest cities in the UK, according to Cities, Commerce & Carbon, a new sustainability report from property consultant GVA Grimley studying 11 cities constituting a fifth of the UK population. The research shows that Bristol has the lowest domestic output of carbon dioxide per head of population and the lowest level of carbon dioxide emission levels per employee – and is the lowest carbon producer when it comes to transport generated emissions. Bristol was also the top recycling performer with over 38% of its total waste recycled and produced the lowest level of waste, with under 300kg of household waste per head of population. For the report see www.gvagrimley.co.uk/Documents/publications/research/sustainability/CitiesCommerceCarbon2009.pdf.

So Last Century...

👎 British plums left to rot as shops favour imports Due to supermarkets favouring imported produce with a higher profit margin, British producers have claimed they have had to let their plums rot. The NFU said that despite recent calls from the Government for farmers to produce more food, and supermarkets claiming to support British seasonal produce, some large retailers had put in tiny orders. Full story at: www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1208203/UK-farmers-forced-let-bumper-plum-harvest-rot-cheap-foreign-imports.html.

👎 Cod's 10,000-mile trip to your table Cod caught off Scotland is being sent on a 10,000-mile round trip to China and back again to be filleted for supermarkets, and shops. And it happens despite pledges by supermarkets and food producers to reduce their pollution and food miles. Full story at: www.heraldscotland.com/scotland-to-china-and-back-again-cod-s-10-000-mile-trip-to-your-table-1.826905#.

👎 Public transport target for Bristol Airport not what it seems In the planning application for Bristol Airport's expansion a target has been set for public transport access to rise from 8% of travellers to 15%. However, due to the rise in traveller numbers that would result from the expansion, this means their target is actually 8.5 million to travel to the airport by car – an increase of 3 million car travellers!

👎 Earth Overshoot Day marks an unfortunate milestone: the day when humanity begins living beyond its ecological means. Earth Overshoot Day 2009 falls one day this month, meaning we have used all the resources nature will generate this year and so in less than 10 months, humanity will have used ecological services it takes 12 months for the Earth to regenerate. For more info see: www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/page/earth_overshoot_day/.

On your radar?

South West Green Energy Awards 2009: nominate now plus new Photo of the Year Award

Is there a person or organization you feel should be recognized for their contribution to the growth of sustainable energy in the South West? Nominate them for a South West Green Energy Award – nominations invited in the following categories: ◦ Best Business Innovation ◦ Most Proactive Local Authority ◦ Best Sustainable Energy Community ◦ Best Large Renewable Energy Scheme ◦ Best Small Renewable Energy Scheme (under 100kW) ◦ Best Housing Scheme ◦ South West Sustainable Energy Champion ◦ Installer of the Year. Closing date for nominations is 28 September, visit www.regensw.co.uk for guidelines and nomination form or phone 01392 494399.

New for 2009: Photo of the Year Award Regen South West is looking for images that capture sustainable energy solutions in the South West and the human elements that encapsulate them. The photo must tell a strong story and be taken in a creative, appealing way and accompanied by a short caption describing the image and location. The prize is £1,000 and a South West Green Energy Award. Competition closes on 25 September. **Free** entry, visit www.regensw.co.uk/south-west-england/green-energy-awards/enter-photography-award.php for more details.

The West of England Carbon Challenge

A new project helping organisations in the region reduce their emissions in line with national targets. It challenges all businesses, public and third sector bodies to commit to making an annual cut in emissions for four years to reach a cumulative total of at least 10% by 2012.

There are just two requirements: organisations need to commit to measuring, reducing and reporting their carbon emissions and they need to have sites in one or more of the following areas: South Gloucestershire, Bristol, North Somerset, or Bath and North East Somerset. It's **free** to join and members will receive advice, tools and practical support to measure, manage and reduce their CO2 emissions. The West of England Carbon Challenge is run by Forum for the Future and delivered in partnership with the Centre for Sustainable Energy, GWE Business West and Business in the Community. For more info, visit www.westofenglandcarbonchallenge.org or contact Audrey Healy on 07500 084449, email a.healy@forumforthefuture.org.



Cornwall Sustainability Awards

The Cornwall Sustainability Awards 2009 is open for entries from businesses across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and, for the first time, sustainable communities who have tackled their own local environmental issues. The six categories are: Best Managed Company (Small, Medium and Large); Low Carbon Business; Waste Minimisation; Green Innovation; Best Individual; Sustainable Communities. Closing

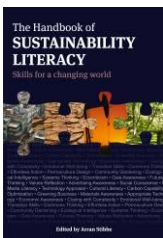
date: 26 September. For more information and to enter, visit <http://cornwallsustainabilityawards.org/>.

Launch of Blue Gym

The Blue Gym is a new initiative which aims to promote health and well being and appreciation of the environment as well as saving millions of pounds for the NHS. The Blue Gym will create an information and communication hub and showcase to encourage activities and usage of the coastline and inland waterways. Regular contact with the natural environment results in many benefits including: Reduction in Stress; Increased Physical Activity; Stronger Communities and An increased awareness of the value of the natural environment. Inactivity in the UK costs the nation an estimated £8.3 billion every year. The Blue Gym will not only help guide people to activities around, in, on or under water but will also be undertaking research with the Peninsula Medical School to provide evidence of its benefits. You can join the Blue Gym social network and find out more about the initiative at www.bluegym.org.uk.

Sustainable Development Indicators in your Pocket 2009

The (**free**) latest edition is out now to download and to order. The aim of the booklet is to provide an easily accessible and informative assessment of the UK's progress towards sustainable development. It includes a variety of economic, social and environmental issues of everyday concern including health, wellbeing, housing, jobs, crime, education and our environment. Download at: www.defra.gov.uk/sustainable/government/progress/index.htm.



Handbook of Sustainability Literacy: Skills for a Changing World

Leading sustainability educators are joined by literary critics, permaculturalists, ecologists, artists, journalists, engineers, mathematicians and philosophers (many from the South West) in a deep reflection on the skills people need to survive and thrive in the challenging conditions of the 21st century. Responding to the threats of climate change, peak oil, resource depletion, economic uncertainty and energy insecurity demands the utmost in creativity, ingenuity and new ways of thinking in order to reinvent both self and society. The book covers a wide range of skills and attributes and includes active learning exercises to help develop those skills. A multimedia version containing extended chapters and interviews with authors is available at www.sustainability-literacy.org.

Tourism and Climate Change Adaptation Checklist to be refreshed

SWCCIP's Tourism Sector Group is currently developing an online interactive tool to help tourism businesses consider how they will be affected by climate change and to take action to prepare for the impacts. The website, which is being developed in partnership with South West Tourism, Tourism South East and Climate South East, is due to be launched on 8 October at ENVEC 2009. It will update the current Adaptation Checklist for tourism businesses, currently available on the SWCCIP website at: www.oursouthwest.com/climate/tools.htm#.

Influence, Cohesion and Volunteering - latest Citizenship Survey results

The Government has published the latest national statistics from the Citizenship Survey, produced by Communities and Local Government, helping everyone join-in public decision making and meet the sustainability challenge.

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/citizenshipsurveyq4200809

Call for entries to Social Enterprise photography competition

The second annual Social Enterprise Day Photography Competition is open for entries. The competition is looking to reward the best amateur photographs that show how social enterprise is **more than just business as usual**. The winning photographs will capture how social enterprises are leading the way in sustainable, successful business that is transforming communities and lives every day. Closing date: 19 October. A winner chosen in each region and put through to a national final on 19 November, Social Enterprise Day - a national day to celebrate and promote social enterprise. South West regional winners Upstream, from Devon, scooped the national prize last year. The top prize includes a feature in the Big Issue Magazine, one of the best known social enterprises in the UK, and the winner of the South West heat will receive a unique 'behind the scenes' experience with leading media and digital arts centre Watershed in Bristol. Email photo's (hi-res - no less than 2MB), with a description of up to 200 words explaining why it is 'more than just business as usual.' to photocompetition@socialenterprise.org.uk. See <http://tiny.cc/Y7EuH> for more details and photos from last year.



Up & coming...

Organic Food Festival, 12 - 13 September Bristol Harbourside

Organic Food Festival (part of Organic Fortnight) is Europe's largest showcase of all things organic. The festival, now in its ninth year, returns to Bristol on 12-13 September. Come and visit SSW's free climate change resource stand at the Festival's 'Green Planet' area, Millenium Square. Info at: www.theorganicfoodfestival.co.uk/2009/.



Free low carbon fun! Bristol International Kite Festival, 12 - 13 September, Ashton Court, Bristol

Visit the Festival, now in its 24th year, for spectacular displays and creations this year including sport kites, a trick flying clinic and the Bristol 'Trick-out' competition. Plus kite making workshops, inflatables and a range of kids' activities!

See www.kite-festival.org.uk/ for more info.

Taste Local Food & Drink Festival, 12 September - 11 October, South Gloucestershire and British Food Fortnight, 19 September - 4 October

South Gloucestershire Council's food and drink festival **Taste** brings more than 25 local producers to 35 events in the area between 12 September-11 October. The festival kicks off with a food fair in Thornbury High Street opened by Ron Faulkner from Ronnies Restaurant in Thornbury - winner of the UK Good Food Guide Restaurant of the Year 2009! Full programme and booking info at: www.southgloslocalfood.org/festival.html. Taste forms part of **British Food Fortnight** with thousands of events planned around the country including food and drink festivals, promotions, tastings and special menus in pubs, restaurants and shops. For more info. visit http://lovebritishfood.co.uk/option.com_events/Itemid,29/regionid,15/.



All Our Futures 2: Investing in our Future...by Design 15 - 17 September, University of Plymouth, Devon

Through future forecasting from world experts, business and design leaders; researchers, learners and teachers will address the sustainability challenges of the twenty first century. This conference brings together the imperatives of design, business and education: that we design a world that we can go on living in, and that we communicate to each other the values, insights, skills and technologies informing this design. Fee: £80-£220. Further info and booking form available at <http://csf.plymouth.ac.uk/allourfutures/index>.

Make Mine an Eco-Home, 9:15am - 4.30pm, 16 September, Great Bow Wharf, Langport, Somerset

A seminar from Ecos Trust for self-builders and homeowners exploring sustainable construction to include design and refurbishment in the morning followed by renewable technologies and example designs in the afternoon. The day includes a review and discussion of cost, environmental impact, aesthetic and practical implications of different approaches. Participants are encouraged to bring their own source material and designs to contribute to the course and enliven the discussion. Price: £110.40 (inc. VAT). For more details, and for other Ecos Trust events, visit: www.ecostrust.org.uk/cms/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=92&Itemid=79

Sustainable Energy Conference, Engineering a Low Carbon Future, 24 - 25 September, Exeter, Devon

Following the release of the Government's UK Renewable Energy Strategy and the Low Carbon Transition Plan, the 2 day conference will review current and future technologies, the roll out of a low carbon infrastructure and funding opportunities for businesses involved in delivery and transition. For the programme and booking form, see www.ice-southwest.org.uk/news_events/events_view.asp?eventid=10578.

Smarter Travel: People and Logistics - ASP Learning Event, 29 September, The Pierian Centre, Bristol

A workshop to identify new initiatives and actions we can take to change our own and our organisation's travel behaviour. Participants will review innovative corporate and government travel planning initiatives and patterns and experiment with the principles of "Smarter Travel" and "Travel Planning", discovering how they link to a wider sustainability programme. Contributions from Royal Mail Group, Highways Agency and Better Bankside. Fee: £50-£105. Email Gwyn Jones, gwynbryanjones@gmail.com for the registration form.

How to Meet the Code for Sustainable Homes, 1.30pm – 4.30 pm, 30 September, The Guild Hall, Bath

A half-day seminar providing practical information on how to meet the Code for planning, building/development control and housing officers to apply to projects. Fee: £86.25 (inc. VAT). For further information and to book go to www.ecostrust.org.uk/cms/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=92&Itemid=79.

ENVEC: Making Sustainability Happen in a Changing Climate, 8 October, Winter Gardens, Weston-super-Mare

Free conference, this year covering: How can the economic recovery be green?; Emissions impossible? – the path to cutting the UK's CO2 emissions by 80% by 2050; Demonstrating the UKCP09 climate change projections; Carbon Reduction Commitment – the monitoring phase and Flood planning. During the conference breaks a Drop-in Centre will allow time to network with other SW business and public sector professionals and gain expert advice on key climate change issues. For registration and programme visit www.oursouthwest.com/envec/.

Understanding BS 8901, 15 October, Mercure Holland House Hotel, Bristol

A one day course from Sustainable Event Certification with In Any Event UK on BS 8901, the new British Standard which deals with sustainability management within the events industry; an essential requirement if you want to demonstrate that you are a sustainable organisation. By the end of the course you will have an action plan and key tools to get you started on achieving BS 8901 certification. To register visit www.eazybook.com/BS8901.

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

Be part of a moment in history at Bristol's Climate Countdown - a one day event organised by The Converging World, Oxfam and Christian Aid to raise awareness about Climate Change and the meeting of world leaders this December in Copenhagen. Climate change is happening right now, and millions of people are already suffering as their sources of clean water disappear and their crops fail. World leaders have one big chance to reduce the impacts of climate change at the Copenhagen Climate Conference in December 2009. We need to tell the UK government just how important it is that they negotiate the right deal, so join us in Bristol as we raise our voices in the countdown to Copenhagen. There'll be music, dancing, films, art, speakers and much more happening in Millennium Square. Save the date, spread the word, and log onto www.climatecountdown.org.uk to find out more.

A Changing Climate for Maritime Biodiversity: Linking Science to Practice, 5 November, Met Office, Exeter

The South West Climate Change Impacts Partnership (SWCCIP), Natural England, Biodiversity SW, the Marine Biological Association and the Marine Environmental Change Network are holding this conference to address issues surrounding maritime biodiversity and adaptation to climate change. The aim of this conference 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.

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 Monday 28 September 2009

Other news from SSW available from:

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

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

Sustainability Shaper – the SW's sustainable development framework

Planting Places – networks for SW urban greenspace project

www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk

www.fairsharesfairchoice.com

www.shapersw.net

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

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

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