

## Festive greetings from Sustainability South West!



The festive season is fast approaching and we'd like to wish you all a very happy holiday from everyone here at SSW. What a year it's been for sustainability issues?? And – from the devastating floods in the UK and other parts of the world, to the recently concluded talks in Bali – it is climate change that has really taken centre stage.

Faced with the headlines it's hard not to get dispirited at times and yet there are plenty of things to feel positive about; not least the huge surge in community-led sustainability action here in the South West. We hope you'll be having a decent break to recharge your batteries and look forward to working with you to champion sustainability with renewed vigour in 2008. *Please note the SSW office will be closed from 24<sup>th</sup> December to 2<sup>nd</sup> January.*

- ◆ Shaper shake-up and limited edition sustainability poster
- ◆ Planting Places – time running out to nominate your top examples of urban greenspace!
- ◆ Social enterprise identity launched and piloted in the South West
- ◆ On your radar? ◆ Up & Coming ◆ Over to YOU

As a network of influential individuals your feedback on *Sustainability Now* is very valuable. You can send comments to [info@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk](mailto:info@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk) and view back issues at [www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk/sustainability\\_now](http://www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk/sustainability_now) (let us know if you've colleagues who need adding to our e-distribution list).

### Shaper shake-up and limited edition sustainability poster

Sustainability South West coordinates the region's (online) sustainable development framework – the *Sustainability Shaper* – on behalf of the SW (see [www.shapersw.net](http://www.shapersw.net)). We've just completed a load of updates to the site where you'll find, for example, more guidance for those involved in community strategies/local area agreements and a new selection of Shaper 'in action' case studies. We're currently talking to a range of partners about further resources, meanwhile EVERYONE can benefit from using the Shaper's 'General Sustainability Checklist' (see [www.shapersw.net/rsdfresources.php?ID=89&category=48&stylesheet=style](http://www.shapersw.net/rsdfresources.php?ID=89&category=48&stylesheet=style)) The Shaper checklist is currently available as a giant limited edition poster. To get your hands on this great day-to-day sustainability reference for you and colleagues – and make applying sustainability principles your New Year's resolution! – just contact SSW.



### Planting Places – time running out to nominate your top examples of urban greenspace!

The nomination deadline for the *Planting Places* awards, recognising 10 excellent examples of sustainable urban greenspaces in the South West, is close of **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January**. To nominate your top examples of urban greenspaces and champions, an ultra-quick and simple nomination form is available at [www.plantingplaces.org.uk](http://www.plantingplaces.org.uk). An awards ceremony will follow in March 2008.

**Other Planting Places news:** SSW hosted the first meeting of the Planting Places expert advisory panel on Monday 10th December. The meeting drew a broad range of very insightful contributions from individuals representing the issues of regeneration/growth, community involvement, recreation and play, biodiversity and the natural environment, health and well-being, EU best practice, eco-engineering, allotments and city farms and culture and heritage. We'll be updating on the developing work of the *Planting Places* projects via the website ASAP.

### Social enterprise identity launched and piloted in the South West

South West consumers can now spot goods and services produced or delivered by social enterprises – businesses that trade to fulfil a primary social purpose. RISE, the voice for social enterprise in the region, launched the new fairtrade-style identity known as 'The Social Enterprise Mark' at the Eden Project in November.

The Social Enterprise Mark will be piloted in the region over the next 3 years, before a potential UK wide roll-out with support from the Social Enterprise Coalition, the movement's national body. Sign up to RISE's newsletter at [www.rise-sw.co.uk](http://www.rise-sw.co.uk) to be kept up-to-date on developments.

### On your radar?

**Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) Review** The SW Regional Development Agency (SWRDA) has appointed consultants to research the successes, challenges and 'lessons learnt' of SRB to inform the future delivery of economic inclusion programmes in the region. SWRDA are encouraging sustainable community practitioners across the region to complete an online survey by 30<sup>th</sup> December in order to draw on their experience. Go to [www.ers.org.uk/SRBPartnershipSurvey.html](http://www.ers.org.uk/SRBPartnershipSurvey.html)

**July Floods – Request for Information from the Gloucestershire Strategic Recovery Group** The Strategic Recovery Group is asking voluntary and community sector (VCS) groups to help them assess whether adequate mental health support has been given to people affected by the floods in July. The 'Partnership and Participation Project' would like to hear from VCS bodies who can supply evidence to the project or suggestions for future mental health support for flood victims. Please send comments ASAP to [lorrainek@gavca.org.uk](mailto:lorrainek@gavca.org.uk)

**Climate change report from CBI task force** A new report from the CBI's Climate Change Task Force 'Climate change: everyone's business' addresses the business and economic case for action on climate change and makes practical recommendations for incentivising action. See [www.cbi.org.uk/ndbs/press.nsf/0363c1f07c6ca12a8025671c00381cc7/7b855aab02422f568025738b00446e19/\\$FILE/CBI%20Climate%20Change%20Report.pdf](http://www.cbi.org.uk/ndbs/press.nsf/0363c1f07c6ca12a8025671c00381cc7/7b855aab02422f568025738b00446e19/$FILE/CBI%20Climate%20Change%20Report.pdf) (copy and paste link to your web browser).

**Global Action Plan (GAP) report warns ICT sector's emissions could surpass aviation industry** 'An Inefficient Truth' is the first research report produced by GAP on behalf of the Environmental IT Leadership Team (a cross-sector grouping of major ICT users committed to action to cut CO<sub>2</sub>). Find out more at [www.globalactionplan.org.uk/event\\_detail.aspx?eid=2696e0e0-28fe-4121-bd36-3670c02eda49](http://www.globalactionplan.org.uk/event_detail.aspx?eid=2696e0e0-28fe-4121-bd36-3670c02eda49)

**'SW Rural Update': learning network** This new support service is provided by a partnership of Universities and Colleges to businesses, academics and professionals in all sectors with an interest in rural development issues. Current topics covered include: waste management; renewable energy; and localising food chains. To register your interest for more info and updates go to [www.southwestruralupdate.org](http://www.southwestruralupdate.org) or email [srabbich@nationalrural.org](mailto:srabbich@nationalrural.org)

**Older person's healthy living guide** Age Concern has produced a self-help guide for older people with tips on remaining healthy for longer with small lifestyle changes. 'Feeling Good' dispels common myths and covers the 10 lifestyle areas including diet, exercise, travel, sex and rest. Seeing an elderly relative over the festive season? Find out more at [www.ageconcern.org.uk/bookshop/index.cfm?fuseaction=product&product=FBC1F896-E7FB-1C5F-E225D16E40C457B2](http://www.ageconcern.org.uk/bookshop/index.cfm?fuseaction=product&product=FBC1F896-E7FB-1C5F-E225D16E40C457B2) (copy and paste link to your web browser).

## Up & coming...

**SW Regional Observatory Events:** 1) Seminar on biodiversity monitoring and indicators and their role in informing national, regional and local policies – 11<sup>th</sup> January a.m. (Regional Development Agency, Exeter) 2) Seminar on 'Living within our environmental limits through improved exploitation of the region's existing environmental evidence and resource facilities' – 31<sup>st</sup> January p.m. (RDA, Bristol). Email [rachel.hartnell@swo.org.uk](mailto:rachel.hartnell@swo.org.uk) or tel 01823 447 391.

**South Gloucestershire Faith Forum Climate Change Seminar** The Forum are hosting an open climate change event on 24<sup>th</sup> January at Oldbury Power Station, 7-9pm. Paul Ashford, a Government climate advisor will be speaking, followed by a panel discussion. Contact Alistair Beattie on 0117 304 2298 or [alistair@faithnetsouthwest.org.uk](mailto:alistair@faithnetsouthwest.org.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. You can also tell us about key regional events coming up over the next month so we can include this in the next edition *Sustainability Now*.

**Contact us at:** [info@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk](mailto:info@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk) **Deadline for submissions: close of Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January**

## Other news from Sustainability South West

More SSW news available on our new look website at:

[www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk](http://www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk)

...regular updates on SSW coordinated projects available from:

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

[www.fairsharesfairchoice.com](http://www.fairsharesfairchoice.com)

*Sustainability Shaper* – the SW's regional sustainable development framework

[www.shapersw.net](http://www.shapersw.net)

*Future Foundations* – the SW's sustainable construction charter

[www.futurefoundations.co.uk](http://www.futurefoundations.co.uk)

*Future Footprints* – the SW's sustainable tourism visitor campaign

[www.futurefootprints.org.uk](http://www.futurefootprints.org.uk)

*Planting Places* – networks for SW urban greenspace project

[www.plantingplaces.org.uk](http://www.plantingplaces.org.uk)

*Sustainability Now is a monthly bulletin from Sustainability South West, the region's independent Champion Body for sustainable development. SSW is a charity and its Mission is: 'To champion and assist action now to achieve a South West that is genuinely sustainable: healthy, productive, socially-just and living within environmental limits.'*

Sustainability South West, 2 Rivergate, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6EH t. 0117 900 1751 f. 0117 900 1909  
[www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk](http://www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk) Registered Charity no. 1106125 Company Ltd no. 3899945

**Special thanks to:** SSW volunteer Olivia Desborough for sourcing content to support the production of *Sustainability Now*

**Disclaimer:** the views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of Sustainability South West's membership as a whole.

**Unsubscribe:** if you wish to unsubscribe to Sustainability Now, please contact us