

## Welcome to Sustainability Now



*Learning to live in a new 'epoch'?*

Sustainability South West Members went 'back to school' for their latest meeting. We were hosted by Coombeshead College, Newton Abbot, where new Member Richard Haigh is Principal. As well as being treated to some fantastic climate change themed animations and programmes by pupils and the Youth Parliament (SW), we explored the role of education in equipping young people with the skills and values they will need to live fulfilling, sustainable lives. Whilst applauding some great work happening in schools, Members questioned the degree to which sustainability was integrated across the curriculum.

Meanwhile, according to a recent geological study, the earth's natural patterns have been so disrupted by human activity that we are now moving from the Holocene to the 'Anthropocene' – the first 'human influenced' epoch! (see 'Climate change causes new epoch' at [www.independent.co.uk](http://www.independent.co.uk)). With the global economy looking shaky,

heightened concerns around the health impacts of climate change and questions over security of energy supply, it's time to wise up for a new era of positive localisation to support caring, low carbon, resilient economies and communities. Our latest projects celebrate those that are doing just that! (see below)

This month's *Sustainability Now* headlines at a glance:

◆ *Local to Regional Sustainability Forum event 2008 – last chance to book a place* ◆ *Planting Places urban greenspace winners announced* ◆ *Sustainability South West seeks a Deputy Director* ◆ *Two weeks left to enter SW C+ Carbon Positive Awards* ◆ *Sust'Ometer* ◆ *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).

## Local to Regional Sustainability Forum event 2008 – last chance to book a place

**'Achieving genuinely sustainable, resilient communities', Thur 6 March, Winter Gardens, Weston-super-Mare**  
*For local leaders, planners, officers and regeneration agencies seeking to deliver genuinely sustainable communities –with a particular focus on growth areas and the role of greenspace*

**This event will offer the opportunity to:**

- clarify your vision for a sustainable community and explore whether it is genuinely sustainable
- be inspired by best practice – whether it's delivering large scale sustainable communities from scratch or making existing communities more sustainable
- put forward your comments or questions to senior representatives of key regional agencies
- explore and share ideas on the role of greenspace within urban areas
- celebrate award winning examples of urban greenspace in the region

**Speakers include:** **George Ferguson** (Acanthus, Ferguson and Mann architects); **Keith Budden** (Be Birmingham, Birmingham LSP); **Sandra Rothwell** (SW Regional Development Agency); **Leslie Watson** (Sustainability South West); **Naresh Giangrande** (Transition Towns); **Jochen Rabe** (Arup)

**Delegate fees:** £80/£40 (special rate for VCS orgs)

For the full programme, booking form and details of our local authority 'buy one, get one free' offer, please visit the 'Local to Regional' page at [www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk](http://www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk) (see 'Projects')



## Planting Places urban greenspace winners announced!

Sustainability South West is delighted to reveal the winners of its *Planting Places* awards as follows: Urban Heaths Project (Bournemouth & Poole); St. Werburghs City Farm (Bristol); Tuckingmill Valley Park (Camborne); Weston Woods (Weston-super-Mare); Victoria Park Action Group (Bristol); Wild Roots (Bradley Stoke); Hayden Rd Community Garden (Cheltenham); Bristol to Bath Railway Path; Belmont Sensory Garden (Exeter) and Diggin' It (Plymouth). *Planting Places*, supported by Defra, Natural England and English Heritage, is promoting the benefits of greenspace to our towns and cities. The award winners – whose contributions to sustainability include supporting biodiversity and local food and improving community well-being and inclusion – will be presented with special plaques at our Local to Regional event next week. Thank you very much to all award applicants – an amazing range of greenspaces from across the SW! We hope to feature many of these within a new case studies area on our *Planting Places* website ([www.plantingplaces.org.uk](http://www.plantingplaces.org.uk)).



## Sustainability South West seeks a Deputy Director

**Based in Bristol. Salary band: £28,172 - £30,598 p.a. plus contributory pension**

Are you motivated and knowledgeable about sustainable development? Are you an engaging and persuasive communicator? Would you like to work in a creative organisation that wants to develop your skills? Sustainability South West is recruiting for a full time Deputy Director to assist with engaging partners; promoting key messages; managing the sustainability appraisals programme and promoting partnership projects.

**Info and application pack from:** Freiny Miles – [freiny.miles@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk](mailto:freiny.miles@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk) or tel. 0117 900 1751

**Closing date for Applications:** Midday, 12 March 2008 **Interviews:** 17 March 2008

## Two weeks left to enter SW C+ Carbon Positive Awards

There are only two weeks to go until the **application deadline, March 10<sup>th</sup>**, for the **South West Regional Development Agency's (SWRDA) South West C+ Carbon Positive Awards**. Managed by Sustainability South West and Business in the Community, the awards programme builds on the South West's proactive approach to addressing climate change. By encouraging and recognising environmental best practice they aim to further enhance the region's growing reputation for ambition and excellence in achieving sustainable solutions. If your business, organisation or community is taking a proactive and innovative low carbon approach then you can enter one of the four award categories:

- 'Carbon Positive Footprints' – for businesses and organisations successfully cutting their carbon emissions
- 'Carbon Positive Consumer Choices' – for businesses/organisations offering consumers more low carbon choices
- 'Carbon Positive Cutting Edge' – businesses and organisations developing innovative carbon cutting solutions
- 'Carbon Positive Communities' – communities that are successfully reducing their carbon footprint

The first 3 categories will recognise both a large and a small/medium sized organisation and one category winner – with the greatest impact on carbon reduction in the South West – will also receive the overall award of 'Carbon Positive Pioneer 2008'. To apply/for more info visit: [www.southwestrda.org.uk/what-we-do/policy/south-west-c-carbon.shtm](http://www.southwestrda.org.uk/what-we-do/policy/south-west-c-carbon.shtm)



### Sussed!



**Cycle fever** Hot on the heels of Sustrans' successful £50 million 'Connect2' bid, the Government have launched a £47 million quest to establish a 'cycling city' to cut congestion/pollution and tackle obesity. 6 cycling towns will share in the funds too.



**Everyone feels like chicken tonight** A report has revealed that supermarkets are struggling to meet public demand for organic and free range chickens – up 36% in the first 2 weeks of Feb! Recent campaigns by celeb chefs Jamie Oliver and Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall are thought to be a contributory factor.



**China takes on the bag** Plastic bags will not be given away free and are to be banned from public transport, airports and scenic places in China in attempts to kick a £3 billion a day bag habit (!). Let's hope the UK government follow the lead of local campaigns (and the Daily Mail – see 'banish the bag' at [www.dailymail.co.uk](http://www.dailymail.co.uk)) and take similar action.



**Self-build support** A new website has been launched providing information and guidance on sustainable and affordable self-building. The site will be a resource for sharing experiences and ideas, putting self-builders in touch with each another and with land-buying opportunities [www.ecomotive.org](http://www.ecomotive.org)



**Gorilla reprieve** Congo's mountain gorillas got some good news recently, with the government and rebels agreeing to end hostilities in the Virunga National Park, a key gorilla habitat.



**Order your zero-carbon house today** One quick phone call and in 3 months time you could be (domestically at least) carbon-free. The cost of a 3 bedroom zero-carbon house from manufacturers ruralZED (including set up) is approximately £150,000.



**Seedy saviour?** Decades in the making, the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, a.k.a. the "Doomsday Vault", is now officially operating. It can hold up to 4.5m batches of seeds, covering all known varieties of global food crops. Seed saving/swapping schemes are cropping up across the UK – from the national (see [www.kew.org/msbp/index.htm](http://www.kew.org/msbp/index.htm) for info on Kew Gardens Millennium Seed Band) to the local (more on this soon!).



**Fairtrade Fortnight** With Fairtrade Fortnight in full swing (concludes 9 March – see [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk) for events near you) it's great to hear Tate & Lyle's decision to convert its entire retail sugar range to Fairtrade by the end of 2009.



**Model town** Greenpeace has launched an interactive web resource called 'EfficienCity' to demonstrate the real potential and benefits of decentralised, local renewable energy – see [www.greenpeace.org.uk/files/efficiencity/index.html](http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/files/efficiencity/index.html)

### So last century...



**Poor planning** At a time when urban greenery should be gaining profile, it's worrying to hear from the Horticultural Trades Association of a 50% drop in 'planting requirements' in planning applications.



**Carbon own goal** Marketers of 'the beautiful game' propose to build on the Premiership's global brand value by staging games at far-flung locations such as Beijing, Sydney, Delhi and Rio de Janeiro...referee?!



**Carbon crazy fuel plan** A Chinese energy company is opening a chemical plant to make liquid fuel for cars and aircrafts from coal – an even more carbon intensive material than oil.



**Shipping forecast: bad outlook** A leaked UN report suggests that pollution from international shipping is actually 3 times higher than previously thought, accounting for 4.5% of the world's total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. See [www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/feb/13/climatechange/pollution](http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/feb/13/climatechange/pollution)

The Sust'Ometer:

Please contact SSW if you would like more info on the source of any story

## On your radar?

**Young SW Climate Change Champion announced** Shirley Halse, 15, from Chippenham is the South West's 2008 Young Climate Change Champion. Shirley will spend a year 'in office' communicating her climate change ideas along with fact finding and meeting senior Government Ministers. See [www.oursouthwest.com/climate/champion/index.htm](http://www.oursouthwest.com/climate/champion/index.htm)

**Jacolly Puppets:** a puppet theatre specialising in exploring environmental issues with primary school children along with topics such as road safety and bullying. Other audiences also catered for. See [www.jacolly-puppets.co.uk](http://www.jacolly-puppets.co.uk)

**Marine World Pollution Map** Science journal's recently published Marine World Pollution Map provides information on the state of marine waters across the globe, addressing major human impacts such as over-fishing, commercial shipping, climate change and marine waste (especially from non-degradable packaging – to support sustainable packaging see [www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk/projects/pioneers\\_of\\_packaging](http://www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk/projects/pioneers_of_packaging)). Staggeringly only 4% of the world's oceans remain undamaged with coastal waters around the southern edge of our region revealed as some of the worst in the world.

**Observer Ethical Awards** The Observer Ethical Awards, now in its 3rd year, recognise those individuals and organisations who have done most to safeguard the planet and its people over the past year. Categories include best local retailer, best supermarket, best campaigner, best politician, best business, best fashion item and awards for ethical young people and green DIY enthusiasts! Find out more and vote for your nominations (by 14 March 2008) at [www.observer.co.uk/ethicalawards](http://www.observer.co.uk/ethicalawards)

**Ethical networking website** Ethical Junction puts likeminded businesses in touch with one another, enabling them to share solutions to improve their sustainability and ethical performance. See [www.ethical-junction.org](http://www.ethical-junction.org)

**Higher Education Academy – Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Project** This project has just started producing a quarterly newsletter with the second issue due out 15 March. Read the first issue and find out how to subscribe/send items for consideration at [www.heacademy.ac.uk/ourwork/learning/sustainability/enewsletter](http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/ourwork/learning/sustainability/enewsletter)

**Guide 'Sustainable Communities' Act** If, like us, you're still getting to grips with the implications of the 'Sustainable communities' Act the following guide from the Government's Communities & Local Government department may be useful – see [www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/681480](http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/681480)

## Up & coming...

**'Environmental volunteering – making it happen':** This Natural England and South West Forum event is taking place on Friday 28 March (10am-4pm at the Albemarle Centre, Taunton) and will explore opportunities for partnerships which increase levels of environmental volunteering in the South West. There'll be speakers, workshops, case studies and networking. For more info contact Caroline Cook at SW Forum [caroline@southwestforum.org.uk](mailto:caroline@southwestforum.org.uk)

**Climate Change and Gloucestershire Business: It's happening so what are you doing about it?** On 3 March (8am-10am, Uni of Gloucestershire) a free business resilience breakfast workshop will be held to look at the business responsibilities and opportunities of climate change. Presentations will be given by Government Office SW and UKCIP (on the Business Areas Climate Impacts Assessment Tool). For more info and booking details see [www.oursouthwest.com/climate/080303-CCevent-at-Gloucs-University-3March2008-flyer.pdf](http://www.oursouthwest.com/climate/080303-CCevent-at-Gloucs-University-3March2008-flyer.pdf) or email [gen@glos.ac.uk](mailto:gen@glos.ac.uk)

**Climate Change Condensed** The Climate Outreach & Information Network are running this all-you-need-to-know course on 6 March (6-9pm, Uni of Gloucestershire). For further info contact Rebecca Dobson at Vision 21 – email [office@vision21.org.uk](mailto:office@vision21.org.uk) or tel 01242 224321. Cost: £12 (individuals); £24 (charities & local authorities); £49 (business).

**Low Carbon Innovation Exchange** The Regional Development Agency is sponsoring a Low Carbon Innovation Exchange to support organisations to reduce the carbon emissions. The Exchange take place on Tuesday 11 March at the Marriott Hotel, Bristol. See [www.carbon-innovation.com/bristol.php](http://www.carbon-innovation.com/bristol.php) for more info and to book a place.

## 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 Wednesday 26 March.**

## 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.'*

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