

## Welcome to Sustainability Now



Sustainability champs – we're rooting for you!

It's a bumper edition of *Sustainability Now* this month – an indication that sustainability issues are on just about everyone's agenda for 2008? Reflecting on last year, we've come to the conclusion that 2008 will be all about champions (you lot!). Who's keeping sustainability 'true to its roots' and ensuring that the walk lives up to the talk? We'll be highlighting champs through our *Planting Places* urban greenspace awards in March and Carbon Positive awards in May (see below).

Meanwhile Adair Turner, former Director-General at the CBI, has been appointed as Chair of the Committee on Climate Change – the new body established under the Climate Change Bill. We hope the Committee will give 'carbon positive' advice on how the UK can move quickly on its climate change goals. Lord Turner has already stated the need for "early and effective action" and the Committee will review whether the 2050 60% CO<sub>2</sub> reduction target should be upped to 80%...but will it be a true sustainability champion?

- ◆ *Local to Regional Sustainability Forum event 2008 – register your place!*
- ◆ *Award launch: SW C+ Carbon Positive Awards* ◆ *Fair Shares, Fair Choice – new supporters and what's coming up* ◆ *Sust'Ometer* ◆ *On your radar?*
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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 – register your place!**

We're currently finalising the programme for our popular annual 'Local to Regional Sustainability Forum'. This year's event, on Thursday 6 March at the Winter Gardens, Weston-super-Mare, will explore the theme of 'Achieving genuinely sustainable, resilient communities' looking at the particular opportunities presented by community strategies and local/multi area agreements. In the morning we'll hear from government departments, regional growth/regeneration leads and local examples along with our guest keynote speaker. There'll also be the usual panel debate and Q&A. A special afternoon session on the specific role of urban greenspace in sustainable communities will include expert speakers, a showcase of fantastic urban greenspace examples (including presentation of the 'Planting Places' awards – see [www.plantingplaces.org.uk](http://www.plantingplaces.org.uk)) and interactive workshops.

The event is aimed at those managing or responding to significant amounts of growth in their local areas – from chairs and members of local strategic partnerships and directors/heads of planning, development and regeneration to planners and community agencies. To register for the event email [info@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk](mailto:info@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk) with your name and job title. Full programme and joining instructions – including a 'buy one-get one free' ticket offer – will be emailed out early Feb. See also [www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk/projects/local\\_to\\_regional](http://www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk/projects/local_to_regional)

### **Award launch: SW C+ Carbon Positive Awards**

This month the Regional Development Agency launched a new region-wide award scheme, managed by Business in the Community and Sustainability South West. The South West C+ Carbon Positive Awards will recognise the businesses, organisations and communities taking a proactive and innovative low carbon approach to the ways in which we live and work and builds on the South West's growing reputation for ambition and excellence in achieving sustainable solutions. There are 5 award categories, the first 4 are open to entries (the first 3 categories will recognise both a large and small/medium organisation):



- 1. Carbon Positive Footprints:** for organisations successfully cutting their carbon emissions
- 2. Carbon Positive Consumer Choices:** for organisations offering consumers more low carbon choices
- 3. Carbon Positive Cutting Edge:** for organisations developing innovative carbon cutting solutions
- 4. Carbon Positive Communities:** for communities that are successfully reducing their carbon footprint.
- 5. Carbon Positive Pioneer:** the overall award winner – the business, organisation or community that is having the greatest impact on carbon reduction in the South West.

Application forms are available online at: [www.bitc.org.uk/carbonpositiveawards](http://www.bitc.org.uk/carbonpositiveawards)

Deadline for applications: **10 March**

Award ceremony and celebration: **1 May** Met Office, Exeter

If you are able to support the awards by publicising them through your networks and would like copies of our promotional flyer please contact [info@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk](mailto:info@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk) or call 0117 900 1751

## Fair Shares, Fair Choice – new supporters and what's coming up

Latest supporters to the region's fair carbon shares movement – *Fair Shares, Fair Choice* (FSFC) – include local businesses, individuals from around the South West and the UK Youth Parliament (SW). We're particularly pleased to welcome the Youth Parliament to the movement – a sound endorsement from young people for a positive and fair approach to the climate challenge. You can join them by becoming a supporter at [www.fairsharesfairchoice.com](http://www.fairsharesfairchoice.com)

The FSFC team are gearing up for spring – we'll be contacting all councillors in the South West region to ask them for their support for the movement along with making improvements to the website (let us know your ideas!) and sending out an update and 'look ahead' to all FSFC supporters. Join in at [www.fairsharesfairchoice.com](http://www.fairsharesfairchoice.com)

### Sussed!



**World Wetlands Day** On the 2 February, the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust will offer free entry to under 16s to all nine UK wetland visitor centers and a programme of activities to celebrate the importance of wetlands in supporting biodiversity and in storing flood water. See [www.wwt.org.uk](http://www.wwt.org.uk)



**Fairtrade Fortnight** starts on 24 February with events across the country on a retro-Victorian fairground theme. There'll be tasting sessions and the launch of two new books: 'The Fairtrade Everyday Cookbook' and 'Fighting the Banana Wars and Other Fairtrade Battles'. Get involved at: [www.fairtrade.org.uk/fortnight.htm](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/fortnight.htm)



**Flagship turbines at Cribbs?** M&S wants to install six 50ft wind turbines on its flagship store at the Mall, Cribbs Causeway, as part of becoming carbon neutral by 2012. The Civil Aviation Authority will have to establish the effects on their equipment before the turbines can get the go ahead.



**Skill-up for the good life!** The Soil Association, with Stony Yoghurt, has launched 'A Taste of the Good Life' – a series of life skills masterclasses. Students will learn how to bake bread, keep bees, make jam and grow fruit and vegetables in one of over 100 organic farms across the UK [www.soilassociation.org/masterclasses](http://www.soilassociation.org/masterclasses)



**Biofuel verdict** The Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) has concluded that increased biofuel production is likely to damage the environment. Europe has pledged that by 2020, biofuels will form 10% of transport fuel, with the UK aiming for 5% by 2010. EAC has called for a 'moratorium' and urged the Gov to focus only on sustainable biofuels.



**Carbon Sensible B&Q** The UK's largest DIY chain is to stop selling environmentally damaging patio heaters once current stock is sold off.



**SW gets 1st 'eco-village'** Hanham Hall, Bristol, will house England's first 'eco-village'. The 200-house Barratt scheme was chosen as an English Partnerships Carbon Challenge pilot to promote zero-carbon homes.



**Big boost for ethical spending** The Co-op Bank's latest Ethical Consumerism report reveals that UK household spend on ethical goods and services has nearly doubled in the past 5 years. Fairtrade sales grew by 46%, fuelled by increased consumer awareness and greater availability of products.



**World's first solar powered city?** Renowned architect Lord Foster has been invited to design a zero carbon city for 50,000 people on the outskirts of Abu Dhabi – the richest and, per capita, most carbon intensive city in the world. 'Masdar' will be powered entirely by renewables (mainly solar) and be zero waste and car-free, utilising a light railway and 'personalised rapid transport pods'. Buildings and public spaces will make the most of recycled materials along with natural shade and ventilation and be extremely resource efficient. [www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/jan/21/climatechange.energy](http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/jan/21/climatechange.energy)



**21<sup>st</sup> century tale in Devon!** The Pinhoe Pantomime Society performed a panto with a modern twist between 9-12 Jan. 'The Ice Castle' told the tale of a heroic trio's adventure to save the magical iceworld. The panto included a gang of global warming baddies along with the must-have panto dame and plenty of slapstick comedy.



**Ministers instructed to carbon price their decisions** Ministers have been told to factor a 'carbon price' into all policy and investment decisions covering transport, construction, housing, planning and energy over the next 30 years. The price, set for every year up to 2050 by Gov economists, aims to reflect the social costs of high carbon activity. [www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2007/dec/22/climatechange.carbonemissions](http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2007/dec/22/climatechange.carbonemissions)

### So last century...



#### Poor purchasing performance

The Country Land and Business Association have highlighted the lack of progress made by the public sector in procuring locally. Despite local produce supporting local economies and generally being the greener option, it currently represents just 2% of public sector spend on food.



**Chain restaurants?** Thankfully the options for diners seeking fairly-priced, tasty and ethically sourced produce are increasing. But, according to Ethical Consumer mag, top UK restaurant chains are way behind. 26 chains assessed on environmental, animal, people and political criteria averaged a score of just 5.4 out of 20. Gournment Burger Kitchen, Loch Fyne and Piccolino's came joint top with 8.5 (a 'high poor') whilst Bella Italia, Café Rouge, Strada and TGI Friday's each managed a 'very poor' 2. Family favourites Pizza Hut fell more than a few slices short at 3.5.



**Deforestation disaster** Satellite images have revealed a steep rise in the rate of deforestation in Amazonia, the world's largest rainforest. The main damage has been caused by soy planting and cattle ranching, with at least 1280 sq miles lost in the last 5 months of 2007 alone. At current rates 40% of the Amazon could be lost by 2050. Rainforests, as well as housing globally important biodiversity, are essential for helping to regulate the climate.



#### Dead-end for local wildlife?

Local residents have discovered that part of a nature corridor important to kingfishers and others using the River Frome has been bulldozed by developers. Bristol city council is investigating whether the landowners have breached a conservation order.



**The West a drain on the rest** A survey by the Uni of California has suggested that the environmental damage to developing nations from richer countries exceeds the entire third world debt of \$1.8 trillion.

The Sust'Ometer:

## On your radar?

**Support for 50+ action on climate** The Community Service Volunteers 'Retired and Senior Volunteer Programme' has launched an awareness-raising project showing how the over 50s can contribute to action on climate change. A directory and factsheets are available at [www.rsvp-west.org.uk](http://www.rsvp-west.org.uk) Resources will be regularly updated and feedback to RSVP is welcomed. The project will next look at providing advice in other formats to reach a wider audience.

**Evaluation help for small VCS orgs** Voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations working with excluded groups who wish to evaluate what they do and make improvements could get help from the Evaluation Trust. Groups may be eligible for support from the Evaluation Trust funded by a bursary from the Change Up Improving Reach programme. See [www.rise-sw.co.uk/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=491](http://www.rise-sw.co.uk/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=491)

**Weymouth and Portland small grants opportunity** Weymouth and Portland Partnership have recently allocated Dorset Strategic Partnership funding to a range of projects designed to improve local quality of life. The Partnership has a further £4k available – to apply to the fund please contact [louisestewart@weymouth.gov.uk](mailto:louisestewart@weymouth.gov.uk) by 8 February 2008.

**Funding from Dorset 'Partnership for Older People Project'** The Partnership has funding available for projects for Dorset's older residents. For more info contact Margaret Fridd at [margaret.fridd@helpandcare.org.uk](mailto:margaret.fridd@helpandcare.org.uk)

**Young people challenged to make their mark** A new online toolkit supports young people to turn their enterprising ideas for social and environmental change into a 60 second video hosted on the popular teen social networking site Bebo. The video makers could win £5000 plus mentoring to develop their ideas. See [www.makeyourmark.org.uk](http://www.makeyourmark.org.uk)

**Defra framework for pro-environmental behaviours** A framework for pro-environmental behaviours has been developed to support policy development and implementation in Government departments and beyond. The framework includes: a set of core principles, approaches and goals for encouraging more environmentally friendly behaviour and the implications of the findings for policy development and implementation. More info at [www.defra.gov.uk/evidence/social/behaviour/index.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/evidence/social/behaviour/index.htm)

**Grassroots Grants 2008-11** The Cabinet Office has allocated £130m between 2008-2011 for 'Grassroots Grants' to strengthen the community sector. £80m is for small grants for community organisations and £50m for a groundbreaking endowments programme to enable local foundations to generate matched based donations from the private sector and invest them in endowments, to build their capacity to provide long-term funding for leading edge community organisations. See [www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third\\_sector/news/news\\_releases/071212\\_community.aspx](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/news_releases/071212_community.aspx)

**£50m fund available for social enterprises** A £50m Social Economy Fund to support social enterprises is now available from Unity Trust Bank. The funding has been allocated to meet increased demand for access to loan finance within the sector. For further information call Mark Davies, Unity's Charities Manager, on 0121 616 4301

**Building Material Re-use Centres announced** The Centre for Remanufacturing and Reuse is funding a team of sustainable materials specialists to set up Building Material Re-use Centres in the UK. The Centres will provide business and social opportunities, bring cut-price reclaimed building products to small scale trade and the public and reduce environmental impact. The team is looking for partners from social enterprises, local authorities and the building industry to work with them to deliver the Centres. For more info visit [www.morethanwaste.com/Site/Default.aspx/8A4CCD51CA01C2FEFAFE](http://www.morethanwaste.com/Site/Default.aspx/8A4CCD51CA01C2FEFAFE)

## Up & coming...

**South West Observatory Annual Conference:** The Observatory's 5<sup>th</sup> annual conference titled 'South West Futures: economic prosperity, housing and climate change' will take place on 29 February at the Thistle Hotel, Exeter, 9.30-16.00. Cost: £150/£100. For more details and to book (by 15 Feb) see [www.swo.org.uk/conference08](http://www.swo.org.uk/conference08)

**Greening Community Buildings – free training course:** Your chance to reduce your organisation's carbon footprint. This free event on 13 February, at Tamar View Community Centre, Plymouth (10.30-15.30) is designed for members of voluntary sector organisations and community groups, particularly geared to those with responsibility for premises. Run by the DTA's Community Alliance partners, contact Helen Garforth 07926742113 or Peter Jones 01822 810 808, email [p.jones@dtg.org.uk](mailto:p.jones@dtg.org.uk)

**Moving from Grants to Trade – free workshops:** Several free half-day workshops are available for people wanting to discover the potential of their business ideas: starting a social enterprise; continuing a project that's funding is coming to an end; or developing a business idea that could benefit your community. Workshops dates are: 20 Feb, Bournemouth; 26 Feb, Trowbridge; 28 Feb, Bodmin; 6 March, Taunton; 11 March, Cheltenham; 13 March, Paignton. To book your place call Marie White on 01752 500888 (ext 230) or email [marie.white@co-active.org.uk](mailto:marie.white@co-active.org.uk)

**GreenSpace SW Well being Event:** GreenSpace South West, a regional partnership of greenspace reps, is hosting an event to strengthen the links between greenspace and the health agenda on 13 February at The Brewhouse Theatre and Arts Centre, Taunton (10am – 4pm). The event is for both greenspace and health professionals along with community groups interested in the area. Contact Richard Keating, GreenSpace South West Development Manager, on [greenspacesw@gmail.com](mailto:greenspacesw@gmail.com) or 01453 756064 for more info and/or Jude Luckett to [judel@green-space.org.uk](mailto:judel@green-space.org.uk) or 0118 946 9063 (by 6 Feb) to book your place.

**Environment & health annual conference:** The 10th Annual Conference jointly organised by Environmental Protection UK (SW) and UWE on Thursday, 21 February at the Watershed, Bristol. The conference will focus on Environment and Health policy and research. For more details and to book see [www.uwe.ac.uk/aqm/latestnews.html](http://www.uwe.ac.uk/aqm/latestnews.html)

**An Introduction to Sustainable Funding – a workshop for community organisations:** This workshop on 28 February, South Brent, Devon, provides an overview of sustainable funding and funding options available to VCS orgs. To book a place (£23) contact Gail Hickson 01392 383443 or [gail@devonrcc.org.uk](mailto:gail@devonrcc.org.uk)

**Environmental legislation – free event:** Speakers, including Envision and the Environment Agency, will offer info and advice about current and future environmental legislation and how to cost-effectively comply on 28 February in Taunton. Contact Lotte Lewis on 01823 366830 or [lotte.lewis@envisionsw.org.uk](mailto:lotte.lewis@envisionsw.org.uk) for info

## 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 Monday 25 February.**

## 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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