

Welcome to Sustainability Now



The shape of things to come – the Fair Shares, Fair Choice personal carbon card

SSW response to Defra report on Personal Carbon Allocations

As predicted, higher energy prices are now affecting our everyday lives. We need to adopt the fairest and safest way to protect ourselves against the effects of insecure and expensive high carbon energy supplies and catastrophic climate change. As the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee new report recognises, personal carbon trading would guarantee a reduction in emissions because it places a limit on the carbon available, rather than promoting a reduction in demand which simply isn't going far or fast enough. A carbon allowance would incentivise us to cut our emissions more effectively and fairly than increased prices from green taxation. And rather than poorer households being penalised, with an equal share for all, many would actually stand to benefit. The committee recognises that what is needed, urgently, is a shift away from detailed consideration of how personal carbon trading could operate towards the question of how it could be made publicly and politically acceptable. There is wide cross party and cross sector support for SSW's 'Fair Shares, Fair Choice' campaign in the region. In contrast, Defra's recent report on personal carbon trading concluded that this idea is currently too 'ahead of its time' and 'too expensive to implement.' Given that experts say we have about ten years to reduce the risk of dangerous climate change - when will there be a better time for leadership to be ahead of its time?! The government also seems to have forgotten the key message of its own report, the Stern Review on Climate Change - investing **now** will save from far greater costs later.

Support from the North: The idea of Personal Carbon Allowances is being increasingly discussed, particularly in the media. A leading article in the Scotsman on 30 May presented a balanced debate of the pros and cons of PCAs, saying that, "some supporters view PCAs as a complement to 'green taxes'. Others view them as a fairer and more equitable alternative, allocating responsibility for change through a mechanism that would be clearer to the public than complex or 'stealth' taxes." The article concludes that, "It seems highly likely that PCAs will become a tangible part of our lives in the coming years, but individuals will need some help from business and government to make it work." It also refers to FSFC as a 'positive' example of how the model can work, and highlights its high level of support by individuals, businesses and community, and praises FSFC's supporting materials for their clarity and SSW's 'willingness to test the waters in what inevitably will be an evolving process'.

This month's Sustainability Now headlines at a glance:

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- ◆ SSW seeks part time administrator
- ◆ 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 and view back issues at www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk/sustainability_now (let us know if you've colleagues who need adding to our e-distribution list).

Fair Shares, Fair Choice – come and see us for a chance to win

The South West's low carbon initiative *Fair Shares, Fair Choice (FSFC)* will feature at events around the region during 2-8 June. Members of the public can visit the FSFC stand to work out their carbon footprint and find out their personal carbon budget for the year, as well as picking up tips and challenges on how they can reduce their carbon emissions to get 'in budget'. Anyone who works out their carbon footprint during the week will have a chance to win an £80 voucher for Bordeaux Quay, Bristol's harbourside sustainable restaurant. Kids are invited to draw a way to save energy inside a special footprint for their chance to win a hamper of goodies.



Come and find *Fair Shares, Fair Choice* at:

- Enviromall week, 2-6 June, The Mall, Galleries, Bristol
- World Environment Day, 5 June, Bedford Square, Exeter
- Festival of Nature, 7-8 June, Bristol Harbourside (Green Forum, Anchor Square)

You can also enter the competition online. Just work out your carbon footprint at www.fairsharesfairchoice.com/carbon_calculator.asp and email your footprint result, name and address to: info@fairsharesfairchoice.com

Visit www.fairsharesfairchoice.com for help measuring and reducing your carbon footprint and to add your name to the growing list of people who support the idea of making positive choice towards living and working within a fair and safe share of carbon. **Fair Shares, Fair Choice is approaching its 1000th supporter ...will it be you??**

Sustainability South West seeks part-time administrator

Based in Bristol, fixed term contract until 31 March 2009: Salary band £14,492 - £16,217 p.a. (pro rata 20 hours per week) plus contributory pension.

Are you a good administrator who is interested in sustainability? Would you like to work in a creative organisation that wants to develop your skills? Sustainability South West seeks an Administration Assistant to assist with the delivery of day to day legal, administration and finance activities and internal and external communications.

Info and application pack from: Freiny Miles – freiny.miles@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk or tel. 0117 900 1751
Closing date for Applications: Midday, Friday 20th June 2008

Sussed!



Flying in the face of fashion A new Sustainable Development Commission and Institute for Public Policy Research report, 'Breaking the holding pattern', calls for more evidence on the benefits and impacts of flying, including addressing its growing contribution to climate change. Stakeholders from across sectors contributing to the report agreed over the key social, economic and environmental criteria that aviation should meet to be sustainable but disagreed over the current evidence. The report recommends that decisions on new runways should be delayed until a thorough, independent review is undertaken. See www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/aviation.html



Keep on trucking Leading business-to-business delivery company, TNT, have launched the world's largest fleet of 'zero emission' vehicles, with the potential to reduce its carbon footprint by 1,300 tonnes of CO2 annually. A100 battery-powered trucks will be rolled out in locations across the UK with Bristol amongst the first depots to benefit. TNT tops the Dow Jones 'Sustainability Index' and launched 'Planet Me', an environmental programme to engage employees, contractors and suppliers, last August.



The lighter way to travel The WWF is challenging business air travellers to 'Cut One in Five' of their flights, recognising that for many of us cutting down on flying has the biggest impact on our carbon footprint. Their new report, 'Travelling Light', found that top businesses believe they can fly less and still remain competitive by switching to train travel or video conferencing. See www.wwf.org.uk/travellinglight

So last century...



Getting revved up about petrol Recent weeks have seen protests by hauliers in the UK, by fishermen in Europe, and by ordinary people across the globe facing rising fuel costs. There has also been a resurgence of 'circular' emails in the UK from irate motorists demanding lower petrol prices. But surely now is the time for these to be junked? We no longer live in a world where supply is unlimited. Demand of oil is at (or near) its peak, and there are no 'cheap' reserves just waiting to be tapped. We already know how to save fuel, we also know that vehicle manufacturers can make more efficient vehicles if we ask for them and we know there are alternatives. So isn't it time to put all of this negative 'protest' energy into something more sustainable, and make positive preparation for post-peak oil living instead!



Cameron – fairweather friend of the earth? For someone credited with greening the blues, David Cameron has been very quiet on environmental issues of late... As commentators talk about a 'green backlash' (with discontent about petrol prices, bin charges etc) will leaders quietly ditch their eco policies or stand together in recognising that the sustainability agenda is much bigger than political point-scoring?



Human behaviour A new study published in the journal Nature suggests that 90% of environmental damage and disruption can be explained by human activity. Global warming from man-made greenhouse gas emissions is the worst culprit – responsible for dramatic changes to habitats and eco-systems the world over.

The Sust'Ometer:

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

On your radar?

New green guide for outdoor/community events

With summer on the way, the Government Office for the South West has launched a new outdoor/community events companion guide to the national "Greener Events". Written for GOSW by Sustainability South West, the new guide addresses event issues like how to encourage local sourcing and reducing waste and noise. A few simple things really can make a big difference and there is a public expectation that these events become greener. The guide can be found at <http://www.oursouthwest.com/SusBus/gevents.html#companion-guides>

WIN ... an ethical luxury food hamper worth £100!

RISE is undertaking research to find out about organisations that are driven by a social or environmental objective, and earn income by providing services or products either to a paying customer or under a public sector contract. Click on www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=Yg4voMmfUEauTSahq_2bN5aw_3d_3d and take a few minutes to complete the survey. You could win a fantastic hamper worth £100!

Sustainable Development Commission health and outdoor environment report

A new publication from the SDC, 'Health, Place and Nature', provides a knowledge base for assessing how outdoor spaces influence health and well-being. www.sd-commission.org.uk/publications.php?id=712

Be aware, be prepared, take action – help for councils

The Local Government Association, Environment Agency and the United Kingdom Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP) have jointly produced the guidance to help local government assess how the risks associated with climate change affect core service delivery, infrastructure, assets and the well being of local communities. There is a growing consensus that councils should be leading the national effort to tackle climate change, and recent opinion polling by the LGA has shown that over three quarters (76%) of people agree that councils have a major role to play. Many councils are stepping up to this challenge, but there is still much to do. 'Be aware, be prepared, take action' can help, with signposted tools and resources which local authorities can draw upon in developing their adaptation strategies and suggested ways to systematically manage these risks across local authorities' functions, outline the new legislative context for adaptation and offer some example of innovation and best practice in the field. This information will be applicable to all member and officer communities not just those focused on environment issues.

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/aio/566302>

Funding boost for regional climate adaptation

A cash boost of £450,000 this year and a further two year commitment to boost projects that help England's regions adapt to climate change was announced by Climate Change Minister Joan Ruddock. The £450,000 additional funding this year and additional funding for the next two years will ensure the Regional Climate Change Partnerships are able to continue their work to raise awareness, build capacity and stimulate action in the regions. Each Climate Change Partnership will be able to bid for up to £50,000 this year, £30,000 next year and £20,000 in 2010/2011 to support existing projects or new projects under five key themes covering: Development and updating of regional strategies, Landscape scale natural environment issues and biodiversity, Economic development, Multi-area agreements and Innovation/specific regional opportunities.

Does your Park have what it takes to become Britain's Best Park 2008?

The 6th annual 'Britain's Best Park' competition is currently inviting people to put forward the name of their favourite local park in hopes of it being named the winner. The aim of the competition is to acknowledge the worth of our green public spaces and the hard work and dedication of those who look after them. It also aims to raise awareness of the importance of our parks to the environment and the communities they serve. Entries are being accepted from the public, local authorities and any associated bodies responsible for developing or maintaining a public space. Last year's winner, Pollok Country Park in Glasgow, also went on to scoop first place in 'Europe's Best Park' competition. The closing date for entries is Friday, 29th August 2008. For entry forms and further details, please contact: Gemma Sharpe & Gemma Pittham (on behalf of Briggs & Stratton) at Paskett Public Relations Ltd on 01332 372196

Which European city is greenest?

The competition to crown Europe's greenest city was launched by the European Commission earlier this month. The first winner of the *European Green Capital Award* will be announced in 2010, in what will then become an annual contest. The competition aims to promote sustainable living while recognising the efforts of those cities which are leading the charge. Judges will be looking for 'a consistent record of achieving high environmental standards, is permanently committed to ambitious action, further environmental improvement and sustainable development, and can act as a role model to inspire other cities and promote best practices in all other European cities'. Cities will be judged on a broad spectrum of criteria, rather than a single project and will need to show good practice in areas such as air quality, energy use, water efficiency, waste management and transport. The competition is open to any city with a population of 200,000 or above, from the candidate states, those in the European Economic Area and the 27 EC countries.

Sustainable Wealth Creation – a guide

This new business guide to creating wealth while staying within environmental limits was written by Tom Chambers, Jonathon Porritt and Peter Price-Thomas. Using The Natural Step model, it sets out a constructive approach to creating wealth in a sustainable fashion and to benefit from the opportunities in doing so.

<http://www.forumforthefuture.org.uk/files/Wwealthcreation.pdf>

Up & coming...

Southwest heritage employers event This event, hosted by the South West Lifelong Learning Network and the Genesis Project for 3rd sector and commercial organisations, will share examples of good practice related to lifelong learning, education, skills and volunteering in the heritage and built environment sector. The event is to be held at the Taunton Conference Centre (incorporating the Genesis Centre) on 16 June, 10am-4pm. More details available at by contacting Christine Pateman at cpateman@bournemouth.ac.uk or 01202 961221

The second annual **EnviroMall Week** will run at The Mall groups' 23 shopping centres around the country 2-8 June, with the goal of encouraging one million shoppers to make a pledge to help combat climate change. EnviroMall is the first national environmental accreditation scheme specifically designed for shopping centres. It aims to minimise shopping centres' impact on the environment through working with retailers and shoppers. The Mall has already reduced its carbon emissions by over 2900 tonnes since 1999 (a decrease of 24% so far), saving 6.2million kWhrs of electricity and 4.4million kWhrs of gas - enough to supply 3 shopping malls for 6 years. The ultimate goal is to achieve a Self Sustainable Specification – S3 – at all shopping centres.

Established in 1972, **World Environment Day** is commemorated each year on 5 June, and is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action. To get involved in the South West's 'Stand Up to Climate Change' event for World Environment Day, hosted by Environment Agency, head to Bedford Square, Princesshay, Exeter, for a free Green Fayre from 10am where there will be information from a range of local organisations, including Sustainability South West, offering help and advice in taking a positive stand against climate change. In the evening, enjoy comedy from 7.30pm at the Barnfield Theatre, Exeter. Tickets for the evening are available from the box office on 01392 270891 and cost £6.00 (concessions £4.00). For more information on World Environment Day visit www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wed

The second South West Climate Change Impacts Partnership '**Adapting to Climate Change Week**' takes place 2-6 June, with awareness raising events in Exeter including a presence at World Environment Day and business workshops. Information available at www.oursouthwest.com/climate/adaptation-week-june-2008-agenda-swccip.doc

Celebrate the 5th Bristol **Festival of Nature** at the Harbourside on 7-8 June with a range of family events and exhibitions exploring the natural world including free talks, a range of workshops at £5 each, plus films, boat tours, the Market Place full of local food and the Green Forum tent where environmental and conservation organisations, including Sustainability South West, raise awareness and offer advice for taking action on environmental issues. Visit www.festivalofnature.org for more info.

Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives, in Cornwall and Scilly: An 'Open Space' workshop will be held on 13th June 2008, Headland Hotel, Newquay to harness the expertise of people in diverse disciplines in order to inform the development of the public health strategy to prevent obesity and enhance the long term health of the population of the SW. For more information please contact Lindley Owen Tel: 01726 627979

Parks for Life: A GreenSpace conference taking place on 18 June at The Watershed, Bristol, focusing on maximising the impact parks can have on health and wellbeing. After years of attempting to convince the government and healthcare professionals of the benefits parks can provide for health and wellbeing, time and funding are finally being invested in this valuable resource. As more public attention is given to mental health, obesity and exercise, the conference will consider how this renewed interest can be capitalised on in order to improve the quality of health provision in parks, and will provide delegates with practical advice and suggestions for their own green spaces. See <http://www.green-space.org.uk/events/GS/latestconference.php> for details of the programme and how to book.

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 local and 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 **Deadline for submissions: close of Wednesday 25 June.**

Other news from Sustainability South West

More SSW news available on our new look website at:

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

Sustainability Shaper – the SW's regional sustainable development framework

www.shapersw.net

Future Foundations – the SW's sustainable construction charter

www.futurefoundations.co.uk

Future Footprints – the SW's sustainable tourism visitor campaign

www.futurefootprints.org.uk

Planting Places – networks for SW urban greenspace project

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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