



From the SSN Chair

Alan Speedie

In March 2001 a modest newsletter nudged into people's mailboxes around Scotland. It was called 'SSN Newsletter 1' dull, but accurate, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Buoyed by some very complementary comments – for example a Scottish Executive official said '*...I like the style, found it very informative and bang up to date*' - the newsletter like the Network itself has flourished. So in the past six years the newsletter we have produced seventy editions, covering a wide range of issues. From the business of Scotland's Parliament, and PM's speeches, to very practical matters like strategic environmental assessment and the huge emerging issue of climate change.

That has always been the point of the newsletter and the Network – to help each other in the challenging task of deliver sustainable development in the difficult environment of local government. It's been a privilege to be able to write this editorial over these past six years and my thanks to everyone who has contributed to – or just read – the newsletter. By the next newsletter we should have a new Chair and Steering Group for SSN. My best wishes to them for the next seventy.

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How Was the How-to Guide for You? Reflections on SSN's Annual Conference

It's now three weeks since SSN's Annual Conference 2007. The dust has settled, the letterbox has ceased rattling with the arrival of feedback forms, and the price quotes are through for Conference 2008 (I kid you not). For us, the Conference is a real highlight in the year. As well as the high-calibre of speakers, the buzz generated by 200+ expert and committed practitioners sharing ideas (and dance moves on the ceilidh floor) is really what keeps us ticking at SSN HQ. The trick is trying to capture this and let it fly in the limitations of a conference format. We're all ears if you have any ideas for 2008....

Whether you were able to make it through to Edinburgh for the Big Event or not, there's plenty to keep you stimulated in the aftermath. Tartan Media Productions were onsite at the conference, interviewing key speakers -such as John Swinney MSP and Ray Morgan (Chief Exec, Woking Borough Council)- and capturing participant's reactions to the event and discussions. They've done a neat job of compiling an 'under the skin' picture of the conference – and this feed is available at <http://feeds.feedburner.com/sustainablescotlandnetwork>. This is where the local authority 'How to Guide' on climate change really comes to life.

Our in-house web team at Keep Scotland Beautiful have also done a great job getting all powerpoint presentations (plenaries and seminars) and audio recordings (plenary sessions only) online at the SSN Conference website www.sustainable-scotland.net/conference2007.

The Conference launched a number of support tools for local authorities, all of which are outlined below:

Local Footprints Releases Local Authority Carbon Footprint Profiles

The Local Footprints Project and the Stockholm Environment Institute launched a report at the SSN conference earlier this month. The report, [Right Climate for Change](#) - Carbon footprinting for Scottish local authorities, identifies priority areas that local authorities need to address to achieve the Government's national ambition to reduce Scotland's carbon dioxide emissions by 80% by 2050.

Local Footprints produced this report to help local authorities understand how services and policies influence people's every-day decisions and behaviour, as well as their Carbon Footprints. It complements other area-wide indicators, like the Ecological Footprint, as well as estate emissions indicators and carbon management plans.

Download the *Right Climate for Change* full report and the executive summary at <http://www.sustainable-scotland.net/index.asp?pg=25>, or download your Local Authority Carbon Footprint report at http://www.sei.se/reap/download_login.php?region=.

For more information on the methodology used to develop the Carbon Footprints please visit the SEI footprint software website at <http://www.sei.se/reap/>.

Climate Change Tools Database: Locate the Right Tools for the Right Job

A research project, led by the Scottish Climate Change Impacts Partnership (SCCIP), has produced a database and guidance report on climate change mitigation and adaptation tools to help local authorities locate "the right tools for the right jobs". The Scottish Government-funded project was supported by the SSN and a number of active network members.

The main report identifies the strengths and limitations of a range of tools; and evaluates them against their ability to help local authorities meet Scotland's Climate Change Declaration commitments; to perform a variety of jobs; and in meeting the needs and capacities of local authorities.



The research highlighted a number of ways in which policy makers, tool providers, researchers and local authorities could strengthen the development of tools to address climate change. This project was managed by the Scotland & Northern Ireland Forum on Environmental Research (SNIFFER), on behalf of SCCIP. For more information, the guidance document on finding The Right Tools for the Right Jobs and details on how to access the database in its full glory, go to the news page on the SSN website <http://www.sustainable-scotland.net/index.asp?pg=17&n=48>

Procuring for Sustainability: SSN supports Scotland Excel Conference

SSN's Vice-Chair Sylvia Gray and Development Officer Chloë Smee recently presented on Procurement for Sustainability at Scotland Excel's inaugural conference. The event, which took place at Murrayfield Stadium in Edinburgh on November 28th, reinforced the consonance between procurement best practice and sustainability objectives.

SSN's Chloë Smee said, "Procurement is arguably the most powerful way for a local authority to demonstrate and deliver its sustainability objectives. With increasing support on this issue from the Scottish Government (see the newly published guidance, discussed in Scottish News, below) and Scotland Excel, and increasing social and environmental drivers, procurers have never been in a better position to argue for more sustainable products across the board. As long as we're all minded to procure sustainably, we can surely address and resolve potential conflicts – such as those between aggregation of contracts and the importance of local suppliers."

SSN's presentation is now online at the Procurement for Sustainability page of SSN's website at www.sustainable-scotland.net – head to the priority themes page.

Local Footprints Project Update

Scottish Footprinting was well represented at the first conference for footprint software (Resource Energy Analysis Programme REAP) users. The conference was held in York on 12th and 13th of November, and over 50 people attended, including representatives from Aberdeenshire Council, North Lanarkshire Council, WWF Scotland, and the Local Footprints Project. For more information on the software, including examples of local authorities using the software, please join the new users forum <http://www.sei.se/reap/forum>.

Local Authority News & Views

A Dearer, Greener Place for 2014: Glasgow's Commonwealth Games

Where were you on Decision Day? If you were anywhere in Scotland you'll know that Glasgow won the bid to host the Commonwealth Games in 2014: WE DID IT!!!

We did it, yes, but how sustainable will it all be bringing people from every part of the globe to compete in a sporting event for several weeks? The answer is very!

Sustainability and partnership working have been key themes in developing a low carbon Bid and every eventuality has been considered- we are confident that Glasgow 2014 will be setting new standards for the Commonwealth Games of the future.

The facts are as follows:

Venues & Games Village

- 70% of the required Games venues already exist
- All new Games related construction will be on vacant & derelict sites



- All new and refurbished Games buildings will meet a BREEAM¹, EcoHomes or CEEQUAL² standard of excellent
- Extensive use will be made of materials with a high recycled content

Energy

- Carbon emissions limits will be set in kgCO₂/m³ in accordance with best practice for all Games buildings
- All legacy domestic properties for sale must have a seller's pack which includes details on the environmental specification of the building, including its energy performance
- An energy management strategy will be produced for each site and in commercial buildings, a building management system (BMS) will monitor and adjust performance where required

Transport

- Low emission zones will be set up around the village and venues
- All venues will be car free (except for essential users)
- Improvements will be made to public transport infrastructure
- Use of the national cycle route along the River Clyde will be promoted throughout the Games
- River transport will be used during the Games

Physical Environment

- A green network will be created linking the east end of the City to the River Clyde corridor and other major spaces such as Glasgow Green
- Biodiversity will be enhanced in a range of inner city locations

Community Engagement

- Local people will be involved through consultation, projects and recreational activities

Waste

- A minimum of 80% of waste during the Games will be diverted from landfill
- All Games venues will have comprehensive waste management plans providing re-use, recycling and communal composting opportunities on-site
- Re-use and recycling of existing on-site construction materials will be maximised during construction of new buildings
- Waste will be minimised at the procurement stage through clauses targeting reductions to packaging waste, particularly during construction, fit out and Games catering.

Climate Change

- The carbon footprint of the Games will be assessed to ensure that all initiatives have the minimum environmental impact
- A climate change adaptation and mitigation off-setting fund will be set up to secure benefit in other Commonwealth countries.

Water

- Water resources will be conserved in construction and in use
- Surface water will be collected and re-used where appropriate
- Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) will be standard in all new development

Procurement

¹ Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method

² Civil Engineering Environmental Quality Assessment and Award Scheme (CEEQUAL)



- Sustainable procurement principles will be adopted
- Fairtrade products will be procured where possible

Monitoring

- A comprehensive auditing exercise will remain in place to ensure that all targets, aims and objectives are being met.

LET THE GAMES COMMENCE! The hard work starts now....

For more info read our Candidate City File

<http://www.glasgow2014.com/Our-Bid/Candidate-City-File>

Greenhouse Gas Regional Inventory Project (GRIP): Glasgow and Clyde Valley Case Study

The Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Structure Plan Joint Committee (GCVSPJC) in early 2007 agreed to implement a process which would assist the formulation of a strategic development plan response to planning for climate change. As part of the process the GCVSPJC agreeing to continue to be lead partner in an extension to the InterMETREX project. The project extension "InterMETREXPlus" was based around the use of the 'GRIP' (Greenhouse Gas Regional Inventory Project) Model, developed by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research (www.grip.org.uk)

The Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Structure Plan Joint Committee, through the EU INTERREG IIC InterMETREXPlus project, has been able to undertake its first ever substantive analysis of greenhouse gas emissions across the Metropolitan Area. Combined with the innovative engagement of partners and stakeholders in energy futures scenario workshops, which have provided a broad consensus on what can and needs to be done to meet the challenge of an 80% GHG emissions reduction by 2050.

This work has demonstrated the validity of broadening the scope of the InterMETREXPlus project to engage with a wider range of stakeholders. The Joint Committee recognises one authority, region or country cannot go it alone on tackling climate change and that trans-national co-operation will be necessary.

This initial work provides a solid basis for starting to develop and share spatial planning responses with partner organisations and countries and the Joint Committee looks forward to working with its partners in developing this work further via a successful submission to the EU INTERREG IVC programme for the METREX EUCO² project.

If you have any questions then please contact George Eckton who is the Strategic Planner with responsibility for this study on 0141 229 7730. SSN staff will be meeting with George Eckton on 11th December to discuss future collaboration, especially coordination with the Local Footprint Project.

Copies of the **InterMETREXPlus Final Report 2007** in PDF format can be downloaded http://www.gvcvcore.gov.uk/Quick_links/latest_news.htm#climatechange

Copies of the various InterMetrexPlus project outputs can be accessed via <http://www.eurometrex.org/euco2/pilot.htm>

Field Code Changed



The Slings and Arrows of New Developments...

A new eco-park development proposal in Falkirk is successful in drawing funding from the Big Lottery Fund, while the controversial Trump-planned golf course is – well – trumped by Aberdeenshire Council's Infrastructure Committee.

Eco-park to Spearhead Falkirk Regeneration

A large expanse of industrial wasteland in the heart of central Scotland is to be transformed into one of the UK's biggest eco-parks, dominated by an iconic "working sculpture", that officials say will rival the Angel of the North.

The centrepiece of the Helix project, between Grangemouth and Falkirk, will be two 30-metre tall horse heads, the world's largest equine sculptures, which will act as a part of a working boatlift for Scotland's lowland canal network. The scheme has just secured £25m of lottery funding and once the final tranche of funding is in place, work is expected to get underway next year and last almost a decade.

At present, the area's most dominant feature is the giant BP petrochemical plant at Grangemouth. "Thirty one million people drive past Falkirk and Grangemouth every year and see this very barren landscape that is actually a blight," said Stephen Dunlop, the director of British Waterways Scotland. "It is meant to be an entrance to both communities but it acts as a dividing space. It gives no one really a reason to enter into these communities and these are two communities that have made a huge contribution to the economic wellbeing of Scotland. We began to look at that space and said this should become a much more vibrant, visible and active space."

When it is completed, the Helix project - which covers a 300 hectare site (741 acres) - will see over 750,000 trees planted, the creation of five biodiversity nature parks, 34km of paths and cycle tracks, a 1.85km canal link joining Grangemouth to the rest of the canal network, two lagoons, a marina and the giant Kelpies – the water horse sculptures designed by Scottish sculptor Andy Scott.



This is an excerpt from <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2007/nov/27/regeneration?gusrc=rss&feed=networkfront>

Trump's £1bn Golf Course Plan Turned Down

Donald Trump's plans to build a £1bn golf resort including the "best links course in the world" in Scotland are in disarray after councillors voted to turn down the proposals.

The application was rejected by Aberdeenshire Council's infrastructure committee on the casting vote of the chairman, Martin Ford, who warned it would be a "grotesque mistake" to approve the development on the outskirts of Aberdeen.

Yesterday's decision won praise from environmentalists and attracted condemnation from the business community which had given unprecedented support to the plan.

After the rejection vote was revealed, US billionaire Mr Trump told The Herald that he was "surprised" by the result and was considering an appeal or the possibility of building another resort elsewhere.

The controversy centred on the fact that one-third of the proposed championship course sits on sand dunes which are a Site of Special of Scientific Interest and the development includes 500 executive homes.

<http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.1870650.0.0.php>



Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: Bringing It All Together

This month, the IPCC published The Synthesis Report, which forms the final part of "Climate Change 2007", the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report. This report brings together three reports published earlier this year: "The physical science basis" (February 07); "Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability" (April 07); "Mitigation of Climate Change" (May 07).

The science related to climate change is vast and complex, and the IPCC has worked with scientists around the world to collect, assess and process the body of solid and up-to-date scientific literature. All this information is contained in the first three volumes of "Climate Change 2007". The Synthesis Report goes one step further: it is the decisive effort to integrate and compact this wealth of information into a readable and concise document explicitly targeted to the policymakers.

The Synthesis Report is designed to be a powerful, scientifically authoritative document of high policy relevance, which will be a major contribution to the discussions at the 13th Conference of the Parties in Bali in early December.

<http://www.ipcc.ch/index.htm>

World's First Climate Change Bill Published

Landmark legislation that sets out plans to tackle climate change for the next 50 years was published in Parliament 15 November. The Climate Change Bill, the first of its kind in the world, sets out a framework that will put Britain on the path to become a low-carbon economy, with clear, legally binding targets to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by at least 60 per cent by 2050, and 26 to 32 per cent by 2020, against 1990 levels.

As well as setting clear targets, the Bill provides a pathway to achieve those reductions through a system of five-year carbon budgets set fifteen years ahead, which would give investors and policymakers certainty and direction.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2007/071115b.htm>

UK Government Statement on a Post-2012 Climate Change Framework

"Next month environment ministers from the world's governments will gather in Bali, Indonesia for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference with the aim of launching negotiations leading to a comprehensive global agreement on tackling climate change.

It is crucial that we achieve such an agreement. It is clear climate change poses the most urgent challenge to humankind - a challenge that threatens not only the environment but international peace and security, prosperity and development. Last week the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the world's authoritative voice on the science on climate change and recent winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, completed its most comprehensive report ever on climate change. It is a clear call for urgent international action. The report shows unequivocally the role of humans in climate change and the impacts on food production, sea level rises, human health, biodiversity and our economies if we do not take urgent and sustained action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To avoid the dangerous impacts of global warming, global temperatures must rise no more than 2 degrees above those of pre-industrial times. That can only happen if nations agree to an



enhanced global and comprehensive regime to limit greenhouse gas emissions for the period after 2012, when the first Kyoto Protocol commitment period ends. Because of the time it takes to ratify international treaties, this means reaching agreement on that regime by the end of 2009. So although the UN Conference in Bali will simply launch the negotiations, rather than conclude them, we have only two years to complete those negotiations.

Britain will go into these talks, alongside our European partners, seeking an ambitious agreement. This approach builds on the action the Government are taking in the UK, notably through the Climate Change Bill, which will make the UK the first country in the world to have a legally binding long-term framework to cut carbon emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change."

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/internat/bali-aims-071119.htm>

New Greenhouse Gas Inventory Published: Local Authority Emissions

Action by local authorities is crucial to the UK's efforts to cut carbon dioxide emissions, Climate Change Minister Phil Woolas said today, as statistics on local and regional emissions for 2005 were published.

The statistics underline the vital role local authorities can play in fighting climate change by reducing carbon dioxide emissions, both through their own actions and by setting an example to the wider community. Phil Woolas said:

"As estate managers, service providers and community leaders, local authorities are at the forefront of the fight to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in the UK. They have the power to make a huge difference throughout the country and these statistics are an increasingly valuable resource to help them assess how they can cut emissions.

"As well as taking action to reduce emissions themselves, local authorities have a vital role to play in challenging and informing their residents to drive down emissions across the area they serve. In recognition of this, action on climate change will be included in part of the performance framework used to assess local government performance for the first time from April next year." Estimates are published today of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) emissions for 2005 for all UK Local Authorities and Government Office Regions.

A summary, together with the full report and data tables are available from the e-Digest of Environmental Statistics on the Defra web site at:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/globalatmos/galocalghg.htm

Watch this space... The Local Footprints Project is developing a briefing note to compare emissions data available. This note will provide an explanation of how the data is gathered and measured.

Upping our Potential: Renewable Energy in Scotland

A new target to generate 50 per cent of Scotland's electricity from renewables by 2020, with an interim target of 31 per cent by 2011, has been set. The Scottish Government's previous renewable target was 40 per cent by 2020.

Energy Minister Jim Mather said the target was now more transparent and challenging, as it takes account of transmission losses between the source of electricity and consumers, and would increase confidence in Scotland's renewables industry. The 2011 target equals 5,000 Megawatts in installed capacity, twice as much as capacity announced at the recent Green Energy Day.

Speaking ahead of meetings and a seminar in Brussels to update the European Union on Scotland's energy objectives, Mr Mather said: "In setting this ambitious 50 per cent target, the Scottish Government is encouraging the development of low carbon technologies such as renewable energy, micro-generation, combined heat and power, carbon capture and storage while pursuing greater energy efficiency savings."



<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2007/11/27095600>

UK / Scottish Climate Change Bill... SPICey Stuff

A new Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) Briefing on the *UK Climate Change Bill - Legislative Consent Memorandum* is available at:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/research/briefings-07/SB07-63.pdf>

UK-China Clean Coal Initiative Launched

A joint UK-China initiative on producing energy from coal with low carbon dioxide emissions was launched in Beijing 20th November.

The Near Zero Emissions Coal Initiative (NZEI) will initially involve an 18-month work programme to help build capacity for carbon capture and storage technology in China, build stronger links between Chinese and European experts and study a range of options for demonstrating carbon capture and storage in coal-fired power generation in China.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2007/071120b.htm>

Limiting Carbon Consumption: The Role of Personal Allowances

Last month saw the publication of the interim recommendations on exploring personal carbon trading by the RSA's Carbon Limited project.

Personal carbon trading (PCT) is a market-based policy option for controlling carbon emissions from the direct use of energy by individuals. It allows people to make their own choices about actions whose emissions they are directly responsible for and provides individuals with a tradable personal carbon allowance.

The principle supports shared responsibility and collective action; it also reflects the political times, being pro-market. The idea for personal carbon trading is attracting interest across national and political boundaries, from civil society and from industry.

The interim report clarifies what personal carbon trading is and what the practical options for its development are. It proposes that personal carbon trading should start as a voluntary scheme to be tested through public debate. If successful, this scheme could then become mandatory, helping the UK achieve its emissions reduction targets.

The report recognises the role of citizens as an opportunity to complement action by government and business and supports the development of a new relationship between these three actors.

Carbon Limited is a three-year programme established in 2006 to analyse the effectiveness, feasibility and public acceptability of the concept of personal carbon trading (PCT).

<http://www.rsacarbonlimited.org/carbonlimitedresearch/default.aspx>

Rich Countries' Must Pay Huge Carbon Debt

Industrialised nations must pay billions of pounds to help poorer countries tackle global warming if millions of people around the world are not to be consigned to endless poverty, Christian Aid says in a new report. The report, [Truly Inconvenient: Tackling poverty and climate change at once](#), is intended to inform debate at a UN climate change conference in Bali in December, where representatives from 180 nations will discuss an international strategy for reducing global warming. Check it out here:

http://www.christianaid.org.uk/pressoffice/pressreleases/carbon_debt.aspx



Industry Slow to Act on Carbon-Saving Advice

An organisation set up to help industry reduce CO2 emissions has only had a limited impact, the government's spending watchdog said today.

The National Audit Office (NAO) found that only 12% of large businesses had worked with the Carbon Trust to reduce their carbon emissions, and just 40% of the potential savings identified by the trust between 2003 and 2006 had actually been implemented.

Set up by the government in 2001 as a private company, the trust was designed to encourage reductions in CO2 emissions across the UK and accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy. It received £103.2m in public money in 2006-07 to support its work.

The NAO report, Accelerating the move to a low carbon economy, found that the trust had helped UK businesses and public sector organisations reduce their emissions by an estimated 2m tonnes in 2006-07, with a financial saving to the firms involved of £410m-£655m.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2007/nov/23/carbonemissions.climatechange1>

EST Green Barometer 3 Report Details Council-area Carbon Wasters

EST's Green Barometer III report unveils research which, for the first time, details the UK's biggest carbon wasters council-area-by-council-area and provides a model to target householders street-by-street with energy saving advice.

The findings highlight which regions can save the most energy, what can be done and by whom - individuals or local authorities.

The research - which for the first time ranks people living in local authority areas by their household and domestic car emissions - finds that the places in the UK that have the highest CO2 per household are: South Buckinghamshire (England); Orkney Islands (Scotland); Powys (Wales) and County Down (Northern Ireland). The lowest CO2 per household are: CO2 per household is the lowest in: City of London (England); Glasgow (Scotland); Blaenau Gwent (Wales) and Belfast (Northern Ireland).

Despite these findings this latest Green Barometer report isn't about singling out local authorities, as each area is unique and has its own challenges and opportunities. We will continue to work closely with local authorities on how best to offer tailored and specific energy saving advice to their residents. This wealth of information at our fingertips means householders are now more likely to receive the information they need, to act to curb their carbon emissions.

EST has now been funded by Defra under the Green Homes Service announced by Environment Secretary Hilary Benn on Monday 19 November to roll out a network of one-stop-shop Energy Saving Trust advice centres across England and Wales from 1 April 2008. They will provide independent, impartial advice to millions of households at the local level in communities. They will not be providing a one size fits all level of mass energy saving advice but will look at what is possible for the region and the individual using the 'segmentation' model.

Advice will be provided on energy efficiency, micro-renewables, transport, and following Monday 16 November's Government announcement, on water and waste reduction also. The new centres will reach more than three million households a year with actionable advice, tailored to where people live and the action that householders can meaningfully achieve.

New Policy Papers from Oxfam on impact of Climate Change on Disasters, the threat posed to in Asia, and the Development Dangers of Bio-fuels



Climate Alarm: Disasters increase as climate change bites (25 November 2007)

Climatic disasters are increasing as temperatures climb and rainfall intensifies. A rise in small- and medium-scale disasters is a particularly worrying trend. Yet even extreme weather need not bring disasters; it is poverty and powerlessness that make people vulnerable. Though more emergency aid is needed, humanitarian response must do more than save lives: it has to link to climate change adaptation and bolster poor people's livelihoods through social protection and disaster risk reduction approaches.

http://www.oxfam.org/en/policy/briefingpapers/bp108_climate_change_alarm_0711

Up in smoke? Asia and the Pacific – The threat from climate change to human development and the environment (19 November 2007)

The human drama of climate change will largely be played out in Asia, where over 60 per cent of the world's population, around four billion people, live. Over half of those live near the coast, making them directly vulnerable to sea-level rise. Disruption to the region's water cycle caused by climate change also threatens the security and productivity of the food systems upon which they depend. This report looks at positive measures that are being taken – by governments, by civil society and by people themselves – to reduce the causes of climate change and to overcome its effects.

http://www.oxfam.org/en/policy/briefingnotes/bn_asia_up_in_smoke_nov07

Bio-fuelling Poverty: Why the EU renewable-fuel target may be disastrous for poor people (01 November 2007)

In January of this year, the European Commission published its Renewable Energy Roadmap, proposing a mandatory target that biofuels must provide ten per cent of member states' transport fuels by 2020. This target is creating a scramble to supply in the South, posing a serious threat to vulnerable people at risk from land-grabbing, exploitation, and deteriorating food security. It is unacceptable that poor people in developing countries bear the costs of emissions reductions in the EU. To avoid this, the Commission must include social standards in its sustainability framework, and develop mechanisms by which the ten per cent target can be revised if it is found to be contributing to the destruction of vulnerable people's livelihoods.

http://www.oxfam.org/en/policy/briefingnotes/bn_biofuelling_poverty_0711

Scottish News

Scottish Government Lays Out Spending Priorities & Indicators

The Scottish Government's spending plans for the next three years were outlined to MSPs in the Parliament on 14th November. Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth, John Swinney, said it was a budget for growth and prosperity. Its key commitments are:

- The reduction - and for many the removal - of business rates affecting 150,000 small business premises
- Reduced rail journey times between our major cities
- An ambitious programme to tackle climate change
- Resources to freeze the Council Tax

Mr Swinney said: "Our purpose is to create a more successful Scotland through increased sustainable economic growth. Our spending over the next three years is aligned to achieving that purpose. We will deliver value for money by focusing spending on what matters, to ensure that every penny of Scottish money is used in Scotland to provide better schools, better health care, safer communities and better protection for our environment."

The Finance and Sustainable Growth Secretary also revealed details of an agreement that will give Scotland's 32 councils an increasing share of the Scottish block and greater control than



ever before over local spending decisions. In return local authorities will work to deliver shared commitments including a freeze in Council Tax.

Of particular note is the inclusion of Ecological Footprint as a national indicator of success – one of a basket of 45. Dr Dan Barlow, Acting Director of WWF Scotland said:

"We are delighted that government is adopting Ecological Footprint as a national target. Footprint is the best measure of calculating whether we are living within the means of the planet, and for the first time we will know whether Scotland is making progress in moving away from our three planet lifestyle."

Professor Jan Bebbington, Vice-Chair, Sustainable Development Commission Scotland said
Professor Jan Bebbington said:

"We were pleased to see the Government has accepted the recommendation from our '[state of the nation' report](http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/scot_stateofnation.html)' (at http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/scot_stateofnation.html) and will be winding up the Air Route Development Fund."

"However on other areas of transport, the direction of travel requires further consideration. For instance, the planned investment in expanding the road network will only be in accordance with the principles of sustainable development if the greenhouse gases emitted from this is reduced somewhere else in the Scottish economy. There are no clues yet as to how this will be achieved."

"The review also acknowledges the other clear challenges which must be tackled by making clear links between a sustainable economy, reducing social inequalities and environmental limits. The adoption of ecological footprint as a national target, calculating whether we are living within the means of the planet, means for the first time we will know whether Scotland is making progress in moving away from our three planet lifestyle."

"There are some positive signs coming from the Scottish Government but we all know that the devil is in the detail and it will take some time for the detail to emerge which will truly show whether Scotland is moving in the right direction."

Full details are available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/11/13092240/0>

The Sustainable Development Commission Scotland's response is at http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/scot_budget.html

Budgeting for a Greener Scotland

The Scottish Government has made clear that the Strategic Spending Review 2007 brings significant investment for Scotland's natural resources, rural communities and support for delivery on the greener Scotland objective. Key points of relevance in the Budget are:

- £154 million investment to take Scotland closer to becoming a zero-waste society
- £126 million to local authorities for flood defences
- £45 million for new woodlands - extending forest cover and our ability to absorb CO2 emissions and a new Sustainable Development and Climate Change fund worth a total of over £30 million

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2007/11/14144249>

A Sustainable Scottish Government: What do you think?

Earlier this year the Sustainable Development Commission undertook an assessment of the Scottish Government's sustainable development strategy and its implementation to date. The



findings (at http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/scot_stateofnaton.html) were published in September 2007.

Stakeholder input was an important part of this assessment. A broad range of over 150 stakeholders were consulted in various ways including an online survey. We would like to thank everyone who helped with this.

Now as part of our project evaluation, we ask for your help again in completing survey to let us know your thoughts and opinions at this time.

The following link will take you to a short internet-based survey which takes approximately 5 minutes to complete: have your say!

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/scot_say.html

Sustainable Public Procurement Guidance Published

The Scottish Government have published Guidance to strengthen awareness on sustainable procurement in the public sector. The guidance covers information on the legal case for specifying for and procuring sustainable products, as well as issues such as opening contracts to SMEs and buying for social benefit.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/10/22133057/2>

Sea Eagles Soar to Record High

The breeding population of sea eagles in Scotland is the highest for 30 years, according to a survey by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

The survey estimates that there are around 200 individual sea eagles resident in Scotland, including young birds yet to find a mate, with the core population based on Skye, Mull and the Western Isles.

The Sea Eagle Project, run by the RSPB, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Forestry Commission Scotland, is monitoring the situation.

Sea eagles were once common in Scotland but faced extinction because of persecution and changing habitat. A reintroduction programme began in 1975 and ran until 1983, with another one in Wester Ross from 1993 to 1998. Chicks were brought in from Norway and released in Fife in August with plans for more to be brought in over the next few years.

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/news/details.asp?id=tcm:9-176184>

National Food Policy on Menu for Scotland

The Scottish Government have announced a commitment to a National Food Policy for Scotland. There will be a National Food Debate in the New Year that will sample the views of experts and consumers across the country.

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Environment Richard Lochhead said:

"Food is a vitally important issue which impacts on many aspects of Scottish life - health, business and environment. Of all the subjects I've discussed with farmers, fishermen, restaurateurs, retailers and consumers, none evokes more passion than food, in particular the high quality produce from Scotland's farms, seas and food manufacturers.

"There is a growing appetite that we as a nation must make more of the wonderful food we produce. I believe a national food policy will help to ensure that fresh, high quality and healthy



Scottish food is the first choice on everyone's menu. We want to ensure a more effective supply chain, where producers have closer links to their customers' right through the food chain including supermarkets and restaurants.

"There is a great deal of good work already being done, and the Scottish Government now aims to bring all these efforts together in a more joined up, collaborative way of working on food issues.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2007/11/07152659>

Read details of the Parliamentary debate at

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/chamber/mop-07/mop07-11-07.htm>

Waste Aware Love Food

The new Waste Aware Love Food website was launched in November 2007 as part of the national Love Food Hate Waste campaign. The campaign aims to reduce the amount of food waste that we generate in Scotland each year.

Most of us don't realise the amount of food that we throw away. Over a third of the food we buy in Scotland is thrown directly in the bin and at least half of this could have been eaten.

Wasted food is not only a waste of money, it's also a major contributor to climate change.

The campaign, which has the backing of leading Scottish chefs including Nick Nairn, Andrew Fairlie and Martin Wishart, was developed to encourage the Scottish public to be more waste aware in our attitude to food.

Focusing on four key areas – planning and preparation, storing food, recipe ideas and portioning – the Waste Aware Love Food website is the centrepiece of the campaign and outlines the practical things you can do to avoid food waste, including advice from some of Scotland's top chefs and food writers. The website also features a recipe section to inspire meals from leftovers along with hints and tips from our four Food Waste Champions.

www.wasteawarelovefood.org.uk

Waste Aware Unwanted Mail

The new Waste Aware Unwanted Mail website was launched in October 2007 as part of the national Reduce Unwanted Mail campaign.

Many people don't have a problem with direct mail. However, some direct mail is poorly targeted and irrelevant, and is thrown straight in the bin. Over a third of direct mail is currently discarded unopened (Direct Mail Information Service, Letterbox Factfile, 2006). The Reduce Unwanted Mail campaign aims to raise awareness of the impact of this unwanted mail on the environment and to help householders take action to reduce unwanted mail.

The Waste Aware Unwanted Mail website promotes five quick and effective steps that you can take to reduce the amount of unwanted mail you receive:

- Write to sender
- Register with the Mailing Preference Service
- Register to opt out of the Royal Mail's Door to Door service
- Opt out of the edited version of the electoral register
- Use online services

The website has direct links to the relevant organisations and template letters to help you follow the five steps. It also offers advice on data protection and your rights regarding direct marketing. You can pass the message on to your friends by forwarding them the Reduce Unwanted Mail campaign email.

www.wasteawareunwantedmail.org.uk



The Future of the Code for Sustainable Homes - Making It Mandatory

The Code measures the sustainability of a new home. It went live in England as a voluntary standard in April 2007. A consultation followed on from the positive response received to *Building a Greener Future: Towards Zero Carbon Development*, where it was asked if rating against the Code should be mandatory.

A summary of responses to the July 2007 consultation on this proposal can be found at the link below, and sets out the Government's final policy. The principle message is that as a result of consultation, the Government will be proceeding with the implementation of mandatory rating against the Code for all new homes.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/sustainablehomes>

The Environment in your Pocket 2007

The eleventh edition of *The Environment in your Pocket* was published on November 9th by Defra. It is the annual booklet that makes readily accessible environmental trends and statistics on climate change, air quality, water quality, land use, waste and recycling wildlife and other environmental issues.

It includes several environmental indicators of sustainable development, and contains also a section looking at pressures on the environment - such as energy use, transport, pollution incidents and household consumption - and at spending to mitigate the effects of some pressures. *The Environment in your Pocket 2007* also includes a section summarising some key results from Defra's recent Survey of Public Attitudes and Behaviours towards the Environment.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2007/071109a.htm>

2007 Survey of Attitudes and Behaviour to the Environment

A full report of the results from the *2007 Survey of Attitudes and Behaviours in relation to the Environment* was released on November 2nd. It gives a representative picture of what people in England think, and how they behave, across a range of issues relevant to the environment, including transport and recycling.

The results presented here follow from previous Environmental surveys run by Defra and its predecessors in 1986, 1989, 1993, 1996-7 and 2001. The results for the 2007 survey were produced from data collected from a representative sample of 3,618 individuals in England during spring 2007. The data were collected on behalf of Defra by the British Market Research Bureau (BMRB) during computer assisted interviews.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2007/071102b.htm>

Walking the Talk: Sustainable Events Guide

Defra has also recently published a Sustainable events guide <http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/advice/sustainable-events-guide.htm> This has been developed to encourage event organisers to think about the social, economic and environmental impacts from the start of organising their event, both in-house or through contractors.

Where Will All the Money Go? YOU Decide!

In June 2005 the Big Lottery Fund (BIG) and ITV announced a competition to find the winner of a £50 million National Lottery grant. The search was on for a groundbreaking project that would inspire communities to revitalise the areas where they live.

There were 33 entries to the competition. BIG assessed the bids, identified a long list of 13 projects and in August 2006 awarded six projects development grants to take their plans forward



to the next stage. In October 2007 BIG decided that the four projects featured on this site would go through to the final.

You can find out more about the projects online and from 26 November cast your vote online for the project you'd like to win...

1. Sustran's Connect 2 - Connect2 is a UK-wide project that aims to improve local travel in 79 communities by creating new walking and cycling routes for those everyday journeys. A number of Scottish community projects would benefit from Connect 2:

- **Dumfries** (connecting 2 railway paths via the Nith Viaduct)
http://www.sustransconnect2.org.uk/schemes/project_detail.php?id=88
- **Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse**
http://www.sustransconnect2.org.uk/schemes/project_detail.php?id=104
- **Perth to Scone - River Tay Bridge**
http://www.sustransconnect2.org.uk/schemes/project_detail.php?id=12
- **Glasgow's 'Bridge to Nowhere'**

The M8 Anderston footbridge was originally planned as the main pedestrian route over the Motorway to link into the Anderston shopping centre. However, it was never completed and subsequently became the iconic 'Bridge to Nowhere'.

Completing the 'Bridge to Nowhere' would help link the communities on either side of the motorway, allowing pedestrians, wheelchair users and cyclists to travel directly and without traffic between the city centre, the Clyde riverside promenades, Kelvingrove Park and the West End.

Glasgow City Council is developing proposals to complete the bridge and build the linking traffic free routes by bidding for funding through 'Connect2'.

<http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/en/Residents/GettingAround/Cycling/connect2.htm>

2. Eden Project: The Edge - The Edge represents the next evolution of the Eden Project in Cornwall, where communities will be able to share the ideas they have for improving their lives and surroundings.

3. Sherwood: The Living Legend will protect the fragile ecology of one of the world's most famous forests so it can be enjoyed by future generations.

4. Black Country Urban Park - Not only will our project entice visitors to discover the Black Country, but more than 800,000 people will live within walking distance of a much needed attractive, safe environment.

For more information: <http://www.thepeoples50million.org.uk/home>

\$100 a Barrel of Oil

This study asks a simple question: what would be the impact on food of oil prices rising to \$100 a barrel? When the SDC commissioned this research, oil was nearly half the price it is at the time of publication.

<http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/publications.php?id=637>

VAT rules Discourage Refurbishment

The National Audit Office has added its voice to those calling for a rethink of the VAT rules that make it cheaper to demolish and rebuild homes than to refurbish them.

The NAO noted the issue in its report last week on the government's £2bn 'Pathway' Housing Renewal Programme to tackle low demand for homes in the north and Midlands.

A plan to revamp a street in Salford saw a local council pay £1.4m more to demolish buildings to save on VAT of £2.8m, it said.

'The proposal involved retaining as much of the existing structure - walls, floors and brickwork - as possible. However, when appraised in July 2004 this refurbishment scheme attracted an



additional VAT cost of £2.8m, a sum that English Partnerships and Salford City Council could not meet.

'Consequently, the scheme was altered to ensure it qualified as a new build project at the zero VAT rate. Much of the original properties were demolished with only the facades retained,' the report said.

The sustainable development commission has already highlighted the issue. 'Of the houses we have today, 75% will be here in 2050 so we need to remove barriers to their maintenance and upgrade now,' it said in a policy document on the issue.

<http://www.accountancyage.com/accountancyage/news/2203535/vat-rules-discourage>

Anti GM-Crop Campaigners = Anti-Science?

A meaty argument has been raging this week between Dick Taverne (author of this month's Prospect magazine Cover Story *The Real GM Food Scandal*) and Jonathon Porritt, amongst others. Classic caricatures of environmentalists as anti-science and anti-development have been levelled at anti-GM campaigners, and rebuffed by Porritt, amongst others. Where does the truth lie?

Read Dick Laverne's article at http://www.prospect-magazine.co.uk/article_details.php?id=9876

Read Jonathon Porritt's response at <http://www.jonathonporritt.com/pages/>

European News

Commission issues first sustainable development report

- The EU and its Member States are shifting policies towards long-term sustainability
- There is increasing convergence between the EU's longer-term Sustainable Development Strategy and the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs
- Action to turn around persistent unsustainable trends must be significantly stepped up

These are the main conclusions of the Commission's first Progress Report on the EU's renewed Sustainable Development Strategy, adopted in June 2006. However, the report shows that while there has been significant progress in policy this has not yet resulted in action on the ground. The report allows the European Council to review progress and priorities and to provide new orientations at its next meeting in December. Relevant documents will be made available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/sustainable/welcome/index_en.htm

Tighter limits on air quality?

The European Parliament's Environment MEPs showed division with the Member State position when, in Committee, they opted for tighter limits on fine particulate pollution and longer implementation deadlines. However, they did concede that Member States should have an extra two years to meet particulates limits in difficult areas. Amendments also included special measures to protect children from air pollution. Environmental bodies have condemned the apparent improvements as "too weak" and criticised the increased flexibility for Member States and number of exemptions. Environment Committee website:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/comparl/envi/default_en.htm

MEP Pesticides vote

In Strasbourg MEPs voted on a series of Reports dealing with pesticides and plant protection. Parliament has voted to expand the scope of substances banned from use in EU pesticide production. Parliament did not vote for some of the tougher measures such as a reduction of general pesticide use by 50%. Parliament also voted to speed up the time allowed for certain substances to be replaced by less toxic alternatives. While aerial spraying and spraying in certain



areas will be banned, a total ban on spraying in public places was not accepted by the majority of MEPs. The Parliament press release: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/064-12036-295-10-43-911-20071019IPR11929-22-10-2007-2007-false/default_en.htm

European paper recycling rate "at record high"

European paper recycling rates reached a record high of 63.4 per cent in 2006, according to latest figures from the European recovered paper council (ERPC). The figures suggest the paper industry is on course to meet a voluntary recycling target of 66 per cent by 2010 set last year. The sharp rise in the recycling rate is partly explained by the inclusion of paper recycled outside the EU. <http://www.paperrecovery.eu>

Governments "failing to stop greenwash"

EU governments are not keeping up with a rising tide of misleading environmental claims by European business, according to a report to be published by NGO Friends of the Earth Europe. The report documents a number of examples, such as car firms claiming that their vehicles cause few or no environmental impacts. There has been an EU legislative framework on misleading advertising since 1984. This was strengthened by a new unfair commercial practices directive in 2005, which member states are now implementing.

EIB launches post-2012 carbon fund

European investment bank EIB has launched a €100m carbon fund to support CO2 reduction projects after the Kyoto protocol on greenhouse gas emissions expires in 2012. The new carbon fund will operate between 2013 and 2022. It was developed in cooperation with three other banks: Instituto de crédito oficial in Spain, German KfW Bankengruppe and the Nordic investment bank. EIB has three other carbon funds, including one launched in May for SMEs. EIB press release: <http://www.eib.org/about/press/2007/2007-092-eib-launches-new-post-2012-carbon-fund-the-first-carbon-fund-targeting.htm>

International News

UN Human Development Report – Climate Change is at the Core

A new [UN Human Development Report](#) was published on 27th November, with a focus on climate change. With governments preparing to gather in Bali, Indonesia to discuss the future of the Kyoto Protocol, the United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Report has warned that the world should focus on the development impact of climate change that could bring unprecedented reversals in poverty reduction, nutrition, health and education.

The report, "Fighting climate change: Human solidarity in a divided world", provides a stark account of the threat posed by global warming. It argues that the world is drifting towards a "tipping point" that could lock the world's poorest countries and their poorest citizens in a downward spiral, leaving hundreds of millions facing malnutrition, water scarcity, ecological threats, and a loss of livelihoods.

"Ultimately, climate change is a threat to humanity as a whole. But it is the poor, a constituency with no responsibility for the ecological debt we are running up, who face the immediate and most severe human costs," commented UNDP Administrator Kemal Derviş.



The report comes at a key moment in negotiations to forge a multilateral agreement for the period after 2012—the expiry date for the current commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. It calls for a “twin track” approach that combines stringent mitigation to limit 21st Century warming to less than 2°C (3.6°F), with strengthened international cooperation on adaptation.

On mitigation, the authors call on developed countries to demonstrate leadership by cutting greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% of 1990 levels by 2050. The report advocates a mix of carbon taxation, more stringent cap-and-trade programmes, energy regulation, and international cooperation on financing for low-carbon technology transfer.

Turning to adaptation, the report warns that inequalities in ability to cope with climate change are emerging as an increasingly powerful driver of wider inequalities between and within countries. It calls on rich countries to put climate change adaptation at the centre of international partnerships on poverty reduction.

“We are issuing a call to action, not providing a counsel of despair,” commented lead author Kevin Watkins, adding, “Working together with resolve, we can win the battle against climate change. Allowing the window of opportunity to close would represent a moral and political failure without precedent in human history.”

Read the full report at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/>

UNHDR Indian Reaction

However, a recent [Indian government reaction to the UN Human Development Report](#) illustrates the [fault-lines in international negotiations likely](#) to surface clearly [at the UN Climate Change Conference in Bali](#), see:

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/After_releasing_Montek_trashes_UNDP_report/articleshow/2576822.cms

UN GEO-4 Report: An Integrated Global Assessment

The Global Environment Outlook process has over the past 10 years produced a series of global integrated environmental assessment reports aimed at providing comprehensive, reliable, scientifically credible, and policy relevant assessments on the interaction between environment and society. In line with its core mandate of “keeping the global environment under review,” UNEP has coordinated a series of extensive consultative and participatory processes which have led to the production of three volumes of the comprehensive Global Environment Outlook (GEO) report.

The fourth *Global Environment Outlook – environment for development (GEO-4)* places sustainable development at the core of the assessment, particularly on issues dealing with intra- and intergenerational equity. The analyses include the need and usefulness of valuation of environmental goods and services, and the role of such services in enhancing development and human well-being, and minimizing human vulnerability to environmental change.

The BBC review of the report provides some interesting (and somewhat sobering) analysis, concluding that: “Geo-4 shows us that if 20 post-Brundtland years have upped the rhetoric, they have done little to change the reality; despite a plethora of good intentions, global society is less sustainable than ever.”

Find the full report at the GEO-4 homepage: <http://www.unep.org/geo/geo4/media/>

And the BBC review at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/7060072.stm#>



Sustainable Seafood Sea-Change: MSC Eco-labelled Products Reach 1,000

London, 21 November 2007 - The 1,000th Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) [1] eco-labelled product was announced today following an explosion of interest in sustainable seafood in 2007. "It took seven years to get from the first product to 500, now – just nine months later – retailers have doubled that number. No one predicted this rapid growth in demand for certified sustainable seafood," said Rupert Howes, Chief Executive of the MSC.

The 1,000th product is Green Eye Hot Pollock Roe (Karashimentaiko) - an MSC Alaskan pollock product popular served on rice - and will be sold in Aeon supermarkets throughout Japan. MSC products are also on sale in 35 countries around the world.

The growth in demand for MSC-certified and labelled product is matched by a significant increase in fisheries around the world seeking independent certification of sustainability. This year, 15 fisheries landing around a million tonnes of fish per year have applied for certification and 6 fisheries have been certified.

The three Principles of the MSC Standard are:

Principle 1 - The condition of the fish stocks

This examines if there are enough fish to ensure that the fishery is sustainable.

Principle 2 - The impact of the fishery on the marine environment

This examines the effect that fishing has on the immediate marine environment including other non-target fish species, marine mammals and seabirds.

Principle 3 - The fishery management systems

This principle evaluates the rules and procedures that are in place, as well as how they are implemented, to maintain a sustainable fishery and to ensure that the impact on the marine environment is minimised.

The MSC's guide to sustainable fish suppliers in the UK is available at

http://eng.msc.org/html/content_598.htm

Training / Events / Resources / Funding

Become a Green Ambassador for the Energy Saving Trust

Being a Green Ambassador for the Energy Saving Trust allows you to spread the good word of your hard work. Green Ambassadors are ordinary people, leading ordinary lives in ordinary houses. They are extraordinary because of their passion for saving energy!

For further information **contact Harry Mayers or Matt Fraser on 0131 555 7900**

Please note: Green Ambassadors for the Energy Saving Trust appear as real life case studies in the media, so participants need to be prepared for a bit of the limelight.

Just Do Something!

We Are What We Do is a movement that began its life at the charity Community Links. Their mission is to inspire people to use their everyday actions to change the world. Whoever they are. And wherever they are. And that includes you.

They've created 100 simple, everyday actions that can improve our environment, our health, and our communities and make our planet and the people on it much happier.

<http://www.wearewhatwedo.org/actiontracker/>



Local Strategies for Accelerating Sustainability: Case Studies of Local Government Success

A new ICLEI publication summarizes ten full case studies and 20 related examples of cities that are accelerating the transition to sustainable, equitable, and secure communities.

[http://www.iclei.org/index.php?id=6934&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=2335&tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=983&cHash=2887200411](http://www.iclei.org/index.php?id=6934&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=2335&tx_ttnews[backPid]=983&cHash=2887200411)

Delving into Social Capital

People have been speaking highly of the recent performance of social capital advocate and expert, Edgar Cahn at the annual Social Capital conference. Laurence Demarco, in a recent Senscot newsletter writes, "Edgar contends that there are two economies. The monetary economy – private and public sectors – and the core economy which is not monetarised and comprises: Family, neighbourhood, community, civil society. Society's main operating system is the core economy and it is to our peril that we have lost sight of this. In the attached paper, he sets out the key actions for strengthening the core economy. Cahn spoke from the heart – convincing and inspirational." http://www.senscot.net/view_news.php?viewid=6781

13 Books to Inspire Action for People and Planet

Osbert Lancaster, Executive Director of the Centre for Human Ecology, has launched a new *Ethical Enterprise* online blog. The blog makes for stimulating reading – and the piece on *13 Books to Inspire Action for People and Planet* – might just stimulate your Christmas shopping in a new direction... <http://feeds.feedburner.com/osbert/MvCV>

Find Your Funding with Forward Scotland

Forward Scotland's website contains a compendium of funding sources for social and environmental projects... Delve in and see what you might find:

<http://www.forward-scotland.org.uk/Funding/>

Big Green Challenge Launch

Tuesday 4th December

The Melting Pot, Edinburgh, 9:45am

NESTA launch their **Big Green Challenge** in Scotland on December 4th. This UK-wide prize fund will reward groups and organisations who can find new and better ways for reducing carbon dioxide emissions in their community. Michael Russell, Minister for Environment, will be present to talk about the important role communities can play in tackling climate change. You will have the chance to ask questions and get more information from NESTA staff and their partner UnLtd; hear from a group in your area already doing something different to tackle climate change; and network with other groups and with organisations who might be able to support your entry.

To register, please visit <http://www.biggreenchallengescotland.eventbrite.com/>

RESPIRO Conference, 3-4 December 2007, Lille, France

The RESPIRO Conference on Socially Responsible Procurement is just around the corner: register NOW to ensure your participation!

During the course of the two days, decision makers, public procurement officers, private sector purchasers, as well as representatives from national and international companies and organisations, will discuss issues such as 'Social Responsibility: What does this mean for public purchasers?', 'How can we encourage Corporate Social Responsibility along supply chains?' and 'What about fair and safe working conditions?'.

For more information on the conference, including travel and accommodation tips for Lille:

www.respiro-project.eu/conference.



Constructed Wetlands Conference

5 & 6 December 2007

University of Edinburgh

With support from SEPA, the University of Edinburgh and in association with the Constructed Wetland Association, IEMA are holding a two day conference. This international event will include speakers from New Zealand, Germany and the UK. The event will explore the use of constructed wetlands and their potential to treat lightly contaminated runoff from farmyards, helping to protecting surrounding water quality.

5 December - will feature a programme of talks and discussions, followed by a poster session and conference dinner.

6 December – comprises of a series of visits to farm wetlands in the Scottish Borders.

Delegate registration closes at the end of October. The conference programme is available at:

<http://www.iema.net/index.php?module=ievents&func=view&eid=153>

Further details are available from events@iema.net

Our Climate Our Future

Glasgow's getting active about climate change: Saturday 8th December, 9am –11, Phoenix Centre, 201 St James Road, G4, 10mins from Queen Street Station. Speaker: Ben Brangwyn, co-founder of the Transition Town Network. Then the Climate March, 1pm West Street Subway.

www.bodhi-eco-project.org.uk, www.globalclimatecampaign.org

Climate Change and Peak Oil

Sunday 9th, 2 – 4.30pm

The Melting Pot, Rose Street, Edinburgh

Talk and workshop on a practical response to Climate Change and Peak Oil in Edinburgh. All are invited. Ben Brangwyn, from the Transition Network, is speaking as part of his tour of Scotland.

We will ask if Edinburgh is ready to take this lead, empower itself and dramatically lower its carbon footprint?

“Switch On to Climate Change”

7pm, Tuesday, 11 December

The Melting Pot, Edinburgh.

Come and have a glass of mulled wine, watch a short film and discuss community-based climate action as part of the launch of the SEAD project "Switch On to Climate Change"

Highlights of some of the prize-winning entries from Nuff Global the international competition for short films on climate change, Music, Mulled Wine and Lively discussion about climate change and community action. Resources from various groups working on climate change in Scotland

SSN Quarterly Meeting: Sustainable Transport and Ecological Footprinting

Glasgow, Thursday 13th December

Please contact chloe.smee@ksbscotland.org.uk for more information.

ACR+ and London Remade international conference on Waste and Climate Change

London, 31 January - 1 February 2008

The conference will provide information on the comparative contributions to climate change of various waste management options including: prevention; recycling; energy recovery and the treatment of organic waste.

<http://www.acrplus.org/upload/documents/document330.pdf>



Planning for Micro-Renewables in Scotland: From minimum requirements to best practice

Friday 18th January 2008,

10.30am – 2.00 pm

The Melting Pot, 5 Rose Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PR

Friends of the Earth Scotland has organised this seminar to help facilitate Local Authority planning for sustainable development in liaison with the Sustainable Scotland Network.

A half-day seminar on:

- How planning for micro-renewables contributes to the sustainable development and climate change agenda
- Getting to grips with national planning policies on micro-renewables and tips for implementation, based on best practice from a leading English Council
- Information on the recent Scottish Government strategy on Energy Efficiency and Micro generation, Statutory Guidance on Planning for Sustainable Development and SPP6 developments
- The Micro-generation and Energy Efficiency Bill: what it might mean for Local Authorities
- Beyond the Merton Rule: using planning policy to tackle energy use in existing buildings

Speakers:

Kelvin MacDonald, former Director of Policy and Research, Royal Town Planning Institute

Adrian Hewitt, Principal Environment Officer, London Borough of Merton Council

Sarah Boyack MSP

Mitesh Dhanak, Associate Director, Eaga plc

Stuart Hay, Head of Campaigns and Projects, Friends of the Earth Scotland

How much: £75 (including lunch)

www.foe-scotland.org.uk/seminar

This seminar is primarily aimed at Local Authority planners and members of Local Authority planning committees in Scotland. It will also be of interest to HECA officers and Sustainable Development officers in Local Authorities.

This is the newsletter of the Sustainable Scotland Network. The purpose of the newsletter is to assist networking between members and contacts, and to provide information on topical issues and events. The newsletter also provides a means of seeking and exchanging information. Items included may not necessarily reflect the views of the Network or its individual members.

As a means of promoting further networking, circulation of the newsletter also extends to a growing number of other networks with an interest in promoting sustainable development. We encourage distribution of the newsletter to anyone you think might find it useful.

For further information or to submit information for future Newsletters, please contact:

- Chloë Smee, SSN Development Officer on 01786 433084 or at chloe.smee@ksbscotland.org.uk

