

# GloballySusDCymru

Autumn 2005

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sustainable development related events in Wales and the rest of the world, in the next few months.
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## **WALES-NEWS**

### **Machynlleth Renewable Energy Company to Assist Aid Effort in Kashmir**

**Dulas Ltd, a successful renewable energy company based in Machynlleth has recently been awarded £100,000 of Regional Selective Assistance from the Welsh Assembly Government based on its ambitious expansion plans.**

Export sales of the companies' solar powered vaccine refrigerators have more than doubled over the last year which has given the company the confidence to invest in a new environmental test chamber.

50 of these refrigerators, designed to store vaccines and blood, will be part of the massive aid mobilisation for areas of Kashmir hit by the earthquake in October. According to Dulas' overseas operations director, Guy Watson, the fridges will support measles and vitamin A campaigns in the city of Muzaffarabad. He added "We have had one of the company's busiest years with respect to fridge production, and are happy to have the extra capacity to meet this immediate demand for Kashmir"

For more information see <http://www.renewable-resources.com>

### **Expansion of Welsh Biofuels commended by Minister for Environment, Countryside and Planning**

**Welsh Biofuels Ltd - Britain's leading biomass fuel supply company is to expand using Welsh Assembly funding via the Wood Energy Business Scheme. The company plans to increase their output of wood pellet from about 2,000 tonnes a year to around 30,000 tonnes by the year 2007.**

Carwyn Jones, Minister for Environment, Countryside and Planning attended the re-launch of Welsh Biofuels in early October and commented "the wood pellet being produced here in Bryn Menyn, from sustainable sources across Wales, is affordable and does not produce waste. Nor does it contribute to global warming, and I support the company's ambitions in promoting a practical and effective renewable fuel option to both public and private sectors, throughout Wales and beyond."

For more information see <http://www.woodenergybusiness.co.uk>

### **Wales is leading in developing future leaders for sustainable development.**

**Wales is the first Country to commission a Senior Influencers' programme. About 45 delegates from the public, voluntary and private sectors attended the prestigious course during 8-11 November. A small number of participants from the European and International networks were also present.**

Organised by Cynnal Cymru (the Sustainable Development Forum for Wales) the programme aims to work through a ‘top-down’ approach to build the capacity of present and future leaders in Wales to translate the principles of sustainable development into action within their spheres of influence. For further information visit <http://www.cpi.cam.ac.uk/wales>

**The new National Assembly building – it’s SO sustainable**  
**The design approach of the new Assembly debating chamber meets the BREEAM “excellent” target and the Assembly’s constitutional responsibilities for sustainable development.**

Specifically, it has a design life of 100 years, it minimises energy consumption and waste and it uses indigenous materials. It also integrates the application of renewable technologies and will be an “exemplar” building in terms of sustainability.

This approach has yielded an environmental design for the building which uses natural ventilation and passive systems to heat and cool the building which will have an overall effect of reducing running costs for the building by 30-50%.

<http://www.wales.gov.uk/assemblybuilding/development/index.htm>

**Cynnal Cymru’s Call to Action**

**Call to Action is a highly participative, Cynnal Cymru initiative encouraging discussion between a wide range of people on sustainable development.**

Every year through a fully participative process involving its membership and others (academics, practitioners, business people), Cynnal Cymru will formulate an “opinion” on a selected theme. Through this dialogue Cynnal Cymru hopes to form a bridge between theory and practice in a way where each informs the other.

This year, the evidence gathering has focused on a sustainable economy to feed into the Assembly’s revised economic development strategy – “Wales A Vibrant Economy”. For further information contact Cynnal Cymru at <mailto:info@cynnalcymru.org> or visit <http://www.cynnalcymru.org>

**Wales to increase support to African Nations through new Sustainable Development Framework**

The First Minister announced in July that an International Sustainable Development Framework would be produced. The Framework will be announced before Christmas. Contact <mailto:GloballySusDCymru@wales.gsi.gov.uk> for more information.

The Framework will outline the types of action that the Welsh Assembly Government can take to help deliver the UN's Millennium Development Goals in Sub Saharan Africa and also highlight what can be done to improve co-ordination of the Welsh response to international crises like the Kashmiri earthquake and the Tsunami.

## **INTERNATIONAL-NEWS**

### **Wales and its partners to take centre stage at climate change meeting**

**Wales will stand alongside fellow regions from the network of regional governments for sustainable development (nrg4SD) at a high profile meeting on climate change in Montréal this December.**

The Conference of Parties adopted the Kyoto Protocol in 1997 and will hold its 11<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in Montréal to continue critical discussions on climate change which the UK Government spearheaded during its Presidency of the G8.

The Network will take centre stage on 9 December when it hosts a side-event on trans-regional emissions trading, which is an initiative adopted by nrg4SD at the proposal of Tuscany.

The new member – Brittany - will also attend the nrg4SD steering committee on 5 December to start discussions on the programme for the next major nrg4SD conference, which it will host in 2008.

An information pack promoting sustainable development in Wales has been specially prepared for the event, in collaboration with Cynnal Cymru, For details of this information pack contact <mailto:GloballySusDCymru@wales.gsi.gov.uk>

### **EU SD Strategy Launch**

**The long awaited publication of the EU SD Strategy has been postponed until late 2005 and a final decision is not expected until Spring/Summer 2006.**

The Commission has not given any indication of what the new strategy will include but there are signs that it may be more streamlined, with better integration across the Commission and a strong emphasis on production and consumption.

When the draft Strategy is published the relevant Council meetings will consider it to ensure buy in across the different sectors. The final document will then be agreed by the European Council during the Austrian Presidency in the first half of 2006.

## **Wales and UK in Dialogues with India**

**12 Indian Scholars took centre stage at a public meeting on sustainable development in North Wales on 17 November hosted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.**

The Scholars are on a UK funded programme designed to contribute to India's progress on the environment and sustainable development. One of the scholars took part in an open panel discussion on sustainable development to mark the final stages of the course run by the University of Wales Bangor.

The Welsh Assembly Government is keen to connect on sustainable development with regions in India, and other fast developing countries. The Strategic Policy Unit is working closely with colleagues who lead on the UK SD Dialogues at the Department for the Environment (Defra). The most recent dialogues took place with representatives from 21 Chinese provinces who visited Wales in October to learn more about SD practice.

## **EU Commissioner visits Wales**

**Danuta Hübner, EU Commissioner for Regional Policy, paid a visit to Wales on 29 September. Professor Hübner was keen to learn about the impact that European structural funding programmes had made in Wales.**

The varied programme, centred around the Swansea area, included visits to the Swansea Apprenticeship project, the National Waterfront Museum - which included a presentation on the Institute of Life Sciences - SA1 Waterfront development and Technium II, a centre for innovative new businesses. She was accompanied by Andrew Davies AM, Minister for Economic Development and Transport.

In the evening the Minister also hosted a dinner for the Commissioner to which members of the Assembly's European and External Committee and representatives from local government, media and academia had been invited.

Commissioner Hübner, whose visit attracted a great deal of media interest, seemed genuinely impressed by the successful management of the structural funds programmes in Wales. This visit had 'recharged her batteries' she said.

## **WALES-EVENTS**

### **Wood Energy – Fuel for Thought, Machynlleth, 07/12/2005**

**When?** 12.00, Wednesday 7 December 2005

**Where?** Centre for Alternative Technology, Machynlleth

#### **Description**

Businesses across Wales are being invited to a new series of seminars to learn more about how wood could be the 'hot' new fuel of the future.

#### **More information**

<http://www.woodenergybusiness.co.uk>

### **Volunteer recruitment that actually works, Colwyn Bay, 08/02/2006**

**When?** Wednesday 8 February 2006

**Where?** Colwyn Bay

#### **Description**

Having trouble getting the volunteers you need? Run out of ideas? This one day course will help you develop a proactive and targeted approach to volunteer recruitment with tips direct from an experienced marketing manager.

#### **More information**

[http://www.wcva.org.uk/content/all/dsp\\_event\\_details.cfm?eventid=723&display\\_sitetextid=110&display\\_sitedeptid=3](http://www.wcva.org.uk/content/all/dsp_event_details.cfm?eventid=723&display_sitetextid=110&display_sitedeptid=3)

### **Wood Energy – Fuel for Thought, Caernarfon, 16/02/2006**

**When?** 12.00, Thursday 16 February 2006

**Where?** Plas Menai, Caernarfon,

#### **Description**

Businesses across Wales are being invited to a new series of seminars to learn more about how wood could be the 'hot' new fuel of the future.

#### **More information**

<http://www.woodenergybusiness.co.uk>

### **Applying Community Development Practice, Newport, 28/02/2006**

**When?** Tuesday 28 February 2006

**Where?** Newport

#### **Description**

A chance to meet other community development workers and exchange experiences and discuss current issues and successes in a professionally facilitated environment.

#### **More information**

[http://www.wcva.org.uk/content/all/dsp\\_event\\_details.cfm?eventid=467&display\\_sitetextid=110&display\\_sitedeptid=3](http://www.wcva.org.uk/content/all/dsp_event_details.cfm?eventid=467&display_sitetextid=110&display_sitedeptid=3)

## **INTERNATIONAL-EVENTS**

### **Business Unusual: Facilitating United Nations Reform through Partnerships, Berlin, 12 – 13/12/2005**

**When?** Monday 12–Tuesday 13 December 2005

**Where?** Berlin

#### **Description**

To mark the launch of its newest report, 'Business UNusual: Facilitating United Nations Reform through Partnerships', the Global Public Policy Institute (GPPI) is hosting a conference in Berlin.

#### **More information**

<http://www.globalpublicpolicy.net/index.php?id=209>

### **UK Launch Conference for the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development, London, 13/12/2005**

**When?** Tuesday 13 December 2005

**Where?** London

#### **Description**

The UN Decade on Sustainable Education for Sustainable Development, led by UNESCO, was launched in New York earlier this year. How can it help make us more aware of and able to respond to the massive ecological challenges which threaten our future? How can we in the UK learn from it and contribute to it? How can it help our own efforts to promote sustainability in Britain? Are there specific lessons for the devolved administrations in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland?

#### **More information**

<http://www.una-uk.org/unesco/index.html>

### **World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, Davos, 25 – 29/01/2006**

**When?** Wednesday 25–Sunday 29 January 2006

**Where?** Davos, Switzerland

#### **Description**

The WEF Annual Meeting brings decision-makers together to address the world's most crucial issues. It enables WEF members and constituents to discuss global and regional issues by sharing first-hand information and insights.

#### **More information**

<http://www.weforum.org/site/homepublic.nsf/Content/Annual+Meeting+2006>

### **Sustainable Development and the WTO, London, 06-07/02/2006**

**When?** Monday 6–Tuesday 7 February 2006

**Where?** London

#### **Description**

Continuing with its established tradition of convening biennial conference on international trade and sustainable development, Chatham House will host a major international conference that will be one of the first opportunities to take stock of the Hong Kong Ministerial. Key issues will include agriculture, services, subsidies, intellectual property rights, and the relationship between multilateral environmental agreements and the WTO.

**More information**

<http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/index.php?id=5&cid=67>

**2006 European Wind Energy Conference and Exhibition, Athens, 27/02/2006-02/03/2006**

**When?** Monday 27 February–Thursday 2 March 2006

**Where?** Athens, Greece

**Description**

The European Wind Energy Conferences are widely recognised as Europe's premier wind energy events, attracting a high number of professionals, leading experts and exhibiting companies from across the globe. It is the ideal forum for up to date and relevant information on business, policy, science and technology.

**More information**

[http://www.ewea.org/06b\\_events/events\\_2006EWEC.htm](http://www.ewea.org/06b_events/events_2006EWEC.htm)

## WALES-VIEWPOINT

### Richard Neale - West Snowdonia and Llyn Property Manager – The National Trust – Finding Sustainable Solutions

**Over Christmas 2000, the hillside below the secluded mansion of Plas y Rhiw on the Llŷn peninsula went on the move. Saturated by heavy rain, tons of earth slumped seaward leaving a road teetering on a shelf of soft clay.**

Since then this minor road has been closed and the villagers of Rhiw have to drive around the long way around the mountain to get to Pwllheli, the nearest town.

The closure of the road – and the conclusion that it would not be possible to rebuild it - has left the owners of the Plas y Rhiw estate, the National Trust, with a major dilemma. Should the Trust allow the Council to build a 400m length of new road through woodland, or should it fight the scheme, therefore forcing the Council to upgrade the narrow picturesque lanes that make up the alternative route around the mountain?

Pioneering conservationists, the Keating sisters gave Plas y Rhiw to the National Trust to protect the estate from development. The Trust had to consider what the sisters would have done if they were still alive. Would they have fought to protect their trees or would they have considered the wider effects on the landscape and the wishes of the community?

Eventually, after commissioning geo-technical surveys to ensure that proposed new route was not going to be prone to further landslips, the Trust decided to consider the 'big picture'. It would not oppose the scheme and would work with Gwynedd Council to design a road that would be an exemplar in sensitive design. Work has already started on the new road, which will be opened by the end of 2006. It will be built to match the character of the surrounding lanes and will include many wildlife and public access improvements.

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-global/w-localtoyou/w-wales.htm>

## **INTERNATIONAL-VIEWPOINT**

### **Neil Chambers – Green Ground Zero – New York City**

**The painting ‘Guernica’ by Pablo Picasso shows the death and destruction of an air raid on the Basque town of Guernica in 1937. In the centre of the piece there is a small flower - part of the message is that though man can create hell on earth through war, life springs forth eternal. More than 60 years later, New York City suffered its own surprise attack and thousands of civilians were killed. The city and country were left wondering what would be its flower.**

What grew from the disaster was a new found appreciation for sustainable design. Before the collapse of the World Trade Centre Towers, there was nearly no public support for making the urban fabric of New York green. Now there is so much activity within the industry, no one can keep up with it.

On the architectural front, the Stillwell Avenue Subway Terminal was begun and completed after Sept 11. The terminal is the first of its kind in the United States with nearly 50,000 sq. ft (or 4646 sq. metres) of building integrated photovoltaic panels installed as a roof. The Solaire Residential Tower, located only a few blocks from the World Trade Centre site was completed in 2003, receiving a Gold LEED rating from the USGBC.

Many new organisations have appeared to drive green design issues for urban areas. Green Ground Zero was organised to bring awareness to the ability to rebuild Lower Manhattan in environmentally sound ways. The organisation held the International Sustainable Design Competition for Lower Manhattan. The competition drew in more than 200 entries from 8 countries which showcased ways to rethink the site and surrounding areas of the collapse. Other groups, such as GreenHomeNYC has continued the momentum by organising tours of the many green buildings springing up around the 5 boroughs. The GreenHomeNYC website lists more than 20 properties that have applied the principles of green design.

Legislation has moved toward more green design acceptance since 2001. In October 2005, Mayor Bloomberg signed into law legislation that requires all city-funded buildings to achieve a rating of silver or better by the LEED rating system. The New York City Comptroller’s office has been active in evaluating the economic benefit from investing in renewable power and sustainable businesses. Many other city, state and federal officials are seeing the benefit of green design as well. Portland, Chicago, Seattle, Austin, Pittsburgh and Baltimore have all seen incredible growth in sustainable development within the same time period, and last year the Green Building Act of 2004 was introduced in the US Congress.

Though the horrible events of September 11 happened, there is a flowering of eternal hope. The collapse of the two towers has sparked a massive change in how people see the importance of how buildings and cities are environmentally sound. For more information see – <http://www.greengroundzero.org>

*Any of the statements or comments made above should be regarded as personal and not necessarily those of the National Assembly for Wales, any constituent part or connected body.*

<p>If you have any comments, questions, future additions to this newsletter please phone 02920 826152 or email <a href="mailto:GloballySusDCymru@wales.gsi.gov.uk">mailto:GloballySusDCymru@wales.gsi.gov.uk</a></p>
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