

GloballySusDCymru

February 2006

This newsletter is produced to facilitate the flow of information about sustainable development in Wales and the World.

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News

recent connections between Wales and international sustainable development.

Events

sustainable development related events in Wales and the rest of the world, in the next few months.

Viewpoints

two perspectives on sustainable development, one Welsh, one from elsewhere.



NEW APPOINTMENTS

The campaign to make Wales the world's first Fair Trade Country has taken another step forward with the appointment of Mark Richardson as the new Fair Trade Development Officer for the Wales Fair Trade Forum.

Mark has worked for the Wales Co-operative Centre and took up the new Assembly Government funded post at the end of January. His appointment will add new impetus to the campaign which seeks to raise awareness and sales of fair trade goods throughout Wales. (Fair Trade Fortnight this year will be from 6th to 19 March and a number of activities are planned for Wales.

For more information see <http://www.walesfairtradeforum.org.uk>

Helen Nelson has been appointed as the new Executive Director of Cynnal Cymru – the Sustainable Development Forum for Wales.

Miss Nelson, 31 from Aberdare has an impressive career in delivering sustainable development at a grassroots level in Wales. Her previous work as coordinator of Ymlaen Ceredigion was hailed by the Assembly as an exemplar for promoting sustainable development.

For more information see <http://www.cynnalcymru.org>

NEW PUBLICATIONS

'Creating a Better Wales' – Environment Agency Wales' new Corporate Strategy

To be launched in April 2006, this strategy provides a vision for a better place for people and wildlife, for present and future generations based around nine important environmental themes and five change programmes.

The Agency is currently in the process of creating a team leader toolbox kit and posters explaining how individuals can contribute to creating a better Wales.

For further information contact <mailto:jacqui.murray@environment-agency.gov.uk>

Wales Co-operative Centre – Strategic Vision for the co-operative sector in Wales, 2007 – 2012

Its vision for the sector is the creation of a vibrant and sustainable co-operative movement that proactively contributes to a growing economy and social equality for all. The Centre is the leading business support agency in Wales working with Co-operatives and Social Enterprises. It has supported many sustainability projects including Welsh Youth Forum on Sustainable Development, Dyfi Valley Seed Savers, Sundance Renewables and the Centre for Alternative Technology.

For free business support and training, contact the Centre on 029 2055 4955 or visit www.walescoop.com

Consultation on sustainable development of the Welsh tourist industry

The Wales Tourist Board is currently conducting a consultation exercise on how the sector can become more sustainable. A consultation document, 'the Sustainable Tourism Framework', has been produced to aid the discussion and is available at <http://www.wtbonline.gov.uk/sustainability>

The document outlines the key challenges in making Wales a more sustainable destination and poses questions on how the private and public sectors can take forward practical action that will promote the sustainable development of the industry.

The WTB are also happy to meet individual organisations to discuss the framework or will receive comments by post or email until 17 February 2006.

<mailto:sian.casswell@tourism.wales.gov.uk>

People Places Futures – The Spatial Plan for Wales

Major progress is being made across Wales in taking forward the Wales Spatial Plan, People Places Futures. Assembly Ministers have led action in each of the 6 spatial areas and structures have been set up to tackle the big issues with involvement from local authorities, and the voluntary, equality, environment , and business sectors.

Future work will be focusing on developing the linkages with Local Development Plans and Community Strategies, and developing the role of the area groups to influence national policies which affect them.

Details will shortly be posted at <http://www.wales.gov.uk/themesspatialplan/index.htm> or contact the Welsh Assembly's Spatial Plan Unit on 029 2082 1749.

Welsh Youth Forum on Sustainable Development – Climate Change Project

The Welsh Youth Forum on Sustainable Development (WYFSD) has decided to focus on 'action on climate change' for the foreseeable future.

The first stage of the project is young people forming 'carbon self-help groups' to try to gauge how much carbon their lifestyles produce, and how it can be reduced.

There are plans to produce a report of the results of these groups and also to have a series of events that will try to put across ideas of action on climate change to young people in Wales in innovative ways.

For further information please see <http://www.wyfsd.org> or email <mailto:info@wyfsd.org>

Calculating the Carbon Footprint of Environment Agency Wales

Funding has been secured from the Carbon Trust Wales for the Environment Agency to work with NIFES Consultant to calculate its Carbon Footprint.

Mark has worked for the Wales Co-operative Centre and took up the new Assembly Government funded The Agency are excited with this project as it will identify its biggest emissions and develop a targeted strategy for all staff in Wales that will help reduce EAW energy bills and carbon footprint.

For more information email <mailto:jacqui.murray@environment-agency.gov.uk>

The Welsh International Sustainable Development Framework

The Welsh Assembly Government has issued a consultation on the Welsh International Sustainable Development Framework. The Framework will detail what the Welsh Assembly Government can do to respond to international crises and disasters and how it can help deliver the UN Millennium Development Goals – within the powers that are available.

A public event is planned to gauge opinion on the ideas contained in the Framework - you can find links to the documents at: <http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubconsultation/index.htm>

It is hoped that the Framework will be formally launched in spring 2006 following the consultation period. Jon Townley would be happy to discuss the Framework or make presentations to groups or meetings. Contact him on <mailto:jon.townley@wales.gsi.gov.uk>

Joint effort delivers plan for Atlantic College

An interactive session between students, staff, and external advisors delivered a strong environmental policy with clear short and long-term aims for Atlantic College. It opens with an agreement to make every effort to reduce its own environmental impact and enable and inspire students to reduce theirs.

The policy is in keeping with the commitment to sustainable development that the College has already demonstrated through cutting edge actions like the installation of a biomass boiler. This policy takes action a step further with SMART objectives and a deadline for review in 2007.

The workshop was the final element of 6 months research conducted by Sara Turnbull, a student from an MSc course run by the University of East London at the Centre for Alternative Technology, Machynlleth.

For further information contact Sara at mailto:turnbull_sara@hotmail.com

Regions to negotiate new EU Sustainable Development Strategy

The EU SD Strategy had a disappointing response when it was published by the Commission last December following a comprehensive consultation.

Member states, regions and stakeholders anticipated a single document which would incorporate current commitments with a strong delivery plan to demonstrate leadership from the EU on sustainable development.

The Austrian Presidency is now charged with taking the Strategy through Council negotiations with an aim to complete the final version by June 2006.

Wales will offer regions the opportunity to comment on the new Strategy during an event organised with partners through the Sustainable European Regions in Brussels this spring. The event will respond to the Strategy before the Council negotiations conclude and start working on how regions will deliver the final version through innovative policy and practice.

For more information see www.sustainable-euregions.net

nrg4SD speaks for regions in Montréal

nrg4SD was among the first to hear that member states agreed to start dialogues on post-2012 commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in developed countries when it met at the United National Climate Change Conference in Montréal last December.

In addition to hosting a side event at the Conference on trans-regional emissions trading alliances, the Network held initial discussions about future co-operation between nrg4SD and the UN with a Director from the UN Development Programme. The Network was also pleased to formally announce 3 new members from Brittany (France), Callao (Peru) and Riau (Indonesia).

The international network nrg4SD will meet again this April in Brussels for the annual General Assembly and Steering Committee.

For more information see www.nrg4sd.net

Greening the Torino Winter Olympics and Paralympics

The upcoming 20th Winter Olympics and Paralympics in Torino this year will be the first ever truly “green” major sports events in Europe.

One-off sports events require several years of large scale developments and both events are making good use of EU voluntary environmental tools, in particular the EU eco-management and audit system (EMAS) and the European eco-label and green procurement. The President of the Organising Committee said: “We found that the EU tools were best suited to handle the complex environmental aspects.”

The main Olympic Village is a showcase for sustainable architecture with solar panels, low energy light bulbs and rain water to irrigate green areas and guidance has been drawn up so that other events may benefit in the future. Ms Mercedes BRESSO, President of Regione Piemonte, said “For Torino 2006 we planned a long-term legacy of development and sustainability. The acknowledgements of the European commission highlight the ability of regional policies to build international examples of best practices”.

For EMAS visit: http://www.eu.int/comm/environment/emas/index_en.htm

European Commission strategy to improve the environment in cities

The European Commission today launched a new Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment to help Member States and regional and local authorities improve the environmental performance of Europe’s cities.

The Strategy is one of seven foreseen under the 6th Environmental Action Programme. The main actions under the strategy are guidance on integrated environmental management and on sustainable urban transport plans, training, and support for EU wide exchange of best practices and an internet portal for local authorities.

For more information see www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/urban/home_en.htm

European Motor Show 2006 puts bio fuels in the spotlight

An exhibition at the Motor Show in January 2006 featured extensive information about what bio fuel actually is, what impact it has on the environment and car and how the technology involved with it works.

At the opening of the bioethanol stand Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs commented that the EU promotes the use of biofuels to tackle the problems of security of supply and of climate change and biofuels need to play a key role in European energy policy.

Council REACH agreement on new EU chemical legislation

The European Commission welcomed the Council's political agreement on a comprehensive new system aimed at ensuring greater safety in the manufacture and use of chemical substances. The new system, REACH, stands for Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals and will replace 40 existing legal acts. It will establish a new European Chemicals Agency in Helsinki to manage the registration of substances through a database.

It is expected that the final decision on REACH will be reached by the European Parliament and Council in autumn 2006. The Commission expects entry into force of the Regulation for spring 2007. Thereafter it will take about a year for the REACH Agency to be operational. Accordingly the operational requirements of REACH are expected to start to be applied from 2008 onwards.

Edible Landscaping – 10 week courses

When? Different dates between January and May 2006

Where? Cardiff, Cowbridge

Description

Based on permaculture principles, this course will take you through: low maintenance food growing and gardening techniques, managing your pests naturally, working with weeds, basic soil science and water management techniques.

More information <http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/learn> or email <mailto:learn@cardiff.ac.uk>

Political launch of Stop Climate Chaos

When? 28th February 2006

Where? Cardiff

Description

Stop Climate Chaos Cymru is a coalition of civil society which is working to mobilise public concern, and through this the necessary political action, to stop climate chaos. This event will be the launch of Stop Climate Chaos' work in Wales.

More information email <mailto:RBates@wwf.org.uk>

Model United Nations General Assemblies

When? 8th March 2006 10th March 2006 15th March 2006 16th March 2006

Where? Barry Cwmbran Llangefni Mold

Description

Simulation designed to raise young people's awareness of the UN, and to develop their skills of negotiation and co-operation.

More information martinpollard@wcia.org.uk

International Opportunities in Waste Management & Recycling

When? 1st March 2006

Where? Village Hotel, Cardiff

Description

Welsh companies can learn about how to deal more effectively with their waste products. There will be networking opportunities for companies that have waste management products/services they want to promote.

More information email william.conn@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Celtic Nations Conference – Good Practice in Sustainable Development

When? 15th March 2006

Where? Cardiff

Description

Keynote speakers include Carwyn Jones AM, Minister for Environment, Countryside and Planning, and Jonathon Porritt CBE Chair of the SDC. Workshops will focus on practical examples of sustainable development in action from Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, and promote exchange of ideas.

More information <http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/wales/>

From Here to Sustainability

When? 27th March 29th March 31st March

Where? Bangor Carmarthen Cardiff

Description

Sustainable Wales, will be providing free training sessions during March 2006 (N, S and W Wales) aimed at community sector/development staff, social enterprises and volunteers. The plan is to help you introduce sustainable development policies and practices into your organisation.

More information <mailto:sustainablewales@btconnect.com>

Sources of finance for SMEs having local/regional development objectives

When? 16th – 17th February 2006

Where? Brussels

Description

Sessions include:

The French experience of loans without guarantees

The UK experience of Community Development Finance Institutions

The German experience of micro-credit

More information email rossana.scaricabarozzi@eurada.org

GLOBE 2006

When? 29th – 31st March 2006

Where? Vancouver, Canada

Description

GLOBE biennial events each bring together participants from across the world to address issues that lie at the heart of corporate sustainability, global energy and environment priorities, and the future of sustainable urban development.

More information <http://www.globe2006.com>

EuroEnvironment 2006

When? 31st March – 2nd April 2006

Where? Aalborg, Denmark

Description

The conference will provide an interdisciplinary and stimulating European forum in which business can interact with governments and stakeholders in a constructive dialogue on its environmental performance and sustainable development.

More information <http://www.euro-environment.dk>

Regions delivering the new EU Sustainable Development Strategy

When? April 2006 (see website for further details)

Where? Brussels

Description

This event will invite sustainable development practitioners and regional experts to draw up a joint action plan on the new EU Sustainable Development Strategy.

More information <http://www.sustainable-euregions.net>

Ty Llywelyn Community Centre, Llandudno – Anne Forbes

TRE CWM Community Association was first started six years ago by a meeting called by the Council for the tenants. We were told they could possibly get some money for a project and they wanted to know what we wanted and we decided we desperately needed a community centre. I left the meeting thinking this will never happen - the Council are all talk no action.

To everyone's surprise the Council contacted all the tenants again to tell us they had been successful in a bid to Communities First for the sum of £287,000. We were amazed. We then had to organise ourselves and set up the Tre Cwm Community Association. Twelve months on from the original meeting our community centre was being built. In March 2003 we were given the keys, and we were officially opened in the July.

I don't think anyone thought that it would be as successful as it is. Within a very short space of time we realised we needed a bigger building. We were running two drop in clubs for the children; we had IT, sociology, criminology, first aid, food hygiene, health and safety, youth development courses to name but a few.

We have helped local people in getting some basic skills and into employment. We now employ two local people, and other local people are more confident in their own abilities. Our plans for the future are to extend the building. We desperately need a community café, more offices, and more space. We have more projects on the go now, children's garden and nature club, the woodlands project, food co-op, trips out, fit club, and a Sunday school which are all attended by members of the local community.

<mailto:tyllywelyn1@btconnect.com>

Forestry and Sustainable development in India – Mr D Rajasekar

I am working as District Forest officer, under the Punjab Forest Department, which manages the public wealth of Forests and Wildlife - an important component of Environment. India boasts 22 % of its geographical area under its forest cover. India is a major biodiversity hotspot but there are huge pressures on protecting this common property from the large populations of people (1 billion) and cattle.

Management of this resources lies with the government as 99% of the area is National Forests under governmental control.

The role of Forests and biodiversity in Sustainable development need no elaboration. The entire environment depends on forest cover and India has a forest policy to achieve 33% of the area under forest cover for sustainable development of livelihoods.

Sustainable development to India means development without sacrificing the future of future generations. The Forests are presently managed with people's participation. The wildlife of India is managed through its vast Protected Area Network of 100 National parks and 500 Wildlife Sanctuaries. The approach is known as the fortress approach and the people are normally shifted out of the protected area of wildlife. This requires large amounts of funding and support from the local people.

The approach presently involves translocating the affected people outside and engaging them in gainful employment by giving alternatives. This requires large-scale mobilisation of funds and awareness among local people. India is aiming to do this with the support of all agencies involved in wildlife conservation. The balancing act of social and environmental priorities in conservation and development is a long drawn process and India is steadily progressing.

The creation of awareness about global warming in Europe is enormous but the steps taken to protect natural resources and exploitation of it beyond its carrying capacity require reconsideration. Also there is an urgent need to cooperate with India for transfer of clean alternative technologies to reduce global emissions.

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