

GloballySusDCymru

August/September 2006

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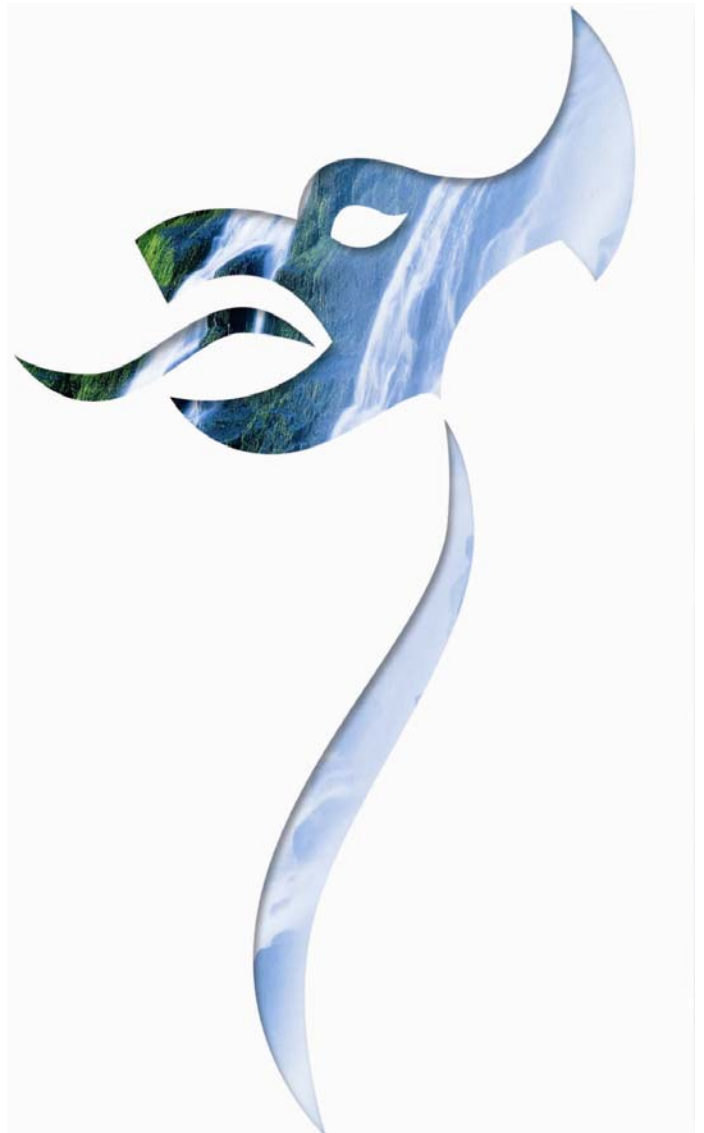
recent news of
sustainable development
in Wales and the World

Events

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

Viewpoints

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



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

Please email globallysusdcymru@wales.gsi.gov.uk
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(deadline 13th September for October/November issue)

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/sustainabledevelopment/?lang=en>



– one click for everything about sustainable development in Wales!
www.sustainwales.com is an exciting new web development for everyone across Wales to find out what, in terms of sustainability, is happening in their local area. It's essential function is to be an interactive database of sustainable development projects, products, events and innovations across Wales.

The first stage of its launch – aimed at those with potential projects/activities that could be included on the site, took place at the Royal Welsh Show, with an enthusiastic speech from Tamsin Dunwoody, Deputy Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside.

A larger launch, to the general public, will take place in the autumn.

Welsh Youth – active on climate change!

1) **A group of Welsh students have scooped a global enterprise competition – beating off teams from 14 other countries.**

Six students from North Wales and two from South Wales joined forces to represent Wales at the Global Enterprise Challenge in Glasgow. They had to prepare an action plan to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions within a city and strengthen the economy over 10 years.

The Wales team won the competition based on a plan to introduce a reward card for employees who used public transport, called 'Cerdyn Cymru'. The team was presented with the Global Award by NASA astronaut, Bill McArthur, who has recently returned from the World Space Station.

2) **Pupils from Ysgol Gynradd Bod Alaw in Colwyn Bay won a national competition for an overnight trip to Flat Holm Island, five miles off the coast of Cardiff, to learn more about climate change.**

WWF Cymru and the Flat Holm Project invited schools in Wales and Fiji to design a flag to illustrate how climate change is affecting Wales and the South Pacific Islands. The aim of the competition was to highlight the similarities and vulnerability of both islands, especially Fiji, to the adverse affects of climate change.

New Appointments

Sustainable Development Commission Vice Chair for Wales: [Peter Davies](#)

The SDC is the independent advisory body on sustainable development to the UK Government and Devolved Administrations. Peter Davies OBE is currently a Project Consultant and an Associate Director with Business in the Community.

Wales Spatial Plan Area

Coordinators:

[Dai Rogers](#) – Swansea-Pembrokeshire

[Liz Lyon](#) – Northeast Wales

[Jan Jones](#) – Northwest Wales

Cynnal Cymru Chair: [Morgan Parry](#)

Morgan Parry is Head of WWF (World-wide Fund for Nature) and has been involved with Cynnal Cymru since its creation.



The Montgomery Canal – a small step and giant leap forward

The latest step in the restoration of the Montgomery Canal has been made with the opening of a 500 metre length of waterway at Llanymynech. The £100,000 scheme opens up this length to passenger traffic for the first time in seventy years.

Earlier this year, a blueprint for the full restoration of the Montgomery Canal was launched by Deputy Minister Tamsin Dunwoody AM at the Assembly All Party Group on Waterways. The publication of the document *Montgomery Canal: Regeneration through Sustainable Restoration* is a major milestone in the 40 year campaign to restore the canal, which will bring huge economic and leisure benefits to local communities while safeguarding an important habitat.

Sustainable Development Framework for Local Government – update

The Sustainable Development Framework for Local Government aims to meet the existing deficit in practical guidance for the delivery of sustainable development both through corporate governance and through the direct provision of services. It marks a shift towards facilitation of delivery: The provision of services in sustainable *ways* and towards sustainable *outcomes*.

In providing a framework for the sustainable provision of services, a number of priority areas have been identified as both appropriate and potentially fertile ground for identification of risks, opportunities and barriers to more sustainable delivery.

Welsh Assembly Government's Top Green Award



The Welsh Assembly Government has been awarded the prestigious Green Dragon Environmental Standard Level 5 for its efforts to reduce its impact on the environment at its Cathays Park offices.

The award is the highest an organisation can achieve. To get the award an organisation has to demonstrate it is monitoring its impact on the environment and working to reduce the impact of its day-to-day activities.

<http://www.greendragonems.com/>

Cynnal Cymru update

Annual General Meeting

Cynnal Cymru held a successful AGM in Aberystwyth during which they elected four new board members:

- Paul Allen (Environment)
- Margaret Minhinnick (Economy)
- Ken Peattie (Economy)
- Catherine Hester (Social)

They also announced a new strand of their 'Call to Action' work – the creation of a Vision of a Sustainable Wales.

Meeting the shortage of skilled construction workers in Wales

An innovative new Skills Centre at Maesteg will assist to meet the shortage of skilled construction workers and tradesmen in Wales – at the same time as helping local communities to maximise the benefits of Wales' first large-scale stock transfer of social housing.



Rounded Developments Enterprises – Sustainable Building Centre in Cardiff

A new Sustainable Building Centre has been created by Rounded Developments Enterprises in Splott, Cardiff, to allow voluntary organisations and others a chance to explore the world on sustainable building in a hands-on manner.

The centre has a large range of information and demonstration pieces covering aspects like water and energy conservation, energy generation, interior materials, building structure and materials.

<http://www.rounded-developments.org.uk/>

New Community projects...

- * A £2.4 million investment has transformed the **Soar Centre in the Rhondda** into a modern community arts and social centre. Valleys Kids, a local charity, will provide a range of services to the local community from childcare to computer training, from a motor project to cultural activities.
- * A major new facility, which will offer many important services for the community in the Swansea Valley has recently opened. The £1.8 million **Forge Fach Resource Building in Graigfelen**, Clydach includes a community café, IT facilities, childcare provision, a heritage centre, workshop units, offices and meeting rooms and a healthy living centre.



New CD-ROM toolkit could help Welsh offices save £180 million

Businesses in Wales can take a big step towards cutting office waste and saving money - by using a free CD-ROM based toolkit available from Envirowise.

The Green Efficiency CD-ROM provides a step-by-step guide to help office-based businesses reduce waste and the use of common resources such as paper, water and energy. A savings calculator establishes just how much an individual company could potentially save - which could be as much as £200 per employee.

So if every office in Wales takes advantage of the toolkit and improves resource efficiency, the country as a whole could save an impressive £180 million.

<http://www.envirowise.gov.uk/page.aspx?o=178388>

Minister supports use of Welsh in Europe

The Welsh Assembly Government has called for Welsh to be used in the European institutions, following the decision made by EU Foreign Affairs Ministers to give citizens the possibility of using additional languages in their relations with the EU institutions.

Minister for Culture, Sport and the Welsh Language, Alun Pugh said: "This is another positive step forward. The Welsh language is one of the oldest languages in Europe so it is right that citizens in Wales should be able to correspond with the EU in either of our national languages, and that the language can be used in the Committee of the Regions and the Council.

'The Governance of Sustainable Development in Wales'

Dr Paul Williams, a Senior Lecturer at the Cardiff School of Management, has recently published this paper.

For a copy please email pmwilliams@uwic.ac.uk

New part time courses in International Studies

From October 2006 a variety of part-time courses in international studies will be offered by the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, including in Globalisation, Sustainability and Communicating International Issues.

For more information email hjh@aber.ac.uk or phone Del on 01970 621 762.

Wales – the world's first Fair Trade Country??

The race really is on to become the world's first Fair Trade country. Wales' First Minister, Rhodri Morgan, and Jack O'Connell, the First Minister for Scotland, made a joint agreement this month to say that criteria for a Fair Trade Nation had been agreed between the two countries, including:

- Every county having an active Fair Trade group
- 55% of towns having an active Fair Trade group
- Commitments from Government, Parliament
- Active support for Fair Trade from many sectors throughout society including schools, higher education, business and the voluntary sector.

It is now crucial for the people of Wales to get behind the campaign. For advice on how to make your town, county or workplace Fairtrade visit <http://www.gwe.nu/fairtrade/> or contact Mark Richardson on 07766 015664 / walesfairtrade@btconnect.com.



Minister helping to Keep Wales Tidy

On June 27th Jane Davidson, Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, visited Bishop of Llandaff High School, Cardiff as part of the 'Tidy Wales Week' initiative which involved over 40,000 participants during a week of litter-picking, beach cleaning and general clearing up of eyesores, to ensure "...a cleaner, tidier, safer Wales".

At this rate it should not be long before Bishop of Llandaff High School pupils will be proudly flying their Eco-Schools Green Flag, and joining the growing number (over 150) of schools in Wales that have gained international recognition for their all-round approach to Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship.

Greening Snowdonia

Tourism in Snowdonia is set to become more sustainable, thanks to a new project driven by leading Park charity, the Snowdonia Society.

“Every year the equivalent of over 11 million day visits are made to Snowdonia - the oldest and largest National Park in Wales contributing a colossal £385m to the local economy each year” Said Dan James, Operations Director of the Snowdonia Society. “However this comes at a cost unless it is carefully managed - 10% of Gwynedd’s ecological footprint is derived from tourism and we’re in danger of losing the special qualities that make Snowdonia so special!

The project will involve the completion of a new website detailing the advantages of embracing the notions of Sustainability within tourism and will offer practical tips for visitors and providers to green up their act.

INTERNATIONAL—NEWS

New EU Strategy

Heads of State finally adopted the renewed EU SD Strategy (EU SDS) at the EU Council meeting in June.

The Welsh Assembly Government has welcomed the reference to the important role that regions will play in delivering the Strategy and looks forward to building on past success with other European regions. The Strategy has a strong emphasis on cross-cutting issues which contribute to the knowledge society, financial instruments and communication but the main body identifies 7 key challenges which incorporate targets, objectives and actions on:

- Climate change and clean energy
- Sustainable transport
- Sustainable consumption and production
- Conservation and management of natural resources
- Public health
- Social inclusion, demography and migration
- Global poverty and sustainable development challenges

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/06/st10/st10117.en06.pdf>

New Survey – Happiness doesn't have to cost the earth

The 178-nation "Happy Planet Index", compiled by the New Economics Foundation (NEF) lists the south Pacific island of Vanuatu as the happiest nation on the planet, while the UK is ranked 108th.

The index is based on consumption levels, life expectancy and happiness, rather than national economic wealth measurements such as GDP. NEF is calling for the adoption of a "global manifesto for a happier planet" that will list ways nations can live within their environmental limits and increase people's quality of life. The recommendations include:

- * Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger
- * Recognising the contribution of individuals and unpaid work
- * Ensuring economic policies stay within environmental limits

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/5169448.stm>

Wolfowitz creates new sustainable development unit

World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz recently announced the merging of the Bank's departments that deal with infrastructure and environmental projects into a single unit to promote sustainable development.

"The purpose of consolidating these two networks is to mainstream environmental issues, improve synergies, better integrate core operations, and ensure that we strengthen our focus on sustainability as we increase our investment in infrastructure," Wolfowitz said in an email to World Bank staff, seen by Reuters.

http://www.sustdev.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1358&Itemid=35

OECD calls for more and better green taxes

A new report for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) says there is high potential for governments to introduce more environmental taxes.

Environmental taxes and charges are widely used in OECD countries, but in the last few years have lost some of their allure. In the EU, for example, latest data show they are declining as a share of GDP and of overall taxation (EED 23/05/06). The OECD report discusses how key "obstacles" to their use could be overcome.

One is the widespread fear that green taxes will hit industrial competitiveness. The approximately 375 environmental taxes recorded by the OECD include more than 1,150 exemptions or refunds designed to protect certain sectors, the report notes.

<http://www.sustdev.org/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=1386>

British International Motor Show – industry shows green credentials

Vehicle makers have invested millions to improve the green credentials of their products and manufacturing sites at this year’s British International Motor Show.

Examples of greener cars and technologies that were on show include:

- all electric cars
- cleaner diesel
- flex-fuel cars
- hybrid models/electric motors

The motor industry also used the motor show to distribute free copies of its Drive Green, Drive Safely booklet, a guide to eco and safer driving.

<http://www.britishmotorshow.co.uk/content.asp?PageID=291>

World’s leading Green Energy Awards

The Ashden Awards, the world’s leading green energy award scheme, reward outstanding and innovative projects which tackle climate change and improve quality of life through the generation of sustainable energy at a local level.

The International 1st prize winners were:

TANZANIA – Mwanda Rural Housing Programme

INDIA – International Development Enterprises India

MEXICO – Grupo Interdisciplinario de Tecnología Rural Apropiada

INDIA – Appropriate Technology Institute

BANGLADESH – Grameen Shakti and Rahimafrooz Batteries Limited (jointly)

For more details - <http://www.sustdev.org/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=1356>

Revolutionary Eco–Megamall in New York

Developers have promised that this proposed multi-billion dollar entertainment and shopping complex, dubbed DestiNY USA, would run entirely on wind turbines, solar panels, fuel cells and biofuels while serving as a model for clean living and green shopping. It would be the largest green real estate development in the world to date.

Developer Robert Congel has predicted that the project could accelerate economies of scale to the point where the price of renewable energy would become cost-competitive with fossil fuels in as little as ten years. He calls the proposed development an “Apollo Project” for renewable energy, boasting that it will grow the economy, strengthen national security by reducing reliance on foreign oil sources, and protect the environment.

<http://www.emagazine.com/view/?3207>

WALES—EVENTS

Sustainable Development Coordinators Cymru – AGM and event looking at the role of economics in Sustainable Development

When? 4th – 5th September

Where? Usk

Description

Speakers include Jonathan Porritt CBE and a representative of the New Economics Foundation.

Penny.gruffydd@swansea.gov.uk

Local Biodiversity

Advisory Group Seminar

When? 6th – 7th September 2006

Where? Cardiff

Description

Day One theme – Broadening Support, understanding what it all means

Day Two theme – Tools to help us
g.ainscough@ccw.gov.uk

Welsh Youth Forum on Sustainable Development – Climate Change Day

When? 29th September 2006

Where? Bangor

Description

This event will involve young people from local schools and youth groups exploring the impact their lifestyles have on the planet, and what they can change for the better, in a variety of imaginative ways.

info@wyfsd.org

Four Nations Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship conference

When? 18th – 19th September

Where? Cardiff

Description

This invitation-only event will be an opportunity for representatives from England, Scotland and Northern Ireland to witness Wales' commitment to promoting Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship in Education.

The Technology Exhibition & Conference

When? 3rd October 2006

Where? Cardiff

Description

This event aims to raise the profile of those serious about being part of the technology and innovation market and demonstrate and sell innovative products and services to a select audience from Wales and the UK.

<http://www.innovation-wales.com/iw06.htm>

School meals – on the road to Sustainability?

When? 6th October 2006

Where? Cardiff

Description

A day of presentations and workshops, drawing together all parties (providers, suppliers, teachers, parents, pupils, policy makers, dieticians and academics) concerned about improving the nutrition and sustainability of school meals.

http://www.brass.cf.ac.uk/uploads/School_Meals.pdf

INTERNATIONAL—EVENTS

From theory and planning to development – transforming a city into an ecocity

When? 5th – 12th August 2006

Where? Bangalore, India

Description

Topics to be addressed include:

- whole systems ecological city planning and implementation,
- best practices and case studies from around the world,
- re-localisation of economies

<http://www.tciconferences.com/ecocity2006/ecocity2006.htm>

Global conference on renewable energy approaches for desert regions

When? 18th – 22nd September 2006

Where? Amman, Jordan

Description

This conference will present a range of information regarding the development of wind, solar, biomass and geothermal energy in desert regions.

gcreader@ju.edu.jo

Workshop on REACH Implementation Project – Development of REACH Guidance for Industry

When? 25th September 2006

Where? Brussels, Belgium

Description

The European Commission Directorates General Enterprise and Industry, Environment and the Research Centre are organising this workshop on the progress of REACH Implementation Projects with a particular relevance for industry stakeholders.

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/reach/prep_guidance_en.htm#w

ec06

When? 9th – 10th October 2006

Where? Zurich, Switzerland

Description

ec06 is about bringing intelligent, vibrant people together; educating minds; giving birth to new ideas; challenging views and creating change.

The programme includes:

- Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) – just another marketing ploy?
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) – fact or fiction?
- SRI, CSR – are they myths or do they create value?

<http://06.economie.co.uk/index.htm>

‘The Role of the DEIN in sustainability and Design’

Ian Roberts, Design Champion for the Department for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks, part of the Welsh Assembly Government.

The DEIN is totally committed to the aims of sustainability. We have set out our sustainability and design quality expectations for all the regeneration and development projects we support and on land we sell.

The department works on a great variety of projects from all over Wales. They range from dealing with small factory extensions or minor developments in small towns and villages, to large and complex land reclamation and urban regeneration projects that may take several phases to develop into sustainable urban developments.

We don't just see the need for sustainable buildings, we try to instil into projects the wider goals of economic, social and environmental sustainability and regeneration that delivers energy and resource efficiency. It is no good having an environmentally excellent building if it's in the wrong place, doesn't provide the kind of accommodation required or is a place that is empty every night when the workforce drive away to their homes located miles away. We are trying to ensure that our communities are vibrant and healthy, with a sense of well being, places where we want to be. Not places where we are stuck because we happen to live there.

We require all our projects to perform to the BREEAM and Eco Homes Very Good rating for commercial buildings and residential projects, and to the excellent rating for brownfield and high value projects. The wider need for energy and resource efficiency is also paramount, and we set out our requirements in the document Creating Sustainable Places, which is located on the WAG web site.

http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable_development_publicat/?jsessionid=D36F4F99EFA362F824C964905DD0923B.www1?lang=en

In order to ensure that high quality of development is delivered, we prepare masterplans for the major sites to set out the means for ensuring that our vision is achieved. Many of these have already been prepared for sites such as Coed Darcy in Neath, Glasdir in Rhuthin and Parc Derwen in Bridgend, and many others are being produced as well.

ian.roberts@wales.gsi.gov.uk

INTERNATIONAL—VIEWPOINT

Reverend Renis Morian, Fruits of Calvary Assembly of God Church, Guyana

This is Renis Morian, [volunteer] coordinator for the faith-based NGO DEPTRAD. Linden is a bauxite town, every other business or programme evolves around this industry, and basically it is our life-blood. This industry started to decline rapidly about ten years ago moving from a workforce of 4500 to two thousand directly employed there is/was always another 1000 indirectly there. Some turned to logging, fishing and agriculture but never with the intensity and financial investment as the bauxite sector. In 2006 the Government announced the complete shutdown of the industry, you could imagine the panic and uncertainty here.

DEPTRAD has introduced a simple project under the theme "sufficient sustainable livelihood for all"

The actual project is to encourage, teach, and support the most affected to do backyard gardening as a means to sustainability. Our target is 2000 households. Seeds and seedling will be provided along with the services of an agriculture officer. We hope to encourage simple exchanges between neighbours thus allowing for a wider variety of fruits & vegetables for residents on the programme.

Presently we are in the final stages to launching the project. The objective is to allow residents to move from handouts to self reliance. We are looking to other micro activities to support single female parents and those affected by aids .For example the rearing of creole fowls, inland fishing and the growing of passion fruit for out of region markets.

We welcome the support of international sources in the form of garden seeds for the tropics etc.

moriman53@yahoo.com