

GloballySusDCymru

October/November 2006

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News

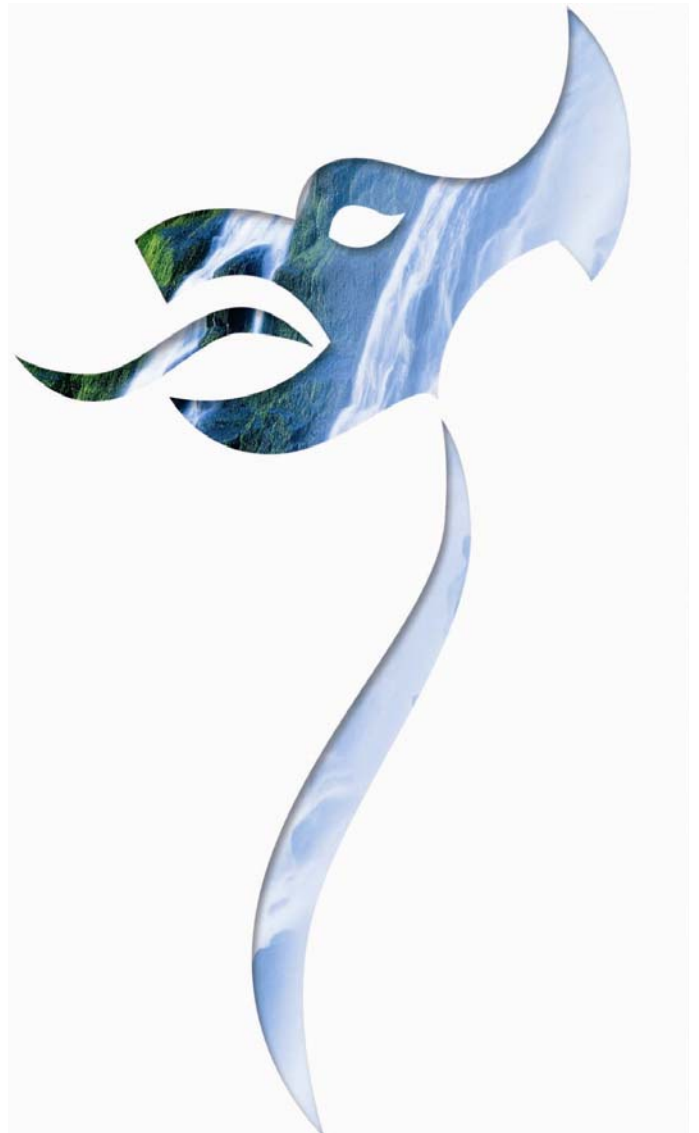
recent news of sustainable development in Wales and the World

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.

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**Contribute to a future issue
(deadline 15th November for December/January issue)**

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

Any of the statements or comments made in the newsletter should be regarded as personal and not necessarily those of the Welsh Assembly Government, any constituent part or connected body.

Assembly's Cross Sector Climate Change Group

This group, to be launched in October, has been established to contribute to the mitigation of climate change and adaptation to its impacts by advising the Assembly Government on what action is required and supporting the delivery of those actions. It will bring together local government, business, voluntary and community sector, land managers, statutory bodies, the research community and the Assembly Government to address climate change issues in Wales.

As well as building a consensus on the action needed in Wales to address climate change, the group will contribute to the development of Assembly Government policies and programmes on climate change and provide a means for exchanging information, experience and good practice.



The only Tree in the village

This new company, based in Llandewi Brefi, plants trees for airline passengers who are concerned about their CO2 emissions. Nobody else is doing it quite like this.

Treeflights are trying to make carbon offsets something that ordinary people will consider doing because until it moves into the mainstream offsetting isn't going to make much of an impression on the problem.

Businesses & Sustainability in Wales – a practical approach from ARENA Network

Companies in Wales are supporting the development of a new tool which will assist individual businesses to manage sustainability issues across their operations. SMAS – the Sustainability Management and Audit Scheme takes a 'stepped approach' to sustainability issues.

Alan Tillotson, Chief Executive of ARENA Network explained why the approach is similar to that of Green Dragon: "Firstly, the take-up of Green Dragon is impressive (with over 700 certifications to date) and has demonstrated that companies and other organisations seemingly prefer a staged and 'bite-size' approach when implementing improvements within the business. Secondly, as agreement has yet to be reached on the definitive indicators of sustainability in business, the stepped approach offers that flexibility which is sensible in the development of effective management systems."

<http://www.arenanetwork.org/publications/case/SMAS.asp>

Machynlleth gets second community owned wind turbine

Bro Dyfi Community Renewables (BDCR) have erected a 500kW turbine on Mynydd Glandulas in the Dyfi Valley.



Community projects such as this allow local people to benefit, said the BDCR Chair, John Williams. “Thanks to grant funding from the European Union via Mid Wales Energy Agency and ecodyfi, 30% of the profit will go back to ecodyfi to be spent on community regeneration work in the Dyfi Valley,” he said. “They will spend some of this supporting and promoting low-carbon travel options such as cycling and buses. In this way, the community as a whole benefits, as well as the 220 people who are members of the co-op, the landowners who receive rent and the local contractors who erect and maintain it.”

<http://www.ecodyfi.org.uk/>

Call for Papers – Ecological Footprint event

The ERSC BRASS Research Centre at Cardiff University is organising the first International Ecological Footprint Conference to be held in the UK, in May 2007.

The closing date for the submission of the abstracts of papers is 30th October 2006 and suggested topics include:

- Measuring environmental sustainability
- Connecting the economy and the environment
- Comparing ecological methodologies
- Footprinting and social dimensions of (un) sustainability

<http://www.brass.cf.ac.uk/>

£32 million for recycling and composting in Wales

To help Wales towards achieving tough Welsh Assembly Government recycling and composting targets, Carwyn Jones, Minister for Environment, Countryside and Planning has announced £32 million for local authorities in 2006-07.

Carwyn Jones said: “We need to live within the limits that global resources can support. On average, every Welsh resident consumes almost 21 tonnes of materials and products every year. The Welsh Assembly Government wants recycling, reusing and composting to become part of everyday life and as such we are providing the funds for local authorities to make it possible.”

CONSULTATION – Wales Transport Strategy

In December 2004 the Assembly Government announced an £8 billion, 15 year programme for transport. The requirement for the Assembly to produce a Wales Transport Strategy and the enhanced capacity of the new Department for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks provides the opportunity to ensure transport policy really delivers for Wales.

If you would like to contribute to the consultation, please go to <http://new.wales.gov.uk/consultations/currentconsultation/transcurrcons/545295/;jsessionid=3ACE649226B2468AC0374F1708F30D4C.www2?lang=en> (by October 14th)

National Trust gets future fit at Aberdulais

Water has been used since 1584 to power industry at Aberdulais Falls and is being brought right up to date and ‘future fit’ with the installation of air-heat pumps in a £1.3million project at one of Wales’ most important and beautiful industrial heritage sites.

The National Trust has just opened a new visitor centre at the popular waterfalls in the Vale of Neath, which combines all the latest principles of sustainable design in a low energy building. On-site hydro-electrics is used to power technology which recovers heat from the air outside to warm the building making it a completely renewable system. The innovative building is cut into solid rock to blend in with its surroundings, and incorporates high energy efficiency standards.

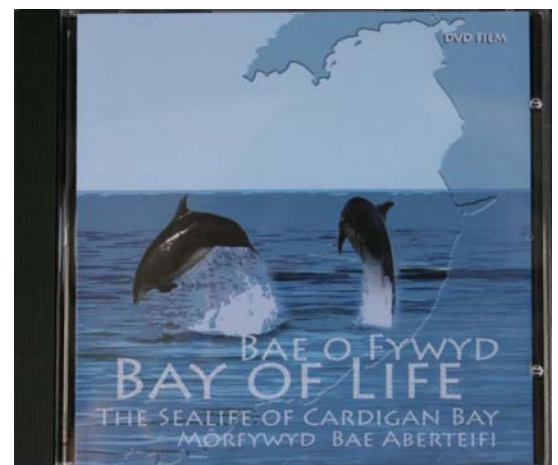
Dolphin DVD for Welsh schools

Underwater footage of Wales’ biggest living mammal, the bottlenose dolphin, stars alongside a ‘super-pod’ of common dolphins, seals and their pups, porpoises, and other marine life in a new education DVD film free for every school in Wales.

The ‘Bay of Life’ video has been produced by the Cardigan Bay Marine Wildlife Centre, New Quay, West Wales Chartering Company, new Quay and Small World Productions, Cardiff. The film covers issues such as scientific research and photo ID, post mortem evidence of dolphin attacks on porpoises, cetacean, beach strandings and human interference with sea life through speedboats, canoes and trip boats.

<http://www.cbmw.org/home.asp>

<http://www.smallworldtv.co.uk/public/index.cfm>





PC Care Success

New Sandfields Aberavon, a community regeneration charity based in Sandfields and Aberavon, Port Talbot has recently been successful in a bid to Communities@one to turn the existing small PCCARE pilot project in to a fully fledged scheme, employing four members of staff to deliver the project.

The pilot scheme highlighted the need for ICT services such as PC Retail, ICT maintenance, and ICT training services. The initiative seeks to achieve 'digital inclusion' - social inclusion through the use of technology. The rationale of the project is 'to enable communities and individuals to use ICT in ways relevant to them to enhance their quality of life, overcome difficulties and allow them to fulfil their social, economic and cultural potential. Any individuals, businesses or organisations who wish to utilise any of the facilities within the centre such as training or the innovative technology showcase suite please feel free to contact Layton Emery on 01639 870067 or visit the website at <http://www.pccare.ik.com/>

Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship news

In September, Wales hosted the second Four Nations conference on Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (ESDGC).

Jane Davidson, Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills opened the conference and much of the day was spent sharing good practice between delegates from Scotland, England and Northern Ireland, as well as Wales.

This event also launched the ESDGC Strategy for Action which aims to help the understanding of ESDGC issues, gain skills to address challenges and work towards achieving a positive future for generations to come.

<http://www.esdgc2006.co.uk/>

Developments at Dulas Ltd

Dulas has been involved in securing planning consent for Amegni Ltd, a group of local Montgomeryshire landowners, for the Carno windfarm extension.

Dulas has now been instrumental in attaining planning approvals for 180 MW of wind power in its 20 year history, equivalent to the electricity requirements of over 100,000 homes, and offsetting 406,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually.

Dulas have also pushed renewable energy to the fore once again by winning in the highly acclaimed Small Company of the Year category in the Western Mail Business Awards for Wales. The award symbolises further recognition of Dulas' outstanding achievements in technology innovation and business performance in recent years. The company has also been short listed for the Wales Business and Sustainability Awards 2006.

Cynnal Cymru – staff update

Roz Robinson has become Cynnal Cymru's new Communications Manager. An experienced communications practitioner, Roz previously worked as Community Relations Manager with the Noah's Ark Appeal managing the communications and partnership working of this high profile Welsh charity.

Sustainable construction – building a better environment

Events have been held throughout Wales over the last few months to introduce the principles of sustainable construction to small and medium sized businesses and raise awareness of the associated environmental and economic benefits.

Attendance at many of the seminars was considerably higher than anticipated and to date more than 100 companies have participated. The hope is that every Welsh construction business, whether in buildings or landscape, will take part in one of these events over the coming year.

Andrew Davies, Minister for Enterprise Innovation and Networks, said energy efficiency and energy conservation was high on the Welsh Assembly Government's agenda and at the centre of its sustainable development policy.



Penegoes Active Community

A campaign for a vital cycling and walking path has recently stepped up a gear. The 1.5 mile road from Penegoes to Machynlleth is very busy with high-speed, heavy traffic, blind bends and no footpath (and with very limited public transport).

The campaign for a safe route has been going on for some years, but with little to show for it apart from two feasibility studies. The group is heartened that Communities First and the Machynlleth & District Local Community Forum have included the proposal in their Local Action Plan, but knows that further pressure is required.

Anyone who would like to support the campaign or has information which may help speed up the process can contact Julia on 01654 702054 or Geraldine at geraldine@tincan.co.uk

Developing new market opportunities for low-income communities in Mexico

An innovative project aiming to raise awareness about unmet needs among low-income communities at the same time as building the capacities of local micro, small and medium sized enterprises has recently been launched by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development in partnership with the Mexican Ministry for Economy.

Fifty-five million people live on less than three dollars a day in Mexico. Housing and construction, food processing and distribution, energy, water, recycling and waste disposal are some of the sectors where innovative, lower cost and better quality goods and services are needed. By leveraging the advantages of smaller firms – their proximity to clients, their outreach and knowledge of local needs and culture – the project will bring smaller businesses into ventures with larger companies to supply these low-income communities with improved products and services.

<http://www.wbcasd.org/plugins/DocSearch/details.asp?type=DocDet&ObjectId=MjAxNDU>

Dow Jones Sustainability Index changes

Dow Jones Sustainability Indexes assesses overall sustainability performance, driving constant improvement through the competitiveness to attain best-in-class status.

Last week, leading global socially responsible (SRI) index providers Dow Jones Sustainability Indexes (DJSI) announced index changes resulting from its annual review. 46 companies were added to the world index and 36 were deleted.

See http://www.sustainability-indexes.com/06_html/news/pressreleases.html for more details.

Big retailers help raise Fairtrade sales by a third

Global sales of Fairtrade- certified goods grew by more than a third last year to £758 million, as increasing numbers of retailers have got behind the scheme.

Britain is the biggest market for Fairtrade goods, in terms of value. The FLO (Fairtrade Labelling Organisation) said the number of retailers offering certified goods had grown by 300 to 1,483 in 2005. There are now 508 certified producer groups in 58 countries. An Oxfam spokeswoman said that growth in Fairtrade goods has been "phenomenal" in the past decade. "It has become an everyday thing, which we would never have imagined 10 years ago." <http://business.guardian.co.uk/story/0,,1807372,00.html>

Innovation is the key to China's development

China's authorities have realised that the country's pace of development cannot be sustained for much longer without innovation. It must harness its innovative capacity to find new, more efficient and equitable ways to deal with the strains of huge growth.

Zhang Xiaoqiang, Vice-Chairman of the National Development and Reforms Commission of China has said "We have to switch from our previous industrial development mode, from consuming large amounts of natural resources to a development mode based on science and technology as well as innovation.' It is also accepted that much depends on improvement of the educational system, and the benefits of economic growth should be spread more equally through Chinese society.

<http://www.hindu.com/2006/09/11/stories/2006091103381400.htm>

London's Liveable City Awards go Sustainable

The City of London's prestigious Liveable City Awards have changed their name, launched new categories to reward SMEs and sustainable building and lined up high profile speakers to make the presentations.

Simon Mills, the City of London's sustainability co-ordinator said: "Sustainable development is increasingly at the heart of business practice, not only for multinationals, but also for SMEs." Categories include tackling climate change, sustainable buildings and resource conservation and previous winners have ranged from Royal Mail and Sainsbury's to tiny charities and family-run businesses.

http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/Corporation/living_environment/sustainability/sustainable_city_awards/Sustainable_City_Awards.htm

WALES—EVENTS

Creating Sustainable Places – Masterplanning Workshops

When?	4 th October	9 th October
Where?	St Asaph	Treforest
Contact	sara.roberts@wales.gsi.gov.uk	liz.cousins@wales.gsi.gov.uk

When?	17 th October	23 rd October
Where?	Caersws	Cwmbran
Contact	Diana.jones-poston@wales.gsi.gov.uk	liz.cousins@wales.gsi.gov.uk

This second series of workshops will explore how masterplans, design briefs and design codes can help you achieve your design and development aspirations.

CFSN Annual Conference – ‘The Communities First Jigsaw’

When? 11th – 12th October 2006
Where? Caernarfon

Description

This conference will be taking a long hard look at all the pieces of the Communities First jigsaw, from a range of perspectives, to see what’s worked, where and why.

mknights@wcva.org.uk



The Cylch Conference 2006: ‘Is recycling sorted?’

When? 25th – 26th October 2006
Where? Ewloe, Flintshire

Description

Keep abreast of current developments, learn from other practitioners and input directly into the Wales Waste Strategy Review, setting the recycling agenda in Wales for 2010 and beyond.

<http://www.cylch.org/conf2006.html>

Sustainability and the Future of Humanity

When? 27th – 29th October 2006
Where? Pencader, Carmarthenshire

Description

A forum event for those who are passionate about sustainability and the future, featuring Satish Kumar.

01559 395437 / info@waunifor.com

Wales Young Farmers – ‘Bringing the country to town’

When? 3rd – 5th November 2006

Where? Cardiff

Description

Wales YFC plan to hold this three day food festival and celebration of the countryside.

Hazelthomas26@hotmail.com

Fair Trade Wales 2006

When? 11th November 2006

Where? Newtown

Description

Aimed at anyone in Wales with an interest in Fair Trade, this conference will give plenty of opportunities to find out more about Fair Trade from the world’s leading experts. It’s not a talking shop – its an event to help you promote Fair Trade in your town, workplace, school, church..

<http://www.fairtradewales.com>

Understanding Passive Solar design

When? 14th November 2006

Where? Cardiff

Description

Greener Homes and Buildings is bringing together leading experts in passive solar building design from Germany, Ireland and the UK to give their definitive views on what passive solar design is, and how applicable it is to buildings in the UK. This conference is for those interested in exploring passive solar design as an architectural method or as a concept to be used in future projects whether in domestic or commercial builds.

info@greenerhomesandbuildings.co.uk

Peer Education Workshops

When? 10th November 23rd November

Where? Blaenau Ffestiniog Dolgellau

Description

These workshops are being organised by the Welsh Youth Forum on Sustainable Development and Gwerin y Coed – training young people to lead workshops for young people to deliver sessions on climate change, unjust international trade, HIV Aids and conflict.

Awel@wyfsd.org

INTERNATIONAL—EVENTS

Reporting: A measure of Sustainability

When? 4th – 6th October 2006

Where? Amsterdam, Netherlands

Description

Be one of a thousand international participants attending this conference to meet and hear from global leaders on transparency, accountability and governance and together explore how sustainability reporting can help organisations improve their contribution to a more sustainable future.

<http://www.amsterdamGRIconference.org>

Climate Change and Business Conference 2006

When? 23rd – 25th October 2006

Where? Kiev, Ukraine

Description

This conference will focus on joint implementation projects in Ukraine and elsewhere. It is designed for project developers, government representatives, carbon credit purchasers, technology providers, scientists and international organisations.

<http://www.pointcarbon.com/Events/article16480-369.html>

9th International Conference on Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

When? 6th – 10th November 2006

Where? Santiago, Chile

Description

This conference aims to promote international cooperation and collaboration in support of local, national and international spatial data infrastructure developments that will allow nations to better address social, economic and environmental issues.

<http://www.gsdi9.cl/>

Sustainable Consumption and Production: Opportunities and Challenges

When? 23rd – 25th November 2006

Where? Wuppertal, Germany

Description

This meeting will officially launch SCORE! (Sustainable Consumption Research Exchanges), an EU-funded network project that supports the development of the UN's 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP).

http://www.score-network.org/score/score_module/index.php

‘Sustainable Development in Wales – a Personal Perspective’ – Ken Moon, (formerly Coordinator of Riverside Market, Cardiff and now working for Groundwork Wales)

I have been passionate about sustainable development for as long as I can remember, certainly prior to the Rio Summit and the Brundtland Commission. As an anti globalisation activist and an anarchist, I was highly sceptical of the discussions around the Sustainable Development agenda. Over the years my disillusionment with the will and ability of government to tackle the massive challenges that SD poses have deepened.

Taking inspiration from Ghandi I set out to be the change I wished to see in the world, dealing with my own frustrations and impatience at the apparent lack of concern expressed in the wider world, along the way. Disillusioned with the mainstream environmental movement I came across an increasing number of people who had attended Permaculture courses both overseas and in the UK. I cannot express how profoundly the philosophy and practice of Permaculture have helped to shape my approach to sustainable development since.

SD is a movement, which is taking place at all levels of society and is experienced in a range of different ways by those involved. At Riverside Market at have had the opportunity to experience ‘eco-economics’ at first hand, developing a small community market, into a thriving Social Enterprise, which is no longer dependent on grant income. I have also been privileged to meet a wide range of local residents and work with them to set up a wide range of community food initiatives such as the Riverside Community Garden Project, healthy eating and cooking sessions and a Food Co-operative.

In all of these projects, including the market itself, it is local people and the community, which benefit the most. It is local communities and businesses that are in the strongest position to implement sustainable development on a grassroots level. If we to succeed in implementing SD globally, we therefore need to find more ways in which SD can engage with people locally. It is the actions we all take each and every day which change the world in which we live...

littleeiffel@hotmail.com

INTERNATIONAL—VIEWPOINT

Garden Atriums – elegant living in fully sustainable homes, Stuart W. Rose, Ph.D, Poquoson, Virginia



During the 90s, trends related to environmental crises steadily grew ... with essentially no serious global effort in sight to solve these massive problems. People, by and large, don't experience the problems at a level at which they feel that our ability to sustain is threatened.



As housing is the most pervasive commodity that affects us all, we set out to create a house that was as sustainable as possible. These 'Garden Atrium' homes are like square doughnuts. Rooms surround an atrium as they have in temperate urban climates since Roman times, to provide quiet and privacy. However, by covering the atrium with a large skylight, we create a heat sink.

Houses are heated by direct gain passive solar and powered by PV panels.

Hot water is solar.

Cooling and back-up heating is geothermal.

90% of water use is via rainwater harvesting and many materials are recycled.

For each region of the world, you might create an adaptation – adjusting for that climate and using more indigenous materials, so the houses better fit their environments (compatibility with older buildings) and the emotional comfort of those people.

Looking at initial cost, Garden Atriums run roughly \$60,000 more than traditional, for the same square footage. Looking at total monthly cost – mortgage plus utilities – they cost about \$120,000 less than traditional. And that gap will widen, as utility rates continue to escalate. I don't expect government subsidies – I've worked to see if Garden Atriums can compete in the open, unsubsidized marketplace. They can.

My hope is that Garden Atriums – and other sustainable alternatives – will give people options. Then, when they're looking for a new house, they can buy one that's sustainable and avoid being hit by a crisis. While I feel huge concern for people that I think will be devastated by what's coming, all of these efforts have to be done to achieve a better quality of living and not out of fear.

I'm committing the energy to create a sustainable alternative, because – as I see it – it's essential to our ability to sustain. What could be more important, when we think of important things we might do with our lives?

www.gardenatriums.com / stu@gardenatriums.com