

GloballySusDCymru

December/January 2006-07

CONTENTS

News

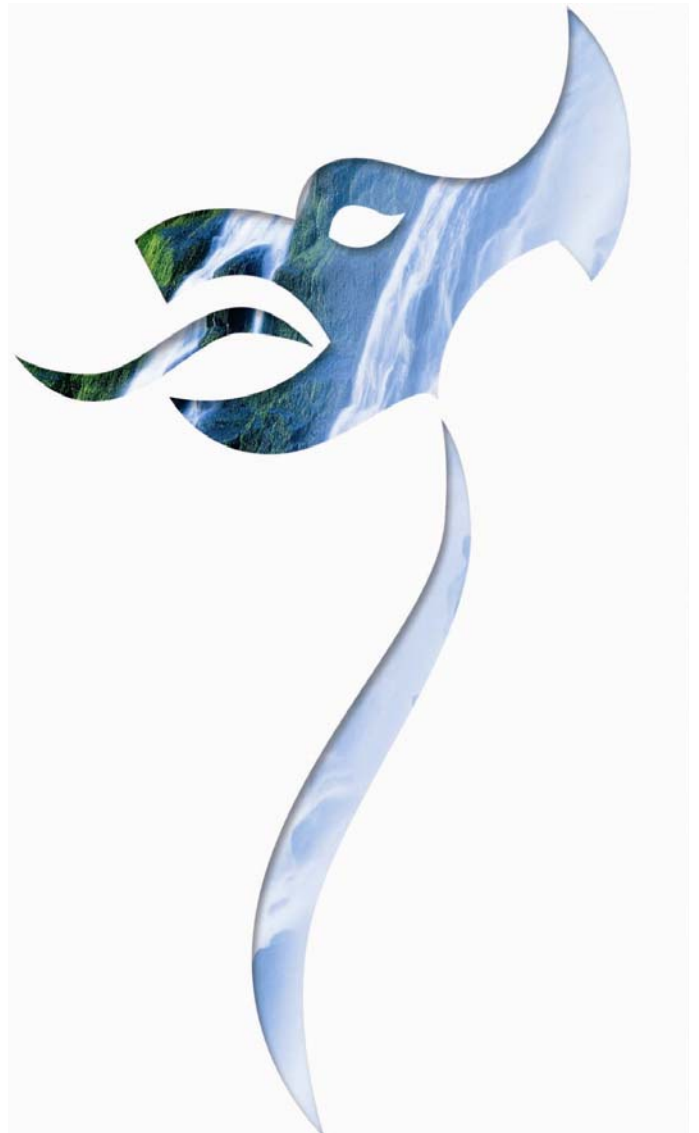
recent news of sustainable development in Wales and the World

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.

Please email globallysusdcymru@wales.gsi.gov.uk if you would like to:

Subscribe / Unsubscribe

**Contribute to a future issue
(deadline 17th January for February/March 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.

GloballySusDCymru is a year old!

How useful is GloballySusDCymru to you, and why?

Do you forward it to other people?

If you could change one thing about GloballySusDCymru, what would it be?

The editorial team are evaluating the success of this newsletter's first year. If you have any comments you think would be useful for us to take into account, please email globallysusdcymru@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Have YOU registered?



SustainWales.com is the new and exciting website that's packed with up-to-the-minute *locally specific* information on products and services, the site is a virtual community of ethical businesses, NGOs, government, charities and individuals.

The website is a virtual community of ethical businesses, NGOs, government charities and individuals. It's a place where individuals can search for what's going on in their area and where SD organisations can promote their work for free.

Registration is free and simple.

If you would like your project to feature on the website, which already receives thousands of visitors a month, visit www.sustainwales.com. Ensure that your project appears on the SustainWales.com map and list of services in time for website's high profile launch in January, by registering online before 15th December 2006.

New ways to measure sustainable development progress

Carwyn Jones, Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside, has recently unveiled a new set of indicators to measure progress towards sustainable development.

This new indicator set is based on the report of a Sustainable Development Indicators working group, which includes representatives from the voluntary sector, business and local government. Most recent data on the indicators show that significant social and economic progress is being made, but there is a more mixed picture as regards the environment.

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/news/presrelesearchive/111006newways?lang=en>

Sustainable Development Commission in Wales Update

Probably the most significant piece of work SDC in Wales is currently undertaking is an assessment of the potential for **tidal power generation** in UK waters against the 5 principles of sustainable development. This includes a significant examination of the barrage and non-barrage proposals for the Severn Estuary. See <http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/tidal.html>

SDC in Wales is also pushing ahead with the Assembly and other partners on the development of the **Healthy Sustainable Wales NHS Toolkit**. This aims to explore the interaction between health improvement activities and SD, and the Assembly plan to issue the toolkit to the NHS for formal consultation in December 2006.



Their next big publication will be the annual SDC **assessment of the UK Government Department's Sustainable Development Action Plans** - see <http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/> for further information.

The National Parks of Wales are a huge economic driver...

12,000 jobs in Wales are supported by the environment of the National Parks of Wales, and the Parks contribute an impressive total of £177 million pounds annually to the economy of Wales.

These are the key findings of an important new study "Valuing the National Parks of Wales" which shows that the environment of the Brecon Beacons National Park, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and Snowdonia National Park is a major economic asset for the whole of Wales. This research, initiated by the Valuing our Environment Partnership, has been commissioned by the Countryside Council for Wales, the National Trust Wales and the three National Park Authorities. It will inform the National Assembly for Wales, Local Authorities and other decision makers in Wales about the fundamental importance of the National Parks.

Extra support for Eco-Schools announced

Wales' successful Eco-Schools programme is to benefit from an extra £250,000 from the Welsh Assembly Government over the next two years.

Just over 1,300 schools in Wales are participating Eco-Schools, from nurseries to secondary schools. Pupils are encouraged to make their schools more environmentally friendly and to think about how individual actions can affect the environment and climate.

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/news/pressreleasearchive/environmentcountryside/nov06/101106extra?lang=en>

Wales Spatial Plan – Update

The current priority for the Spatial Plan work is for the area groups to inform the **strategic frameworks for Convergence Funding**. The Spatial Plan Groups will play a central role in the strategic frameworks for Building Sustainable Communities which will identify the regeneration priorities and provide direction in terms of the location, type and scale of projects.

On **Communications**, a series of leaflets will be distributed in the near future, one for each spatial plan area. The leaflets are part of a wider communications programme and are designed to be an introduction to spatial planning, and to explain the specific area vision and details of the work going on in your area.

Looking to the future, In the first part of 2007 Sue Essex AM hopes to publish '**interim progress statements**' which will report the emerging findings of the major projects ongoing in the spatial plan areas in relation to the role and function of settlements, transport, housing, economic development and the environment.



Young People's day on Climate Change

The 'climate change day' recently organised by WYFSD, the Welsh Youth Forum on Sustainable Development marked 18 months of growing awareness, personal change in lifestyles and the confidence amongst Forum members to stand in front of their peers with a clear message that action in response to climate change is urgent.

The day at Hendre Hall, Bangor included presentations, interactive workshops, a charity shop fashion show and an evening of local bands interspersed with climate change messages. The day was largely organised and run by young people.

As a result of being part of the day, 67% of attendees said they would make several changes to their behaviour to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions. Morgan Loudon from Beddgelert said "before, all I did was an occasional bit of recycling. Today was really good – I've come away with lots of new ideas."

<http://www.wyfsd.org>

Ceredigion County Council - a renewable winner

Ceredigion County Council has beaten other councils from across Wales to win the NASEG Renewable Energy Award 2005/6.



Ceredigion's outstanding performance in their advancement of renewables was highlighted by their project in Aberaeron where two biomass boilers had been installed. The final installed cost of the boilers was £668,000, which will provide an estimated savings total of £20,000 per year on their energy bills - an important and substantial investment for the future.

Businesses in Ceredigion can benefit directly from the Objective 1 funds that Dulas Ltd has secured for the installation of biomass heating systems. Run on an energy supply basis, all the customer has to do is pay for the heat they use. Dulas looks after the maintenance, fuel supply, and servicing of the boiler.

Welsh Climate Change Conference

A ground-breaking conference on climate change, bringing together all interested parties in Wales including the public sector, business and voluntary groups was recently held in Cardiff.

The Cross Sector Climate Change Group will be key in advising the Welsh Assembly Government on the action required to tackle the causes and consequences of climate change. Environment, Planning and Countryside Minister Carwyn Jones delivering the keynote speech at the event said:

“Climate change is one of the most serious issues facing the world. It is down to all of us to take action, without exception.....I look forward to working with the Climate Change Group to ensure that we in Wales do all that needs to be done and more to secure the future.”

5

New fund will support more Welsh businesses

A new £30 million commercial fund has recently been launched by the Welsh Assembly Government to help Welsh businesses achieve their growth plans.

“This important new fund will continue to help Welsh businesses to achieve their growth plans,” said Andrew Davies, Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks, “I am pleased that the Welsh Assembly Government’s approach to supporting businesses is continuing to have a real impact on the performance of the Welsh economy.”

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/news/pressreleasearchive/businesseconomy/octbusandec/261006newfund?lang=en>

'Sustainability and the Future of Humanity' – a success!

Satish Kumar was the key note speaker at this successful event recently held at Waunifor, Ceredigion. Workshop topics included Sustainability and the Future, Sustainable Communities and Sustainability Values. The 2007 Waunifor Sustainability Forum is being held between Sept 28th and 30th 2007. Please call 01559 363839 to reserve a place.

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

Launch of Green Fuels Network in Wales

A biofuels network is to be launched in Wales to help companies tap into the potentially huge new market that will be created as a result of measures to make transport fuel greener.

The Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation requires that 5% of fuel sold in the UK by 2010 will have to come from a sustainable renewable source – from various vegetable oils and crops such as rapeseed or grain. It has been predicted this will result in a 20 fold increase in biofuels sales over today's levels and the measures by the UK Government are predicted to save around 1 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions in 2010.

Welsh produce boost in public sector

On Thursday 5th October, which Welsh schools and hospitals marked as Wales' first National Beef Day, the results of the Public Sector Food Purchasing report were highlighted – particularly that 24% of food and drink purchased by the public sector in 2005 was from Wales (a 6% increase on the 2003 figure).

'Welsh Beef Day' was coordinated by Hybu Cig Cymru/Meat Promotion Wales as a celebration and recognition of a substantial shift in public procurement policy to put more Welsh produce on the plates of schoolchildren and hospital patients.

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/news/pressreleasearchive/environmentcountryside/octenvironment/051006beef?lang=en>

INTERNATIONAL—NEWS

Focuses of the German G8 presidency

Shaping globalisation and helping Africa to develop will be key focuses of next year's G8 summit in Heiligendamm, Germany.

It is aimed at living up to G8 responsibility to help create stable and reliable conditions for the global economy as well as at strengthening G8 commitment to assisting disadvantaged segments of the world population.

6

http://www.insnet.org/ins_headlines.rxml?cust=1001&id=3536

Climate change action moves forward without U.S.

The recent UN Climate Change talks ended with agreement on the next steps toward negotiating future cuts in global warming gases, a slow-paces timetable reflecting hope that the United States, China and other outsiders will eventually join the controls regime.

The 1997 Kyoto pact obliges 35 industrial nations to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by 5 percent below 1990 levels by 2012. The United States and Australia are the only major industrial countries to reject that accord - President Bush contends it would damage the U.S. economy and should have imposed cutbacks on poorer countries as well. Under the key agreement here, future meetings will review the workings of the Kyoto Protocol by 2008 with an eye toward setting new quotas on carbon dioxide and other emissions after Kyoto expires.

http://www.insnet.org/ins_headlines.rxml?cust=1001&id=3619&url=http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/national/292839_climate18.html

Actions to protect children from obesity

Health and consumer NGOs have welcomed the signing of a World Health Organisation European Charter on counteracting obesity by European Ministers.

The health problems caused by excess weight lead to a wide range of debilitating and life-threatening conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and cancer. The Charter pays special attention to vulnerable groups such as children and adolescents, and agrees that European governments shall adopt regulations to substantially reduce the extent and impact of the commercial promotion of energy-dense foods and beverages to children.

http://www.insnet.org/zins_press.rxml?cust=1001&id=3604&url

Technologies could fill climate-change legislative gap

A recent EU-funded study shows that better use of technology can combat air pollution and lower the impact of those greenhouse gases not covered by the Kyoto Protocol. Published in the journal 'Environmental Science and Technology', it compared the results of 26 models of atmospheric chemistry covering the entire atmosphere.

The study found that current international protocols and national legislation to reduce air pollution are not sufficient to reduce global warming - researchers said this was because existing policies do little to tackle other gases such as ozone.

http://www.insnet.org/ins_headlines.rxml?cust=1001&id=3626&url=http://www.euractiv.com/en/transport/technologies-fill-climate-change-legislative-gap/article-159763

WALES—EVENTS

Sunday Volunteer Days

When? 10th December, 14th January, 11th February,

Where? Bangor Forest Garden, Abergwyngregyn

Description

Find out more about forest gardening, permaculture and sustainable development.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/wales/northwest/listings/pages/event.shtml?eid=237024&rid=79>

Programme bending

When? 11th December 12th December

Where? Bangor Wrexham

13th December 14th December
Aberfan Newport

Description

These seminars are aimed at Communities First Partnership members, staff and organisations delivering services in Communities First areas. They will examine what programme bending is, provide examples and examine how Partnerships can encourage service providers to work with them.

training@wcva.org.uk

Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship: Turning Policy into Practice

When? 8th December 11th December

Where? Llanarthne Bangor

Description

These conferences are an opportunity for the ESDGC Action Plan to be shared with practitioners throughout Wales, to identify the energy and enthusiasm in the different educational sectors for ESDGC and how this may be harnessed to drive forward the priority actions outlined in the Action Plan.

Sian.furminger@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Waste Management Wales Conference 2007

When? 15th February 2007

Where? Cardiff

Description

The conference will feature a keynote address by the Assembly as well as sessions on Welsh Waste Management Framework, Waste & Health – the links? and deliverables for a Sustainable Future for Wales.

Cherry.cronly@ice.org.uk

INTERNATIONAL—EVENTS

The Ravage of the Planet 2006

When? 12th – 14th December 2006

Where? Bariloche, Argentina

Description

The conference aims to attract researchers and professionals involved in ecosystems and environmental problems, as well as technologists, policy makers, social and political scientists, and experts on a wide variety of topics. The emphasis is on initiating trans-disciplinary discussions.

<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2006/planet06/index.html>

Global Symposium 2006 – Towards a New World Civilisation

When? 8th – 11th December 2006

Where? Lucknow, India

Description

The objective of the Global Symposium is to foster personal interaction, mutual understanding and collective action for a strong foundation of a nuclear-free, democratic, sustainable, just and peaceful New World Civilization by bringing together civil society organizations and leaders in the fields of art, education, science, religion, culture and media.

<http://www.gpwd.org/symposium/>

Seventh World Social Forum

When? 20th – 25th January 2007

Where? Nairobi, Kenya

Description

The World Social Forum brings together activists working on issues of social justice, economic justice, and environmental sustainability throughout the world, to share their work, strategize, and offer one another inspiration and support.

<http://www.forumsocialmundial.org.br>

International Dialogue on Science and Practice in Sustainable Development: Linking Knowledge with Action

When? 23rd – 27th January 2007

Where? Chiang-Mai, Thailand

Description

This event aims to foster effective collaborations between scientists and practitioners to advance the practice of sustainable development through knowledge sharing and promoting national, regional and international actions and implementation.

<http://www.sustdialogue.org/>

WALES—VIEWPOINT

Neuadd-y-dderwen, West Wales' newest must visit location – Glen Peters, Founder

We were looking to build a facility that would become a “must visit” location for artists and visitors to West Wales. The idea of incorporating sustainability into the design and branding of the building became a necessity, not an add-on feature.

We recognised that a significant number of our target market would be citizens concerned about the environment and sympathetic to enterprises which are run around sustainable lines. We also wanted to ensure that the facility's operational costs were at the lowest achievable level.

Our first design decision was to choose green oak from sustainable sources for the main construction. We thought that oak was a material that would endure centuries of use and also contribute to the aesthetics of the building. Much of the remaining design became a natural by-product of the oak frame construction.



The next decision was to address the energy costs. We sought to adopt underfloor heating using ground arrays. In addition we looked for the biggest photo voltaic array that our budgets could afford. This has turned out to be a 60 panel array which will provide us with 6KwA. Sadly the information available to us in making decisions was poor and government needs to do more to help here. In the end we had to employ a consultant.

Our third decision was to maximise local sourcing of labour and materials. At least 70% of the cost of the £1.3m project has been sourced locally. This has not only created a tremendous amount of goodwill but will ensure that on-going maintenance of the facility and remediation is assured.

The pay off has already begun to roll in. After the launch night we have received a very full mail bag of highly complimentary letters and we look forward to a profitable and sustainable future.

Fair Trade – Miren Maialen

I am originally from the Basque Country and I live in Ireland.

As part of an MsC in Sustainable Development I undertook research with the main goal of understanding the nature of fair trade implementation in the Cork region in the South of Ireland. There are many Fair Trade certification processes, but this research looks specifically at the ones introduced by the Fair Trade Label Organisation (FLO), which grants the Fair Trade Town status. There is a recognition made to a town, city or region, which have achieved certain goals regarding implementation of Fair Trade.

There are not only initiatives in Europe at national level, several regions in Europe, such as the Basque Country, Wales, Flanders have passed resolutions for Fair Trade. I referred to Wales as a model of Fair Trade implementation. The example of Wales is significant as this region, considered a small country, acknowledges the need to promote Fair Trade and to examine the global impacts of Welsh decisions in the Assembly's Sustainable Development Scheme.

The region of Wales serves as an example for my research of how fair trade can achieve nationwide penetration when given proper participation at all levels of society, including the general public, business and civil society, government and politicians. The present drive is to make counties, rather than towns, Fair Trade areas. Cardiff was defined as being the first Fair Trade capital city in the world.

As a practical level and during my recent stay in Central America, I had the opportunity to meet Guatemalan Felipe Castro, organic grower from San Lucas Toliman, of the shores of Atitlan Lake, who explained the benefits for the community of participating in Fair Trade: "Fair Trade is an opportunity to survive especially after the Tropical Storm Stan, and help other people in the village and build stable communities"

Thanks to the fair-trade 'Premium' a new coffee processing plant was built for the benefit of the community in San Lucas Toliman this year. facing the social, economical and environmental crisis in Guatemala, Asociación Ija'tz aims to alleviate this situation by promoting a sustainable development and environmental consciousness in accordance with the principles of the Mayan Cosmovision - <http://www.ijatz.org>

Mirenmaialens@gmail.com