

GloballySusDCymru

February/March 2007

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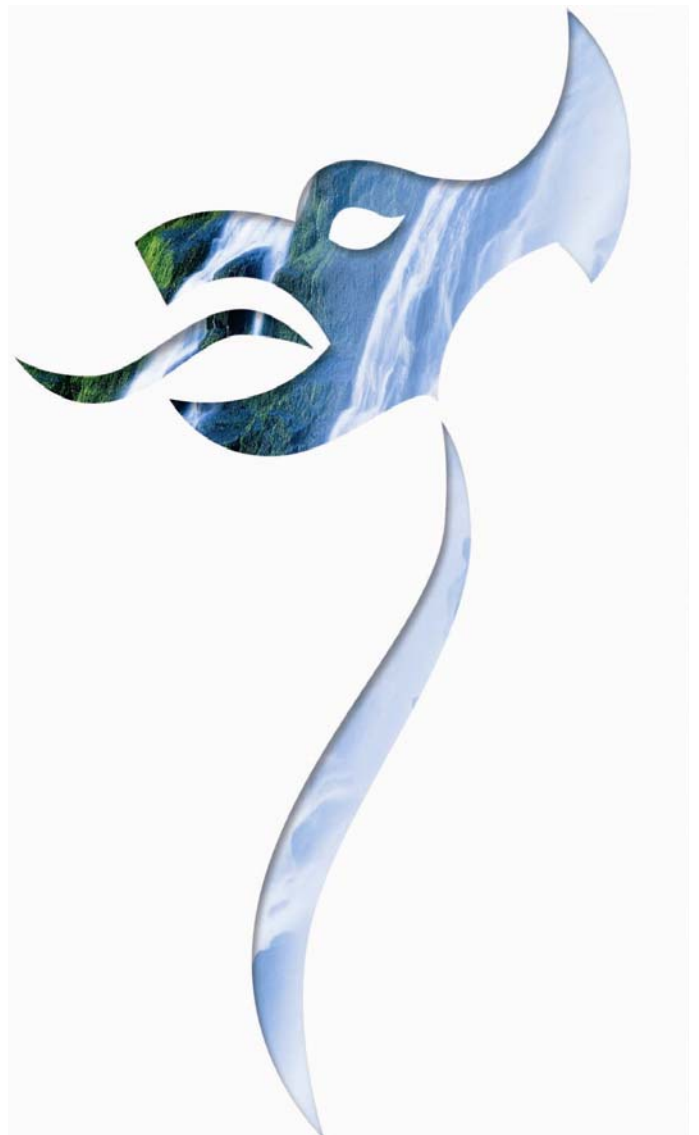
recent news of sustainable development in Wales and the World

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 if you would like to:

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**Contribute to a future issue
(deadline 14th March for April/May 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.

The Amazon rainforest comes to Wales!

Juan Kunchikuy, a Shuar Indian from the Amazon rainforest spent two weeks in Wales in January aiming to enable us to understand the importance of protecting the tropical rainforest and its people.



The majority of his visit was spent talking to schoolchildren and young people, as well as sustainable development-related organisations. He also met with Minister for Environment, Countryside and Planning, Carwyn Jones to share his views on climate change issues.

Juan is one of the most sought after local guides in the Ecuadorian Amazon and one of the lead guides at the Yachana Lodge where he works with Fundesin, a foundation set up to work with and on behalf of the Quichua Indians promoting sustainability and cultural respect.

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

Pedal Power project: Cycling to Inclusive Sustainability!

Based in Pontcanna Fields, Cardiff, the Pedal Power project aims to enable all sections of the community to access cycling.

Currently the youngest cyclist is 11 and the eldest 80, and with 15% of our cyclists from ethnic minority backgrounds, we promote and welcome inclusivity at all levels. There is a collection of purpose built and specially adapted bikes along with ordinary 'two wheelers' that can be ridden by virtually anyone.



With financial help from the National Lottery and Cardiff Council new low impact headquarters are being built – trees will be planted to compensate for any felled in the construction, and artwork made from recycled materials will decorate the new building. If you would like to be involved contact Nigel Baker – Nigel.baker@bromor-tr.wales.nhs.uk / 02920 573966.



The power of the purse – have you got it SUSSED?

The brainchild of Sustainable Wales, SUSSED (in Porthcawl) was set-up in response to the increasing demand for a truly guilt-free shopping experience.

Ostensibly the same as any other independent gift, homeware, clothing and jewellery store – but scratch the surface, and you'll discover that SUSSED is very, very different.

SUSSED only retails goods that have either been locally produced, are green, or are fairly traded. The project's principles are in contrast with that of most larger companies in putting sustainability at the heart of its operations and work.



SUSSED is set up as a community co-operative, which gives customers a say in the way *their* shop is managed and run. It is also an attempt to ensure that at least one Welsh coastal high street doesn't become part of the growing army of 'cloned high streets', but ones with distinct cultures, diverse and busy and supportive of the local community.

sussed@sustainablewales.org.uk

2007 – The BIG year for Fair Trade Wales

HELP MAKE **WALES** A FAIR TRADE COUNTRY
HELPWCH I WNEUD **CYMRU'N** WLAD MASNACH DEG

The Wales Fair Trade Forum are working towards the rather ambitious target of achieving Fair Trade status for Wales before the end of 2007.

That means a massive amount of work on Fair Trade this year. In particular:
The launch of a Fairtrade Schools scheme with a target of 100 schools on the scheme by the end of the year.

14 universities / HE institutions working towards FT status.

55 active Fairtrade Town groups.

There will also be a Fairtrade cotton producer from India, Mr Shailesh Patel, touring Wales during Fairtrade Fortnight (Feb 26th – March 11th). If you'd like to get involved please contact Mark Richardson mark@fairtradewales.com

NEW DVDS AIMED AT SCHOOLS

Forest School Wales programme

Nine very different Forest Schools in Wales feature in a new bilingual DVD made by Cardiff-based Small World Productions for Forestry Commission Wales.



The DVD shows how all ages and abilities can benefit from using various woodland settings around Wales. It is a celebration of the good practice built up in Wales since 2000 and includes extra information including risk assessments and session plans so that it can also be used as a training resource for those wishing to become Forest School Leaders or Assistants.

For further information about the DVD or Forestry Commission Wales' work with Forest School, email lucy.kirkham@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Chips or Champs?

“Chips or Champs is a new DVD produced by the Welsh Rugby Union as part of its response to Health Challenge Wales, the national focus for improving health in Wales.

Its purpose is to show that healthy choices are important, not just for the elite athlete, but for everyone, in order to live a healthy life. Wales and British and Irish Lions prop Gethin Jenkins said, “You need to be fit and healthy from a young age to stand you in good stead for whatever you choose to do later in life, whether or not you choose to take sport seriously. Hopefully this DVD is a light-hearted way of getting that message across – it was certainly fun to make!”

Launch of consultation package on planning and climate change

The role of the planning system in tackling climate change is the subject of a consultation paper launched in December.

It outlines how taking into account at an early stage factors such as development location, orientation and other design considerations can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Carwyn Jones, Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside said ‘Planning is a key component in ensuring sustainable development and, as the Stern Review states, the more we can do now, the less we will have to pay later on the effects of climate change.’

The closing date for the consultation is 30th March 2007, and a copy can be obtained from <http://new.wales.gov.uk/consultations/currentconsultation/plancurrcons/?lang=en>

New ESDGC Champion

Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, Jane Davidson has welcomed the announcement that Claire Fowler, currently Head of Lifelong Learning at RSPB Cymru, had been appointed as the ESDGC (Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship) Champion for Wales for the next 3 years.

In welcoming the appointment, Jane Davidson said “that she was extremely pleased that someone of Claire Fowler’s calibre and standing in this important area had been appointed. It would now be her responsibility to drive forward this exciting but highly challenging agenda and to ensure that the actions set out in the ESDGC Action Plan are implemented in each and every sector of education and lifelong learning in Wales.

New International Studies programme

A new part time Certificate in Higher Education in International Studies being developed at the University of Wales Aberystwyth provides valuable understanding of many of the key global issues tackled by ESDGC, including globalisation, poverty, conflict and the idea of international citizenship.

Our courses for 2007 include Crisis in the Middle East; Poverty, Justice and Development; Human Rights; and War and the Media. Further courses planned are Video Activism; Informal Learning for ESDGC; and Sustainability in Action.

For further details please contact Del Harris on 011970 621 762 / hhh@aber.ac.uk.

World Economic Forum opens its doors to the Blogosphere

The World Economic Forum has recently launched ‘the Davos Conversation’ – a blog aiming to create the first online WEF community. It plans to integrate opinions on the global agenda from bloggers through videos, photos and news articles relating directly to the Annual Meeting.

"One of the great things about the blogosphere is that it gives anyone with a modem and a keyboard a seat at the tables of power. It's an unparalleled field leveler," said Arianna Huffington, the co-founder and editor-in-chief of the Huffington Post.

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

Mission Sustainability!

'Mission Sustainability - we face the challenge' is the title of the competition being run by the German Council for Sustainable Development until 31st August 2007 - people of all ages are being called on to make the world more sustainable.

The competition is particularly aimed at young people, but also plans to motivate people from across the world to take action and change their behaviour. Particular emphasis will be placed on the European perspective in light of Germany's Presidency of the EU in the first half of 2007.

<http://www.mission-sustainability.org>

Global organic food industry facing supply challenges

Its good news that global sales of food and drink are soaring but supply-related problems are increasing as production becomes international. Exceptionally high market growth rates are causing demand to outpace supply.

Product shortages in North America and Europe are resulting in organic food imports from across the globe. Organic ingredients like beans, seeds and nuts are increasingly coming from countries like China, Turkey and Brazil. Organic herbs & spices are being imported from India, Paraguay and Ethiopia. Increasing volumes of organic fresh fruit & vegetables are coming in from African and Asian countries.

Supply of organic foods has become global, however demand has not. Producers in developing countries are advised to develop internal markets for organic products to spread business risk.

<http://www.organicmonitor.com/r1511.htm>

Icelandic firm to invest \$1 billion in geothermal

An Icelandic investor, a bank and an engineering firm have set up Geysir Green Energy - a company with the intention of raising \$1 billion to invest in geothermal energy around the world. Iceland is a world leader in geothermal energy, which involves mining heat from the Earth.

Geysir Green Energy will invest in geothermal projects at all stages of development, as well as buying up companies and acquiring existing geothermal plants from utilities. Chief Executive Asgeir Margeirsson said that as well as financing, the company will provide technology and know-how, "based on the Icelandic experience, which is vast". Margeirsson was previously a director at Reykjavik Energy, the municipal utility for the Icelandic capital.

<http://www.environmental-finance.com/onlinews/0111geo.htm>

Making Environmental Management work for you

When? 5th February 2007

Where? Cardiff

Description

This event, specifically for public sector organisations, will include sessions outlining what Environmental Management Systems can achieve and opportunities to discuss what assistance and guidance is available.

g.davies@ccw.gov.uk

What did Granny Grow?

When? 25th February

Where? Machynlleth

Description

Dyfi Valley Seed Savers are holding the third annual seed swap, and are particularly looking for varieties that grow well in the West Wales climate. It will bring together fantastic opportunities to swap seeds and stories, browse stalls and sample local food. The Gaia Co-operative will also present 'The Money Game' – a performance exploration of exactly what happens to our money and what can be done to strengthen the local economy.

seedsavers@machynlleth.biz



Edible Landscaping Courses

When? 2 hours per week for 10 weeks, from 25th January 2007

Where? Cardiff

Description

Have you ever wanted to grow your own food, but thought you did not have the time? Based on permaculture principles, this course will cover a range of issues including low maintenance food growing and gardening techniques and managing your pests naturally.

ms@michelefitz.freeseerve.co.uk

Bright Lights, Big City: Newport Regeneration and Waterfront

When? 8th March 2007

Where? Newport

Description

Short presentations will be given by policy and practitioner experts involved with the implementation of regeneration proposals in Newport. This will include issues relevant to the interests of surveyors, civil engineers, planners, architects and housing professionals.

egeorgiades@rics.org

SUSSED Fair Trade Fashion Party

When? 16th March 2007

Where? Cardiff

Description

Guests will receive a short, informal talk about Fair Trade and SUSSED, Bridgend's latest Fair Trade, green and Local retailer. Come and try on a selection of our stylish fairly traded clothing, and view our range of jewellery, bags and accessories.

sussed@sustainablewales.org.uk

WALES—EVENTS

De-mystifying BREEAM

When? 16th March 2007

Where? St Asaph

Description

Fforwm BREEAM aims to promote and facilitate the use of BREEAM as a means to improve sustainability in the built environment. This workshop will explain the process of BREEAM/EcoHomes certification and how to achieve optimum credits. All interested parties are invited to attend.

Debbie Flint - 02920 870003

INTERNATIONAL—EVENTS

Citizens of the Earth: The Paris Conference on Global Ecological Governance

When? 2nd - 3rd February 2007

Where? Paris, France

Description

This meeting will bring together government ministers, scientists, company heads, NGOs and public figures from over sixty countries. It will seek to take stock of the threats facing the environment, decide upon priority measures to combat those threats, and take action, at international level, to create a United Nations Environment Organization (UNEO). French President Jacques Chirac will open and close the meeting.

<http://www.citoyensdelaterre.fr/conference/?-English->

Beyond Shizenkyoiku? ESD and how to teach it

When? 17th - 18th March 2007

Where? Kyoto, Japan

Description

To celebrate the opening of the Tango EcoFuturePark and the UN Decade for Education for Sustainable Development, this event aims to extend the strong tradition of nature education (shizenkyoiku) in Japan to incorporate broader issues such as energy use, equity and community work, and the global dimension.

The event will feature speakers from the Centre for Alternative Technology in Machynlleth.

<http://www.e-ds.jp/top/18school/180317eng.htm>

‘Sustainable Development’ gets personal by Bob Jacques, Ymlaen Ceredigion

Sustainable development, as embodied in the ‘Agenda 21’ principles, needs to be done by everyone.

Sustainable development should be holistic and indivisible, yet it still gets split up in to sectors. Even with the advent of the Wales Spatial Plan and Making the Connections, which are important steps towards a holistic approach, planning for sustainable development is still about each sector planning for the sustainable development of its own sector, not about planning for sustainable development as a whole. For sustainable development to be done by everyone it needs to be done from the bottom-up as well as top-down. In order to become ‘active citizens’ in achieving sustainable development, people need to be able to remove some of the barriers that prevent them reaching their potential and influencing their communities and the wider world for the better.

One of these barriers is the basic need for health; that is the *state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity* (the World Health Organisation’s definition). Large numbers of people in pockets throughout Wales face health inequalities that exclude them from participating in achieving sustainable development. The Healthy Heart Project, a partnership between Ymlaen Ceredigion and the National Public Health Service, takes a community development approach to promoting healthy lifestyles through supporting projects developed by community groups working with people in areas of deprivation.

For everyone to be able to do sustainable development, they need to be able to see the ‘bigger picture’, so that local sustainable development can occur in the context of county, regional, national and global trends and priorities. Hence the need for people to be active *global* citizens, and for Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (ESDGC) to be integrated into all levels of formal and informal education and training. Ymlaen Ceredigion has been working with Coleg Ceredigion to embed ESDGC across the curriculum. In recognition of its success, Coleg Ceredigion won the Fforwm Award for sustainability in 2006. These two aspects of Ymlaen Ceredigion’s work, healthy lifestyles and ESDGC, may at first seem disparate, but they are connected in that they both are attempts to enable people to become more active in shaping a more sustainable world personally, locally and globally.

bobj@ymlaenceredigion.org.uk / <http://www.ymlaenceredigion.org.uk>

¹funded by the Assembly’s Inequalities in Health fund

²The *Sustainability in Further Education* project was funded through the Assembly’s ESDGC fund, 14-19 Learning Pathways, Ceredigion County Council and Princes Trust - Cymru.

INTERNATIONAL—VIEWPOINT

Charting the Future of Sustainable Development – Alan Atkisson, executive director of Earth Charter International

If you take a look back in time, the future of sustainability looks incredibly bright. Consider: Just ten years ago, there was no Kyoto Protocol pushing nations to reduce carbon emissions or create carbon markets. No Global Reporting Initiative guiding companies in the framing of their sustainability reports. No Nobel Peace Prize winner like Wangari Maathai or Muhammad Yunus, more known for sustainable development work than for traditional conflict resolution (the Peace Prize has practically become a Sustainability Prize).

Truly, if you look back with even a decade of historical perspective, you could conclude that achieving sustainable development is just around the corner, and that the big problems are as good as solved. And of course, you would be terribly wrong. If there is one thing that nearly twenty years of work on sustainable development have taught me, it is that we cannot be complacent. Progress in word does not equal progress in deed. Incremental change, however dramatic, is not transformation.

I worry about complacency -- institutional, systemic complacency -- because I have watched it literally kill people, in places like New Orleans (Katrina), Paris (heat waves of 2003), China (industrial accidents), and countless locations in the so-called developing world, a good bit of which still seems to be de-developing rather than advancing. And despite signs of hope for some threatened species, the ecological signals continue to flash "habitat destruction" and "mass extinction event."

The Earth Charter was crafted over a decade by an unprecedented global process of consultation, involving literally thousands of citizens and experts from nearly every land and major discipline, and entered the stream of world history in April of 2000. With its inspiring Preamble on the nature of our historical challenge, its clear guiding Principles stating clearly what we must strive to do together, and its stirring call to action in a closing section called The Way Forward, the Earth Charter has the potential to be seen, in time, as the Magna Carta for our dangerous age.

If you are an internet person, I urge you to become a frequent visitor to the Earth Charter website, www.EarthCharter.org. There you will find a large database of free resources, and a continuous stream of updated information and support. And whether you are "wired" or not, I urge you to connect with others who share the vision of a world where the ethics of peace, justice, and sustainability rise to increasing prominence and importance.