



LINK e-bulletin July 2011

[LINK Diary](#) | [LINK News](#) | [Member News](#) | [Other News](#) | [Events and Seminars](#) | [Publications](#) | [Consultations](#) | [IUCN](#) | [SCCS](#) | [Vacancies](#) | [Europe](#)

LINK DIARY

17 August	Advocacy Training, Melting Pot, Edinburgh
30 August	AGM and Environmental Economics seminar, Edinburgh
20 October	Board Meeting
17-18 Nov	LINK Congress and Strategic Planning
14 December	LINK Festive Reception

LINK NEWS

Diary Date 17 and 18 November - LINK Members' Congress will be on 17 November followed by the strategic planning meeting on 18 November. The venue is Birnam, Perthshire, a combination of the Birnam Institute (Thursday) and the Birnam Hotel (accommodation and Friday). The theme is sustainable development; and will build on the outcomes of the seminar on environmental economics on 30 August. The international dimensions include the Earth Summit in June 2012 – Jonny Hughes in his role on the SSDF is helping to instigate action in Scotland; and the IUCN seeks views in determining its future priorities globally. Speakers invited include Hans Friederich, Director of IUCN in Europe, John Swinney (on what Scotland might bring to the Earth Summit) and Iain MacWhirter (Carnegie report Beyond GDP round table). Congress will continue the tradition of progressing useful work of overarching relevance, excellent networking for members and invited guests, and enjoyable socialising. More information will be circulated from [Alice](#) in August. Meanwhile please note the date and tell your colleagues, especially any of them new to the network.

LINK's new Parliamentary Office Administrator – A big welcome to Rea Cris, starting this week in LINK's parliamentary office. Rea has a very good background in organisation, planning, and events coordination. She has interesting and varied experience, most recently with NHS Education Scotland, since qualifying in the arts (BA, MSc) five years ago, and is a volunteer with Transition Edinburgh South. Rea is due to start work, alongside Andy, on Wednesday 6 July. You can contact Rea at rea@scotlink.org

LINK Board updates – Board meeting 28 June reviewed LINK's financial situation and will contact members about latest thinking later this summer. Progress with the pilot of Organisational Supporter status was assessed, the Board decided to continue this with a view to encouraging like-minded organisations (not corporates and not ones which would be eligible for membership) to sign up. Scope to extend a similar package to the commercial sector was considered though the Board concluded our approach with the private sector should continue to be on the basis of one-off corporate sponsorship, where appropriate. Also on the agenda was succession planning ahead of the AGM on 30 August; likely skills needs on the Board in coming years were assessed and members will shortly be invited to nominate. The President search continues, with replies from various of our 'A' list still awaited. The Board commented on plans for LINK's strategic review for which surveys will go out in August.

CNPA Recent Boards-level discussion between LINK and CNPA noted the value of LINK's strong environmental voice in Park policy discussions esp. in relation to sustainable land use, sustainable



tourism and recreation. CNPA will provide information on further forums where LINK may want to nominate a delegate and LINK staff will contact members about these. The Park's approach to sustainable development was discussed and we agreed to find opportunities for CNPA, LINK and others to consider what 'sustainable economic growth' vs 'sustainable economic development' means for 'big picture' policy development. LINK has agreed to facilitate a meeting of interested members with CNPA in September/October during the consultation period on the Park's Draft Plan and Local Plan. Since the meeting, members proposed at our June Networking that LINK facilitate a discussion, sooner, among NGOs involved in Cairngorms issues, and staff will contact members soon to propose a meeting in late summer. Please contact Kate if your organisation wants more information on either of these meetings at this stage.

Scottish Government - Staff recently met with LINK's Scottish Government contact, Gareth Heavisides, for an introductory discussion and to reiterate LINK's case for continued ministerial liaison; we were given the impression that continuation of at least a similar arrangement, is likely, with details to follow over the summer.

LINK's Agriculture TF convenor, Katrina Marsden of RSPB, has been seconded to the Scottish Parliament for the 18 months, to cover the Rural Affairs brief for SPICe. Jonathan Wordsworth of Archaeology Scotland will be taking on temporary convenor duties whilst the TF looks for a new convenor. Many thanks to Katrina for all her hard work on behalf of the Agricultural TF and we wish her all the best in her new role.

[Note of LINK Networking Meeting, June 3rd 2011](#) - notes of the LINK Network's post-election strategy meeting held in Edinburgh.

[LINK Agriculture Taskforce File Note 5: Public Goods and Agriculture in Scotland](#)

[LINK Planning Taskforce Response to Consultation on Non-Domestic Elements of the Town and Country Planning \(General Permitted Development\) \(Scotland\) Order 1992](#)

[LINK Marine Taskforce response to extension on Permitted Development Rights and change of Use to Finfish and Shellfish Developments](#)

[LINK Marine Taskforce response to the National Marine Plan pre-consultation](#)

[<<back to top](#)

MEMBER NEWS

LINK Members **SCNP** and **APRS** have published a paper which sets out the benefits that more National Parks would bring to Scotland. The [Benefits of National Parks](#) paper forms part of a three-year joint SCNP/APRS project to promote a National Parks Strategy for Scotland. The aim of the project is to promote a strategy for developing a comprehensive network of National Parks across Scotland. The aspiration is that this could result in at least three new National Parks being designated by 2015, including Scotland's first coastal and marine National Park. Further information can be found in the [Project Summary](#) or the [Annual Report](#) of the Project's first year.

Scottish Wildlife Trust have published the latest report in their Policy Futures series, [Climate Connections: towards low carbon high biodiversity economies](#)



[Making the Case for Investment in the Walking Environment](#) is a new report from **Living Streets**, which brings together and evaluates the multiple health, economic, social and environmental benefits of investment in walking friendly public spaces.

The **Marine Conservation Society** has moved to new offices - Marine Conservation Society, 11A Chester Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 7RF (phone numbers remain the same)

[<<back to top](#)

OTHER NEWS

Better environmental regulation: SEPA's change proposals

SEPA has published the [results of the consultation](#) on its proposed changes to improve, simplify and better integrate the environmental protection and improvement services it provides for Scotland. There was a high level of support for the main principles in the consultation, particularly in relation to: reducing the complexity and improving the effectiveness of environmental regulation; simplifying permits (including working up proposals for single site, operator or network licences); placing an assessment of risk to the environment, and the performance of operators, at the centre of SEPA's approach; targeting environmental 'harms' and working with partner organisations and local communities to solve these; dealing with non-compliance through stronger and swifter forms of enforcement, where necessary.

[Scotland's Natural Capital Asset Index](#) - aims to assess the sustainability of Scotland's economic growth over coming years.

Project partners sought for EU-wide adaptation initiative.

Oxford University is seeking project partners from regional and sub-regional local authorities/municipalities from within the European Union, to work on a bid for a project that will explore: embedding climate issues (including adaptation) within a policy context; and awareness raising / communication of climate change issues within the authority and beyond. If successful, the project would be co-financed at a maximum rate of 50% of eligible costs, so some additional funding will need to be found by participating organisations. For more information, in the first instance please contact Richard Lamb via envc0117@nexus.ox.ac.uk

[Churchill Fellowships Reopen](#)

Would experience overseas enhance your effectiveness in your career or field of interest? Could this bring real benefits and positive change to your community, the UK and yourself? If the answer is 'yes', you may be interested in applying for a Churchill Travelling Fellowship. Fellows receive a travel grant to cover return and internal travelling, daily living and insurance within the countries visited.

[SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration](#) - annual awards which recognise and promote best practice in regeneration in Scotland. If you are aware of a project or initiative that you believe deserves particular recognition, please consider nominating it for a 2011 SURF Award in one of four categories: People, Place, Partnership, Employability for all. Closing date for entries is Monday 12th September.

[Reforestation Scotland launches Campaign for a Thousand Huts](#)

The campaign aims to celebrate, expand, protect and enjoy the use of huts in Scotland for living, working and relaxing in. In particular it wants to raise awareness of the simple beauty and value of huts; promote sustainable hut building from local timber; and develop a campaign for huts, heart and planning changes.



[Scottish Rural Property and Business Association \(SRPBA\) becomes Scottish Land and Estates](#) - at the SRPBA's AGM the membership voted for changes in the operation of the organisation. The new Scottish Land and Estates body says it aims to make the public benefits of landownership more visible; raise awareness of the role of landowners and estates and promote the role estates play in their communities. They also plan to establish a new Centre for Land Policy.

[Scottish Power Green Energy Trust](#) - The Scottish Power Green Energy Trust supports non-profit organisations and charities to develop renewable energy. Grants of up to £25,000 are available. and applications for the current round would need to be submitted by August 15th, 2011

[Big Lottery Funding for Community Spaces](#) - Lottery funding of £9m has been made available to create community spaces across Scotland. Groups can apply for grants between £10,000 and £250,000, although the average grant size is expected to be about £100,000. Examples include providing facilities for community activity through developing and improving: local parks; community paths and gardens; play parks; allotments; community centres, and village halls

[Sustainable Eigg](#) - short film from the Open University about developing the community-owned Isle of Eigg as a resilient, self-sustaining and green island.

[Who Owns Scotland](#) - subscription website providing data on who owns Scotland together with maps showing boundaries of landholdings.

[Norton Park Centre Edinburgh](#) - offers office accommodation for the voluntary sector in Edinburgh, plus meeting rooms, interview rooms and a conference suite.

[<<back to top](#)

EVENTS AND SEMINARS

[Scottish Politics Explained](#) - 31st August to 2nd September 2011, Edinburgh. Holyrood Conference which will look at Scotland's entire system of government, and reflect on the impact that a majority government will have on the legislative and public policy process. Chair is Rt. Hon Henry McLeish, former First Minister of Scotland.

[BEFS Congress 2011](#) - Thursday 8th September, Roxburghe Hotel, Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, 11.15am - 5.00pm, followed by drinks reception. The Congress's theme is *Valuing places - old and new: why, what and how?*

[SEA Implementation and Practice: Making an Impact?](#) 21 - 23 September 2011, Prague. A special conference on Strategic Environmental Assessment, to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the SEA Directive and the Entry into Force of the SEA Protocol and to evaluate Progress in Europe and internationally.

[<<back to top](#)

PUBLICATIONS

[Report from the Christie Commission on the Future Delivery of Public Services](#) - which argues that a comprehensive, bottom-up programme of reform of our public services is now



required and sets out key objectives for that programme of reform, and makes a series of specific recommendations it considers essential to achieving those objectives.

[National Ecosystem Assessment – Synthesis of the Key Findings](#) - The assessment provides values for a range of services the UK gains from nature to help us fully understand the worth of the natural environment and how the benefits to individuals and society as a whole can be better protected and preserved for future generations. It stresses the need for a more collaborative approach to enhancing our environment, with everyone playing their part to capture more of nature's benefits. Short summary [here](#)

[Adaptation Scotland Presentations](#) - presentations from SCCIP's June 23rd Conference in Edinburgh.

[2020 Routemap for Renewable Energy in Scotland](#) - an update and extension to the Scottish Renewables Action Plan 2009. This updated and expanded Routemap reflects the challenge of our new target to meet an equivalent of 100% demand for electricity from renewable energy by 2020, as well as our target of 11% renewable heat.

[Climate Change Behaviours Research Programme 2010-12](#) – Details of the Scottish Government's research programme to better understand: the behaviours that are central to addressing climate change; the abatement potential of behavioural change activity individually and collectively; the groups in society whose behaviours we need to target; and the most effective mechanisms for stimulating, facilitating and supporting behavioural change. Webpage also includes Research outputs from the programme.

[Planning Circular 3 2011: The Town and Country Planning \(Environmental Impact Assessment\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2011](#) - Guidance on The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2011

[Review of the Climate Challenge Fund - Research Findings](#): The Review of the Climate Challenge Fund has investigated in depth the impacts of 21 community projects across Scotland looking to reduce carbon emissions and explored how they have been successful.

[International Earth system expert workshop on ocean stresses and impacts. Summary Report.](#) IPSO Oxford - concludes that if the current trajectory of damage continues: that the world's ocean is at high risk of entering a phase of extinction of marine species unprecedented in human history.

[Woods for People, the New Opportunity](#) – Published by the Forest Policy Group. A template for a new approach to forestry in Scotland. For an electronic copy, please contact williammcghee@btinternet.com

[Signals 2011](#) – annual report from the European Environmental Bureau which provides snapshot stories on issues of interest to the environmental policy debate and the wider public in the coming year.

[The Truth behind the CAP: 13 reasons for green reform](#) – EEB publication

[<<back to top](#)



CONSULTATIONS

[Draft IUCN Programme 2013-2016](#) – LINK Members and Taskforces who have comments on this please send your feedback to [Kate](#), by the end of the July.

[<<back to top](#)

IUCN (LINK is a member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature)

IUCN Union Pulse June 2011

[Species e-bulletin May 2011](#)

[Global Protected Areas Newsletter](#)

[IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy, Annual Report 2010](#)

[IUCN Energy Newsletter](#)

[IUCN Science Bulletin](#)

For copies of IUCN documents which aren't linked, contact [Kate](#)

[<<back to top](#)

STOP CLIMATE CHAOS LATEST

SCCS launches short film on Climate Act and its role in shaping it

The SCCS International group has produced a short film for use in promoting the world-leading Scottish Climate Change Act to other countries with climate legislation coming forward. The film talks about some of the details of the Act and calls on other countries to pass similarly ambitious climate laws. It also provides some insight into how we came together to campaign on this and the strength in civil society to work together and influence the Bill. You can view the film via the link below: www.stopclimatechaos.org/scottish-act-film

[<<back to top](#)

VACANCIES

Agriculture and Rural Development Policy Officer, RSPB Edinburgh

The postholder will work to develop RSPB Scotland's policy on agriculture and rural development issues and promote this to decision makers and other stakeholders, to further RSPB conservation objectives. The postholder should have an Honours Degree in a relevant subject and a good understanding of agriculture and rural development policies in Scotland, as well as of the CAP. Experience of work in a policy environment is essential as are good advocacy and communication skills and the ability to work as part of a team. Knowledge of the birds, habitats and general geography of Scotland is desirable. Salary - £20,000 - £24,000 pa, 18 month contract/secondment opportunity. More details at [RSPB Scotland](#). Closing date July 22nd 2011

Fundraiser (part time 0.6 FTE), John Muir Trust, Edinburgh or Pitlochry

The part-time fundraiser will play a crucial role in developing major funding applications and will also manage relationships with our major donors. This new part-time post will work closely with the Fundraising Manager and other staff to develop large value projects to support the strategic aims of the Trust. S/he will also be responsible for cultivating and optimising revenue from major donors. Some travel will be required. For more information please download an [application pack](#).



Salary circa £25,000 pro rata, Closing date: 15th July. Interviews: 21st July

Policy Officer - Living Landscapes, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Edinburgh

The Scottish Wildlife Trust is looking for a motivated and enthusiastic policy officer to take forward its advocacy work in terrestrial ecosystems, a vitally important area of nature conservation in Scotland. The successful candidate will help to develop the Scottish Wildlife Trust's policies on the exciting 'Living Landscapes' initiative. Working with a range of partnership organisations you will play a key, frontline role in advocating **ecosystem-based conservation** to the Scottish Parliament, the Scottish Government and its agencies. Applicants must be educated to degree level in a relevant discipline, or equivalent, and have proven experience in a similar role. Excellent advocacy and communication skills are essential, together with a high degree of initiative and understanding of the position's key policy issues. Salary £20-23k per annum. More details at [SWT's website](#). Closing date 28th July.

Policy Officer – Living Seas, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Edinburgh

The Scottish Wildlife Trust is looking for a motivated and enthusiastic policy officer to take forward its advocacy work in aquatic ecosystems, a vitally important area of nature conservation in Scotland. Working with partner organisations and a wide range of decision-makers at a local and national level, you will play a key, frontline role in advocating **ecosystem-based marine and freshwater conservation** to the Scottish Parliament, the Scottish Government and its agencies. Applicants must be educated to degree level in a relevant discipline, or equivalent, and have proven experience in a similar role. Excellent advocacy, communication and research skills are essential, together with a high degree of initiative and understanding of the position's key policy issues. Salary £20-23k per annum. More details at [SWT's website](#). Closing date 28th July.

Board member, Cairngorms National Park Authority

Cairngorms National Park Authority are looking for applicants with a background in the practical application of a broad range of scientific knowledge relevant to Cairngorms National Park to join their Board. For more information and to apply, visit www.appointed-for-scotland.org Alternatively, contact: The Scottish Government, Public Appointments, Saughton House (E1 Spur). Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh EH11 3XD. Free phone: 0800 015 8449. Fax: 0131 244 3833. Application packs are available in alternative formats on request. Closing date: 22nd July 2011.

[<<back to top](#)

EUROPE (LINK is a member of the European Environmental Bureau)

[MEPs vote against 30% carbon emission reduction](#)

[European Commission – Proposal for Directive on Energy Efficiency](#)

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Energy has published a legislative proposal for a new Directive on Energy Efficiency which aims to contribute to the realisation of the EU's Energy Efficiency Plan to 2020 and to the achievement of the indicative target for 20% energy efficiency by 2020. Currently, the EU is on track to meet only around half of this target. Measures put forward include:

- A requirement on Member States to establish energy savings schemes, which can include obligations on energy distribution or retail companies to make efficiency gains.
- Mandatory energy audits for large companies.
- An obligation on Member States to adopt national heating and cooling plans and to adopt authorisation criteria to ensure installations are located near to heat demand points, as



well as ensuring new or refurbished installations are fitted with high efficiency combined heat and power units.

- Requirements on the public sector to purchase energy efficient buildings, products and services; and to refurbish 3% of their own premises annually to improve energy performance.
- Requirements on energy companies in metering and billing consumers.

Climate policy

EU Environment Ministers failed to endorse the European Commission's March 2011 Communication setting out a "Roadmap for moving to a competitive low carbon economy in 2050" at their 21 June Council meeting. Formal adoption of the Roadmap was blocked by Poland, in opposition to the emission reduction targets put forward by the Commission. The Roadmap sets out measures towards achieving domestic EU emissions reductions of 80% by mid-century, which has been agreed by EU Governments. However, the Roadmap also outlines a trajectory with interim emission reduction milestones of 25% by 2020; 40% by 2030; and 60% by 2040. The Polish Government opposed in particular the inclusion of the suggested 25% cut by the end of this decade. The EU is currently committed to a 20% reduction for 2020, with an offer to raise this to 30% if other international countries make comparable commitments. The Council will revisit the Roadmap after the Polish Presidency of the EU (which covers the six months from July to December 2011) with the intention of adopting formal conclusions before March 2012.

[European Commission – Web page of the Smart Cities and Communities launch conference](#)

[<<back to top](#)

If you would like to see news, information or upcoming events from your organisation featured in LINK's monthly bulletin, please contact [Kate](#) at Scottish Environment LINK.

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