



LINK eBulletin - May 2010

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LINK DIARY

22 June LINK Board meeting, LINK Networking meeting and LINK AGM
23 June LINK Ministerial Meeting
17 July LINK Advocacy Training
15-16 Sept Joint Links Seminar, University of Chester
21 October LINK Board meeting, LINK Members Networking
18-19 Nov LINK Annual Congress and Forward Planning

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LINK NEWS

Organisational Supporters

The Board has approved plans to trial a new category of affiliation to LINK, Organisational Supporter, meant for bodies that are not eligible to join LINK as members. This will offer an expanded range of services beyond the current Subscriber category though not the engagement opportunities of membership. Further information from [Alice](#)

Scottish Government Forestry Targets and Land Use

On April 15th LINK attended a roundtable meeting chaired by Richard Lochhead, the Cabinet Secretary, with representatives from the forestry and farming industries and other key stakeholders to discuss how SG Forestry planting targets can be met. Notes of the meeting are [here](#)

LINK Ministerial Meeting, 23 June - Please let us know by 20th May which topics you would like to see raised at this meeting. Topics already flagged are biodiversity and funding for delivery in tough economic times. Contact [Jen](#)

LINK's Annual General Meeting will be held on 22nd June in Perth at 5.15pm in the AK Bell Library (buffet at 4.45pm). Further details to follow shortly. Please contact [Kate](#) if you plan to attend.

Advocacy Training Event, 17th July, location TBC - Learn about how to help your organisation shape and achieve its strategy through Advocacy. We will look at the role of Government and the Scottish Parliament and how best to interact with them. Contact [Andy](#) or [Susan](#) at LINK's Parliamentary Office for more details.

LINK's Annual Congress will be on held 18-19 November. This year's theme is "Environment and the Law". Further details to follow from [Alice](#)

LINK members networking - Notes and actions from April's meeting are available [here](#)

LINK Board Meeting – minutes from April's meeting are available on the website [here](#)

Election Hustings - LINK held an environmental election hustings in Crieff in April for the Ochil and South Perthshire constituency with representatives from all main parties. The turnout was



excellent leading to a lively debate. Roseanna Cunningham the environment minister also was in the audience.

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MEMBER FOCUS

SCNP and APRS have announced a new three year project to promote a strategy to develop a comprehensive network of national parks across Scotland with the aim to create at least three new national parks by 2015, including Scotland's first coastal and marine National Park. More information [here](#)

APRS has a new website which can be found at this address: <http://www.ruralscotland.btik.com/>

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CALLS FOR ACTION

CAP Reform: Individuals take part in the debate

The EU Commissioner has launched a public debate on the future of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy, its principles and objectives, and has invited EU citizens to offer their opinions online, which will then be presented at a conference in July in Brussels. Please ensure that environmental issues features strongly in the feedback by adding your voice to the discussion [here](#)

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PUBLICATIONS

Soil Atlas of the Northern Circumpolar Region – European Commission's Joint Research Centre's Land Management and Natural Hazards Unit. [Link](#)

The social determinants of health and the role of local government – from the Improvement and Development Agency (stresses the environment/health interaction). Download [here](#)

Sustainable Uplands: Reshaping land use policy for our hills - Centre for Rural Economy, Newcastle University. Download [here](#)

Towards a Low Carbon Economy for Scotland: Scottish Government Discussion Paper - [Link](#)

Land Use Futures Report: Making the most of land in the 21st century - UK Government Foresight Project report. [Link](#)

UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Seminar 8th March – Presentations and report of seminar available to [download](#)

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CONSULTATIONS

Draft Development Plan for Offshore Wind Energy Developments in Scottish Territorial Waters and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report.



The Scottish Government has carried out a Strategic Environment Assessment of the potential for offshore wind developments in Scottish Territorial Waters. This has informed the development of a draft Development Plan setting out short, medium and long term options for future development. The Environment Report explains the likely significant environmental effects of the draft Development Plan. Views on both the Draft Plan and the Environmental Report are now being sought from all interested parties and members of the public.

Start date 27/04/2010 - End date 31/07/2010

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EVENTS AND SEMINARS

Scottish Biodiversity Week, 15- 23rd May - [Website](#)

Facing up to Climate Change – The Royal Society of Edinburgh is conducting an inquiry on the challenges climate change and the move to a low carbon economy will bring to Scotland. It has organised a series of public events to gather evidence. Details of events [here](#)

Investment Appraisal Workshop For Energy & Environmental Projects, 19th May, Glasgow. The workshop, organised by the Carbon Trust, is intended for anyone involved in 'making the case' for capital funding in energy efficiency projects. Registration details [here](#)

Envisaging places - the interface between natural and cultural landscapes, 20th May, Battleby, Perth – an SNH Sharing Good Practice event. [Details](#)

Can the Green Economy Deliver for Scotland?, 24th May, Queen Margaret University, Mussleburgh – How can Scotland ensure a new generation of clean, green jobs? Speakers include Richard Dixon, Director of WWF Scotland and Jim Mather, Energy Minister. The event will be followed by the announcement of the Scottish Green List. Booking details [here](#)

Rural/urban myths and interdependencies, an SNH Sharing Good Practice event, 3rd June, Battleby, Perth. This event will look at settlements as parts of ecosystems, including the way that resource use, waste, transport, energy, food and water networks connect the built environment to the wider countryside. This event will also inform thinking on development of both the Land Use Strategy and ecosystems approach by Scottish Government and SNH. [Details](#)

Central Scotland Green Network Consultation Workshops, 25th May – 10th June, various locations - A series of interactive workshops provide partners and stakeholders with an opportunity to learn more about the Network and to contribute their views on strategic themes, regional needs and early actions. Further details [here](#)

Zero Waste Scotland Conference, 1st June, Edinburgh – Scottish Government strategy and targets for commercial organisations. Book [here](#)

Delivering on 2020: Putting Scotland at the forefront on climate change policy, action and jobs, 16th June, Edinburgh - This conference will examine how Scotland, the UK and the rest of the world can work together to meet climate change targets. Keynote Speaker: First Minister, Alex Salmond. More information [here](#)

Towards Carfree Cities Conference IX, York, 28th June - July 1st – This international conference will focus on bringing carfree communities to life, considering a range of strategies from temporary events to permanent road space reallocation to European models of new carfree



development. A real street conversion will be carried out during the conference! More information [here](#)

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IUCN

IUCN Documents received by LINK. For copies of any of these please contact [Kate](#)

Species Survival Commission Newsletter – April 2010 edition

IUCN Director General Report – April

IUCN Science Bulletin - March

IUCN Information paper on the Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

[IUCN position papers, CBD SBSTTA14, 10-21 May and WGR13, 24-28 May, Nairobi](#)

IUCN Red Lists of: Butterflies, Saproxylc Beetles, Dragonflies, Amphibians, Reptiles

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OTHER NEWS

Historic Environment Protection (HS 05/05/10) Culture and External Affairs Minister Fiona Hyslop has introduced the Historic Environment Amendment Bill (Scotland) 2010 to parliament. The Bill, published on 5 May 2010, will amend provisions in the existing Listed Building and Conservation Areas (Scotland) Act 1997, the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953. Read [more](#)

Ordnance Survey frees up mapping data Mapping agency Ordnance Survey (OS) has launched a service offering free and unrestricted access to most of its map data. More details [here](#)

Biffawards 2010 Biffawards, a multi million pound fund, funded by landfill tax credits donated by Biffa Waste Services, which awards grants to environmental and community projects across the UK has announced the opening of its 2010 Flagship Scheme. Its themes this year are rebuilding biodiversity and cultural facilities. Grants of £150,000 - £500,000 are available. There is also a Small Grants Scheme with grants of between £250 and £5,000. More information [here](#)

Heritage Lottery Fund: Thinking about Biodiversity – guide to applying for funding from the HLF for Biodiversity projects. Link [here](#)

Paths for All Training Courses – a range of courses aimed at outdoor access staff, community path groups, walk leaders (community & workplace) and scheme co-ordinators and anyone else with an interest in outdoor access and promoting walking for health. [Link](#)

GPWind, a joint project with a consortium of 17 partners are recruiting a project manager, likely to be based with Scottish Government in Glasgow, for the 2 year duration of the project. The project is called 'Good Practice in reconciling the development of wind energy with environmental objectives and community engagement'. The project aims to identify and examine case studies of good and bad practice in the planning and approval of wind farms, looking at how the development of wind power is reconciled with environmental issues, and community engagement. For more information contact Victoria.Wallace@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

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Joint Links Quarterly Reports – January to March 2010

Northern Ireland Environment Link

Work on sustainable development, climate change and planning has topped the agenda, but there has been a steady stream of consultations on a range of issues as well. The funding crisis following on from the recession has really hit the NI Civil Service hard, and this in turn has had serious impacts on the ENGO sector. We are managing a consultancy project to look at 'mapping' (thematically and geographically) the sector as a first step to proving its value and promoting a strategic approach on behalf of government to funding and supporting the critical role of the sector. We see that role as becoming more crucial as funding in government gets ever tighter; they may see it otherwise if we do not make our arguments clearly and cogently at all levels. Our policy document, *The Way Ahead*, for 2010 was produced in February and is stimulating a round of meetings with Departments and Agencies promoting its principles. A seminar with NIEA on 'right vs right' where we looked at issues where there are conflicting environmental pressures on opposite sides was held on 30 March and was interesting and well attended. Reports on the last five years of NIEL work are nearing completion to form the basis for funding bids, and a revised Strategic Plan is also under development. We are also heavily involved in the National Ecosystem Assessment and developing a risk register for the organization, to take just a couple of other projects of note

Wildlife and Countryside Link

At the start of this quarter WCL published its [Direction Statement](#), summarising the conclusions reached through last year's forward planning process and setting out WCL's aims and objectives for the next five years. In January WCL [responded](#) to the draft Energy and Ports National Policy Statements and hosted a meeting with Sir Michael Pitt, Chair of the Infrastructure Planning Commission. WCL also [responded](#) to the Conservative Party's Green Planning Paper, and to consultations on marine plan areas and the establishment of a marine protected area in British Indian Ocean Territory, Chagos. A [Joint Links response](#) was submitted to the consultation on the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Link's Agriculture Working Group published a [position statement on soils](#). WCL's penultimate [annual progress assessment](#) of the Government's commitment to halt biodiversity loss by 2010 was published in February, with the support of 22 members. In the run-up to the CITIES 15th Conference of the Parties ([CoP15](#)), WCL stepped up engagement with Defra on trade issues through the Joint NGO Liaison Group. Unfortunately disappointments outweighed victories at CoP15, with proposals to increase protection for a number of endangered species, including bluefin tuna, being largely rejected. A number of WCL members attended the International Whaling Commission intersessional and Small Working Group meetings in March. WCL wrote to the Environment Minister, raising concerns with the future of the IWC and aboriginal subsistence issues to which he responded, assuring WCL that "the UK will continue to maintain a strong position on the protection of whales."

Wales Environment Link

WEL's Climate Change Working Group continues to engage in development of the Climate Change Strategy: Programme of Action via the Wales Climate Change Commission and has also begun to meet with Assembly Members to discuss priorities for action on climate change, in advance of the Welsh election in 2011. The Land Use Working Group is monitoring and contributing to development of the Glastir agri-environment scheme, and gave written and oral evidence to the Rural Development Sub-Committee's Glastir Inquiry in February. The group will also be responding to the Committee's upcoming inquiry into CAP reform. The Biodiversity Working Group will be meeting with Forestry Commission Wales in April to discuss their Woodland Biodiversity Policy. The group is also helping to establish the first Cross Party Group for Biodiversity within the Assembly, which has support from the four main political parties. A



Biodiversity Campaign Task & Finish Group is currently working on priority areas to be incorporated into a biodiversity campaign to influence post-2010 biodiversity targets and actions. The Marine Working Group responded to the WAG consultation on Future Sea Fisheries in February and will be feeding into a Joint Links response to the Marine Policy Statement pre-consultation document. Members have been working on a Manifesto for the 2011 Assembly election. Over the next few months WEL will be organising opportunities to discuss ideas with party manifesto writers and Assembly Members, as well as the environmental statutory bodies in Wales.

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