



LINK eBulletin - December 2010

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LINK DIARY

15 Dec LINK Festive Reception, St Augustine's Church, Edinburgh

2011

27 January Board and Networking Meetings, Perth

1-3 March Scottish Environment Week 2011, Holyrood

LINK NEWS

eNGO environmental performance – LINK's Board is launching an initiative to survey LINK members in December to find out how well-placed the sector is now in terms of energy efficiency and carbon management, and what the roadblocks are for members who haven't been able to make progress yet. They are keen to support members to keep ahead of the game, and will try to provide assistance to members in 2011 in areas identified by the survey. Hugh Green will be carrying out the telephone survey during December. Please email Hugh at hugh@scotlink.org with the name/email address of the colleague in your organisation who can act as your carbon contact. This isn't just about saving carbon – it's about saving cost. Please support the initiative!

LINK Festive Reception, 15 December, St Augustine Church, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh. Invitations were circulated at the end of last week. If you haven't received one and would like to attend, please contact [Susan](#)

LINK's Sustainable Land Use Conference went ahead on 8 November – a team effort by Vicki Swales and the SLU TF, Susan, Andy and Hugh. A successful event with excellent presentations and an effective MSP panel debate, which will hopefully apply pressure on Government to improve the current draft Strategy and may be successful in getting some Committee scrutiny before the final version is laid before Parliament.

A very good **Congress on Environment and the Law** on 18 November in Dunblane, organised by Alice and the congress steering group with support from other staff. The report *Scotland's environmental laws since devolution, from rhetoric to reality* commissioned from Tamsin Bailey will be circulated within LINK and to a range of externals in advance of its launch at the Festive Reception. Andrew Thin, Chair of SNH, gave one of the three addresses to Congress, profiling his concern to see more public support for tough political decisions. Andrew in his presentation acknowledged that the relationship between the ENGOs and SNH needs some repairing. In his role as SNH Board Member, Simon Pepper wishes to keep in touch with LINK Members about the relationships they have with the agency and has one day a month for this. Simon's email is srpepper@tiscali.co.uk

There was good representation of members and task forces at **LINK's Strategic planning meeting** on 19 November in Dunblane, with focussed discussion of the priorities for collective work over the next 12 to 18 months. A note of the meeting will be on the members' website by next week and will also inform the drafting of a new operating plan for 2011/12.



2011 EU environmental agenda and UK NGO coordination meeting. Susan Guest will attend (weather permitting) this Defra-EEB meeting in London on 9 December. For information contact [Jen](#) or [Susan](#).

Scottish Environment Week 2011, 1-3 March, Holyrood, hosted by Sarah Boyack MSP. This year's theme is Active Citizens and the Scottish Environment. The programme will be published on the website within the next fortnight. For details contact [Andy](#) or [Susan](#)

Holyrood Elections

Half of LINK's Manifesto sub-sections are now online on the [LINK website](#) Further draft sections should be published in the next few weeks, and then look to coordinate drafting of the other, planned sections, as capacity amongst members allows. For further information contact Andy or Jen.

- Meetings with the political parties have been requested - contact [Susan](#) or [Andy](#) for details.
- In late January/February, LINK members' website will carry updated hustings guidance.
- The members' pages will feature a Hustings Noticeboard where events which members want to promote can be listed, at which there is opportunity for the public to meet with candidates before the elections. Please keep in touch with [Susan](#) if you want to flag your own events there.

Marine Policy Advocacy Officer - Sarah Archer has been appointed as LINK's new MPAO and is due to start work on 10 January (hosted at WWFS in Dunkeld), working alongside Lindsay Roberts in this role (hosted at RSPB in Edinburgh). Sarah has been working for Defra (London) on marine biodiversity policy. Both posts work to the Marine Task Force and are funded by the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation and the Tubney Trust.

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MEMBER NEWS

Branching out for climate change, 2nd December 18.00-21.00, Glasgow Media Access Centre, Trongate, Glasgow: **RSPB** and Glasgow Media Access Centre (GMAC) have teamed up to host a free evening of films, fascinating facts and freebies to coincide with the climate change talks in Cancun. Drop in to take part in their campaign video or become part of a unique photo mosaic and claim your free oak sapling! Call 0141 331 9088 or email eve.mcgregor@rspb.org.uk for more information.

Friends of the Earth Scotland are holding **an Open Inquiry on Access to Justice** on 6th December in Edinburgh. The event aims to establish consensus on the following points: Is there a need for greater access to environmental justice in Scotland?; If so, how could better implementing the Aarhus Convention help achieve this?; and what are the best routes to achieve greater access to Environmental Justice? To register to attend the event please visit the [FOES website](#)

The **Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society** has published **Towards Marine Protect Areas for Cetaceans in Scotland England and Wales**, a scientific review identifying critical habitat with key recommendations. LINK has one copy at our offices, contact [Kate](#) if you would like to receive it.



PUBLICATIONS

Coastal protected landscapes and the marine planning system, a report from a workshop held at Losehill Hall, May 2010, published by Europarc Atlantic Isles Coast and Marine Working Group. 3 copies are available at the LINK office, please contact [Kate](#) to receive one.

Scottish Government's Low Carbon Economy Strategy - part of the government's Economic Strategy to secure sustainable economic growth, and a key component of the broader approach to meet Scotland's climate change targets and secure the transition to a low carbon economy in Scotland. View the strategy [here](#)

Low Carbon Scotland - Report on Proposals and Policies, this report fulfills the duty placed on Scottish Ministers by section 35 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 by setting out specific measures for reducing greenhouse gas emissions to meet Scotland's ambitious statutory targets. View report [here](#)

Spice Briefing on Cancún UN Climate Negotiations produced by Spice in advance of the Cancun UN Climate change conference taking place from 29 November and 10 December 2010. Last year's Copenhagen conference ended without the hope for global agreement. This briefing outlines what has happened since Copenhagen, and what expectations are for the meeting in Cancún. Read it [here](#)

Environmental Citizenship and Pro-Environmental Behaviour from the Sustainable Development Research Network. A review by Professor Andrew Dobson of Keele University providing an overview of research evidence relating to environmental citizenship. The report asks whether approaches based on environmental citizenship can encourage pro-environmental behaviour and makes policy recommendations on how this can be done. View [report](#)

Permitted Development Rights for Microgeneration Technologies on Non-Domestic Buildings RF 55/2010. In July 2010 the Scottish Government consulted on proposals to make provision for Permitted Development Rights for microgeneration equipment on non-domestic properties as required by section 71 of the 2009 Climate Change (Scotland) Act. These findings summarise responses to the consultation paper. [Read more](#)

The Future of Fisheries Management in Scotland: Report of an Independent Panel Inquiry into Future Fisheries Management. Scottish Government Publication. [Download](#)

Scottish Nature Omnibus Survey – June 2010, SNH publication. Topics covered include awareness of Scotland's natural environment, concern for Scotland's nature and landscapes. climate change, biodiversity and SNH. [Download](#)

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CONSULTATIONS

EU Consultation on a future EU financial instrument for the environment (continuation of LIFE+). To gather views on the next financial instrument for the environment for the period 2014-2020, especially its objectives, activities and support modalities. This online consultation is one part of the wider public consultation, responses to which will be taken into account in the European Commission's proposal for a new financial instrument for the environment following an assessment of its social, economic and environmental impacts. To submit your views please visit the [consultation website](#). Consultation closes 15th February 2011.

Special Area of Conservation (pSAC) for East Mingulay SNH consultation on behalf of the Scottish Government for the proposal to designate a reef site to the east of Mingulay as a marine Special Area of Conservation (mSAC). More information [here](#)

Better environmental regulation: SEPA's change proposals - This consultation sets out some significant changes that SEPA is proposing in order to improve, simplify and better integrate the environmental protection and improvement services it provides for Scotland. SEPA needs views on their proposals, including on the potential for legislative reform and a new framework bill, which could deliver the streamlined, simpler, more integrated regulatory system SEPA believes Scotland needs to protect the environment and support the economy. [View consultation](#) Consultation closes 14th February 2011.

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EVENTS AND SEMINARS

Food Standards Agency Open Board Meeting, 7 December, London. Agenda items include *Scottish National Food & Drink Policy: Recipe for Success*. To register your interest in attending, please visit www.food.gov.uk/boardinvite

Whose Economy: whose environment? seminar, 9th December, University of the West of Scotland, Inverness. One of a series of seminars questioning of what economy is being created in Scotland and, specifically, for whom? "Whose Environment?" will cover issues including environmental justice, community ownership, renewable energy and peak oil. Register at the [UHI website](#)

Scotland's Maritime Future: Developing an industry of the sea policy for energy, fisheries, transport, manufacturing and tourism conference, 22nd February, Edinburgh. Keynote Address by Stewart Stevenson MSP, Minister for Transport, Infrastructure, and Climate Change. The conference will focus on Scotland's maritime future and will discuss how a joined up policy can serve the needs of Scotland's maritime industries. In a time of austerity are there development opportunities for this sector? For more information please contact Gail Hannah on 0131 556 1500 or email gshannah@mackayhannah.com

LINK members are invited to exhibit or to host an event in the GreenZone at **SCVO's The Gathering** at Edinburgh International Conference Centre on 23rd and 24th February 2011. The Gathering is Scotland's voluntary sector fair around 3,000 visitors over two days and is the largest event of its kind in the UK. Please visit www.scvo.org.uk/thegathering for more information. To discuss your participation at the Gathering, please contact Alex Thomson (T: 0131 474 6150; E: alex.thomson@scvo.org.uk).

Catchment Research: Towards Evidence Based Policy conference, 9th – 10th March 2011, Ardoe House Hotel, Aberdeen. The conference will highlight the progress made during the five-



year Scottish Government Research programme and will provide a policy science discussion forum. Contact Jane Lund (j.lund@macaulay.ac.uk) for further information.

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STOP CLIMATE CHAOS SCOTLAND LATEST

Scottish Election Campaign

600 people in October signed up to the SCCS petition asking party leaders to prioritise Climate Change in their manifestos. Party responses to the e-action and to the SCCS response are available [here](#)

The next phase of the campaign will be six "Climate Cafes" taking place across Scotland at the end of February/beginning of March to allow people to meet with their candidates in a more informal atmosphere than a traditional hustings. SCCS is also encouraging supporters and local groups in other key constituencies to organise their own Climate Cafes. The final campaign activity will be a live online debate with party spokespeople on environment/climate change. Participants will be able to ask questions and comment via email, Twitter etc.

Low Carbon Scotland - Report on Proposals and Policies – SCCS's response to the RPP is available [here](#). Evidence given to the TICC committee by SCCS in November on the RPP is available [here](#)

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

IUCN documents received by LINK. For copies of any documents which aren't linked directly, please contact [Kate](#)

[IUCN UNFCCC Newsletter](#) outlining IUCN's focus at the UN Climate Change conference in Cancún

[IUCN position papers on Cancun](#)

[IUCN's Cancun Statement](#)

[Follow developments at Cancun on the IUCN website](#)

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OTHER NEWS

Bank of Natural Capital – new website to communicate the findings of the TEEB study into the economics of ecosystems and biodiversity. View it [here](#)

GAIN Petition for Green Alternatives to Incineration in Scotland – (please forward link to anyone interested in green solutions to waste management) Currently there are 3 large waste incineration plants in Scotland, with proposals for a further 16, they will burn upwards of 2 million tonnes of waste each year, undermining recycling, adding to global warming and creating pollution. There are also proposals for 5 very large biomass-powered generators which would burn around 5 million tonnes of fuel annually. With these concerns in mind, GAIN is calling on the Scottish Government to ban waste incineration and large-scale biomass burning, and instead to invest much more in reducing, reusing and recycling. Sign the petition for alternatives to incineration [here](#)



Young Scottish Green List - Do you know a young person who is passionate about all things green? Someone who works tirelessly to inspire others to action and make their green ideas a reality? Nominations are now open for the first ever Young Scottish Green List. If you know someone aged 11 - 25 years old who deserves to be recognised, make a nomination by midnight, Friday 14th January. Visit www.youngscottishgreenlist.org

SCVO's State of the Sector – SCVO's new campaign aiming to give Scotland's charity sector a voice; and to encourage organisations and groups to share their experiences whilst coping with recession and funding cuts. By gathering these stories together in one place the State of the Sector campaign will become a valuable resource for informing politicians, government officials, the media and the sector itself. Read more about the campaign [here](#)

Social Investment Scotland and Triodos Bank have teamed up to offer third sector organisations up to 100% loans for property purchase. More details of the scheme are [here](#)

New Support for Community Woodlands Initiatives Forestry Commission Scotland has strengthened its National Forest Land Scheme (NFLS), giving more opportunities for communities wanting to manage woodlands for local benefit. One new measure designed to stimulate community scale renewables projects on the national forest estate is to give groups an 18 month period to prepare plans, before putting up the capital to buy the land. As part of the revised suite of options under the NFLS, groups will also be able to lease national forest land with the rights to manage it for forestry purposes. More info [here](#)

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VACANCIES AND TRAINING

Development Manager, Forth Environment Link, 28 hrs/week £25- £30k pro rata (depending on experience). Six Month Contract initially. Forth Environment Link is a well-established and vibrant not-for-profit charitable company based in Stirling, delivering a variety of projects and services promoting sustainable living and local food, healthy/low carbon, zero-waste and biodiversity projects across the Forth Valley area. This post involves leading the future development of FEL, developing the business plan, making funding applications, and managing the business and the finances. Excellent and effective communication with the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, partners and funders is essential. For an information pack, e-mail Alison Hyslop info@forthenvironmentlink.org **Closing date is 12.00pm on 15th December.** 01786 449215

BTCV Scotland is recruiting for six Natural Communities Trainees based in Stirling (2), Glasgow, Paisley, Haddington and the Cairngorms. Natural Communities is an innovative new programme providing 12 month long programmes to equip trainees with the skills to engage communities with the environment. Each trainee will learn, develop and practice new skills during full time work-based placements. During the placement trainees will be supported to learn and put into practice a wide range of natural heritage and community development skills, work towards gaining an accredited qualification and develop and deliver their own community environmental engagement project. Each training post is fully funded with a bursary of £12,500. The trainees will commence in February 2010. Closing date for application is 17th December 2010. More information and application forms from: http://www.btcv.org.uk/cgi-bin/staff_vacancies/view_staffad

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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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