

Scottish Environment Week

6th–12th February 2006



Scottish Environment Week: celebrating Scotland's environment and its benefits to communities.

LINK President call environmental movement “prophetic”

Tonight sees the highlight of Scottish Environment Week – a reception in the Garden Lobby of the parliament for an invited audience of business representatives, community groups, environment NGOs and MSPs. The keynote speakers at the event will be Fred Edwards, President of Scottish Environment LINK, and Ross Finnie MSP, Minister for the Environment and Rural Development.

Celebrating the diversity and value of Scotland's natural and cultural heritage, the second Scottish Environment Week (6th -12th February) will highlight how people are caring for the environment in their communities.

Events in the parliament on food, marine life, education and farming will draw attention to successful projects and enterprises taking place in Scotland, and demonstrate ways in which industry and environmentalists are working together to preserve the environment and create jobs, enabling vibrant communities where it is a pleasure to live and work. A display and DVD in the first floor lobby of the parliament during the week will promote the work of environment NGOs, and there will also be a quiz to test MSPs and others' knowledge of the Scottish environment. At the end of the week, a number of MSPs have already taken up the opportunity to visit projects and enterprises in their constituency on an environmental theme (see notes).

Speaking at the reception, Fred Edwards (LINK President) will call the environment movement 'prophetic'. He will argue that public perception about environmental issues has become 'the stuff of headlines' and the 'There is the dawning of a wider realization of the seriousness of these matters'. He will praise the work done by the Executive on the Strategic Environment Assessment Act, which 'places a substantial tool in the hands of those charged with caring for our environment' and applaud the launch of 'Choosing Our Future' that will help to bring about real sustainability.

However, he will also be critical of the proposed planning legislation, and what he called the 'inherent injustice which denies even limited third party rights of appeal'. He will also draw attention to the wonders of the Scottish marine environment and the need for the Scottish Executive to take action to protect and

manage this resource – in parallel with the UK Marine Bill being developed by the Westminster Government.

For more information, contact:

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LINK Parliamentary Officer, 0131 225 4345 or parliamentary@scotlink.org

Scottish Environment Week 2006 is

organised by:



and has been supported by contributions from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage and LINK member bodies

Editors notes:

(1) Scottish Environment LINK is the network for voluntary sector environmental organisations in Scotland. LINK has 36 member bodies that cover interests across the natural and cultural heritage, and are supported by around 500,000 people. The **everyone** campaign is an initiative of Scottish Environment LINK, enabling people who care about their environment to find out about current issues and take action online or at events in their area.

(2) **Events** relating to these themes in and around the Parliament through the week and some MSPs will visit projects or places of interest in constituencies around the country. Media welcome. Full Programme at http://www.scotlink.org/Current_action/environment_week.php

(3) Site visits for MSPs/researchers can still be arranged. Contact parliamentary@scotlink.org to discuss opportunities.

(4) Find out more about Scottish Environment Week and view the Programme by visiting the Scottish Environment LINK website – www.scotlink.org