



SWCCIP Winter Newsletter Issue 13: December 2008



The SWCCIP's aim is to investigate, inform and advise on the impacts of climate change in South West England and its main focus is on adapting to climate change.

This newsletter will inform you of climate change news and events in the region and beyond. If you would like to receive SWCCIP newsletters in the future please fill in the subscription / registration form on the front page of the SWCCIP website at: www.oursouthwest.com/climate. If you no longer wish to receive future copies, please email swccip@environment-agency.gov.uk with 'unsubscribe' in the title and your name.

For more information on any of these items or the SWCCIP work, visit www.oursouthwest.com/climate.

At a glance...

Events

- **Animated Exeter** - 13th – 21st (schools week 9th – 13th) February 2009, Exeter.
- **LGA/EST conference and exhibition 2009: in the eye of the storm: councils at the heart of tackling climate change** - 21st January 2009, Manchester.
- **How should government and all public bodies best adapt urgently to climate change and energy efficiency?** – Monday 19th January, London.

SWCCIP News

- **New SWCCIP Project Officer**
- **National Indicator 188 guidance for local authorities**
- **SWCCIP Otter Farm DVD shown in Poland**
- **Climate Change Action of Local Authorities update**
- **Biodiversity – Adapting to Climate Change Seminar**

Regional and Partner News:

- **ENVEC 2008 presentation papers now available**
- **Heritage Counts and Climate Change reports**
- **National Trust publication: Shifting Shores in the South West**
- **Climate change set to decrease river flow**
- **Met Office Hadley Centre brochures**

National News

- **Climate Change Bill introduced**
- **UKCIP08 scenarios delayed**
- **Lord Phil Hunt: new Minister for climate change adaptation**
- **Poor breeding season for seabirds linked to climate change**
- **Nottingham Declaration website re-launched**
- **Ofwat puts climate change on hold?**
- **National Association of Cider Makers report: A Changing Climate for Cider**
- **Planning Bill to include climate change amendments**

International News

- **Environmental Impact – an online resource**
- **European Environment Agency report: Impacts of Europe's Changing Climate**

Events in Full



Animated Exeter 2009 (13 – 21 February 09, Exeter (schools week 9 - 13))

A festival to showcase and encourage both amateur and professional creative talent in the South West. At the awards ceremony the winning 'best short animated films' will be screened, including the winner of a 'adapting to climate change' category which is being sponsored by SWCCIP, the Environment Agency and 20:20 Design Agency. For more information on the festival and venues visit:

www.exeter.gov.uk/animatedexeter

LGA/EST conference and exhibition 2009: in the eye of the storm: councils at the heart of tackling climate change (21 January 2009, Lowry Centre, Manchester)

A Local Government Association and Energy Savings Trust conference aimed at councillors, officers, managers and third sector representatives involved in the climate change agenda. The conference will focus on the opportunities and challenges in reducing carbon emissions and planning to adapt to climate change, and on how to mobilise communities and business to take action. To include interactive debates and practical workshops. For more information visit:

www.lga.gov.uk/lga/events/display-event.do?id=1063985

How should government and all public bodies best adapt urgently to climate change and energy efficiency? – (Monday 19th January, The Royal Commonwealth Society, London)

A seminar with the Committee on Climate Change bringing together key figures from across sectors in debating how to tackle the challenges caused by climate change and become a world leader in achieving effective action.

www.cppseminars.org.uk/site/dpb.cfm?do=ref&fldCPPSref=CCE/223&varDetProgBiog=det

SWCCIP News

New SWCCIP Project Officer

The recent funding commitment from Defra for the English regional climate change partnerships and growth in SWCCIP's work has led to the employment of the partnership's second full-time member of staff. Becca Eastman was appointed as Project Officer in October. She will be assisting the Project Manager in helping the partnership to achieve its aims and objectives, with a particular focus on supporting the SWCCIP sector groups. Becca can be contacted by email: becca.eastman@environment-agency.gov.uk or by telephone on 01392 353330.

National Indicator 188 guidance for local authorities

SWCCIP has developed guidance to help local authorities to deliver on National Indicator 188: Planning to adapt to Climate Change. The guidance signposts towards useful climate change adaptation information, tools and resources for the following priority sectors; agriculture and forestry, business, biodiversity, health, housing and construction, local government, tourism and transport. In addition, the Environment Agency has produced guidance notes on the help that they can provide for Local Authorities on NI188. Both sets of guidance are available on the SWCCIP website:

<http://www.oursouthwest.com/climate/climate/tools.htm#lq>

SWCCIP Otter Farm DVD shown in Poland

SWCCIP's short film on Otter Farm was shown at the Development and Climate Video Festival as part of the Conference of the Parties (COP) 14 in Poznan, Poland on 6th December 2008! The film festival was organised by the International Institute for Environment and Development, International Institute for Sustainable Development and the Stockholm Environmental Institute between 6-7th December as part of COP 14. The short film, which looks at agriculture and climate change adaptation at Otter Farm in Devon, was shown as part of an Action on

Adaptation category. A limited number of DVD copies of the film are available to loan out for events. To borrow a copy please contact Becca Eastman on becca.eastman@environment-agency.gov.uk

Climate Change Action of Local Authorities update

In June 2008 SWCCIP completed a study detailing the actions that local authorities are taking on climate change mitigation and adaptation. This study has now been updated to reflect the continuing and growing efforts that are being taken in this important and dynamic area. The updated report will be available on the SWCCIP website by the new year, so keep a look out for it at: www.oursouthwest.com/climate/sr-localgov.htm

Biodiversity – Adapting to Climate Change Seminar

On the 23rd October 2008 SWCCIP, Biodiversity South West (BioSW) and Natural England jointly hosted a biodiversity and climate change adaptation seminar. The event proved successful, receiving very positive feedback about its presentations, workshops and discussions on what climate change means for biodiversity in the South West and on what needs to be done to adapt. The presentation slides and workshop notes from the seminar will be available on the refreshed Biodiversity SW website in due course: www.biodiversitysouthwest.org.uk/

Regional and Partner News

ENVEC 2008 presentation papers now available

ENVEC 2008, the South West's main climate change conference for the year, was held on 2 October in Weston-super-Mare. The conference and expert briefing sessions covered UKCIP08; the SW Climate Change Action Plan; Delivering sustainable solutions - a major energy supplier's view ; Low carbon transport; Motivating others; and Carbon Neutral Buildings. The presentation slides can be downloaded from: www.oursouthwest.com/envec/

Heritage Counts and Climate Change reports

Heritage Counts is an annual survey produced by English Heritage which looks at the state of, and principle changes in, England's historic environment. This year there is a focus on climate change and the role the historic sector is playing in tackling those parts of the historic environment that are, or will be, threatened by climate change. As part of this SWCCIP has provided input into the South West "Our Heritage and the Changing Climate" report. The Heritage Counts and Climate Change reports were nationally launched at the end of October and are available online. For more information please visit: www.english-heritage.org.uk/hc/ To view the SW climate change report: www.english-heritage.org.uk/hc/upload/pdf/South_West_Heritage_Counts_2008_climate_change.pdf

National Trust publication: Shifting Shores in the South West

The National Trust have published an update to their 2005 research into the impacts of climate change (through sea level rise, coastal flooding and increased erosion) on the coastline in their care. The report identifies the National Trust sites which are particularly at risk and outlines actions being taken to protect them.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-global/w-news/w-latest_news/w-news-shifting-shores-report/



Climate change set to decrease river flow

The Environment Agency has completed a study using catchment-level models and UKCIP02 scenarios to look at the effect of climate change on river flows across England and Wales by the 2050s. It found that total annual river flow could decrease by as much as 10 – 15% by 2050 as a result of lower summer and autumn river flows and higher winter river flows. For more information, see the summary report, 'Climate change and river flows in the 2050s' <http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/pdf/SCHO1008BOSS-e-e.pdf>



Met Office Hadley Centre brochures

The Hadley centre has published a series of brochures about the effects of climate change and the research that is being undertaken. The most recent are 'Make a difference to your climate with the Met Office', which sets out what is happening and how it effects you

(www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/hadleycentre/pubs/brochures/together.pdf), and 'Climate research at the Met Office Hadley Centre: informing Government policy into the future', which sets out the key scientific questions which will be addressed

by the Met Office Hadley Centre's Integrated Climate Programme.

(www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/hadleycentre/pubs/brochures/clim_res_had_fut_pol.pdf)

National News

Climate Change Bill passed

The Climate Change Bill was introduced into Parliament on 14 November 2007 and passed Royal Assent, becoming law on 26th November 2008. The Climate Change Act includes a legally binding target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% below 1990 levels by 2050 and a carbon budgeting system. Adaptation reporting is to be delivered every 5 years and an Adaptation Sub-Committee of the Committee on Climate Change will be created. Copies of the Climate Change Act 2008 can be obtained via the Parliament website:

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2007-08/climatechangehl.html>

More information is also available on the Defra website:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/legislation/index.htm>

UKCIP08 delayed

Defra, Met Office Hadley Centre and UK Climate Impacts Programme have delayed the launch of the UK 21st Century Climate Change Projections (2008) project (UKCIP08), which was due to be launched in November 2008. This decision was taken in order to allow the Met Office Hadley Centre more time to ensure the robustness of data. Defra is using the extra time to conduct a further review of the project. This exact launch date is not yet known but is expected to be in spring 2009. For more information see the UKCIP website:

www.ukcip.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=569

In addition it has recently been announced that the new package of climate change scenarios will now be called the *UK Climate Projections* or *UKCP09* for short. For more information on UKCP09 visit:

http://www.ukcip.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=163&Itemid=488

Lord Phil Hunt: new Minister for climate change adaptation

Lord Phil Hunt has recently been appointed as the Minister for Sustainable Development, Climate Change Adaptation and Air Quality. A Ministerial reshuffle has resulted in the creation of the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC), which will hold responsibility for government policy on international adaptation and climate change mitigation. DECC brings together much of the Climate Change Group, previously housed within the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), with the Energy Group from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR). However, domestic climate change adaptation remains under the remit of Defra.



Poor breeding season for seabirds linked to climate change

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) suggests that climate change could be contributing to the fall in Scotland's seabird populations. Recent data from the RSPB shows that kittiwakes, Arctic terns and Arctic skuas have had a terrible season, with increased winter sea surface temperatures implicated in their decline. www.rspb.org.uk/news/details.asp?id=tcm:9-201956

Nottingham Declaration website re-launched

The Nottingham Declaration Partnership has launched its revised website, which provides advice and support for local authorities on all aspects of climate change adaptation and mitigation. It includes information on how climate change is tackled in the local Performance Framework; including Performance Indicators, Comprehensive Area Assessments and Local Area Agreements, as well as updated guidance on developing a Climate Change Action Plan, including case studies and downloads. www.nottinghamdeclaration.org.uk

Ofwat puts climate change on hold?

Ofwat, the water industry's economic regulator recently published a supply & demand policy statement. The section on climate change suggests that Ofwat will not include any allowance in water company business plans for significant water supply and demand investment based on UKCIP02. This move was criticized by the Environment Agency and others at the November Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM) PR09 conference. Water UK, the water industry trade association, will be responding to Ofwat in the near future. The water industry, Environment Agency and other parties believe that we should continue to plan for climate change adaptation using the best available information, and the fact that UKCIP08 has been delayed should not be used as an excuse to do nothing.

National Association of Cider Makers report: A Changing Climate for Cider

The National Association of Cider Makers (NACM) has published a report on the impact of climate change on the UK cider industry, aimed at helping producers and growers prepare and adapt to the challenges that will come. Challenges for the industry may include: summer drought leading to tree stress, leaf drop, smaller fruit size and poor quality juice, and prolonged wet winters giving rise to root loss.



For more information or to obtain a copy of the report, see the NACM website: http://cideruk.com/cider_news/view/climate_change_story1/

Planning Bill to include climate change amendments

The government has tabled amendments to the Planning Bill outlining a legal duty for national policy statements (NPSs) to consider climate change. NPSs and regional plans will now have to show how they mitigate and adapt to climate change.

International News

Environmental Impact – an online resource

The Centre for Agricultural Bioscience International has launched 'Environmental Impact', a searchable online database containing information on the effects of climate change on the biosphere. www.cabi.org/environmentalimpact/Default.aspx?site=138&page=419

European Environment Agency report: Impacts of Europe's Changing Climate



The European Environment Agency has published a report, based on 40 key indicators, that stresses the consequences of observed and projected changes and highlighting that vulnerability to climate change varies widely across regions and sectors in Europe. It calls for a coordinated effort to fill key information gaps and proposes the setting up of a European Clearing House on climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation. Available at: www.eea.europa.eu/pressroom/newsreleases/europe-needs-to-intensify-actions-to-adapt-to-climate-change-impacts

Hungry for more? Go to www.oursouthwest.com/climate

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SWCCIP is funded by the following organisations

