



SWCCIP Summer Newsletter Issue 15: June 2009

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. For more information about SWCCIP and adapting to climate change in the South West, visit www.oursouthwest.com/climate.



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Events in Full

Transition Farms (17th June, Cirencester)

This event aims to consider the options for local agriculture and food production after fossil fuels have run out and climate change becomes more prevalent. The day will include presentations from keynote speakers, including SWCCIP Forum representative John Conway. For more information and to book a place, contact Beverley Allen at the Royal Agricultural College via email beverley.allen@rac.ac.uk or tel: 01285 889872.

European Sustainable Tourism Conference (NECSTouR) (17th June, Plymouth)

South West Tourism is hosting an international conference for the Network of European Regions for a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism (NECSTouR) at the University of Plymouth. The conference provides the opportunity for European delegates to come together to share their experience and together work towards tourism which is more competitive and sustainable. SWCCIP will be giving a presentation as part of the 'Reducing Seasonality' study tour. Registration is now closed but for more information visit: www.necstoursengland.eu/

ENVEC 2009 (8th October, Weston Super-Mare)

Supported by the Environment Agency, the Energy Saving Trust, EDF Energy, GOSW and SWCCIP, ENVEC is the South West's main climate change conference in 2009. The new climate change projections, UKCP09, will be featured at ENVEC 2009. Further details and opportunities to register will be available on the ENVEC website over the next few months at: www.oursouthwest.com/envec

SWCCIP News

SWCCIP Adapting to Climate Change Week 2009

SWCCIP held its third Adapting to Climate Change Week from the 1st - 5th June, to incorporate World Environment Day on 5th June. The week celebrated the launch of SWCCIP's "Changing Climate – Changing Business" DVD, Biodiversity Glossary and new Case Studies webpage (see news items below), which have been created to help and promote climate change adaptation within the South West. During the week, SWCCIP also ran a 'Train the Trainer' session for local authorities on the Business Areas Climate Impacts Assessment Tool (BACLIAT), presented at Ecclesiastical Insurance's Green Week and exhibited at Plymouth City Council's Low Carbon Network launch. We are also supporting the Transition Towns event and European Sustainable Tourism Conference, both on 17th June.

"Changing Climate – Changing Business" – new film to help tourism businesses adapt

SWCCIP and South West Tourism have produced a new film, 'Changing Climate - Changing Business', to help tourism businesses adapt to climate change. Narrated by local broadcaster Adam Hart-Davis, the video shows how tourism businesses in the South West are being affected by climate change and highlights the practical actions that are already being taken to adapt. Including top tips on how to identify the potential risks to your business, the video acts as a useful guide to help plan and adapt for the changes ahead. The full 20 minute version is available to watch freely via South West Tourism's website: www.swtourism.org.uk/our-strategic-work/sustainability-work/adapting-to-a-changing-climate/

A 6 minute summary version is also available on YouTube at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=q3IOGy8WMGg. Hard copies of the DVD are available for purchase from South West Tourism. For further details visit their website using the link above.



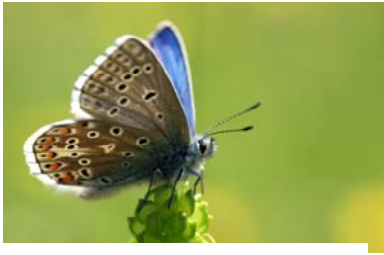


Photo: Butterfly Conservation

Biodiversity and Climate Change Glossary

SWCCIP's Biodiversity Sector Group has developed a glossary to help clarify some of the terms that are commonly used in reference to helping biodiversity adapt to climate change. It includes a definition of each term, along with an example of a project or work in the region which relates to it. The glossary is available under the Biodiversity section on SWCCIP's 'Tools' webpage: www.oursouthwest.com/climate/tools.htm#health

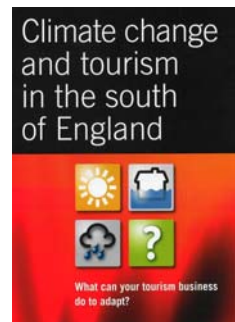
New Case Studies page on SWCCIP website

As part of Adaptation Week, SWCCIP launched a new Case Studies web page on its website (www.oursouthwest.com/climate/casestudies.htm) to highlight the growing range of case studies from SWCCIP and other sources that are now available. This is a growing resource for those seeking to learn from the experiences of others adapting to climate change; the new dedicated page should help visitors to SWCCIP's website find case studies more readily.

Tourism and climate change adaptation checklist to be refreshed

SWCCIP's Tourism Sector Group is currently developing an interactive online tool to help tourism businesses consider how they will be affected by climate change and to take action to prepare for the impacts. The website, which is being developed in partnership with South West Tourism, Tourism South East and Climate South East to, is due to be launched in October at ENVEC 2009. It will update the current Adaptation Checklist for tourism businesses, currently available on the SWCCIP website at:

www.oursouthwest.com/climate/tools.htm#t



Regional and Partner News

Partners celebrate tourism success

The region's work on making tourism more sustainable was recently recognised in the prestigious international "Tourism for Tomorrow" awards which are run by the World Travel & Tourism Council. South West Tourism was one of three finalists in the Destination category, just pipped to the title by a purpose built resort in the Dominican Republic. Not bad from around 160 entries from around the world and a great milestone for all the partners in the South West that have been working with SWT on sustainability. www.tourismfortomorrow.com/

South West County Climate Profiles

There is a growing evidence base of local data that can be used to help analyse the impacts of climate change in the South West's counties. The SW Observatory has made a start in bringing this data together in one place for each of our counties in 'climate profiles' on the environment module of its website. These profiles contain climate related data sets for the counties of Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire. They include both directly related climate variables such as temperature and sea level along with more indirectly related information such as energy use, carbon/ecological footprints and the occurrence of skin cancer. The climate profiles are available at: www.swenvo.org.uk/themes/atmosphere/climate-change/.

Ecclesiastical Insurance 'Green Week'

Ecclesiastical Insurance, SWCCIP funding partner, hosted their own 'Green Week' for staff, 1st - 5th June, to promote their commitment to the 'ClimateWise' Principles – principles for the

insurance industry on reducing the risk of climate change. Staff were given the opportunity to hear briefings and find out more about what they can do on green travel, recycling, energy, and local produce. SWCCIP also attended to talk to staff about the impacts of climate change and what they can do to prepare. For more information about Ecclesiastical Insurance visit: <http://www.ecclesiastical.com> .For more information on 'ClimateWise' visit: <http://www.climatewise.org.uk>



Water and Woodlands seminar – presentations available

Biodiversity South West's Woodland Biodiversity sub-group, in conjunction with the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission, hosted a seminar on 31st March 2009 on 'Woodlands and water: understanding the role of woodland in flood mitigation and water quality'. This covered the link between woodland and water catchments, the role of floodplain and other woodland types and also looked at mechanisms for delivery, of both existing and

future projects. Copies of the handouts and presentations from this seminar are available on the Biodiversity South West website at: www.biodiversitiesouthwest.org.uk/res_es_s01.html

Biodiversity adaptation in the Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase

Natural England has recently published, "Responding to the impacts of climate change on the natural environment: Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase". The report summarises the findings from one of four 'Character Area Climate Change Projects', which aim to identify the local responses required to safeguard our natural environment and our enjoyment of it. The summary 'identifies significant biodiversity, landscape, recreational and historic environment assets; assesses the potential risks climate change poses to these assets; and suggests practical actions that would make them more resilient to the impacts of climate change'. More information and a copy of the report, is available on Natural England's website:



<http://naturalengland.etraderstores.com/NaturalEnglandShop/Product.aspx?ProductID=53b2e63b-7ebd-470e-8d60-d8fdcdd9a6f7>. In the final stages of the project this year, Natural England want to broker a memorandum of agreement amongst those with the ability to deliver these solutions. Part of that process will be a video visualising the impacts and explaining the solutions. For more information contact Simon Bates, who is managing the project: simon.bates@naturalengland.org.uk



Photo: National Trust

“Appetite for Change” - new report from the National Trust

The National Trust have released a report, “Appetite for Change”, which details the environmental impacts of food consumption and explains how the Trust has been working to make the food they grow and serve more sustainable for people and the environment, and better connected to the places they look after. The National Trust are keen to work in partnership with those who share their ‘appetite for change’. The report can be downloaded at <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/food>

Natural England report on invasive non-native species

Natural England have released a new report, 'Horizon Scanning for new invasive non-native animal species in England' listing potential new invasive non-native species. The report was commissioned to help Natural England; develop a view on potential new invasive non-native species in England and their impacts to biodiversity; implement its invasive non-native species policy; and further contribute towards the implementation of the Invasive Non-native Species Framework Strategy for Great Britain. Available at:

www.naturalengland.org.uk/about_us/news/2009/220509.aspx

Environment Agency tool to help local authorities measure action on climate change

The Environment Agency has been working with the Nottingham Declaration Partnership to develop a new tool to enable local authorities assess their progress on climate change. The new guidance is called the 'Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Self-evaluation tool' and will help local authorities to assess their current approach to climate change adaptation and mitigation, as well as provide evidence to identify what they are doing well and where improvements are needed for the future. Available at:

www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/nottingham/Nottingham-Declaration/Performance-Measures/Self-Evaluation

Mires restoration project wins top award

The Exmoor Mires Restoration Project has won first-prize at the annual Water Industry Achievement Awards. The project was a collaborative effort between the Environment Agency, South West Water, Exmoor National Park, Natural England, English Heritage and local farmers and landowners. It is working to re-wet dry peatlands in the uplands of Exmoor, which have been damaged by generations of peat-cutting and creation of drainage ditches. Climate change is likely to increase the drying out of peatlands in the South West region resulting in the loss of



Photo: Exmoor National Park

wetland habitat and threatened species like water voles, salmon and otters. Restoring the mires has a number of benefits; healthy bog accumulates carbon and absorbs CO₂ from the atmosphere; during periods of heavy rainfall, peat bogs act like a sponge and slow down the run-off of water, thereby reducing soil erosion and flood risk. For more information about the project and award visit Exmoor National Park's [Mires Restoration Project webpages](#)

National News

UK Climate Projections 09 (UKCP09) – launch date and training programme

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has announced that the new UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) will be launched on 18th June 2009. The Projections have been created by some of the UK's leading climate scientists in a project funded by Defra, to look at what the future climate of the UK might be like. The UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP) have also announced plans for their 'Projections in Practice (PiP)' training programme to assist users of UKCP09. If you would like to register your interest in attending a PiP event, or have any suggestions regarding what you would like to see included in the training, visit: www.tinyurl.com/ukcip14. Regional training for the South West is planned for the week 14th – 18th September 2009 – keep an eye on our events page for further details.

International Climate Champions programme 2009

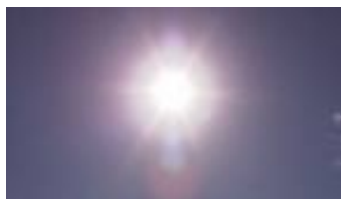
The International Climate Champions programme (ICC) builds on the role of young people as agents of change. Developed by the British Council from the Regional Climate Champions programme initiated by Defra, the programme in 2008 included over 800 International Climate Champions in twenty-nine countries. 15 year-old Shirley Halse was successful in becoming the 2008 Young Climate Change Champion for the South West (for further details see www.oursouthwest.com/climate/champion/index.htm). During 2009 the British Council will recruit over 1,300 new Champions in a total of sixty countries across the globe. Full information (including application form) is available at: www.britishcouncil.org/climatechange-international-climate-champions-uk-recruitment.htm. The closing date for entries is 19th June.

Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership (MCCIP) report card 2009

MCCIP has launched its 'Exploring Ecosystems Linkages' report card for 2009. This builds on its previous report cards to show how broader marine climate change impacts come together. Issues covered include: ocean acidification, arctic sea ice loss, seabirds and food webs, non-native species and coastal economies. To view the report card go to: www.mccip.org.uk/elr.



Changing Work in a Changing Climate – Trades Union Congress report - This report from the Trades Union Congress (TUC) considers the impacts of climate change on different sectors of the economy, introduces the employment implications of adapting to climate change and presents a model for adaptation. The report urges employers, trade unions and the Government to start planning ahead now to protect employees and vulnerable families from the coming climate extremes. www.tuc.org.uk/extras/adaptation.pdf



Heat-related deaths and climate change

The Met Office have warned that the number of heat-related deaths we see could increase by up to 17 times by 2080, because of the increase in heatwaves, as a result of climate change. In London alone there could be a five-fold increase on the current death rate of 1.8 per 100,000, soaring to 10.7 per 100,000 by 2080.

www.metoffice.gov.uk/climatechange/news/latest/heat.html

Building business resilience to inevitable climate change: Carbon Disclosure Project Report 2008

This new report from Acclimatise, sponsored by IBM, focuses on the actions being taken by the UK FTSE 350 companies to adapt to a changing climate and build business resilience. It sets out the drivers for action and includes 10 questions that company directors should ask themselves in order to assess their climate change risks.

www-05.ibm.com/uk/gogreen/pdf/carbon_disclosure_project2008.pdf

Insurance industry 'Thinkpiece' on how to promote climate adaptation in the UK

The Association of British Insurers (ABI) and Chartered Institute of Insurers (CII)'s recent 'Thinkpiece' provides an overview of the insurance industry's recent work promoting climate change adaptation. Swenja Surminski of the ABI explores efforts to improve understanding of current and future risks, protect homes, businesses and communities, and develop risk management solutions for climate risks and making the market work for adaptation.

www.cii.co.uk/downloaddata/TP18_Surminski_Adaptation_20May2009.pdf

International News

EC White Paper on Adapting to Climate Change

The European Commission has published its White Paper on Adapting to Climate Change, which presents the framework for adaptation measures and policies to reduce the European Union's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. The White Paper includes plans for a Clearing House Mechanism by 2011 where information on climate change risks, impacts and best practices would be exchanged between governments, agencies, and organisations working on adaptation policies. It also states that adapting to climate change will be integrated into all EU policies and will feature prominently in the Union's external policies to assist those countries most affected. For more information and to download the White Paper visit: ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/adaptation/index_en.htm.

Major report warns of climate change risk to world health

A major report on managing the health effects of climate change, launched jointly by The Lancet and UCL (University College London) today, says that climate change is the biggest global health threat of the 21st Century. The report is available from the UCL website at: www.ucl.ac.uk/global-health/

Solving the Puzzle: Researching the Impacts of Climate Change around the World

The United States' National Science Foundation (NSF) has released a report on global climate change, entitled "Solving the Puzzle: Researching the Impacts of Climate Change around the World," that describes how, over nearly 60 years, NSF-funded researchers have found signs of a changing climate in nearly every corner of the globe, from the icy expanses of Earth's polar regions to its equatorial ecosystems. www.nsf.gov/news/nsf09202/index.jsp

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

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SWCCIP is funded by the following organisations:



SWCCIP's Tourism Sector Group is supported by:

