



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

■ 'Train the Trainer' workshop for local authorities (23rd February, Exeter)

The South West Climate Change Impacts Partnership (SWCCIP) is holding a workshop **for local authority officers** to support businesses in adapting to climate change. The aim of the workshop is to introduce South West local authorities to the Business Areas Climate Impacts Assessment Tool (BACLIAT), in a way that enables them to use and deliver the tool with businesses, LSP partners, and internally as relevant, following the workshop. The BACLIAT is designed to help businesses and organisations assess the risks and opportunities presented by climate change to each of their business areas, and to identify appropriate responses to prepare for these. For more information please email Becca Eastman becca.eastman@environment-agency.gov.uk (or tel: 01392 352230) by **Friday 18th December**.



■ Sustainable Landscape lecture series 2009/10 (Various, November 2009 – March 2010)

The Sustainable Landscape Series is a public lecture series at the University of Gloucestershire that aims to continue to explore issues of sustainability, sustainable development and sustainable living, with a focus on the built environment. The series, sponsored by Arup Landscape, is based on the title Innovation For Sustainable Living and aims to explore various innovative approaches and themes connected with the creation of landscapes that improve the health of both people and planet. For more information contact Robin Snowdon: rsnowdon@glos.ac.uk or go to www.gloscape.co.uk

SWCCIP News

■ New tool! - Preparing for change: climate-proof your tourism business

SWCCIP, in partnership with Climate South East, Tourism South East and South West Tourism have produced 'Preparing for Change: Climate-proof your tourism business', an interactive online toolkit. The toolkit provides information on the potential impacts of climate change on tourism businesses, what actions can be taken to minimise the risks and maximise the opportunities, and links to relevant information and support. It also includes case studies, top tips and an interactive checklist, which enables users to create their own personalised action plan. Access the toolkit at www.climateprepared.com



■ New South West Local Authority NI 188 Coordinator

With funding from the SW Regional Improvement and Efficiency Programme (RIEP) the SWCCIP now has a dedicated National Indicator 188 (*planning to adapt to climate change*) Coordinator, Fiona Swan. Fiona's role is to support all South West top tier authorities, via one to one support, workshops and other activities to increase their skills and capacity to deliver on NI188. Fiona's contact details are on SWCCIP's [dedicated NI 188 webpage](#).



Photo: Sally Sharrock

■ A Changing Climate for Maritime Biodiversity: linking science to practice

SWCCIP, Natural England, Biodiversity SW, the Marine Biological Association and the Marine Environmental Change Network held a conference on 5th November at the Met Office. The conference aimed to support action to help marine, coastal and estuarine biodiversity adapt to the impacts of this changing climate in the South West, by bringing together scientific evidence and examples of good adaptation practice. Over 150 delegates from a range of scientific, academic and policy backgrounds attended. Presentations from the day are available at: www.biodiversitiesouthwest.org.uk/res_cc_c01.php. Look out for written case studies and a conference report, to be added to the website shortly.

■ ENVEC 2009 – the South West’s Climate Change Conference

Over 200 delegates attended ENVEC 2009, the region’s main climate change conference for 2009 held in Weston-super-Mare on 8th October. Conference presentations were from: Forum for the Future - How can the economic recovery be green?; EDF Energy - Keeping the lights on for business in a low carbon economy; and The Energy Saving Trust - Emission impossible? – the path to cutting the UK’s CO2 emissions by 80% by 2050. Expert briefing sessions were provided by UKCIP (on the UKCP09 climate projections), EDF Energy (on the Carbon Reduction Commitment) and the Environment Agency (on 'Business continuity in a changing climate – would your business stay afloat?'). Conference papers can be found on the ENVEC website: www.oursouthwest.com/envec. ENVEC was supported by GOSW, EDF Energy, the Energy Saving Trust, the Environment Agency and SWCCIP.



Regional and Partner News

■ Defra reports to parliament on using Climate Change Act powers

A report was laid before Parliament on 26th November following a public consultation on the proposed strategy for using powers under the Climate Change Act. The Act requires public bodies and statutory undertakings, such as utilities companies, to ensure that they are adequately prepared for the impacts of climate change. It prioritises those organisations that are responsible for our key public services such as energy, water, transport and health. More information is available on Defra’s website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climate/legislation/reporting.htm

■ Business Link SW – helping businesses with climate change issues

Training on Carbon and Climate Change is currently being rolled out to Business Link advisers in the South West, to help advisers recognise risks and opportunities related to Climate Change which may affect small and medium sized businesses, and what support is available to help. The session includes the 6 minute ‘Changing Climate – Changing Business’ video produced by SWCCIP and SW Tourism, and touches on adaptation, mitigation, opportunities and risks.



Photo: Environment Agency

■ Environment Agency and Business link team up to raise flood awareness

In October Kerry Snelling from Business Link met with Helen Gittins, Floodwise Coordinator with the Environment Agency, to look out how the Environment Agency is supporting businesses in the area to prepare for, and respond to, the risk of flooding. Business Link advisers are now able to refer businesses to the Environment Agency to check if they are at risk of flooding, sign up to receive flood warnings, and receive a business pack and further information. For more information on how to manage the risk of flooding, go to: www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/default.aspx

■ **New sustainability website for South West NHS organisations**

The new website, www.sustainablehealthsw.org.uk, is a key part of the Sustainable Health SW project supporting the region's NHS organisations in working towards sustainability. The site contains a range of resources and information and the 'sustainability' page includes a section on the impacts of climate change on health. A forum will allow NHS staff from around the region to ask questions, share best practice and feed in to the work of the Sustainable Health SW project. Sustainable Health SW is a partnership project between Sustainability South West and the NHS South West and is represented on the SWCCIP Forum. If you would like any more information please visit the website or contact project manager Lynn Gibbons on lynn.gibbons@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk.

■ **Planting Places awards – applications now open!**

Green spaces play a key role in helping communities adapt to climate change, as (among other benefits) they have a cooling effect and can reduce flood risk by acting as natural soakaways and intercepting rainfall. The Planting Places awards, which recognise public green spaces that are making fantastic contributions to the sustainability of their communities, will be running for a 3rd year. The awards are coordinated by Sustainability South West and are now open for applications.



Applications can be submitted by a local community group, local authority, NGO, NHS Trust, private organisation or individual. Completed applications must be returned by 5pm on Monday, 25 January 2010. For more information visit the Planting Places website at www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk/projects/planting_places/planting_places_awards/.



Tom Harper,
Director, CESW

■ **Building a better South West – new website for the built environment**

A new, joint website, 'Building a better South West' www.buildsw.org.uk has recently been developed by Constructing Excellence SW (CESW) and Future Foundations to provide a fully comprehensive source for construction improvement in the SW. For use by those working in the sector and homeowners alike, the new website covers a wide range of topics, including a section on adapting to climate change http://buildsw.org.uk/climate_change. Future Foundations was set up in 2001 by Sustainability South West with the support of regional partners with the aim to normalise sustainable construction in the South West. The project has now become a joint initiative with CESW, an organisation which aims to drive change in construction and to improve industry performance in order to produce a better built environment. SWCCIP attended the last Future Foundations meeting in November to discuss the issue of adaptation, and hopes to work further with the group in the future to increase awareness and action within the Housing and Construction sector of the impacts of climate change and the need to adapt.

■ **Sustainable zero-carbon public transport**

On 24th November Prof Frank Chambers, Michael Ratcliffe (Chief Executive, Cheltenham Chamber of Commerce), Willy Ford (Rail Advisor and Member of TravelWatch West Midlands), and three local MPs had a meeting with the Secretary of State for Transport, Lord Adonis to seek his advice and support for the Zero-Carbon Ultra-Light Rail proposals for Cheltenham, Tewkesbury Borough and Gloucester, which the Chamber of Commerce has been promoting. These formed the basis of a project idea submitted by Prof Frank Chambers and the Chamber of Commerce to the Carbon Connections Competition for Low Carbon and Innovation earlier this year, and that had come second nationally. The meeting with Lord Adonis commenced with a project briefing prepared by Prof Chambers. The response to the ideas was most positive.

National News

■ UK Climate Projections 2009 – User Interface updates

Two new features have been added to the UK Climate Projections 2009 (UKCP09) User Interface. The *Past and Future Multi-level Ocean Model Simulations for UK Waters* data source has been added, allowing users to select a map, or its underlying data, from the Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory's (POL) POLCOMS model. Version 1.0 of the UKCP09 Threshold Detector is also now available, as a post-processing tool to run on Weather Generator output. For more information about UKCP09, including the User Interface, visit www.ukclimateprojections.org.uk/

■ New ABI report – The Financial Risks of Climate Change

A new report by the Association of British Insurers (ABI) shows that rising global temperatures could lead to more expensive and harder-to-obtain property insurance in the UK and throughout the world. The *Financial Risks of Climate Change* examines the financial implications of temperature increases of 2, 4 and 6 degrees C on the insured cost of flood and windstorm damage in the UK, and of typhoons in China. It indicates that in the UK, climate changes could increase significantly the insured cost of flood and windstorm damage.



Association of British Insurers

www.abi.org.uk/Publications/ABI_Publications/The_Financial_Risks_of_Climate_Change_345.aspx



■ Combating Climate Change – a role for UK forests

The report 'Combating Climate Change - a role for UK forests' was launched on 25 November at an event in London. The independent assessment was commissioned by the Forestry Commission to examine the potential of the UK's trees and woodlands to mitigate and adapt to our changing climate. The assessment aims to provide a better understanding of how UK forestry can adapt to and improve its contribution to mitigation of climate change. The study is considered to be the first national assessment of its kind in the world and is already attracting interest from other countries keen to form their own climate change plans and policies. To download the report go to: www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-7y4qn9

■ How can our suburbs adapt to climate change?

A new EPSRC funded research project, led by the University of the West of England (UWE), will look at how suburban neighbourhoods can adapt to cope with climate change. Professor Katie Williams of UWE will lead the SNACC (Suburban Neighbourhood Adaptation for a Changing Climate) project with partners at Oxford Brookes University, Heriot-Watt University and several international partners. The project will look at both the social and technological aspects of how the built fabric of neighbourhoods can be adapted to reduce further impacts of climate change. For more information visit the Adaptation and Resilience in a Changing Climate (ARCC) website: www.ukcip-arcc.org.uk/content/view/630/9/.

■ Review of wildlife and ecological network announced

On 28th September 2009, Environment Secretary Hilary Benn announced a review of England's wildlife and ecological network, including its links with our National Parks and its ability to adapt to climate change and other pressures. To report by June 2010, the review will explore if our collection of sites represents a coherent and robust ecological network for England, capable of responding to the challenges of climate change and other pressures. More information at: www.defra.gov.uk/News/2009/090928c.htm

■ Improvement and Development Agency online library

The Improvement and Development Agency (I&Dea)'s online library contains hundreds of good practice case studies, from councils and their partners, showing how local strategic partnerships are achieving their priorities. The search function allows users to search by performance indicator, theme or by their own key words. A short summary accompanies case studies to enable users to quickly select the best practice that is relevant for them. Access the library at www.idea.gov.uk/idk/laa/home.do

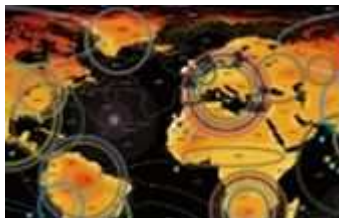
International News

■ UN Climate Change Conference – Copenhagen, 7th – 18th December

From 7 - 18 December 2009, representatives of over 180 countries will gather in Copenhagen for the United Nations Climate Change Conference, known as COP15. The United Kingdom, United States, India and China will attend, amongst others. For two weeks, the United Nations will work towards agreeing a climate treaty that will act as a successor to the Kyoto Protocol from 2012 onwards. Key issues to be discussed include; how to finance the help needed by developing countries to adapt to the impacts of climate change; and how much countries are willing to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases. For more information on COP15 Copenhagen and to keep up-to-date with the discussions, visit the dedicated website <http://en.cop15.dk/>

■ Climate futures – responses to climate change in 2030

Climate Futures, a report from Forum for the Future and Hewlett Packard Labs, analyses the social, political, economic and psychological consequences of climate change and describes how different global responses to the problem could lead to five very different worlds by 2030. To access the report visit www.forumforthefuture.org/projects/climatefutures



■ The impact of a global temperature rise of 4°C

The impacts of climate change will be widespread across the globe. In order to understand more about what the human impact of high-end climate change might be, and therefore what would happen if a successful agreement can not be reached at Copenhagen in December, the UK's Met Office Hadley Centre has produced a map outlining some of the impacts that may occur if the global average temperature rises by 4°C above the pre-industrial climate average.

The map represents the latest peer-reviewed science on the impacts. For further information and to see the 4°C map click here: www.actoncopenhagen.decc.gov.uk

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

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