



Climate SouthWest Newsletter: SPECIAL EDITION!

Climate Week: building resilience to extreme weather and climate change in the South West

(Monday 21st – Sunday 27th March 2011)

Climate SouthWest ran and supported a number of events and activities as part of Climate Week (21st – 28th March 2011). The week was a great success and we have produced this special edition newsletter to give you a flavour of what went on.

[Climate Week](#) is a national initiative that aims to shine a spotlight on the many positive steps already being taken in work places and communities across Britain to reduce climate change and adapt to its impacts. Climate Week was supported by many well-known individuals and organisations, including the Prime Minister, the NHS, The National Trust, the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) – and Climate SouthWest!

If you would like to find out more about any of the events detailed in this newsletter, or get involved in any of the related projects, please contact Becca Eastman, Climate SouthWest Project Officer, becca.eastman@environment-agency.gov.uk or tel 01392 352230

Monday 21st March

‘Climate Change: facing the realities today in Africa and Asia’

This evening event at Exeter Central Library was chaired by Climate SouthWest Manager, Alex Webb, and included 3 fascinating talks, which are briefly summarised below. It was an extremely interesting and enjoyable evening, with 62% of attendees rating the event as ‘Good’ and the remaining 38% as ‘Excellent’.

Coping with Climate Change in Bangladesh (Neil Whiter, WaterAid)

Bangladesh is one of the most densely populated countries in the world and also one of the most low lying. Consequently millions of its citizens are at risk from future climate change but many are already suffering from its effects. Using information from a recent visit to Bangladesh with WaterAid, Neil described how the primary and secondary effects of climate change are affecting both the urban and rural communities of a nation living on the margin.

Climate Change Impacts in Ethiopia (Peter Grainger, Exeter Ethiopia Link)

Ethiopia came to the world’s attention in the 1980s because of the drought and famine. Peter’s visits to Ethiopia over the last 12 years have shown some of the impacts of population growth and urban development. Combining these changes with less certainty about seasonal weather patterns due to climate change has kept the majority of Ethiopians on the margin of food and water security.

Climate Changes Lives in Nepal (Mark Hodgson, climatechangeslives.org)

The Himalayas are the water-source for up to 1 billion people. With the impact of climate change increasing the frequency and incidence of severe natural disasters such as; floods, droughts and landslides, Nepal is significantly affected. Mark presented a film he helped produce for DFID Nepal highlighting personal experiences of climate change, including interviews with Nepali sherpas, villagers, scientists and ministers.

Wednesday 23rd March

Change for Good 2011 – CoaST's annual Big Bash

The Cornwall Sustainable Tourism project (CoaST) held its annual 2-day Big Bash to bring together its network and show how things are changing for the good. Over 114 people attended the conference. Alex Webb, Climate SouthWest Manager, spoke to tourism businesses about 'Communicating Climate Change' at one of the workshops.

'Changing Climate, Changing Business: everything you ever wanted to know about climate change adaptation and never dared ask...'

This 'train the trainer' workshop was a repeat of the successful event held in October 2010. It was designed to help those working with businesses in the tourism sector to become more confident in understanding and communicating the risks and opportunities of climate change. 8 delegates from a range of organisations (incl. Plymouth City Council; Somerset Coastal Change Pathfinder; Groundwork SW; and the BASC Country Sports project) attended and their feedback shows they found the session useful and informative.



Thursday 24th March



Climate SouthWest Agriculture & Forestry Sector Group meeting and site visit

Climate SouthWest's Agriculture and Forestry Sector Group extended their regular meeting to include a day of presentations and site visits at the new at the Tremough Campus in Cornwall. The day included talks from the Environment and Sustainability Institute (ESI) and the European Centre for Environment and Human Health (ECEHH), as well as a tour of the Biosciences laboratory and a visit to a forest site that was affected by the *phytophthora ramorum* disease. One of the highlights of the day was a talk from Catherine and Ben Mead of Lynher Dairies (famous for their 'Yarg' cheese) on how they are responding to the challenges of climate change and the innovative, low-input approach that they are taking to farming, which has a number of adaptation benefits.

Friday 25th March

Adapting to Climate Change: A forward look for local authorities

A meeting was held for local authority key decision makers to establish what action they can continue to take to ensure adapting to climate change remains a key consideration in all local authority decision making beyond NI188 (National Indicator 188: Planning to adapt to climate change). The event marked the end of a successful Resource and Improvement Efficiency Partnership-funded project, which has enabled Climate SouthWest to host a Local Authority climate change adaptation officer, Fiona Swan. Local authorities have expressed their appreciation for the fantastic job that Fiona has done in providing support on adaptation over the past 18 months.



Visit to Park Farm

As part of Climate SouthWest Biodiversity group's 'Project Exe' (Opportunities for enhancing biodiversity in a changing climate: the Exe catchment), Simon Bates from Natural England and Becca Eastman, Climate SouthWest Project Officer, led a visit to a local farm in order to 'test' some of the draft recommendations from the project and gain additional input from experts. John Greenshields from Park Farm showed the group how he is managing the land in a variety of ways to benefit biodiversity, which will help to improve its resilience to future climate change. This includes; managing woodland;

restoring heathland and fens; and linking up patches of habitat to improve connectivity in the landscape. The group found the visit extremely useful and were thankful for the great weather they were lucky to have on the day!

Saturday 26th March

'Whatever the Weather' photo competition prize-giving at Castle Drogo

In conjunction with Climate Week, Climate SouthWest ran a photo competition on the theme of 'extreme weather', which was sponsored by the National Trust. 86 fantastic entries were received and the competition was judged by representatives from the National Trust, Environment Agency and Met Office.

First prize (a National Trust annual family pass) was awarded to Derek Carter for his stunning photo of ice crystals framing a wire fence near Lambert's Castle in Dorset.

There were also prizes of £20 photography vouchers for the best photo in each of the 4 categories (Hot; Cold; Wet; and Dry) and a £50 photography voucher for Matthew von Lany, winner of the best photo taken by an Under-16. The judges also decided to award 2 additional photos a 'Highly Commended' certificate.

All the winners and their families were treated to a prize-giving ceremony and tour at Castle Drogo, including a trip on to the castle's roof. Their photos were also enlarged and displayed in the visitor centre at Castle Drogo for all to enjoy.

Overall Winner



Lambert's Castle, Dorset
By Derek Carter

Under-16 Winner



'Winter Morning', Broadclyst, Devon
By Matthew von Lany (Aged 13)

Category Winners

HOT



Sidmouth, Devon
By Philip Colclough

COLD



Apple Orchard near Feniton, Devon
By Julie Bowden

WET



Near North Curry, Somerset
By Paul Silvers

DRY



Stoke Abbott Farm, Dorset
By Ray Beer

Highly Commended



Bristol
By Tom Vooght



Smeaton's Tower and war memorial, Plymouth
By Alex Hurth

All the winning photos can also be viewed online at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/climatesw/sets/72157626482398796/detail/> . We hope to make all 86 entries available to view soon so keep an eye out for them too!

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

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Climate SouthWest is funded by the following organisations:

