



South West Climate Change Impacts Partnership

SWCCIP Newsletter, August 2007

Welcome to the **8th** e-newsletter from the South West Climate Change Impacts Partnership (SWCCIP). 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 email swccip@environment-agency.gov.uk with 'subscribe' in the title. If you no longer wish to receive future copies, please email swccip@environment-agency.gov.uk with 'unsubscribe' in the title.

For more information on any of these items or the SWCCIP work, go to www.oursouthwest.com/climate. Apologies for any cross postings.

At a Glance:

Events

- 25th Sept (School of Agriculture, University of Reading) Climate Change: Are you ready? Action Planning and Opportunities for the land based sector
- 10th Oct (Winter Gardens Pavilion, Weston-super-Mare) ENVEC 2007
- 5th & 6th Nov (Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London SW1) Environmental Futures 07: Adapting to Change, Environment Agency National Conference

SWCCIP

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- Appointment of Independent Chair for the Flooding Lessons Learned Review
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- 'New analysis counters claims that solar activity is linked to global warming' (July 11 2007)
- Climate Change Forum Presentations: 21 June 2007
- Local Climate Impacts Profile (CLIP)
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European

- The EU Adaptation Green Paper

Events in Full:

- 25th Sept (School of Agriculture, University of Reading) Climate Change: Are you ready? Action Planning and Opportunities for the land based sector

The National Rural Knowledge, the University of Reading and the Walker Institute for Climate Systems Research are holding a one-day conference to show land based business how they can adapt to the impacts of climate change and how they can take advantage of the inevitable impacts. The conference cost is £75. To book your place or get details on how your organisation can exhibit at the conference, contact Dave Penford, c/o National Rural Knowledge Exchange on 01476 860759 or e-mail: David@clockwork-uk.com For more information, visit: www.nationalrural.org

- 10th Oct (Winter Gardens Pavilion, Weston-super-Mare) ENVEC 2007

This year's ENVEC conference (10th October, Weston-super-Mare) will feature influential speakers on climate change and on other sustainability issues. Keynote speakers will be Mike Anderson, Director General of the Climate Change Group at Defra and Alan Knight, Commissioner on Sustainable Consumption for the Sustainable Development Commission and formerly Head of Sustainable Development at B&Q and of CSR for the Kingfisher Group. Other conference presentations will be from The Association of British Insurers ("Financial risks in a changing climate") and from climate change author, newspaper columnist and campaigner, Mark Lynas. There will also be expert briefing sessions and, to assist networking, special information zones. Free entry by prior-registration only. Details at www.oursouthwest.com/envec

- 5th & 6th Nov (Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London SW1) Environmental Futures 07: Adapting to Change, Environment Agency National Conference

In the Environment's sixth annual conference, adaptation will be under the spotlight with carbon reduction and public behaviour also on the agenda. A variety of people including national, regional and local government officials, business and industry management, the non-governmental sector, community and voluntary organisations will be sharing their experiences. For more information, please visit:

www.environment-agency.gov.uk/aboutus/672157/672903/1836683/?version=1&lang=e

SWCCIP:

- Welcome to the New SWCCIP Manager!

SWCCIP gives a warm welcome to Alex Webb, the new Co-ordinator for SWCCIP who started in her new role on 28th Aug. Alex joins us from Dudley Council and has 6 years experience working for local authorities in environmental policy and sustainable development. She completed an MSC in climate change and sustainable development in 2005. Alex looks forward to working with the SW Climate Change Impacts Partnership and meeting the members of the Partnership in due course.

Alex's contact details are at: www.oursouthwest.com/climate

SWCCIP Local Govt Sector Group

- The Nottingham Declaration

The number of local authorities in the region who have signed the Nottingham Declaration has now reached 30. SWCCIP is keeping an updated record taken from the national list of signatories managed by EST. For the list of SW authorities and their strategies, visit the SWCCIP local government sector page:

www.oursouthwest.com/climate/sectors/sectors.htm#LG

- LA Adaptation Research of South West Local Authorities

SWCCIP are currently researching all local authorities in the SW to see what they are doing about climate change with an emphasis on adaptation. Once approved by all local authorities, the study will sit on the SWCCIP website as a resource to show where Local Authorities are with climate change. For more information, please contact Emily O'Connor, communications support for SWCCIP at: emily.o'connor@environment-agency.gov.uk

SWCCIP Housing and Construction Sector

- The South West Sustainability Checklist for Developments

The South West Sustainability Checklist for Developments, an on-line tool to assess sustainability of any new development during the planning stages, was launched on 28th June at the '2012 Construction Commitments' conference in Bristol. The checklist has been designed by BRE and steered by Future Foundations – please visit the website for further information: www.checklistsouthwest.co.uk

- SWCCIP Adaptation case study database Want to know more about organisations adapting to climate change? SWCCIP has summarised some adaptation case studies which now feature on our website: www.oursouthwest.com/climate/archive/archive.htm#general

Partners' News:

- Natural England calls for partnership on climate change adaptation

Natural England called for a Europe-wide partnership on adaptation prior to the launch of the European Commission Green Paper "Adapting to Climate Change" on 3 July 2007. Natural England aim to encourage a partnership amongst all environment agencies to work with the European Union on mitigating and adapting to climate change. Read the full article at: www.info4local.gov.uk/filter/?item=298470

- The Social Impacts of Heatwaves

'The Social impacts of heatwaves' was published by The Environment Agency on 1st August 2007. The publication considers the effects of climate change on cities and urban planning and the need to focus on better design. Document available at: <http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/pdf/SCHO0807BNCW-e-e.pdf>
www.info4local.gov.uk

- Live Flood Warnings

The Environment Agency provides flood warnings online 24 hours a day. The information is updated every 15 minutes. Visit: www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/flood/floodwarning

National News:

- EFRA: Inquiry into Flooding

The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee (EFRA) are holding an inquiry into flooding to contribute to the conclusions of the independently-led 'lessons learned' exercise that the Secretary of State announced on 12 July 2007. The Committee asks for written memoranda and suggestions by those affected by the recent flooding in England and Wales. For more information, visit:

www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/environment_food_and_rural_affairs/efra_pn60_070726.cfm

- 'Don't scrap green housing rule, urge campaigners' (Article: 24 Aug 07)

A renewables group complained that they were not consulted properly on the Government's decision to rid of the Merton rule – a rule launched by the London Borough of Merton and since used by 150 councils that requires builders to obtain at least 10% of a building's energy from sustainable sources such as solar or wind power. For the full story, visit: www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2007/aug/24/energy.renewableenergy

- Appointment of Independent Chair for the Flooding Lessons Learned Review

Sir Michael Pitt, Chair of the South West Strategic Health Authority is leading the review into the recent flooding. The Learned Review will assess how the risk and impacts of flooding can be reduced. For the full story, visit:

www.defra.gov.uk/news/2007/070808a.htm

- Climate Change: A Surfers Perspective

What climate change means for surfers in the UK – looking at changes in sea level, coastal protection schemes and the possibilities of wave power. Read the full report at:

www.sas.org.uk/pr/2007/docs07/climate_change_report.pdf

- 'New analysis counters claims that solar activity is linked to global warming' (July 11 2007)

New analysis says global temperatures have risen since 1985 despite a decrease in solar activity – a counter argument for the controversial documentary 'The Great Global Warming Swindle'. Full story at:

www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2007/jul/11/climatechange.climatechange1

- Climate Change Forum Presentations: 21 June 2007

Governmental discussions on the possible solutions to climate change with Gordon Brown, David Miliband, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural and Al Gore. The presentations can be downloaded at:

www.info4local.gov.uk/documents/publications/299733

- Local Climate Impacts Profile (CLIP)

UKCIP and Oxford County Council have devised a leaflet for their local climate impacts profile outlining the detail of the profile which concerns the impacts of climate change. The leaflet has UK frost diagrams and annual emission scenarios for the UK. To read the leaflet, visit:

www.oursouthwest.com/climate/archive/local-climate-impacts-profile-ukcip-2007.pdf

- CO2 Calculator

The CO2 calculator launched on 20th June 2007 has already received over 250, 000 visits. Calculate your carbon footprint at:

<http://actonco2.direct.gov.uk/index.html>

European News:

- The EU Adaptation Green Paper

The EU Adaptation Green Paper was launched by the European Commission on 29th June 2007. The paper builds on the work of the European Climate Change Programme to focus on possible adaptation actions at EU-level. For more information on the Green Paper and climate change impact maps, visit:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/eccp_impacts.htm

The green paper can be viewed at:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/adaptation/green_paper/green_paper_en.pdf

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

Alex Webb
SWCCIP Manager & Coordinator
South West Climate Change Impacts Partnership
Environment Agency
Manley House
Kestrel Way
Exeter
EX2 7LQ

Direct line: 01392 442125
Mobile: 07770537169
Fax: 01392 352371
Email: swccip@environment-agency.gov.uk
www.oursouthwest.com/climate/

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Please note:

As SWCCIP are now re-formatting our newsletters in a PDF format, please let us know if you are having any difficulties accessing the hyper links via our e-mail:

swccip@environment-agency.gov.uk