



# South West Climate Change Impacts Partnership

## SWCCIP Newsletter Issue 9: Nov 2007

Welcome to the **9th** 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 fill in the subscription / registration form on the front page of the SWCCIP website at: [www.oursouthwest.com/climate](http://www.oursouthwest.com/climate). If you no longer wish to receive future copies, please email [swccip@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto: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](http://www.oursouthwest.com/climate). Apologies for any cross postings.

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## **Events in Full:**

### **- 11 Dec 07: Climate Change Action Plan – Adaptation Workshop (Exeter University, Streatham Campus)**

The South West Regional Assembly and partners are currently developing a South West Climate Change Action Plan which aims to clarify the regions priorities on tackling mitigation and adaptation. In response, SWCCIP are holding an adaptation workshop to facilitate debate and generate actions and consensus from key stakeholders on regional adaptation. The workshop will take place on 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 2007 at Exeter University Streatham Campus. We welcome your involvement in this workshop given your role in adaptation. For more information and to sign-up, please visit: [www.swenvo.org.uk/news/index.asp?id=1037](http://www.swenvo.org.uk/news/index.asp?id=1037)

### **- 28 Jan – 2 Feb 08: Invisible Bonfires, ‘A Cataclysmic Cabaret’ (Northcott Theatre, Exeter)**

Forkbeard Fantasy are presenting the climate change show of the year with the Fabulous Brittonioni Brothers on a whistle-stop carbon neutral tour run entirely by thigh-muscle and hot air. The show will feature live music from the ‘Lotus Pedels’. For more information and other dates and venues, visit: [www.forkbeardfantasy.co.uk](http://www.forkbeardfantasy.co.uk)

*“Whatever they’re on should be made available on the National Health.” - The Scotsman.* (Image courtesy of Forkbeard Fantasy)

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## **SWCCIP:**

### **Ecclesiastical and SWCCIP new partnership!**

The South West Climate Change Impacts Partnership (SWCCIP) are pleased to announce Ecclesiastical Insurance as the newest financial partner and Executive Group Member of SWCCIP.

Ecclesiastical knows that climate change is an important concern for all of us. Of course the insurance industry is all too aware of the threat climate change poses particularly in light of recent severe weather events. The flooding this year, for example, cost in excess of £3bn and affected the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. To these people, the threat of climate change has quickly become very real. Ecclesiastical recognises the need to work to protect everyone from these disasters.

"Climate change is an issues that we can't run away from, the best we can do is work together to understand the risk and adapt to it. This is why Ecclesiastical has chosen to support the crucial work of SWCCIP. By accepting the challenges climate change presents, and working towards adapting to these changes, we can all expect to be a great deal more confident about the future" said Neil Carrington of Ecclesiastical and SWCCIP Executive Member.

### **About Ecclesiastical**

Ecclesiastical is a specialist insurer of charities, schools, the care sector, churches and historic buildings. Founded in 1887 they provide a wide range of insurances. For more information about Ecclesiastical, visit: [www.ecclesiastical.com](http://www.ecclesiastical.com).

### **- SWCCIP network reshuffle: Which sector are you interested in?**

SWCCIP are revising their network database to provide members with information on specific sectors. As well as the existing 6 sector groups, 2 new sector groups – transport and health – will be introduced as of next year. As part of the reshuffle, we would be grateful for existing and new members to tell us which sector groups they are interested in specifically. This will enable us to send you sector specific adaptation information. Inform us of your sector group interest via the subscription form which you can access from the SWCCIP website:

[www.oursouthwest.com/climate](http://www.oursouthwest.com/climate)

Please note: Existing members may wish to fill out this form to ensure we have your most up-to-date details and sector group interests.

### **- ENVEC 2007: Weston-super-Mare**

This year's ENVEC Conference – the main environmental business event in the South West – was a great success, with 280 delegates attending to hear presentations by Mark Lynas – leading climate change author, Mark Shayler from Envirowise and Alan Knight from Sustainable Development Commission to name just a few. Delegates also got to see the inspiring and moving film "Earth from the Air" from [www.wecomunic8.com](http://www.wecomunic8.com). SWCCIP held a stall for delegates, along with many other organisations around the South West.

Conference and Expert Briefing Session presentations including the sound recording of Alan Knight's presentation "If products could talk!" and Mark Lynas, with Sylvie Channon from SSW's "Six Degrees - Our Future on a Hotter Planet + Fair Shares, Fair Choice" can now be downloaded from the ENVEC Archive at: [www.oursouthwest.com/envec/archive/index.htm](http://www.oursouthwest.com/envec/archive/index.htm). For more information about this year's ENVEC and past conferences, visit:

[www.oursouthwest.com/envec/](http://www.oursouthwest.com/envec/)

### **SWCCIP Local Govt Sector Group**

#### **- 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. The study will sit on the SWCCIP website as a resource to show where Local Authorities are with climate change. The research will also include a visual map of the SW showing which climate declarations local authorities have signed. For more information, contact Emily O'Connor, communications support for SWCCIP at: [emily.o'connor@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:emily.o'connor@environment-agency.gov.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](http://www.oursouthwest.com/climate/archive/archive.htm#general)

### **SWCCIP Housing and Construction Sector**

#### **- RIBA's 'Combating Climate Change' programme**

RIBA launched their 'combating climate change programme' in October this year which aims to help RIBA members, the institute and its staff address climate change. The programme is split into four areas, including: setting targets and policy, providing tools and guidance to members, RIBA altering corporate behaviours and campaigning for climate change awareness, as well as improving building design. For more information and to read RIBA's climate change policy and update, visit: [www.architecture.com/FindOutAbout/ClimateChange/ClimateChange.aspx](http://www.architecture.com/FindOutAbout/ClimateChange/ClimateChange.aspx)

#### **- Strategy for Sustainable Construction consultation workshops**

As a response to the Government's Strategy for Sustainable Construction, due to be released in Spring 2008, Future Foundations organised three workshops around the South West to collate into a regional response. The workshops discussed the strategy's targets, of which one section focused on climate change and energy. The draft strategy can be read at:

[www.berr.gov.uk/files/file40641.pdf](http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file40641.pdf)

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## **Partners' News:**

### **- 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](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/flood/floodwarning)

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## **National News:**

### **- Benn sets out strengthened Climate Change Bill (Defra news release: 29/10/07)**

Defra have announced an amendment to the Climate Change Bill which has been strengthened to include a clause and mandatory report on adaptation. The report states that all public bodies should account for climate change impacts in their functions and that a political judgment on the level of risk that we are prepared to live with should be taken. It also requests a Governmental five year review assessing climate change predictions and adaptation policy. Defra's full news release can be read at: [www.wired-gov.net/wg/wg-news-1.nsf/vAllPrint/8459C7751E12193180257383003EA2EB?OpenDocument](http://www.wired-gov.net/wg/wg-news-1.nsf/vAllPrint/8459C7751E12193180257383003EA2EB?OpenDocument)

#### **- National Indicators for Local Authorities and Local Authority Partnerships**

As part of the Government's Performance Framework for Local Authorities – comprising of 198 indicators – a 'Handbook of Definitions' has been written to define the indicators and ensure the methodology is sound. Indicator NI188 specifically looks at 'Adapting to climate change' (Annex C4 - 'Local Economy and Environmental Sustainability', p. 82): 'The process based indicator measures progress on assessing and managing climate risks and opportunities, and incorporating appropriate action into local authority strategic planning'. The draft adaptation indicators can be read at:

[www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/indicatorsdefinitions](http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/indicatorsdefinitions)  
Annex C4: [www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/542437](http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/542437)

SWCCIP will be coordinating a response on the adaptation indicator on behalf of the Local Government sector group. If you would like to feed into this, please send your comments to [swccip@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:swccip@environment-agency.gov.uk) by 17<sup>th</sup> December. The consultation deadline is 21<sup>st</sup> December.

#### **- Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution study on “adapting the UK to Climate Change”: Invitation to submit information (deadline: 25/01/08)**

'Adapting the UK to Climate Change' has been chosen as the next major study for the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution. The Chair of the Royal Commission, Sir John Lawton, says "The Royal Commission has chosen this topic because it believes there is an urgent need to understand how the UK should adapt to climate change". The main phase of the study will take place in 2008 and is expected to be reported in 2009. For more information and to voice your opinions what issues you think this study should focus on, please contact: Jon Freeman Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution on 020 7799 8980 or email: [jon.freeman@rcep.org.uk](mailto:jon.freeman@rcep.org.uk) by 25 January 2008. Full article at: [www.rcep.org.uk/Adaptationpressrelease.htm](http://www.rcep.org.uk/Adaptationpressrelease.htm)

If you wish to contribute to the SWCCIP response, please e-mail your comments to: [swccip@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:swccip@environment-agency.gov.uk) by 11<sup>th</sup> Jan 2008.

#### **- Calling all Young Climate Change Champions!! – Deadline extended: 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 07**

The national search for nine young climate change champions has extended its deadline to the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2007. Young people, passionate about the environment and aged between 11 to 18, still have the opportunity to become a leader and communicator of climate change in their region. The nine winning Champions will:

- Attend a four day climate change expedition to Europe;
- Receive £1000 to organise a climate change event at their school or community;
- Receive a digital camera to record their time as climate change champion; and
- Meet senior members of the government and international spokespersons of climate change.

For further details and to apply, please visit: [www.climatechallenge.gov.uk](http://www.climatechallenge.gov.uk)

#### **- 'A tidal wave of climate activity in the South West': Community Action Revealed (24/10/07)**

SWCCIP and FOE thank all those who filled out the Community Action survey. The survey, published on 24<sup>th</sup> October 07, has revealed a grand scale of community action on climate change in the South West. It showed that over 250 community groups, involving over 250,000 people, currently participate in climate change activities in the South West – most of whom give

their time voluntarily. The surveys and full article are available to read at the Friends of the Earth website: [www.foe.co.uk/england/news/south\\_west\\_climate\\_activity.html](http://www.foe.co.uk/england/news/south_west_climate_activity.html)

- **'Climate Scepticism: The top 10' – The BBC dispelling climate change myths (12/11/07)**

The BBC news page now has an informative and comprehensible page on dispelling the top ten climate change myths most often made against the IPCC consensus. Scientific counter arguments are given for common sceptical views, including blaming the sun for climate change and the belief that the evidence showing the earth's temperature warming is unclear. The top ten myths can be found at: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in\\_depth/629/629/7074601.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_depth/629/629/7074601.stm). For the Met office's 'dispelling climate change myths, visit:

[www.metoffice.gov.uk/corporate/pressoffice/myths/index.html](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/corporate/pressoffice/myths/index.html)

See also, 'Climate change controversies: a simple guide' by the Royal Society at:

[www.royalsoc.ac.uk/page.asp?id=6229](http://www.royalsoc.ac.uk/page.asp?id=6229)

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**International News:**

- **'Time to ditch Kyoto' (Nature Magazine: 24/10/07)**

With the United Nations Climate Change Conference on the horizon (being held in Bali in December to decide international policy after 2012), Gwyn Prins and Steve Rayner write in their article that 'the Kyoto approach tries to do too much, too soon'. They indicate that so far the protocol has failed in slowing global warming and has also stifled discussion into alternative policy approaches. Fundamentally they argue that climate change is too complex for a "one-size-fits-all" approach; that more public funding should go into research and development; that we must all embrace adaptation and that a bottom-up approach should be taken rather than concentrating on precise targets. The Kyoto protocol expires in 2012.

- 'The (unmet) commitment of international resources to the multilateral Adaptation Fund under the United Nations Climate Change Convention is \$1.5 billion, derived in part from a tax on the Clean Development Mechanism. Funds for mitigation, however, come from many sources and total at least \$19 billion.'

Full article at: [www.nature.com/nature/journal/v449/n7165/full/449973a.html](http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v449/n7165/full/449973a.html)

**Hungry for more?** Go to [www.oursouthwest.com/climate](http://www.oursouthwest.com/climate)

Alex Webb

SWCCIP Manager

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](mailto:swccip@environment-agency.gov.uk)

[www.oursouthwest.com/climate/](http://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](mailto:swccip@environment-agency.gov.uk)