

LINK eBulletin March 2009

LINK eBulletin March 2009

[LINK News](#) | [Consultations](#) | [Publications](#) | [Other News](#) | [Diary](#)

LINK News

Scottish Public Information Forum (SPIF)

SPIF is a forum that discusses Freedom of Information processes – whether they are working, and what, if anything, should change. Please email [Lloyd Austin](#), LINK's representative, if you have any issues you want to raise at the next SPIF meeting which will be held in Edinburgh on 18 May 2009.

Effects of the Economic Downturn

Is your organisation affected by local authority funding cuts?
Are you finding it more difficult to secure funding in the economic downturn?
Are you dipping into your reserves?

SCVO is calling on LINK, as an intermediary body, to help build up a picture of how the financial crisis is affecting the voluntary sector. Would you please give your feedback to [Jen](#) as soon as possible. We will collate a picture of the impact on the eNGO part of the sector for our own network use and will pass on trends to SCVO.

Notes of Climate Alliance Meeting, 25 February

European Parliament's Agriculture Committee visit Scotland, February 2009

The European Parliament's Agriculture Committee, chaired by English Conservative MEP Neil Parish, had a three day visit to Scotland, hosted by Alyn Smith MEP, who is the SNP member of the committee. The MEPs, with associated policy staff and secretariat from the European Parliament, were visiting farms and research facilities as part of a familiarisation exercise with Scottish agriculture, which they have also done in other Member States. As part of their visit, the Cabinet Secretary Richard Lochhead and Environment Minister Roseanna Cunningham, and the Scottish Parliament's Rural Affairs and Environment Committee, hosted a dinner at Edinburgh Castle on the 25 February.

LINK was among a small number of external stakeholders invited, and Mandy Gloyer represented the Agriculture Taskforce at the event. There were no formal proceedings, but it was clear the MEPs were keen to understand what makes Scottish farming different. There was good discussion about Scotland's natural and cultural heritage as a huge benefit to the country, and the role of farmers in managing the landscape, and ensuring habitat for wildlife. In particular, Mandy had detailed discussions with the Committee's policy adviser, Dr Andreas Schneider, about the future of the CAP, how the committee members viewed the idea of 'public money for public goods' and upcoming challenges for environmental funding arising from the economic downturn.

[Wildlife and Countryside Link News](#), February 2009

[Farewell letter from Mike Russell MSP](#), 12 February 2009

[LINK Comments on Audit Scotland Brief](#) on Environment Report, 2 February 2009. **Internal/LINK Network Circulation Only**

FoES New Website for Action launched www.spreadthelove.org.uk

FoES are asking people to write a pledge to do one thing differently this year, then they will receive more information about FoES and getting involved. More details from [Davina Shiell](#)

Sustainable Development Commission - 'Breakthrough' ideas for the 21st century

Last autumn LINK, among others, was invited to put forward a 'breakthrough' idea to the SDC that would make a real difference to the sustainability of the UK. After discussion at Congress our idea was to propose 'a quality of life indicator to achieve parity with GDP as a measure of society's progress'. Of the 300 ideas submitted, LINK's was not shortlisted.

Hvae a look at some of these ideas that SDC have been testing via an [online forum](#) in preparation for a high profile event in London on 1 July 2009.

[<<Back to top](#)

Consultations

You can sign up to [seConsult](#), the Scottish Government weekly email alert service for new Consultations.

In addition to the Scottish Government consultations, new consultations received are:

Scottish Government	Science in support of Rural Affairs, Marine, Environment and related policies of the Scottish Government: a Co-ordinated Agenda for Marine, Environment and Rural Affairs Science (CAMERAS).	20 March
	CAMERAS will provide a common agenda for the various organisations that provide scientific evidence and support for the Rural, Environment, Marine and related policies of the Scottish Government to co-ordinate their activities and work together more effectively.	
SEPA	RBMP SEA Environmental Report	3 April
SEPA	Draft River Basin Management Plans	22 June
	For details see www.sepa.org.uk	SEPA request a summary of what your response may include by 22 March to assist with the process of developing the final plans
SEPA	SEPA Research Strategy 2008-2012	Launched 3 February 2009
	As a way of nurturing collaboration SEPA has created a Wiki for the Research Strategy, to allow people to discuss and shape how SEPA will proceed with R&D in the future. This purpose of the wiki is to encourage debate - if you are aware of research that would inform some SEPA's priorities, or of any aspects missing, then give your input via the wiki	See www.sepa.org.uk/wiki .

[<<Back to top](#)

LINK Diary

- March 19** SOAs Steering Group Meeting. RSPB, Edinburgh. 10am-1pm.
Details from **Jen**.
- March 25** Climate Comms Group Meeting. FoES, Edinburgh. 1-4pm. Details from **Jen**
- April 23** Ministerial Quarterly Meeting. Details from **Jen**.
- April 24** Board meeting, am. Board and Convenors/Members Networking pm.
- June 25** Board meeting, am. Board and Convenors/Members Networking pm.
- October 22** Board meeting, am. Board and Convenors/Members Networking pm.
- December 16** Festive Evening Reception, St Augustine's Church, Edinburgh.

[<<Back to top](#)

Other Seminars and Conferences		
<p>9 March 10-12 plus lunch</p> <p>The Hub</p> <p>Edinburgh</p>	<p>Scottish Government</p>	<p>Scottish Environmental Attitudes and Behaviours A morning conference to publicise the findings of the Scottish Environment Attitudes and Behaviours Survey.</p> <p>The event will also announce the launch of the Scottish Environment Social Evidence Network (SESEN).</p> <p>For more info email Gillian.Stuart@scotland.gsi.gov.uk</p>
<p>12 March 6pm Augustine Church Centre, Edinburgh</p>	<p>SCVO Lecture Series</p>	<p>Deirdre Garvey, CEO of Irish voluntary sector umbrella body The Wheel will give a talk on the topic of "Social partnership in practise - how the Irish voluntary sector helps develop government policy".</p> <p>The event will include a wine reception.</p> <p>More details and Booking Form</p>
<p>18 March Cardonald College, Glasgow</p>	<p>Trellis</p> <p>The Scottish charity for therapeutic gardening</p>	<p>Trellis Third Annual Conference</p> <p>To book email Melanie Nicoll or telephone 01738 624348.</p>
<p>20 March Edinburgh</p>	<p>SCVO / ESRC</p>	<p>Third Sector in Innovation A public policy seminar to understand what innovation is, where it can be found and how it can be identified within the third sector.</p> <p>See http://tinyurl.com/scvoesrc for details.</p> <p>To book, email Marzena Bien in the ESRC's Knowledge</p>

		Transfer team or telephone 01793 413137.
24 March 2pm Barclays Wealth, Glasgow	Stonewall Scotland	Diversity Champions A Stonewall Scotland seminar for employers to learn more from the top performers in the workplace equality index and how they achieved change. Further information from Angela Platt .
25 March 7.30pm 6.45pm for coffee, stalls, chat Augustine United Church, Edinburgh	SPOKES	Spring Public Meeting Bikes, Buses, Trains and Trams – Integrating Cycling and Public Transport More information email jackieh@waitrose.com , telephone 0131 664 0526 or visit www.spokes.org.uk
16 April University of Aberdeen	Scottish Marine Group	Post-graduate Marine Science Research Topics For more details, email Susan Chambers or telephone 0131 247 4247 or Beth Scott

<<[Back to top](#)

OTHER NEWS

SEAD

You can sign up for [regular news on climate action](#), trainings and community support from the Scottish Education and Action for Development SEAD.

SSDF - Scottish Green List

The deadline for entries to the [SSDF call for environmental champions](#) is 9am Monday 23 March 2009.

Standard Return on Investment

Forth Sector Development, together with the SROI Network, has been engaged by the Scottish Government to develop, promote and support the use of Standard Return on Investment (SROI). SROI is a way in which an organisation can measure the difference that activity makes to people's lives, and tell a robust story about that difference or impact. It uses financial comparators or 'proxies' to report on the impact made.

Forth Sector Development wish to engage with audiences by working with key intermediary organisations to explain SROI, provide a project overview and to

introduce the training and website that will be available later this year.

If you would like further information or to discuss possible workshops or events please email [Penny Morriss](mailto:Penny.Morriss@forthsectordevelopment.co.uk) or telephone 0131 659 4745.

To join the mailing list for updates, email SROIproject@forthsectordevelopment.co.uk

More details on SROI from the [Scottish Government](#), [SROI Network](#) and the [Forth Sector Development](#) websites.

Young Scotland Programme 2-6 June, Stranraer

The Institute of Contemporary Scotland are inviting applications from LINK members for an endowed places on this year's YCP. It is open to 18-32 year old volunteers or staff who are contributing to their community. [More details and application form](#). Closing date is 17 April.

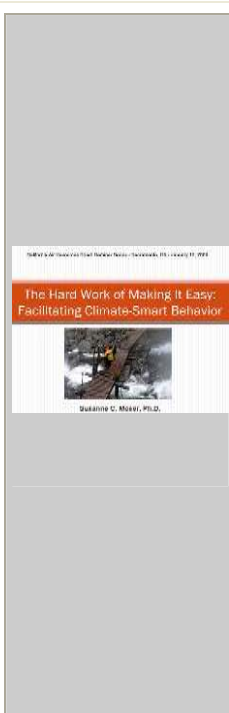
[<<Back to top](#)

Publications Received

The Hard Work of Making It Easy: Facilitating Climate-Smart Behaviour

Dr. Susanne Moser, researcher at the Institute for the Study of Society and Environment, based at the National Centre for Atmospheric Research, Boulder Colorado, is a geographer studying the human dimensions of global change.

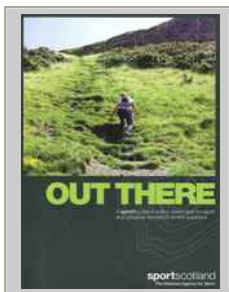
Simon Pepper recommends this seminar presentation as easily the best treatment of the challenges of driving behaviour change. It takes on board much of the quality work in the UK and concepts are explained in the resources section at the end.



Sport Scotland

Out There

New Policy Statement, February 2009



Energy Savings Trust Report Power in Numbers

Summary of research showing that the potential for community distributed generation in Scotland is significant, but barriers need to be overcome.

