

## LINK eBulletin - March 2010

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### LINK DIARY

**18 March** LINK-SNH annual liaison meeting  
**22 April** LINK Networking Meeting, please commit to your diaries. Taskforce convenors, please liaise with your deputies if you can't attend yourselves.  
**4 May** LINK-SEPA liaison meeting

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### LINK NEWS

#### Westminster Elections

##### 1. Hustings

Election time is when the public get their say. If the public say the environment is important to them, politicians will listen.

We know that the UK General election will take place in spring 2010 (most likely date is Thursday 6th May). Due to possible swings in the vote and many MPs resigning, this election is also likely to return a high percentage of new MPs. Now is a great time to remind them that the environment matters to their constituents. It's also worth noting that Many PPCs will resurface at Holyrood, European and Local elections, by maintaining our engagement with these politicians we reinforce our reputations at all levels of politics.

Working together across Scotland, LINK member organisations can provide a focus for debate, by organising a Hustings event. These meetings allow constituents to ask their candidates what the environment means to them. For the host organisation you have the opportunity to introduce prospective candidates to your organisation and the wider LINK network.

Sounds Daunting? Don't worry, LINK have put together a [Hustings pack](#) which includes a step by step guide to organising a hustings. The pack also contains sample letters, and press releases.

Avoid Clashes, Stay in the loop - LINK have also created a [calendar](#) of all the confirmed hustings, to help you avoid clashes. Remember to let us know about your event so we can add!

##### 2. Manifesto

Andy Myles is coordinating production text for the LINK manifesto for both the UK and the Scottish (2011) elections.

**Waste** – at LINK's Networking meeting it was agreed we should identify where and how member bodies connect on the waste, if there is a degree of common ground, and if it seems useful to develop any position papers or simply ideas to contribute to the debate. We have already canvassed members on their position but so far have had no response. We are aware some LINK members are working on this area and would very much like to hear from you so we can collate a picture to present at the next networking meeting in April. Please contact [Kate](#)

**Single Outcome Agreement:** LINK's Working for Sustainable Development through Single Outcome agreements was published on 11<sup>th</sup> February and distributed to local authority Chief Executives, COSLA, Improvement Service, Audit Scotland and other stakeholders. The report received coverage in the [Glasgow Herald](#). The Taskforce is following up with interested councils, the Improvement Service, SDC Scotland, Audit Scotland, and is keen to hear of good case studies. Contact [Jen](#)

**LINK met with the Environment Minister, Roseanna Cunningham** on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February. The discussion covered wild land, Scottish Landscape Charter, air quality and acidification. [Note of the meeting](#)

**January Board Meeting:** the draft minutes of January's board meeting are now on the [LINK website](#)

**LINK 2009 Annual Congress** - "The Environment and Economics". Report of Congress is now up on [LINK website](#).

**Marine Renewables:** LINK's Marine Taskforce has commissioned an advocacy piece from Simon Pepper on planning for marine renewables, informed by a LINK workshop held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Simon Pepper will provide this for end of March. [Background documents](#) on Marine Renewables are available in the members section of the LINK website.

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## MEMBER FOCUS

**RAFTS** are holding their annual conference on 10th March at the Battleby Institute, Redgorton, near Perth. The conference theme is *"Agreeing to disagree: Dealing with thorny issues"*. Topics include: Working with developers to safeguard environments and secure mitigations; Better and agreed management of predators; Working with other uses and users of land and water. [Further information and booking form](#)

**The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland** are hosting the **IUCN's UK Conference "Nature, what's in it for me?"** – exploring *"ecosystem management for human wellbeing"* on the 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> April, at Our Dynamic Earth, Holyrood Road, Edinburgh. The RZSS are the IUCN UK Secretariat organisation. The event is being sponsored by WWF, Scottish Natural Heritage, Natural England and the Countryside Council for Wales. [More information and booking details](#)

**Who Benefits from GM Crops?** A new report from **Friends of the Earth** exposes that GM crops are failing to feed the world or tackle climate change. Globally GM crops remain confined to less than 3% of agricultural land and more than 99% are grown for animal feed and agrofuels, rather than food. There is still not a single commercial GM crop with increased yield, drought-tolerance, salt-tolerance, enhanced nutrition or other beneficial traits long promised by biotech companies. Read the full report [here](#)

**WWF's [Earth Hour](#)** is on course to have the biggest sign-up yet in Scotland. Switch off your lights at 8.30pm on March 27<sup>th</sup> to support action on Climate Change.

**Sustrans** is calling for four out of five journeys of less than five miles are made by foot, bicycle or public transport by 2020. Their new booklet [More Haste, Less Speed](#) outlines their proposals to achieve cost-effective sustainable local travel by 2020.

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## CALLS FOR ACTION

**Scottish Government Land Use Strategy discussion workshops:** promote LINK's position on Sustainable Land Use Strategy at [Scottish Government discussion workshops, 15-31 March](#). LINK's [Living with the Land](#) is a major contribution to the strategy which became a requirement in the Climate Change Act. The SLUS also provides opportunities to deliver other public objectives such as landscape and wildlife protection. (See also [SLUS: 5 Key Steps to Success](#)).

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## PUBLICATIONS

**Insect Pollination-** PostNote from the Parliamentary Office on Science and Technology. Estimates that the contribution of insect pollination (primarily bees) is worth £440m, 13% of UK income from farming. Similar hand pollination would cost an estimated £1.5bn. As honey bees provide only 10% of pollination, there needs to be greater emphasis on studying wild pollinators. [Link](#)

**Sustainable Development Commission Scotland's Third Annual Assessment:** Review of Scottish Government actions on sustainable development from autumn 2008 to autumn 2009. The assessment analyses central policy areas based on Government's own indicators and recommends action. *"Frameworks in place but lack of follow-through to the local level"* [Download](#)

**Setting the Table: Advice to Government on priority elements of sustainable diets:** report from the Sustainable Development Commission, December 2009. [Download](#)

**New consolidated Scottish Planning Policy:** sets out Scottish Government planning policy on nationally important land use planning matters such as housing, wind farms, flooding and the natural and built environment. [Download](#)

**Greenspace and Health Outcomes Framework:** a new guide, developed by Greenspace Scotland, NHS Health Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage, help greenspace, health and other practitioners to better plan and coordinate greenspace-related work to deliver health benefits. Download the guide [here](#)

**A Bit Rich** – published by the New Economics Foundation, December 2009. A new method for calculating the real value to society of different professions. Available to purchase or to download [here](#)

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## CONSULTATIONS

**Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Local Plan:** The finalised draft Local Plan was approved by the National Park Board in December 2009. Click [here](#) to view a report which summarises the more significant issues raised and the proposed changes by section of the Finalised Draft Plan. The consultation is running to April 6<sup>th</sup>. LINK members may want to check that the Plan aligns with the 'Sandford' principles. Consultation information [here](#)

**Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution Study:** The environmental impacts of demographic change in the UK. Invitation to submit evidence [here](#). Please send responses to [Yolanda Rizzi](#) by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Extending Permitted Development Rights for Domestic Micro-Wind Turbines and Air-Source Heat Pumps (SG 05/02/10)**

On 15 January 2010 Scottish Ministers consulted on draft proposals to extend permitted development rights to micro wind turbines and air source heat pump installation on domestic buildings and laid an Order in the Scottish Parliament on 5 February giving effect to an amendment of the GDPO. Scottish Ministers are now able to take forward a consultation on much more wide-ranging proposals for the extension of permitted development rights to MWT and ASHP. These proposals are based on research 1 for the Scottish Government, which was published in December 2009. Consultation period 05/02/10 - 30/04/10. [Link](#)

### **Scottish Government Consultation Paper on the Consolidation of the Waste Management Licensing Regulations and Amendments arising from the Better Waste Regulation**

**Exercise:** Also incorporating Proposals for: The Transposition of the revised Waste Framework Directive. Closing date for responses 21<sup>st</sup> May 2010. [Link](#)

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## **EVENTS AND SEMINARS**

**European Citizens Initiative Seminar** – 16th March at 12.00pm The Tun, 4 Jackson's Entry, Edinburgh. Seminar on the initiative which was introduced when the Treaty of Lisbon came into force in 2009. The Treaty states that *"not less than one million citizens who are nationals of a significant number of Member States may take the initiative of inviting the Commission, within the framework of its powers, to submit any appropriate proposal on matters where citizens consider that a legal act of the Union is required for the purpose of implementing the Treaties"* Panellists include: P. Nikiforos Diamandouros, European Ombudsman since 2003; Frank McAveety MSP, Convener of the Scottish Parliament's Petitions Committee. Contact the [European Parliament, Directorate General for Communication Office in Scotland](#) to register.

**Art on the Path Seminar** – 17<sup>th</sup> March, Inglewood House. A seminar run by Paths for All on the value of art on paths (social, economic and environmental); the planning, funding, sensitive design & siting of art on paths; how to engage with artists and involve the local community in the process. [Booking form](#)

**Scottish Renewables Annual Conference 2010** - 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> March, Hilton Hotel, Glasgow *"Forging Ahead – The Next Decade"*. Topics include: The planning regime for marine and offshore wind; Offshore wind – is it a license to print money?; Creating the renewables supply chain. [More information and book online](#)

**Ecofusion 2010** April 11<sup>th</sup>, Holyrood Park, Edinburgh – an environmental multi-cultural festival aimed at encouraging people of all ages to enjoy the outdoors. To host a stall or organize an activity, please contact [j.duncan@bctv.org.uk](mailto:j.duncan@bctv.org.uk)

**Leonardo da Vinci Programme Nature Exchange projects 2010:** The projects aim to develop the skills of Scottish trainers involved in natural heritage, conservation and the environment through a programme of exchanges with partners in other European countries. This year they have a new partner in Cyprus who is offering a programme about *'Preparing for Climate Change'* as well existing partners in Iceland, Norway Finland, Latvia, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Bulgaria and Germany. Six people from Scotland will go to each country, spending 7-8 days participating in workshops, site visits, hands-on activities and seminars. Travel, accommodation and subsistence are all funded by the grant so there is very little cost to participants. For more information and a booking form, visit their [website](#)



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## UK LINKS

**Northern Ireland Environment LINK** have published '[\*Policy Priorities for Northern Ireland's Environment - The Way Ahead 2010 Review\*](#)'. The document provides an update on progress towards the policy changes that NIEL members recommended in the 2009 edition. NIEL believes these changes are vital if Northern Ireland is to successfully address the environmental, economic and social challenges it currently faces.

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## OTHER NEWS

### **Help build a pilot eco-community: volunteers needed**

Help build a pilot eco community and launch a social enterprise in Mongolia to sell quilts and sleeping mats to humanitarian/relief organisations, who will donate bedding to hospitals, orphanages, prisons and vulnerable people. Urgent need for business planning help/fundraising / partners in the UK. In Mongolia we need Field and Construction Site Managers, agronomist, permaculturist, engineer, builder, carpenter, mason and eco-friendly happy, helping hands starting May 2010. Plenty of free time for many outdoor activities in the rugged mountainous terrain. Summer: swim, hike, fish, horse rides, trek, mountain bike, photography, pick wild berries, mushrooms, medicinal / culinary herbs and mountain flowers. WINTER: ice skate, hike, track, horse rides, hunt and photography. Hearty volunteers needed - you pay airfare and \$20 a day for food and basic bunks. Rugged mountain logging town 3.5 hours north (by train) of the capitol Ullanbaatar. Rough people and extreme climate. Contact [Joy Esther Brooks](#) for further details.

**[National Biodiversity Indicators Portal](#)**: a new internet resource for countries and regions looking to develop and use biodiversity indicators.

**Royal Society of Edinburgh's Inquiry into Facing up to Climate Change in Scotland: National Schools Competition** - Competition for primary and secondary schoolchildren to produce a poster and DVD presentation on how climate change will affect the lives of people living in their area. Closing date Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010. More information [here](#)

**The Soil Association Scotland** has lovely offices near Kings Buildings which has two desk spaces available for rental. The offices are located just off the start of Liberton Road, Edinburgh which is served by a wide range of buses. Rental is £275 a month all inclusive of car parking, use of kitchen area (with cooker and seating space), electricity, rates and water. Also include is free use of a small meeting room with Video Conference facilities. We also have an office allotment if people are keen on getting involved with a little lunchtime growing. Alternatively, it is a lovely space to sit on the occasional sunny day. For more information or to come and view please contact [Erika Martin](#)

**Free leaflet carousels from WWF** - WWF are offering some perspex leaflet carousels - about 5' plus a large roadie-type box (5'x3'x3') on wheels, free to anyone wants them. Deadline is 10<sup>th</sup> March. Please contact [Nancy Nairn](#) if you are interested.

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