



LINK e-bulletin November 2011

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LINK Diary

2011

16 November CNPA workshop with LINK members
17-18 Nov LINK Congress and Strategic Planning, Birnam
14 December LINK Festive Reception, Edinburgh

2012

26 January Board and Networking
26 April Board and Networking
26 June Board and Networking
18 October All day Board
22 November Congress
23 November Strategic Planning

LINK News

Welcome to [Planning Democracy](#), LINK's newest member whose application was unanimously approved by members who voted. Planning Democracy campaigns for a fair and inclusive planning system in Scotland. They have already been an observer at a Planning Taskforce meeting and most recently have been working to achieve a judicial review for Hunterstone.

[New LINK Media Service](#) – LINK is now providing a daily media service on our member pages, with links to environmental stories which may be of interest to members. Visit after 2.00pm for the day's new stories. We also have a new Press release page for members' press releases. If you have a story or press release you'd like us to publish please contact [Kate](#) or [Rea](#)

LINK Board met in early October, welcoming Angus Yarwood (new trustee) and Diarmid Hearn (observer). The meeting revisited LINK operating guidance on making statements, agreeing that this is sound, important for a forum like LINK, and fit for purpose. Subgroups were established to succession-plan and to support work on the strategic review starting now. The Board responded to Andy Myles' autumn political strategy report and took stock of progress against LINK's operating plan. The meeting was also an opportunity to catch up on trustee appraisals (ongoing since summer), and the president search.

President Search After a year-long search to find a successor for Helen Zealley we are pleased to announce that LINK plans to move to appoint Ross Finnie at Congress in November. This may technically require us to hold an SGM, in which case, we would recommend his appointment as President Designate, at Congress, and formally as President at an SGM held early in 2012.

LINK Congress and Strategic Planning 17 and 18 November - LINK Members' Congress will take place on 17 November followed by the Strategic Planning Meeting on 18 November at the Birnam Institute (Thursday) and the Birnam Hotel (accommodation and Friday). Speakers are Hans Friederich of the IUCN, Alison Eliot who sat on the Christie Commission, and Dan Barlow of



WWF Scotland. Iain Macwhirter of the Herald will then join the speakers for a panel discussion chaired by Stuart Brooks. Stuart Stevenson, Minister for the Environment and Climate Change has been invited to give the pre-dinner speech. More information for members and a booking form [here](#)

Economics Forum – the first meeting of LINK’s new Economics forum will take place at LINK’s Parliamentary Office on Friday 11th November. If your organisation would be interested in taking part, please contact [Kate](#).

SNH – LINK board level meeting with SNH Chair and Simon Pepper early October considered what might be longer-term impacts on environment sector of the recession; a ‘summit’ involving LINK, SNH, SEPA was proposed, which LINK Board now taking forward.

Cairngorms National Park – There has been further liaison over the last month with CNPA and facilitator Tim Birley in advance of a discussion between the LINK NP task force and CNPA board and staff on 16 November; report will be available later November. The NPTF is preparing an issues paper for the discussion.

LINK’s first meeting with the **Environment Minister**, Stewart Stevenson, was held in late October, a brief opportunity, mostly given over to discussion of the Spending Review and Government’s proposals vis-à-vis environment. LINK delegates offered to support the Minister with more calls for spending on the environment in relation to the RPP, the SRDP and more. Noting the recent NGO briefing on the National Performance Framework and LINK’s efforts to secure a meeting with officials to discuss alternative measures, the Minister encouraged LINK to engage him in the debate. A further meeting will be held (Ramblers – Minister) to discuss investment in paths and tracks infrastructure.

A recent telecon with the other Links covered: a proposed Joint Links Seminar 2012 in Northern Ireland about which information will follow in early new year; updates on respective Link priorities. NIEL are working on the National Ecosystem Assessment to raise awareness, Wales Link is busy with the Natural Environment Framework and proposals for a single statutory body, WCL has published NatureCheck and is preparing for launch of Joint Links CAP report on 8 November.

LINK October Outputs

[Marine Protected Areas – an Introduction](#) – first in a series of File Notes on Marine Protected Areas from the LINK Marine TF

[LINK Response to the Inquiry into Reform of Parliamentary Business](#)

Parliamentary

LINK’s [Governance Matters](#) was published just ahead of the political party conferences in October and has been the subject of fringes hosted by MSPs at SNP and Green conferences. Promotion of the paper is ongoing and we will take stock of commentary and feedback at the turn of the year.

[LINK Political Strategy Report - Autumn 2011](#)



LINK launched [Acting Locally](#), our manifesto for the 2012 local council elections on the 26th October. The manifesto is designed to assist politicians at all levels ensure that environmental matters are at the heart of their manifestos for the elections to Scotland's Councils in May 2012. This will be followed up with letters to the political parties and e-action to raise awareness. Members will shortly be invited to sign up to run local council election hustings in April 2012, either in their own right, or in conjunction with other members or networks.

Scottish Environment LINK and WCL have been making effort to improve communication and coordination amongst the UK members of the European Environmental Bureau (EEB). The UK seat has recently been taken by Client Earth, an NGO (part of WCL) with an environmental law remit and the Links will liaise with Client Earth about practical arrangements to enhance the input of the UK members to the EEB in Brussels. Andy Myles attended the EEB AGM in October – a useful opportunity to promote Scottish concerns and to network.

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Member News

[FOE Scotland intervention in Axa case changes law on access to courts](#) a ruling from the UK Supreme Court in London, following an intervention by Friends of the Earth Scotland in a court action between Axa and the Scottish Government, which changes the interpretation of 'title and interest' in Scots Law, will now allow campaigning groups to more easily and effectively challenge poor decisions in the courts in the public interest. The question whether or not sufferers of pleural plaques could be involved in the court action between Axa and the Scottish Government opened a window of opportunity to question the out-dated practice of how Scottish courts decide on who should or shouldn't be allowed to take a case to court. Frances McCartney, the solicitor who acted for Friends of the Earth in the intervention, said: "This ruling provides clarity on the interpretation of 'title and interest' in Scots law and is a massive step towards people in Scotland having the same rights as people in England and Wales to challenge public body decision making.

[Vehicle Hill Tracks in Northern Scotland](#) – a new book by Adam Watson providing a comprehensive account on the spread of vehicle tracks on hill land in northern Scotland since the mid 1950s. Sponsored and published by the **North East Mountain Trust**.

[The Natural Change Project: Catalysing leadership for sustainability](#) – report from WWF Scotland on findings from its 2010/11 'Natural Change' project, a programme that works with people who hold positions of influence in society. Through a series of residential wilderness workshops, the project aims to support the growth of participants' personal experiences on the Project into 'leadership and social action for an ecologically sustainable future'.

WWF Common Cause Workshop

Together with Oxfam Scotland, WWF are hosting a Common Cause Workshop on 12 December at The Melting Pot in Edinburgh. Values represent our guiding principles: our broadest motivations, influencing the attitudes we hold and how we act. Our values have a powerful influence over our choices. Common Cause explores the influence of values on pro-social and pro-environmental action. Richard Hawkins, Director, Public Interest Research Centre and co-author of The Common Cause Handbook will lead the workshop. The keynote will be given by Tim Kasser, Professor & Chair of Psychology, Knox College and author of The High Price of Materialism. For more information or if you would like to register, please contact Morag Watson mwatson@wwfscotland.org.uk



Positive Energy: How renewable energy can transform the UK by 2030 UK energy policy is at a crossroads. A new report from WWF shows that it is perfectly feasible for renewables to deliver at least 60% of the UK's electricity demand by 2030, enabling us to reduce emissions without resorting to new nuclear power. The government's current work to reform the electricity market will determine the shape of the UK's power sector for decades to come.

Exhibit at the RSPB's Scottish Bird Fair 19 and 20th May 2012, Hopetoun House, Edinburgh. More than 5000 visitors will enjoy the chance to shop from 60 wildlife related trade stands - ensuring they can get their hands on the latest birding technology, clothing, holidays, optics, literature, art work and much more. Throughout each day there will be a wide range of informative talks, fun packed children's activities, guided walks and special workshops, with live music on Saturday evening. There will also be plenty to entertain the taste buds too with excellent locally sourced foods, not to mention the opportunity to sample some of Scotland's finest whisky and beer. The Scottish Birdfair will offer a top class event with a comprehensive marketing campaign to match you with your audience.

Making the Case for Investment in the Walking Environment - new report from **Living Streets**

Scottish Wildlife Trust have moved. Their new address is: Scottish Wildlife Trust, Harbourside House, 110 Commercial Street, Edinburgh, EH6 6NF

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Other News

Kat Jones, late of SNH and currently working with Patrick Harvie in his constituency office has asked if members and task forces could put her on mailing lists for reports, briefings and the like. She would very much appreciate print if possible. Her contact details are: Katherine Jones, Regional Coordinator for Patrick Harvie MSP, Room 4/2, 52 St Enoch Square, Glasgow G1 4AA t. 0141 248 3850 e. katherine.jones@scottish.parliament.uk

Climate Challenge fund reopens

The Scottish Government announced on 5 October that the Climate Challenge Fund (CCF), which supports communities to take action on climate change, is again inviting applications for a new funding round. The Scottish Government has confirmed the commitment to CCF at £10.3 million each year over the Spending Review period. For the first time, a Junior Climate Challenge Fund has also opened to support projects run by under 18s. The Scottish Government press release can be found [here](#). More information on the Climate Challenge Fund can be found [here](#).

Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature

The preliminary findings of a major new study on global warming have revealed 'reliable evidence' of a rise in the average world land temperature of approximately 1°C since the mid-1950s. The study - the preliminary findings of which were published on 20 October - set out to address a number of concerns put forward by climate skeptics, including that of data selection bias. More information can be found [here](#).

Campaign to Save the BBC Wildlife Fund - Since the BBC Wildlife Fund was established in 2007, it has raised nearly £3 million and supports 87 projects around the world. Many of these involve highly endangered species such as the Sumatran rhino, Siberian tiger and Leatherback turtle - all of which will soon vanish without proper protection. The Fund also supports projects in



the UK and on species that struggle to get recognition but desperately need support such as cuckoos, Bechstein's bat, and raft spiders. Emphasis is placed on developing sustainable solutions which link conservation with the participation and improved well-being of local communities. Please urge your members and supporters to sign the petition, and if your organisation hasn't already done so, sign up to the letter to Chris Patten, Chair of the BBC Governors, requesting that the BBC Wildlife Fund be saved.

This week's [Tales from the National Parks](#) on BBC4 features Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park and the plan to mine for gold at Cononish. Ten days left to watch on BBC i-Player.

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Events and Seminars

RTPI Annual Conference: Planning - Supporting Sustainable Economic Growth 8th November, St Andrews in the Square, Glasgow. For more information or to register, please contact services@rtpiconferences.co.uk

Environmental Crime and Enforcement Summit, 10 November 2011, Surgeons' Hall, Edinburgh, organised by SEPA. Environmental crime, which can range from non-compliance with environmental authorisations through to the involvement of serious and organised crime groups in the waste industry, has wide-ranging and adverse environmental, social and economic impacts. The aim of the summit is to raise awareness of environmental crime, highlight the important work currently being undertaken to tackle it and identify further strategic and partnership opportunities. If you would like to attend, please contact environmentalcrimesummit@sepa.org.uk

[Cycling Scotland Annual Conference 2011](#), Wednesday 16th November, Glasgow City Chambers. This year's Cycling Scotland conference will bring together active travel professionals, campaigners, volunteers and politicians to learn from each other and gain a deeper understanding about the benefits that cycling can bring and how best to develop and promote cycling in Scotland.

[The future of nature-based tourism?](#) Wild Scotland Conference, 6th December, Perth Concert Hall. Responsible tourism is at the heart of nature-based tourism in Scotland and as the sector grows in response to rising consumer demand, there are many issues that need to be addressed. This year's keynote speaker is Chris Tiso, Chief Executive of leading outdoor clothing and equipment retailer, Tiso Group.

[Raising funds from the Rich conference](#) 6th December, at Central Hall Westminster, the annual conference on how to partner the wealthy as donors. Guest speakers include Sigrid Rausing and Jeffrey Archer.

[Freedom of Information Scotland: A Time of Change](#) Holyrood Magazine Conference, 16th December 2011, Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh. The event, which will feature the final conference address of the first Scottish Information Commissioner, Kevin Dunion, will look at the progress of FOI in Scotland and where it needs to move next. Exploring themes such as open data, extension of coverage and looking towards new FOI legislation, this conference will provide interesting and practical debate around the future of FOI in Scotland.



Consensus Decision Making – Thursday 26th January 2012, Carlton House London. This course will help you to take decisions: in a way that is constructive and collaborative; that reflect the values and knowledge of the employees, members or stakeholders; and which build a greater sense of ownership of the final outcomes. Email info@talkaction.org for further details.

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Publications

[Scottish Government's CAP Reform blog](#) – David Barnes on CAP negotiations

[SCVO State of the Sector survey](#) - in October 2011 SCVO conducted research with the Scottish third sector. 275 organisations responded to the annual State of the Sector survey. Many of the respondents are unsure about the future, uncertain over funding and what future government policy might hold.

[SCVO Scottish Third Sector Key Statistics](#) – SCVO's survey shows that the economic crisis is beginning to affect charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises - with these organisations seeing a £96m drop in income between 2009-2010. Rising inflation, teamed with static income means that the sector has to do more with less, and in some cases organisations are dipping into reserves to fund crucial projects.

Carnegie Trust, Regulation of the press – nine key questions for civil society

<http://bit.ly/oAaqZv>

[UK Nuclear Energy Engagement Report](#) – review from the Environment Council on how UK governments have engaged people about nuclear energy.

[SCIAF, Balancing the Books](#) SCIAF's new report looks at the need for climate adaptation finance and the case for Scotland to contribute at least £9m each year towards this. This was one of SCCS' key manifesto demands in the run-up to the 2011 Scottish Parliamentary elections.

[Applying social return on investment to community greenspace projects](#)

A report from greenspace scotland on their project to enable 10 greenspace community groups to use a Social Return on Investment (SROI) approach to measure the value of their activities. *greenspace is good so prove it* was a two year SROI programme supported by the Big Lottery Fund. The 10 community groups who took part in the *greenspace is good - so prove it* programme have been able to identify those who derive multiple benefits from taking part in their greenspace events, activities and projects and to place a financial value on them.

[The facts at your fingertips](#) - Freedom of Information Annual Report 2010/11 from the Scottish Information Commissioner

[Tackling fuel poverty during the transition to a low-carbon economy](#) – new report from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation

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Consultations



Guidelines for the selection, designation and management of Historic Marine Protected Areas - This consultation invites views on operational guidelines for selection, designation and management of Historic Marine Protected Areas under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010. Historic MPAs allow for the protection of marine historic assets of national importance in Scotland's territorial waters.

Contact: Philip Robertson

Address: Historic Scotland Longmore House Salisbury Place Edinburgh, EH9 1SH

Email: philip.robertson@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Telephone: 0131 668 8843

Historic Scotland strategy for protection, management and promotion of marine heritage 2011-16

This consultation sets out priorities for Historic Scotland in relation to the implementation of responsibilities on behalf of Scottish Ministers under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010.

Contact: Philip Robertson

Address: Historic Scotland Longmore House Salisbury Place Edinburgh, EH9 1SH

Email: philip.robertson@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Telephone: 0131 668 8843

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Stop Climate Chaos Scotland

SCCS was asked to give oral evidence to the Parliament's Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee on the proposed annual emissions reduction targets for 2023-27. SCCS policy group members, Sam Gardner (WWF) and Colin Howden (Transform Scotland) represented us at this meeting. You can read a transcript of the meeting online here:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=6417&mode=pdf>

SCCS work on the Scottish Budget

SCCS has been busy engaging with the budget process as the draft budget and spending review is scrutinised by Parliament. In summary, so far SCCS has:

- Encouraged supporters to contact their MSPs – writing letters in their own words expressing concern about the budget. Over 1,650 letters were sent.
- Provided written evidence on preventative spending for the Parliament's Finance Committee, and met with the Committee Convenor to discuss this further.
- Provided evidence on the budget to the Parliament's Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee
- Provided evidence on the budget to the Parliament's Energy, Economy and Tourism Committee
- Provided evidence on the budget to the Parliament's Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee

SCCS is also asking people who live in target constituencies – whose MSPs are key figures in the budget process – to write an email about inadequate funding in the budget for climate change action. Don't forget to do all you can to get folk in these areas to take this action:

www.stopclimatechaos.org/msp-special-action

Aberdeen South and North Kincardine, Airdrie and Shotts, Caithness, Sutherland & Ross
Clackmannanshire and Dunblane, Cunninghame North, Perthshire North



SCCS asks for Durban

The UN climate change talks will take place from 29th November to 9th December in Durban, South Africa. These are the follow-on global negotiations after Copenhagen in 2009 and Cancun last year. Expectations for a global deal being agreed at Durban are low.

The SCCS International group have been working to agree our messaging for these talks – as per below. It's expected that the Scottish Government will send one representative to take part in the UK Government delegation.

SCCS 'asks' for Durban:

The UK delegation should push the EU and others to lead in the international climate negotiations in Durban. As part of the UK delegation, the Scottish Government must:

- Show strong leadership to agree legally binding international cuts in carbon emissions at a level adequate to stop catastrophic climate change, particularly through a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.
- Support developing countries to adapt to climate change and to develop in a low carbon way through championing the Green Climate Fund, leading international discussions on sourcing vital public money, and ensuring that the funds reach those in most need.
- Demonstrate the commitment already shown in Scotland to our world-leading Scottish Climate Change Act and the social, economic and environmental benefits of developing our green economy.

[SCCS Briefing on public bodies' climate change duties](#)

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IUCN (LINK is a member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature)

(to receive copies of any documents that aren't linked directly, please contact [Kate](#))

Highlights from the August-September 2011 monthly report of the Director General and the Deputy Director General

[Rio+20 web pages](#)

[Read IUCN's position papers](#)

[IUCN: a crucial actor in the Rio+20 process](#)

[Commission on Education and Communication \(CEC\) newsletter](#)

[Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy \(CEESP\) newsletter](#)

[Commission on Environmental Law \(CEL\) newsletter](#)

[Commission on Ecosystem Management \(CEM\) newsletter](#)

[Species Survival Commission \(SSC\) newsletter](#)

[World Commission on Protected Areas \(WCPA\) newsletter](#)

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Vacancies

The Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland, Scotland's countryside champion, are seeking an Office Administrator to manage their small office, including financial, governance and



membership administration, and to support the Director. Salary £16,500 pro rata, 15 hours per week (negotiable), central Edinburgh. For further details please email administrator@ruralscotland.org. Closing date 15 November 2011. Interviews Edinburgh 25 November 2011

RSPB Scotland: Conservation Policy Officer - Scotland's climate change and renewable energy targets are amongst the most ambitious in the world. We must ensure these are met without damaging Scotland's fantastic wildlife. You will lead on developing our policy on energy and climate change and promoting this to decision makers and relevant stakeholders to further RSPB Scotland's conservation objectives. You will also support our involvement in planning casework and manage our engagement in a European project to promote the sustainable deployment of renewables. Experience of policy development and advocacy, preferably within energy and climate change, will be required. This is a 9 month contract or secondment. Closing date, 21st November.

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Europe (LINK is a member of the European Environmental Bureau)

NGOs Urge World Governments to Negotiate a Strong Mercury Treaty

Delegates from more than 100 countries begin the third round of negotiations in Nairobi for a legally binding treaty on mercury.

Soil Report: EU must hit pay dirt now or lose out

The condition of Europe's soil is under pressure with its deterioration costing the EU up to €38 billion a year, says a report unveiled in Berlin by green groups EEB and DNR.

Nano definition too narrow says EEB

According to the EEB, the European Commission's recommendation on the definition of nanomaterial does not go far enough.

EU risks failing to keep promise of green CAP reform

According to the EEB, the European Commission's proposal for a new agricultural policy unveiled today is failing to justify why Europeans should continue to spend billions, while farmers are given few new incentives to change environmentally damaging practices.

Global activist summit on nanotech calls on governments to protect people & environment

Some 30 activists representing 14 environmental, technology assessment and consumer organisations from Europe, the United States, Canada and Latin America met for the 4th International Nanotechnology Activist Summit in Berlin

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If you would like to see news, information or upcoming events from your organisation featured in LINK's monthly bulletin, please contact [Kate](#) at Scottish Environment LINK.



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