



LINK e-bulletin September 2011

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LINK Diary

2011

6 October Board Meeting, Edinburgh
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

LINK's Greening the Economy Seminar took place on 30th August at Sandeman House in Edinburgh, chaired by Simon Pepper. Presentations reflected the landscape of current environmental economic initiatives and thinking: the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity, Scotland's chapter of the National Ecosystem Assessment, and the Beyond GDP agenda with reference to Scotland's National Performance Framework. These were followed by a presentation by Charles Stewart Roper from the Natural Resources Division on Scottish Government and Sustainable Economic Development. Afternoon workshops developed the themes of the first three presentations, and at the final plenary session it was agreed that LINK will set up a new Economics Taskforce to develop a position for LINK on economics and from that produce an advocacy strategy.

New LINK Economics Taskforce: If you would like to take part in LINK's new Economics Taskforce, please contact [Kate](#)

[LINK proposals for Scotland's National Performance Framework Indicators on Biodiversity](#)

LINK Annual General Meeting – LINK's AGM took place on August 30th in Edinburgh, following the Greening the Economy Seminar. Deborah Long has been reconfirmed in the Chair and Eila Macqueen has been appointed Vice Chair whilst Paul Ritchie continues as Treasurer. Dan Barlow of WWFS and Andy Fairbairn of the Woodland Trust have both stepped down from the Board whilst Angus Yarwood of the Woodland Trust joins the Board as LINK's newest trustee. Welcome to Angus, and farewell to both Dan and Andy with warm thanks for all their work over the years on the Board.

New LINK Taskforce on National Parks – September 7th's meeting of 13 LINK members at Pitlochry agreed that a new LINK National Parks Task Force would provide an important forum for discussion of strategy in relation to Parks in Scotland and the first meeting of the new task force



will be arranged soon (Helen Geddes of the Cairngorms Campaign has kindly offered to coordinate the first meeting). The Pitlochry gathering also considered the approaches of (and to) Scotland's NPs, noted relevant initiatives and concerns of various national NGOs involved in the Cairngorms area particularly, ahead of a workshop (October) to be organised between LINK members and CNPA in relation to the draft new CNP Park Plan and Local Plan. A note of the Pitlochry members' discussion and agreed courses of action will be available shortly on the members' webpages at <http://www.scotlink.org/members/events/internalmeetings.php>. If your organisation would like to participate in the new National Parks TF please contact [Jen](#) initially.

Diary Date reminder 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). The theme is sustainable development; and will build on the outcomes of the seminar on environmental economics on 30 August. The international dimensions include the Earth Summit in June 2012 - Jonny Hughes in his role on the SSDF is helping to instigate action in Scotland; and the IUCN seeks views in determining its future priorities globally. More information will be circulated from [Alice](#) shortly. Meanwhile please note the date and tell your colleagues, especially any of them new to the network.

Local Governance Taskforce: In early August the LGTF put together a [briefing](#) on LINK's local governance interests and work, which was circulated to various committees and spokespeople. The Local Government & Regeneration committee has now invited LINK to give evidence on the 14th September to their inquiry on planning, Local Government and regeneration. LINK has been asked to give evidence on planning but can/will use this opportunity to demonstrate our interest and expertise in the other areas too, drawing on various recent papers (Christie Commission, Budget, SOAs, etc). Andy Myles will be LINK's representative.

Proposed Meeting with Graeme Cook of SPiCe - Graeme Cook, who heads the environmental section of SPICE's research team, has offered to meet with LINK to discuss what SPICE does and how SPICE and LINK could work more closely. The proposal is that interested members meet Graeme mid-late one afternoon in Edinburgh and have the discussion over a pint, and perhaps a bite. If you'd like to take part, please contact [Jen](#)

LINK Liaison Meeting with SNH - The SNH LINK liaison meeting on 1 September with Ian Jardine and senior staff, trustees and convenor of the LTF covered Access, Recreation and Biodiversity. It was a useful meeting and will be followed up in 6 months. A note of the action points will be on the Member's section of the website shortly.

[LINK Liaison Meeting with SEPA](#) - LINK's President, Chair and two Trustees met with SEPA on the 8th August.

2012 Local Government Elections - the Local Governance Taskforce is currently preparing its Local Government Manifesto featuring ten targets developed from LINK's SOA work, which it hopes to launch in mid-October. LINK will be seeking media attention and a widespread distribution across the appropriate parts of the Scottish policy community in order to influence the production of their own manifestos by the political parties and local political groups. LINK members will also be asked to consider holding their own Environment Hustings for local government candidates in April. For more information, contact [Andy](#)

Governance Matters - the latest draft of this paper has been circulated to members for final comment before publication. Comments should be forwarded to [Andy](#) by **9th September**.

[Scottish Environment LINK's Annual Report 2010-2011](#)



Member News

Legal Challenge to the excessive housing developments proposed in the Cairngorms National Park Local Plan – Appeal for funds and support

As you are probably aware, The Cairngorms Campaign, together with The **Scottish Campaign for National Parks** and The **Badenoch and Strathspey Conservation Group**, has launched an Appeal to the Court of Session against certain of the housing development policies included in the Cairngorms National Park Local Plan 2010. The conservation bodies are disappointed by numerous aspects of the CNPA's performance, but the legal challenge focuses upon its proposals for major housing developments in woodland at Nethy Bridge, at Carrbridge, and most excessively for a New Town of up to 1500 houses at An Camus Mór on the other side of the Spey opposite Aviemore. They hope that this Court Case will force the CNPA to focus on the [Sandford Principle](#) and put conservation, rather than housing development, at the heart of its management of the Cairngorms National Park. A New Town, with ultimately twice the population of Aviemore, would have a devastating effect upon the wildlife, biodiversity and scenery of the Cairngorms. The Hearing has been set to commence on 10 January 2012, and will be a major test of the Scottish model for National Parks. This legal action is inevitably very expensive, and The Cairngorms Campaign is seeking funds to support the Court Case. The total to be raised is £50,000, and all contributions or donations should be sent to the Treasurer, Tim Ambrose, at "Gowan Court", Little Brechin, Brechin, Angus, DD9 7QY. Tim can be contacted on timambrose1954@hotmail.com, and will be happy to answer any queries or provide more information on the Appeal. All donations will be acknowledged, and much appreciated.

Badenoch and Strathspey Conservation Group wins International Photo Contest – Roy Turnbull of BSCG informs us that his red squirrel photo, which was featured in LINK's last eBulletin has won the TrailCam International Photo prize. BSCG will be receiving their own Bushnell Trophy Cam Black Flash Ultimate Package as an award. Thanks to everybody who voted for Roy.

[2011 Beachwatch Big Weekend](#), the **Marine Conservation Society** is gearing up for its 2011 Beachwatch Big Weekend which takes place Saturday the 17th and Sunday the 18th of September this year. Beach litter is collected and identified, and the data is used to produce our annual Beachwatch report, which helps influence politicians and policymakers throughout the UK. The data collected so far has helped secure a commitment from the Scottish Government to deliver a much-needed Marine Litter Strategy and was included in Scotland's Marine Atlas (which will underpin the developing National Marine Plan). This event is part of the bigger Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup, which in 2010 saw 615,000 volunteers from 114 countries and locations collect almost 10 million items of debris. [Find a beach in your area.](#)

Sustrans moved to new offices on September 5th. Their new address is Rosebery House, 9 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 5EZ.

Other News

[Tale part in the European Week for Waste Reduction](#) – This year sees the third [European Week for Waste Reduction](#) taking place between the 19th to the 27th of November. The aim of the



week is to raise awareness of ways to minimise waste and encourage change in everyday behaviour in order to reduce the amount of waste produced across Europe. Zero Waste Scotland are the official organisers of the week in Scotland and are now encouraging community groups and charities, schools, universities, businesses and local authorities to take part by organising an action in their local area. To take part visit the Zero Waste Scotland website for more information, or to register your event, or contact [Ylva Haglund](#) at Zero Waste Scotland.

SEPA - Campbell Gemmill, Chief Executive of SEPA is to stand down later this year to take on a new role in Adelaide, South Australia. Campbell will remain at SEPA until the end of this year, and take up his new post early in 2013.

Agri-renewables strategy to be produced - At the Black Isle show in August, Richard Lochhead MSP announced that an agri-renewables strategy will be produced for Scotland. The strategy will look at some of the issues which face land-managers when they want to develop renewable energy systems on their land, including dealing with the planning system and connecting to the grid. The strategy will be developed in conjunction with industry representatives and will be part of the Renewables Routemap which was published recently. Comments on the proposed strategy on the National Farmers Union for Scotland [website](#) and on the Scottish Crofting Federation [website](#)

Woodland Expansion Advisory Group named - Farmers, foresters, conservation, community and land experts are making up the new group to help identify which types of land are best suited for tree planting. The Woodland Expansion Advisory Group which consists of 16 prominent representatives, will be chaired by Andrew Barbour, who farms in Perthshire and is also a woodland adviser to Atholl Estates.

Survey into how Third Sector organisations use research – conducted by Glow Research, a new social enterprise set up to provide research support to the third sector.

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Events and Seminars

Blasda – 10th September: various events across Scotland. Scotland's local food feast, a project of the Fife Diet.

Firth of Clyde Forum Invasive Species Meeting - 20th September 2011, Largs Sailing Club
Towards a Biosecurity Plan for the Firth of Clyde

World Conference on Marine Biodiversity, Aberdeen, 26th September. Hosted by the Universities of Aberdeen and St Andrews, the conference aims to bring together scientists, practitioners and the public to discuss and advance our understanding of the issues surrounding the importance of biodiversity in the marine environment.

Nourish Conference 2011 - Pearce Institute, Glasgow, 30th September - 'The New Food Economy: towards a resilient and sustainable food system for Scotland'

RTPI Annual Conference: Planning – Supporting Sustainable Economic Growth, Tuesday 8th November, Glasgow.

Sustainable Scotland Network 10th Annual Conference, 10th November, COSLA Conference Centre, Edinburgh. This year's conference theme is *Local Action for a Sustainable Scotland*.



Speakers include Stewart Stevenson MSP, Minister for Environment and Climate Change and Dr Andy Kerr, Executive Director, Edinburgh Centre on Climate Change.

[The Gathering 2012](#), 29th March – 1st February, SECC, Glasgow - SCVO's annual Third Sector Event. If your organisation would be interested in hosting an event, please visit [The Gathering](#) website.

[Scottish Energy and Environment Conference](#) – Ayr Racecourse – 7 February 2012. The event is aimed at helping energy and environmental professionals meet their future challenges. SEEC 2012 is sponsored by Scottish Government, BAE Systems Surface Ships and powerPerfector and currently partnered by Energy Saving Trust and North Lanarkshire Council. The 2012 conference will be chaired by former Director of the Eden Project, Chris Hines MBE and the programme will feature the Keynote Address by Alex Neil MSP and topics such as; From Climate Change to Behaviour Change by Professor Guillaume Thierry of Bangor University and Sizzling Energy Sustainability by Ed Gillespie of Futerra Sustainability Communications among many others. SEEC are looking for partners for the event, if your organisation would be interested contact Alison Johnson at alison@washingtondowling.com

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Publications

[Alternatives to GDP](#) – SPICe briefing. This briefing looks at the uses and limitations of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as a measure of economic activity and as a measure of broader progress and wellbeing of society. It summarises the key findings of the "Stiglitz Report", commissioned by President Sarkozy of France in 2008, and describes action to date by the UK and Scottish governments.

[Exploring Community Resilience](#) - This new publication from the Carnegie UK Trust sponsored Community of Practice (www.fieryspirits.com) gathers a mix of experience and academic insight to show how local communities are learning how to cope - and even thrive - through difficult times.

[Developing the role of greenspace in climate change mitigation and adaptation](#) – report from Greenspace Scotland

[Consumer Understanding of Green Terms](#) – DEFRA report on a study exploring consumer understanding of and responses to environmental terms (words and phrases) found in promotional and marketing claims made on product packaging, broadcast, online and other promotional material (such as leaflets, in-store communications, etc).

[Economic valuation of the benefits of ecosystem services delivered by the UK Biodiversity Action Plan](#) – report from DEFRA

[Planning Advice Note 2/2011: Planning and Archaeology \(SG 27/07/11\)](#) The new Archaeology PAN reflects 17 years of accumulated changes in the policy context, the statutory planning system, the key stakeholders and in archaeological practices. Like its 1994 predecessor (PAN 42) it provides advice to planning authorities and developers on dealing with archaeological remains. But it does so with a fresh emphasis which is proportionate to the relative value of the remains and of the developments under consideration.

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Consultations

[Consultation on the Inventory of Scottish Battlefields](#) As part of the [Scottish Historic Environment Policy \(SHEP\) 2009](#), Historic Scotland is preparing an Inventory of Historic Battlefields to identify and provide information on Scotland's nationally important sites. Historic Scotland is now consulting on the next group of 11 battlefields proposed for inclusion in the Inventory of Historic Battlefields. **The consultation opens on 8 August 2011 and closes on 30 September 2011.**

[Proposal to Amend the Fertilisers Regulations 1991 by Making Polyhalite a Product Prescribed in Schedule 1.](#) Closes 29th September 2011

["Red Tape Challenge" - Environment](#) - the UK Government is inviting feedback on how environmental, climate change and energy regulations are working in practice. The consultation is part of the Government's 'Red Tape Challenge' that was launched in April to seek feedback on how the aims of regulations can be fulfilled in 'the most successful and least burdensome ways'. The Environment is one of six cross-cutting themes in the Red Tape Challenge which are being 'spotlighted' in turn to encourage focused debate on the issues. The Challenge has divided environmental regulation into eight sub-categories: air quality; biodiversity, wildlife management; landscape, countryside and recreation; energy labelling and sustainable products; industrial emissions and carbon reductions; noise and nuisance; waste; environmental permits, information and damage; chemicals. **The online debate is open from 1st to 21st September.**

[Draft Cairngorms National Park Plan and the Local Development Plan Main Issues Report](#) - The Cairngorms National Park Plan will set out the long-term vision for the Park. This consultation will determine on what the priorities for the Cairngorms National Park will be from 2012-2017 and how, collectively, those aims can be achieved. The Local Development Plan will, in time, replace the Cairngorms National Park Local Plan. It sets out detailed planning policies to guide development in the Park over the coming years. The draft Main Issues Report is the first stage in this process. **The consultation runs from Monday 19 September to Friday 9 December.**

[Draft Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Plan](#) - Consultation on the LLTP Draft National Park Plan for 2012-2017. **The public consultation runs from 25 August to 16 November 2011.**

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Stop Climate Chaos Scotland

SCCS upcoming plans: Scottish Budget – One of SCCS' top priorities in the coming months will be to ensure that tackling climate change is appropriately funded in the next Scottish Budget, which the Government are currently drafting and which the Parliament will consider this autumn, with it being agreed to in February. Our main aim is to ensure that, as a minimum, all of the measures set out in the Government's own plans, the Report on Proposals and Policies, are fully funded. With this in mind, we have agreed to work together on the following activities which we need as many SCCS members to get involved with:

- a) Now: as many CEOs/Directors to write a letter or letters to Government Ministers calling on everything in the Report on Proposals and Policies to be fully funded i.e. to be able to meet the climate targets in the Scottish Climate Change Act.



- b) Sept: Supporters or members (i.e. individuals) to write a letter in their own words to their MSPs, asking them in turn to write to Ministers about this issue. A pack explaining this is being prepared and this will be put on the SCCS website (see Action below)
- c) Oct/Nov: Supporters or members, again individuals, asked to visit their MSP in their constituency, linking up with others for joint meetings where possible. For many this will be their first opportunity to meet with their new MSP and will enable them to reinforce the importance of funding for action on climate change. This will also make reference to the global context of UN talks in Durban (Nov/Dec).

Scottish Budget - Supporter Action

SCCS is currently running an action encouraging supporters of member organisations to write to their MSPs requesting them to call on the government to fully fund the promises it made in the 2009 Climate Change Act whilst it is planning the next budget. For full details of the action, visit www.stopclimatechaos.org/scottish-budget-action and then please email your supporters this week and also tweet and post on Facebook. Thanks in advance for your help with this action.

[SCCS evidence on preventative spending to Finance Committee](#) – September 2011

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

[IUCN prepares for RIO+20](#)

[IUCN Investing in Peatlands: Delivering Multiple Benefits Conference Proceedings](#)

[IUCN Investing in Peatlands: Delivering Multiple Benefits Conference Presentations](#)

[The draft IUCN Programme 2013-16 Executive Summary](#)

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

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

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

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

[IUCN Science Bulletin](#)

IUCN UK Committee – Living North Seas Initiative - The Living North Sea Initiative (LiNSI) aims to improve the ecological status of the North Sea ecosystem; to stimulate collaboration between OSPAR nations to achieve an integrated and holistic management of the North Sea Ecosystem; and to develop funding mechanism for the design and implementation of the plans. The idea of LiNSI was first sparked after an engagement of IUCN representatives with Shell's Brent decommissioning team in Aberdeen in 2008, as part of the IUCN-Shell partnership. LiNSI proposes a trade-off whereby amendment of current regulations creates cost savings from decommissioning, which are then (partly) made available - through a Fund - for co-funding of other measures that will have a much greater positive impact on the North Sea ecosystem than the full removal of oil and gas infrastructure would have. Such measures may include the creation of large marine protected areas, investments in more sustainable fishing practices, research to improve our understanding of the dynamics of the ecosystem and the services it provides, removal of ship wrecks with hazardous contents, investments in renewable energy, etc. *Stuart Brooks of JMT is LINK's rep on the IUCN Committee, and Jonny Hughes of SWT is also a committee member if members would like to feed back to the committee on this initiative.*

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Vacancies

[RSPB Scotland: Conservation Planner/Senior Conservation Planner \(maternity cover\), Edinburgh](#)

RSPB Scotland is looking for a highly motivated professional planner to join their planning team and provide professional planning support to their conservation staff. A degree in planning or a related discipline and experience of professional planning work will be required. Ideally, the successful applicant will be a member of the RTPI or be eligible for membership. Starting salary will depend on qualifications and experience.

Salary: £22,000 to £31,000 (depending on qualifications and experience), Closing date: 7 October 2011. Interview date: 17 October 2011, 18 October 2011

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

Scottish Government and European Engagement

The Scottish Government has updated the [Appendices](#) to its [Action Plan on European Engagement](#). The appendices set out recent and future EU activity in the four policy areas in which the Scottish Government aims to play a distinctive role; Energy and Climate Change, Marine Environment, Research and Creativity, and Freedom, Security and Justice (formerly Justice and Home Affairs). It also includes a 'Forward Look' of the key aspects of the Polish Presidency on which the Scottish Government will focus.

[Environment Action Programme](#) - The European Commission has published its final assessment of the 6th Environment Action Programme (EAP) (2002-2012), which will serve as a background for the development of a future environmental strategy for Europe. The report finds that the EAP has helped the EU to tackle almost all areas of the environment and led to considerable improvement in environmental protection. The EAP is deemed to have been an important framework for environment policy, having served as a reference for Member States and local authorities in defending environment policy against other competing policy demands. There are also areas where progress has not been as far-reaching as hoped, and where a new strategy needs to focus more on implementation of EU rules: biodiversity protection, soil and water quality. Decoupling resource use from economic growth is also one of the hardest nuts left to crack for EU environmental policy. In September the Commission will present a Roadmap on Resource Efficiency with a vision towards a resource efficient Europe by 2050. It is still unclear what form or content a new EAP will take and how it will add value to recent initiatives such as the resource efficiency agenda and the low carbon roadmap, which are both at the core of the Europe 2020 strategy. Some form of consultation, or "dialogue", with civil society is to be expected as to the strategic orientations for environment policy. There is also strong pressure from environment ministers in the Council to have a 7th EAP.

[Waste opportunities – Past and future climate benefits from better municipal waste management in Europe](#)

- A study by the European Environmental Agency which says that full implementation of the EU's Landfill Directive could avoid 18 million tonnes of carbon dioxide by 2020, compared to a business-as-usual scenario. The report, which calculates emissions from waste according to a life-cycle approach, finds that increased recycling and reduced methane emissions from landfill are the main reasons for avoided emissions. A complete ban on landfilling could cut emissions from waste management even further, by as much as the equivalent of 1.53% of Europe's emissions in 2008. More reporting [here](#)



European Biodiversity Standard - The European Centre for Nature Conservation has launched the European Biodiversity Standard (EBS), which is an independent tool for companies to assess, upgrade and profile their biodiversity performance. This is one of many examples of the increasing attention being put on integrating biodiversity considerations in business operations. EBS is said to be applicable to large as well as small companies. It consists of a self-assessment, an application for the EBS award, and is integrated with ISO as well as EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme).

EEB Metamorphosis Magazine – July 2011

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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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