



LINK eBulletin – February 2011

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LINK DIARY

1-3 March Scottish Environment Week 2011
2 March Scottish Environment Week Reception
21 April Board and Networking Meetings
5 May Holyrood Election
21 June Board and Networking Meetings
20 October Board Meeting
17-18 November Link Congress and Strategic Planning

LINK NEWS

LINK Audit of Single Outcome Agreements – the latest step in LINK's effort to monitor how environment and sustainable development are faring under the concordat between Scottish Government and the 32 Local Authorities. It finds that although environmental issues feature in all SOAs many of these are statutory necessities such as waste and street cleanliness, while Councils and CPPs generally don't see sustainable development as a priority. Our assessment indicates that the process generally fails to capitalise on joining up health, environment, and the economy for the benefit of local areas, missing opportunities to address climate change mitigation, adaptation, landscape, the historic environment and the sustainable management of water resources. Read the audit [here](#)

LINK is co-hosting a seminar on 21st February with SNH, SEPA, SSN, and Improvement Service – '**Single Outcome Agreements and action for people, place and community**' which will look at good practice in relation to delivery of sustainable development and environment objectives.

Scottish Environment Week 2011, 1-3 March, Holyrood. This year's theme is *Active Citizens and the Scottish Environment*. For more information please see the [programme](#) or contact [Andy](#) or [Susan](#) at LINK's Parliamentary Office.

SEW Reception, hosted by Sarah Boyack MSP, will take place in the Garden Lobby at the Scottish Parliament on 2nd March at 6.00pm. If you haven't received an invitation, please contact [Susan](#)

LINK's January Board and [Networking](#) meetings covered high-level liaison to build relationships with SNH, SEPA and potentially CNPA; capacity for our collective work programme for 2011-12, and the need to confirm with members over the next two months; plans for a review of LINK strategy during 2011; progress with LINK's pilot of organisational supporter status; the draft budget for 2011-12; concern and possible action around the 'reach' of Lottery funding for environment; and the need to map and expand the environment's standing in networks and arenas beyond the environment 'box'. Members were encouraged to promote our recent publications on [Budget & Environment](#), and on [Environment and the Law](#), through their own channels and in our various dialogues with decision-makers.

Carbon Accounting Survey of Members - the Board is keen to complete the review of network carbon accounting practice and will be encouraging members to outline their organisation's work and/or interest in further support to staff. For information contact [Hugh](#)



May 5th Elections - Members are encouraged to organise environmental hustings/events where people can meet and question candidates and develop relationships. The paper on environmental governance mooted in the [Autumn Political Strategy Report](#) will be circulated to members in February in draft for comment. LINK is maintaining a '[hustings calendar](#)' where you can list your election event and ensure it doesn't clash with others. Also see [LINK's Manifesto](#), with recent sections on food and climate change.

Christie Commission - LINK will make a submission to the Christie Commission on the future delivery of public services with a draft being circulated to members shortly. There are opportunities to discuss the work of the Commission at SCVO's the Gathering on 23rd and 24th February. Contact [Jen](#) or [Andy](#) for more information

The **Ministerial meeting** on 2nd February was LINK's final meeting with this administration. The discussion, with ministers Richard Lochhead and Roseanna Cunningham, covered budget cuts and the environment, concerns about the SRDP and CAP in relation to support for agriculture, access and landscape; the Ministers were interested in further discussion of LINK's proposal for pilots on peatland restoration and Ms Cunningham invited a briefing on climate change for her meeting with the EC Commissioner the following week. [Meeting notes and ministerial briefing](#)

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MEMBER NEWS

Members launch legal challenge to CNPA Local Plan – LINK members, the Cairngorms Campaign, Scottish Council for National Parks, and Badenoch and Strathspey Conservation Group have jointly lodged an appeal to the Court of Session against the Cairngorm National Park Authority's Local Plan with its decision to set aside the recommendations of the Reporter to the Public Inquiry into the Local Plan which includes proposals for a 1,500-home settlement at An Camas Mor, near Aviemore. The group argues that the Cairngorms National Park is being run as a local park not a national park undermining the credibility of the Scottish National Park model. This has implications for Natura 2000 sites within national parks as planning powers rest with the Park Authorities. For more information on the action contact [Drennan Watson](#) (Cairngorms Campaign), [Gus Jones](#) (BSCG) or [Bill McDermott](#) (SCNP)

Support John Muir Trust's Wild Land Petition calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to improve protection for the best areas of wild land in Scotland by introducing a new national environmental designation. The petition was delivered to parliament on the 25th January but you can still add your support. [Sign the petition](#)

Switch off your lights on March 26th – WWF's Earth Hour, now in its fifth year gives people across the world an opportunity to show they care about tackling climate change by turning off lights on 26 March between 8.30pm and 9.30pm. WWF's plans to make Earth Hour 2011 in Scotland the biggest and best yet. [Register now](#) to be an important part of this global event.

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PUBLICATIONS

A Service Statement for Planning and Development – SNH's current guidance on its approach to planning and development. [Link](#)

Climate Change and the British Uplands – (Climate Research - Vol. 45 (2010)) - this CR Special presents a synthesis of current knowledge to help inform policy decisions about



safeguarding ecosystem service provision. Topics covered include changing upland climates, mapping blanket peat vulnerability to climate change, measuring and modeling change in peatland carbon stocks, and managing upland ecosystem services under a changing climate. Available [here](#)

Communicating climate change to mass public audiences – report from the Climate Change Communication Advisory Group. Available [here](#)

Conservation Biology for All – free download of a conservation biology textbook from the Oxford University Press. Available [here](#)

The Emperor's got no clothes - A review of the opinions of Scotland's NGOs regarding GDP and wellbeing including from LINK members SWT, FOES and WWFS. Published January 2011. Download [here](#)

Scottish Vacant and Derelict Land Survey 2010 - Scottish Government publication. Download [here](#)

UK Marine Protected Areas Interactive map – at the [JNCC website](#)

International Review of Behaviour Change Initiatives - This report, commissioned as part of the Scottish Government's Climate Change Behaviours Research Programme, reviews a range of behaviour change initiatives that have attempted to reduce the carbon intensity of consumption practices. It aims to enhance understandings of different approaches to behaviour change, and to explore the transferability of initiatives to the Scottish context. Download [here](#)

Public Bodies Climate Change Duties: Putting Them Into Practice - Guidance Required by Part 4 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 – Scottish Government publication, download [here](#)

Action Plan on European Engagement - Appendices I & II (July - December 2010) and Forward Look (January - June 2011) – setting out recent and future EU engagement 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 (formally Justice and Home Affairs). Available to read [here](#)

Defra's Green Claims Guidance (2011) provides advice to business for clear, accurate, relevant and substantiated environmental claims on products, services or in marketing and advertising. [Download](#)

Scottish Government Planning Case Studies - a set of over 40 case studies highlighting examples of the new planning system in practice. Some of the new case studies have a strong sustainability focus. Available [here](#)

Review of Status and Conservation of Wild Land in Europe – Scottish Government research publication. [Download](#)

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CONSULTATIONS

The contribution of the natural heritage to better place-making – SNH draft policy statement. Please forward comments by 11th March 2011. Details [here](#)



Consultation on Future EU co-financing of Natura 2000 - The European Commission is working towards a new Communication, foreseen for mid-2011, aimed at identifying ways of enhancing the success of financing Natura 2000. The objective of this consultation is to gather the views of different stakeholders as an input to this process. Consultation closes 17th February 2011. [Details](#)

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EVENTS AND SEMINARS

Climate change: effective communication training day, Thursday 17th February 2011, The Melting Pot, Edinburgh. This course is for anyone who is keen to get people active on climate change and teaches them the core skills to effectively communicate their message. For bookings and information: Jonathan Elliott at Talk Action, Tel: 0207 324 4774, Email: jelliott@talkaction.org

Scotland's Maritime Future: Developing an industry of the sea policy for energy, fisheries, transport, manufacturing and tourism - 22nd February 2011, Sun Microsystems Executive Briefing Centre, Linlithgow, Keynote address from Keith Brown, Minister for Transport and Infrastructure. [Details](#)

SCVO - The Gathering 2011, 23-24 February

Scotland's voluntary sector fair at Edinburgh International Conference Centre. With 3000 visitors over the 2 days the Gathering is largest event of its kind in the UK. The Gathering [programme of events](#) includes 60 workshops and seminars led by voluntary organisations, government, the media and companies who work with and alongside the sector.

There are three key policy events for the voluntary sector prior to May's elections:

SCVO and Reform Scotland seminar; "Greater powers, greater responsibility? – the third sector perspective", Wednesday 23rd, 9.30am – 11am. A third sector perspective on the debate about Scotland's devolved powers and the next phase of devolution. This will be an interactive head-to-head debate with prominent panelists, with an emphasis on audience participation. Details [here](#)

SCVO and the Centre for Scottish Public Policy present; "Dragons' Den: Hype or reality – Can the third sector save public services?", Wednesday 23rd, 12noon – 1.30pm. A fun dragons-den style event with short presentations from four innovative third sector projects delivering public services that demonstrate what is best about our sector, and much audience participation. [Details](#)

Christie Commission on the future of Scotland's public services; "The Future Delivery of Public Services in Scotland – have your say", Wednesday 23rd, 12.00–1.30pm, REPEATED Wednesday 23rd, 2.30–4pm. An opportunity to meet members of the Christie Commission, tell them what needs to be done first hand to enhance the role of the third sector, the needs it meets and your organisation's place within it. [Details](#)

Greenzone Events

"We know greenspace is good... can SROI help prove it...?" Thursday 24th, 9.30am – 11am. Social Return on Investment is a framework that enables a financial value to be placed on



social, economic and environmental outcomes. In 2009 greenspace scotland began a two year research programme to explore the impact of SROI in relation to community groups. This event will cover a brief overview of SROI; report on the strengths and weakness of the process that have been identified to date during the research programme; contributions from a participating community group on their views of SROI. [Details](#)

Becoming a Zero Waste Organisation, Thursday 24th at 12.00 - 1.30pm. Zero Waste Scotland Third Sector Support have been supporting organisations in becoming resource efficient Zero Waste organisations. In this session, you will hear about: What is a Zero Waste organisation and why should you become one? Examples of organisations already making changes; How to begin? Our Top Ten Zero Waste Pledges; What support is available. [Details](#)

Can the Big Society work in an era of austerity? EDAS AGM with Guest Speaker, 24 February, City Halls, Glasgow. Dharmendra Kanani, Director of Big Lottery Fund, England will discuss what 'The Big Society' really means for Scotland. [Event details](#)

Delivering the Scottish Green Energy Opportunity - The 2011 Scottish European Green Energy Centre Conference in association with the European Commission, 2nd March, George Hotel, Edinburgh. Keynote speaker Alex Salmond. To book contact lmcclelland@mackayhannah.com

"Volcanoes and snowstorms – effective decision making and public communication in a risky and uncertain world" - CAMERAS conference, 2-3 March, Our Dynamic Earth Edinburgh. A conference that aims to help scientists communicate their findings more clearly, and for decision-makers to better understand the science and to improve the management of risk and uncertainty for greater benefit. Free event, more details at the [CAMERAS website](#)

envecon 2011: Applied Environmental Economics Conference - organised by the UK Network of Environmental Economists (UKNEE), Friday 4th March 2011, at The Royal Society in London. Keynote speech by Professor Bob Watson, Chief Scientific Officer of Defra, Plenary session on the reporting from the (UK) National Ecosystem Assessment project and future research agenda. More information at the [UKNEE website](#)

Creating a Sustainable Scotland: Roles, Responsibilities and Scrutiny, Holyrood Conference, 7th March, Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh – This event will also look at key issues for Scotland's long term future including resilience and sustainability of our communities, businesses and wider economy and seek to establish the parameters in which the sustainability agenda will be pursued and taken forward over the coming years. [Registration](#)

National Active Travel Conference: 'Walking, Cycling, Connecting Communities' – 8th March, Edinburgh. Organised by Paths for All, Living Streets, Sustrans and Cycling Scotland. Speakers include Adrian Davis, Public Health and Transport Consultant, on the economic case for investing in walking and cycling; Gerhard Ablasser, City of Graz, on the city's successful investment in sustainable mobility; and MSP Question Time, chaired by Paul Tetlaw, Transform Scotland. [Details](#)

Placemaking: Integrating Green Infrastructure Seminar, 16th March, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall hosted by GCV Green Network Partnership and SEPA. The seminar includes presentations on a recently completed study which looks to integrate green infrastructure into design studies for major developments in the Glasgow Clyde Valley region based upon sustainable surface water management. Keynote address from the Scottish Government's Chief Architect, Ian Gilzean, on the role of green infrastructure in placemaking. [More details](#)



The Rivers and Fisheries Trusts of Scotland (RAFTS) (in association with the Association of Salmon Fishery Boards) annual conference, 23rd March, the Battleby Institute, Redgorton, nr Perth. The developing role of the third sector: What can fisheries trusts bring to the party? For more information please contact: stephen@rafts.org.uk

Scottish Renewables' Annual Conference: Scotland Unlimited Realising the ambition, 22 and 23 March, SECC Glasgow - This year's conference will look at the unlimited potential for Scotland's renewable energy industry and what steps should be taken to realise our ambitious targets. [Registration](#)

Third Sector Research Conference, 31 March 2011, Playfair Library, Old College, Edinburgh. Co-hosted by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) and the Centres for Public Services Research (CPSR) and Charitable Giving and Philanthropy (CGAP) at Edinburgh University Business School. Keynote Speaker - Robert Black, Auditor General for Scotland. The conference will bring together Scottish Government, local government, third sector and academic researchers, as well as policy-makers and third sector practitioners from across Scotland. The event will provide a forum for delegates to discuss a range of findings of relevance to public policy in Scotland. More information [here](#)

The Scottish Green Roof Conference, 31st March, Royal Society of Edinburgh - bringing together leading green roof experts from across Europe to provide an opportunity to hear about the latest case studies, research and policy initiatives. The conference aims to improve understanding and promote the benefits of green roofs in a changing climate. Register [here](#)

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STOP CLIMATE CHAOS SCOTLAND LATEST

Election Campaign (see www.stopclimatechaos.org/scottish-elections)

SCCS is organising climate café events in six key constituencies - Aberdeen South; East Lothian; Edinburgh Central; Falkirk West; Glasgow Southside; and Perthshire North - and encouraging supporters who are not in those areas to organise their own climate cafes.

SCCS is asking its members to send targeted emails to supporters they have in the six SCCS key constituencies, with full details of the event in their own constituency. A general email should be sent out to remaining supporters (in other areas) explaining the concept and using the document [How to Organise a Climate Cafe](#) asking people to set up their own event. If you are unable to do a targeted mailing, please send a general email to all of your supporters.

13th April will be Climate Day - SCCS will be encouraging political parties to make announcements on their climate change policies on this day and will attempt to create a buzz in the media and online to highlight this as a priority issue. As part of Climate Day, we will host a live online political debate during which the five parties will respond to questions being posed via our online forum from a 'virtual audience'. SCCS will be launching an urgent e-action during this week. Urgent action mailing should be sent to all supporters (including any sign-ups to the campaign via online debate/climate café) asking them to take the e-action.

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

IUCN documents received by LINK. For copies of documents which aren't linked, contact [Kate](#)

[IUCN Science Bulletin](#)

[Union Pulse 2011](#)

[IUCN World Conservation Magazine](#)

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OTHER NEWS

SCVO is calling on the Scottish Government to establish a fund to secure an equitable distribution of the benefits which will flow from renewable energy installations. [See SCVO's policy briefing on the Scottish Government's "Securing the Benefits" consultation](#)

Biodiversity Begins with a B - Scottish Natural Heritage has produced an animated video to encourage people to take a few simple actions to help protect bees and biodiversity. View it at [YouTube](#)

Scottish Government Directorate Changes - The recent budget laid out a 10 per cent reduction in overall running costs for the Scottish Government during the next financial year, with costs of the Senior Civil Service being reduced by 10 per cent next year, rising to 25 per cent reduction over the spending review period. In response to those budget pressures there is now a new SG civil service structure, implemented on January 5th, which at this stage has focused on changes at Directorate level as the key business unit in the SG.

The main changes with regards to environment are:

- Paul Gray has now moved on and Mike Neilson is now the Acting DG Enterprise and Environment. The post brings together most of the key environmental directorates, including Marine Scotland and those below. (Recruitment for the substantive post is ongoing and Linda Rosborough is Acting Director Marine Scotland while Mike Neilson is Acting DG).
- Energy & Climate Change Directorate continues to be led by David Wilson. Greener Scotland Division and Scottish Water Sponsorship have moved in with Climate Change to create a larger Climate Change, Greener and Water Division led by Bob Irvine. The directorate is still looking at how we best organise our internal structures so titles and working arrangements may change slightly.
- Fiona Harrison and Peter Stapleton will both be moving on in the next few weeks so there will be new contacts covering Scottish Environment LINK sponsorship and any future Ministerial meetings.
- Rural and Environment Directorate is now led by Jonathan Pryce since Peter Russell has retired. The Directorate structure remains largely as it was, with the exception that Greener Scotland has moved across. The Directorate covers many of LINK's main interests including Environmental Quality (led by Ian Mitchell), Agriculture and Rural (led by David Barnes) and Natural Resources (led by Ian Hooper and Jo O'Hara).

SCVO's Election Manifesto - For Scotland to have a successful future it needs a thriving third sector. The third sector manifesto, '**How to do things differently**', shows how the next Scottish Government could transform the lives of millions and build a nation equipped to face the challenges of tomorrow. View the Manifesto at [SCVO's website](#)



SNH Restructure – SNH has published details of its new organisational structure and area boundaries effective from April 1st. For copies please contact [Kate](#)

Community Sector Alliance Launched – A new network has been created to raise the profile of the community movement in Scotland. Members include SAGS, Community Energy Scotland, the Community Woodlands Association and Transition Scotland. Headed by Angus Hardie its first priorities will be to develop a strategy for land reform, asset transfer and community-owned resources and businesses, to lobby to make local politicians more accountable to local people, and to coordinate the work of communities and community anchor organisations across Scotland. More details [here](#)

Scotland's Finest Woods Awards 2011 - 2011 is the UN's International Year of Forests and Scotland's Finest Woods is joining in Scotland's programme of special IYF events highlighting all that is best in Scotland's management of its woods and forests and showcasing their contribution to the wealth and wellbeing of Scotland's people. To find out more about the awards, visit [SFWA's website](#)

New Scottish Funding Website - Funding Scotland which will officially launch in April 2011, publishes information about grants and funding programmes accessible to organisations operating in Scotland. Funding programmes include those managed by lottery distributors, corporate and charitable trusts, statutory organisations, European Commission, and others. Visit [Funding Scotland](#)

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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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