

LINK eBulletin January 2010

LINK Diary

January 18 Fundraising training for members, Edinburgh.

January 21 Members and Convenors' Networking Meeting, afternoon, Perth.

February 22-26 Scottish Environment Week, Holyrood. Contact andy@scotlink.org for more information

February 24 Scottish Environment Week midweek reception, evening, Holyrood.

LINK NEWS

We are very pleased to welcome the return of the **Soil Association Scotland** as members of LINK. Lillian Kelly and Hugh Raven will be representing the organisation within the network. They are looking forward to being involved in collective work on sustainable land use, agriculture, fundraising and elements of marine.

Marine Bill: Stage two is now complete. The Bill team were happy to see several significant amendments passed including a general duty on government and public bodies for sustainability in the marine environment; an obligation for the marine protected areas to form a comprehensive network based on scientific criteria; and significant strengthening to the system of marine spatial planning.

The Stage three debate is likely to be held on February 3rd and the Bill team are pursuing amendments to include a general duty to protect and enhance the marine environment, to spell out the content of marine plans and to strengthen the primacy of science in the designation of protected areas.

Sustainable Land Use: Representatives of the SLU task force have met with officials and requests for discussions have been received from other stakeholders. *Living with the Land* has had a major impact in shaping the progress of the sustainable land use strategy. Vicki Swales has been chosen as convenor of SLU task force.

Reps, please note that the SLU Task force is continuing in the wake of the December launch of our proposals for a strategy. If your organisation would like to take part, please contact convenor, Vicki Swales (Vicki.Swales@rspb.org.uk) or Jen Anderson (jen@scotlink.org)

WNE Bill: LINK's bill team continues to track Government as it develops the WNE Bill, and to engage in consultation. The Bill is not coming forward until the Marine Bill and Crofting Bill are completed which will be spring at the earliest.

Single Outcome Agreement Task Force met on January 11th to develop plans for LINK proposals (e.g. monitoring for good practice) which will be published late January. The Task Force is also moving on now as our report is published, to consider how we can collect information on trends relating the 10 LINK issues, co-ordinate reports, as well as influence the development of further local outcome indicators and efforts by IS and others to address the current gaps which they acknowledge. The work will include meetings with IS CoSLA, SDC and Audit Scotland. Contact Maggie Keegan (mkeegan@swt.org.uk) or Jen Anderson (jen@scotlink.org) if your organisation would like to get involved.

Elections work: the Parliamentary Forum, is meeting today, 13th January, to discuss election work and party conferences.

Kate MacColl has joined LINK as our new Information and Administration Officer, the position previously held by Adean Lutton.

Scottish Environment Week: Contact Andy (andy@scotlink.org) for programme details and to engage.

LINK strategic planning meeting, November 2009: Main points and agreed issues are summarised at <http://www.scotlink.org/files/internal/MembersNetworkMeetings/LINKStrategicPlanningNov2009.pdf>

LINK meeting with Scottish Environment Minister: Minutes of December's meeting are available at www.scotlink.org/files/internal/ExternalMeetings-Ministerial/LINKmeetingministerRCDec09.pdf

MEMBER FOCUS

Dan Barlow of WWF, has returned from his six month secondment at WWF Surrey as Head of Sustainable Consumption and is back in post as Head of Policy at WWF Scotland.

WWF has published its response to the Conserve and Save consultation. Their e-campaign produced more than 400 responses. www.wwf.org.uk/warmhomes

The Woodland Trust has published **Ancient Woods: A guide for woodland owners and managers**, a practical booklet explaining how owners and managers of ancient semi-natural woods can identify, protect and enhance important features of ancient woodland within the context of any other management objectives (e.g. timber, game, woodfuel) they may have. www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/awguide

Butterfly Conservation is advertising a vacancy for a Senior Regional Officer in Northern Ireland. www.butterfly-conservation.org/list/13/jobs_with_bc.html

PUBLICATIONS

Scotland's Climate Change Adaptation Framework from the Scottish Government sets out the model for adapting to climate change in Scotland. It also includes summaries of climate change adaptation in key sectors. View it at www.scotland.gov.uk/AdaptationFramework

Facing up to Climate Change: Initial details of the Royal Society of Edinburgh's major enquiry into climate change www.royalsoced.org.uk/climate_change/index.htm

Forestry Commission Red Squirrel Strongholds Consultation Response providing analysis of stakeholder replies and proposals for developing red squirrel strongholds www.forestry.gov.uk/strongholdconsultation

Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations Annual Review 2009, Annual Report and Financial Statements available from www.scvo.org.uk

Putting People and Planet first: EU Leadership for a social and green strategy post 2010 proceedings from the conference organised by the Spring Alliance Steering committee at the European Environmental Bureau. www.springalliance.eu

CALLS FOR ACTION

greenspace scotland is seeking applications from community greenspace groups to take part in Social Return on Investment programme. They plan to work with 12 urban community greenspace groups to enable them to demonstrate the impact of their projects using the Social Return on Investment (SROI) model. Deadline for applications is 9th March. www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/default.asp?page=531

Sustainable Land Use. The Scottish Government will be holding stakeholder meetings round Scotland during April. Watch their website for details. Try to attend! www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Countryside/Landusestrategy

Help needed to spring clean Scotland inviting all sectors to support **National Spring Clean 2010**, through own events (for employees, volunteers, friends), by spreading the word, links to KSB website, articles in newsletters, mail-outs to encourage action. www.keepsotlandtidy.org/springclean or valerie.carson@ksbscotland.org.uk

CONSULTATIONS

*Sign up to **seConsult**, the Scottish Government weekly email alert service to tell you of new consultations and provides brief descriptions and web links.*

No invitations to respond to consultations received this month.

EVENTS AND SEMINARS

22nd January, The Melting Pot, 5 Rose Street, Edinburgh

Climate Change: Effective Communication Course

One day course from Talk Action to help develop skills to communicate climate change. jelliott@talkaction.org.

25th January, Edinburgh Napier Business School, 5.30pm

Sustainable Economic Growth v Prosperity Without Growth

Debate with Professor Tim Jackson examining how existing economic systems can support the development of the emerging economy and a low carbon future.

events@sbcscot.com

3rd February, Hilton Glasgow Grosvenor, Glasgow, 9.00-5.30pm

Scottish Renewables Grid Conference 2010

Programme includes comment and analysis on the Beaulieu-Denny upgrade, network upgrades and implications of offshore development of a smartgrid.

www.scottishrenewables.com .

4th February, Stirling Tolbooth, Jail Wynd, Stirling

Working together to Create Healthier Sustainable Places Across Scotland

Healthy Environment Network Meeting. Sandra.auchterlonie@health.scot.nhs.uk

OTHER UK LINKS

A September seminar has been proposed in Northern Ireland, to look at opportunities for cross-border collaboration. Two day even proposed, including site visits and overnight social opportunity. More details to follow.

Wildlife and Countryside Link Quarterly Report

WCL was delighted that a decade of campaigning finally came to fruition this quarter, as the Marine and Coastal Access Act reached the statute books. To celebrate the Act and to launch Link's '[Vision for the Future of our Seas](#)', Link held an event at the London Aquarium, which was attended by a range of key stakeholders, including Kate Humble, BBC presenter and the Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP, who both said a few words.

This quarter WCL published a [briefing paper](#) on National Policy Statements (NPSs) and the Infrastructure Planning Commission. Link also submitted [responses](#) to consultations on the Policy Statement on Regional Strategies and Guidance on the establishment of Leaders' Boards and on a new Planning Policy on Development and Coastal Change.

The Blueprint coalition [responded](#) to Ofwat's draft determinations on price limits for 2010 to 2015 and broadly welcomed the final determinations, which were published in November.

Link's Wildlife and Trade Group has attended two Defra Joint NGO Liaison Group meetings to discuss proposals in the run-up to the forthcoming CITES Conference of the Parties ([CoP15](#)), which will take place in March.

Link was invited to sit on the Evidence and Monitoring subgroup of the newly launched [Campaign for the Farmed Environment](#), the industry-led voluntary approach for the replacement of set-aside, and attended their first meeting in October.

OTHER NEWS

Charity Technology Exchange: Provides low cost donated technology products from companies such as Cisco and Microsoft, to eligible UK charities. The products include operating system software and server software, security software and hardware products such as switchers, routers, wireless equipment and firewalls. For more information visit www.ctxchange.org/