



LINK eBulletin – March 2011

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LINK DIARY

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

Our ninth **Scottish Environment Week** is just closing. Focussed round the theme of citizenship, it incorporated seminars on citizen science, nature's voice, citizens and the past, and citizens enjoying nature, a well-attended and lively reception on 2 March after the close of the WANE Bill and a light-hearted pub quiz to end the Week on a humorous note. Thanks to all who participated! And any feedback welcome – to [Andy](#) and [Jen](#).

The **SOA seminar** held jointly by LINK, various agencies, Community Planning Partnerships and government players on 21 February went well, with useful workshops. A report by Tim Birley will soon be available. LINK's SOA Taskforce meets next week to take stock.

LINK Liaison - staff and trustees are involved in an effort to re-establish closer high-level relationships with SNH staff. Board level discussions are also being arranged with SEPA Chair and CEO and with CNPA Board reps.

Christie Commission Review into the future delivery of public services – a draft response from LINK to the Christie Commission has been circulated to LINK reps and convenors for comment. If you would like to input into the LINK response, please contact [Andy](#) by 14th March.

The **Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill** was passed unanimously by MSPs on March 2nd. LINK members worked individually on aspects of the legislation with LINK co-ordinating efforts. Whilst there were missed opportunities there were also good results on non-native invasive species and wildlife crime.

Good news from the Scottish government regarding LINK's grant which has been maintained to the same level as last year (£44k). Further good news from SNH, confirming our core grant for 2011-12 and the following two years will be £56k, £53k and £50k respectively.

LINK's 2010 Congress report, "*The Environment and the Law*" is now available on the [LINK website](#).

Looking ahead:

LINK Networking meeting, 21 April, Perth (afternoon) - Task force reports on progress, and confirmations of forward plans, are now invited for late March.

Parliamentary Forum meeting, 31 May 3pm, Edinburgh. Open to all interested policy/parliamentary officers – do come along. Contact [Andy](#) for more details.



A workshop for LINK members on [The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity](#) (TEEB) has been mooted for May or June – more information to follow.

Holyrood Elections - Andy will be attending parties' pre-election conferences in the next few weeks, with the election now as good as under way. LINK's rolling Manifesto is [here](#). Details of election hustings organised by LINK members, and SCCS's Climate cafes are [here](#). LINK's guide to organising an election hustings is [here](#)

Good luck and farewell to Duncan McLaren who leaves FoES this week to move with his family to Sweden

Scotland Europa - SWT is inviting individual LINK members to share a year's trial [membership of Scotland Europa](#) with SWT to explore whether this can give Scottish eNGOs more influence at the EU level. If this is of interest to your organisation please contact [Jonny Hughes](#)

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MEMBER NEWS

RAFTS are holding their 2011 Annual Conference on 23 March at the Battleby Institute, Redgorton. This year's theme will be "*The developing role of the third sector: What can fisheries trusts bring to the party?*" The conference will explore the developing third sector role in delivering projects of shared priority interest to public sector and fisheries groups through presentations on policy and practical project application studies from speakers from all sectors. More details and booking information at the [RAFTS website](#)

SCNP's 20th AGM is on 15th April, at the Smith Art Gallery, Stirling. Duncan Macpherson, Land Manager of the North Harris Trust will be talking about recent local efforts to achieve national park status for the Isle of Harris. To book your place, please contact [Kate Walsham](#).

www.VisitWoods.org.uk - a partnership project led by the **Woodland Trust**, is a new interactive website that maps nearly 14,000 woodlands across the UK giving easy access to information on nearly all publicly accessible woods. It is the UK's first interactive website to bring all major woodland-owning organisations into one searchable database enabling people to find their nearest accessible wood and directions to it.

Threave Bat Reserve opens its doors - Last summer saw a national first in Dumfries and Galloway when the National Trust for Scotland's [Threave estate](#) proudly launched Scotland's first dedicated Bat Reserve. Threave's mixed habitat provides for the seven different species there, including the rare whiskered bat. Beautiful meadows and wetlands in the wider estate host an abundance of insects for them to feed on, whilst the buildings and woodlands provide ideal roosting sites, making it the perfect place to support a diverse range of species.

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OTHER NEWS

Scotland is at the start of a new industrial revolution

A report from the Royal Society of Edinburgh, [Facing Up to Climate Change: breaking the barriers to a low-carbon Scotland](#), based on an 18 month inquiry to identify both the opportunities and barriers in the move to a low carbon society, argues that Scotland has a great deal to gain from this transformation. As well as offering a new source of sustainable prosperity, renewable energy



can contribute to a secure, distributed energy supply that will create opportunities for communities of every size across the country. However progress is hampered by a lack of integration and coherence within activity at EU, UK and Scottish levels, including in local authorities, communities, households and civil society. The report sets out ten primary recommendations and thirty supplementary recommendations to help policymakers to overcome these barriers.

Fred Edwards Action Learning Programme for Active Citizens

The Fred Edwards Trust, set up in memory of former LINK president Fred Edwards, is offering places on its voluntary co-mentoring programme, with the aim of providing people in Scotland with the power and motivation to address issues within their professional, community or individual lives. Action Learning is a simple but powerful process where groups of individuals, guided by a trained facilitator, meet on a regular basis to address challenges in a supportive but enquiring environment. Venues will be arranged to suit, but may include Edinburgh, Glasgow, Stirling, Inverness and Perthshire. For more information or to join a group contact actionlearning@frededwardstrust.org.uk or visit the [Fred Edwards Trust website](#)

Scottish Charity Awards 2011

The Scottish Charity Awards recognise excellence in the Scotland's third sector. If your organisation has achieved something special this year then enter now. Deadline for entries is April 8th 2011. More information at the [SCVO website](#)

International Year of the Forest – Forestry Commission Scotland Study Trips

To celebrate International Year of the Forest, ARCH and Forestry Commission Scotland are sponsoring a series of exciting and topical study trips. The selection of venues and topics reflects that which is currently important in European forestry and of relevance to Scotland. Each trip is designed for 5 people. Details [here](#)

Mapping the Cuts

Voluntary Sector Cuts is a new website project which collects and maps intelligence about voluntary groups experiencing reductions in public sector funding. Organisations which have had their statutory funding reduced, can take part in this work by sharing details of the reduction at the website. Cuts shared with the site will be made available publicly in a google spreadsheet. [Report a cut](#)

National Spring Clean

Scotland's biggest annual cleanup is back. Over 40,000 people so far have volunteered to take part in activities from 14th March – 16th May. More details at the [Spring Clean website](#)

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EVENTS AND SEMINARS

Creating A Sustainable Scotland: Roles, Responsibility And Scrutiny, 7 March, Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh. Holyrood conference, with keynote speaker, Professor Jan Bebbington. The abolition of the Sustainable Development Commission Scotland raises many questions about the future direction of sustainability in this country. This event will look at key issues for Scotland's long term future such as the resilience and sustainability of our communities, businesses and wider economy and will seek to establish the parameters in which the sustainability agenda will be pursued and taken forward over the coming years. Delegates will play an extended part in the day's proceedings by taking part in roundtable discussions, breakout sessions, a special iMindmapping session where we will attempt to prioritise outcomes and every



delegate will be given the opportunity to make a public pledge about the actions they will take to help drive the sustainability agenda forward over the coming years. [Registration](#)

Community Land Scotland conference, 29th and 30th March, Isle of Harris – Day 1 will focus on the issues that are considered fundamental in any community landowning area, such as housing and jobs. Day 2 will focus on the bigger picture and will include speakers and a panel discussion on issues that are particularly relevant in a Scottish election year. For more details or to book a place contact admin@north-harris.org

Young Scottish Green List Awards, 9th March, Edinburgh University Students' Association – all welcome. Book your place [here](#)

Visions of Global Justice, 19th March, Glasgow - World Development Movement's annual campaigner convention. Susan George, political scientist and world-renowned author will talk about her new book on challenging the world's super rich neoliberal elite with an achievable greener, fairer future. More info [here](#)

Ecofusion, 10th April, Inverleith Park, Edinburgh – organised by FEVA, this family-friendly, free event aims to encourage people of all ages and from all backgrounds to make the most of the natural environment around them and the opportunities it presents for exploring and enjoying Scotland's outdoor spaces and cultural heritage. More details [here](#)

Scottish Biodiversity Week, 21-29 May, co-ordinated by Scottish Natural Heritage. This year's theme is "*Biodiversity is Life - Biodiversity is Our Life*". Programme of events and details of how to organise an event are [here](#)

IUCN 'Investing in Peatlands' conference, University of Stirling, 20-22 June 2011 - hosted by the IUCN Peatlands Programme, this year's conference theme is '*Delivering Multiple Benefits*'. Registration details will be announced shortly at the [IUCN Peatland website](#)

Central Scotland Green Network Forum, 14 June, Westerwood Hotel and Golf Resort, Cumbernauld. Hear inspirational speakers on Green Network Issues; celebrate the success of projects that received CSGN Development Funding in 2010; provide an opportunity to learn about developments over the last year. [Registration](#)

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PUBLICATIONS

[Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty](#)

[Eradication](#) – a report from the United Nations Environment programme which argues that nations can kick-start a "green economy" by redirecting \$1.3 trillion a year (approx. 2% of global GDP) from industries that overuse resources to 10 areas ranging from forestry to buildings.

[Measuring our Progress - the power of well-being](#) - a report from the New Economics Foundation on national well-being and how governments should measure it.

[Raw Materials Critical to the Scottish Economy](#) - a research project funded by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and carried out by SNIFFER, lays out for the first time what supply risks in raw materials could mean for Scotland, and asks what opportunities may be out there for Scottish businesses.



ScotStat Natural Environment Statistics Advisory Committee – all meeting documentation from NESAC dating back to 2006 is now available online at the [Scottish Government website](#).

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CONSULTATIONS

Heritage Lottery Fund Strategic Framework 2013-2019 - Changes to allocation of lottery money after the 2012 Olympics gives HLF £300m a year to award over six years. HLF is reviewing its strategic framework in light of this increase in available funds. Respond to the consultation [here](#) Closing date 26th April.

OSCR Corporate Plan - Scotland's charity regulator has announced its consultation on a new Corporate Plan, which sets out priorities for the next three years. Details [here](#). Closes 24th May.

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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 Union Pulse, February 2011

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Stop Climate Chaos Scotland Latest

SCCS Climate Cafes for the Holyrood elections:

Falkirk West – Monday 7th March, St Mungo's High School

East Lothian – Thursday 10th March, Haddington Town Hall

Edinburgh Central – Monday 21st March, Henderson's café at St John's Church

Perthshire North – Monday 21st March, Airlie Street Hall, Alyth

Aberdeen South – details TBC

Climate Day on 13th April - plans for Climate Day, and the online political debate that will take place that evening, are well underway. SCCS will be creating an online area where people can access information about the campaign as well as post comments and suggest questions ahead of the debate. SCCS's new Election Online Co-ordinator, Jamie Hamilton, has started work and is developing plans for this.

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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.