

## LINK eBulletin – January 2011

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### LINK DIARY

**27 January** Board and Networking Meetings  
**1-3 March** Scottish Environment Week 2011  
**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

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### LINK NEWS

LINK's latest report, [Scotland's Environmental Laws since Devolution - From Rhetoric to Reality](#), was launched at LINK's Festive reception on 16<sup>th</sup> December. The review of key environmental legislation in Scotland since devolution prepared by Tamsin Bailey, assesses the success of eight key environmental laws from the last ten years, which LINK and its members bodies campaigned for in working to protect Scotland's environment.

LINK's **Agriculture Taskforce** has produced a [file note](#) on the Pack report on the future of agricultural support in Scotland. This is the first in a series of briefings from Scottish Environment LINK designed to encourage debate on topics relating to land use in Scotland.

LINK's **Sustainable Land Use Taskforce** has submitted its response to the Scottish Government's draft land use strategy. Read the submission [here](#). Vicky Swales the SLUS Taskforce's Convenor also gave [evidence](#) to the RAE Committee in December on the strategy.

**eNGO environmental performance** – There has been a limited response so far to the LINK Board initiative to survey LINK members to find out how well-placed the sector is now in terms of energy efficiency and carbon management. If you are a LINK member rep and haven't already done so, please email Hugh at [hugh@scotlink.org](mailto:hugh@scotlink.org) with the name/email address of the colleague in your organisation who can act as your carbon contact and take part in our short survey. Please remember that this isn't just about saving carbon – it's about saving cost, and the Board will try to provide assistance to members in 2011 to help overcome any roadblocks identified by the survey. Please support the initiative!

LINK's quarterly **Networking Meeting** for members and taskforces will take place on the 27<sup>th</sup> January, at 1.30pm at LINK's Perth office. Lunch will be provided beforehand. If you are planning to attend, please contact [Kate](#) and let her know if you require lunch.

LINK will be meeting with Richard Lochhead MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment on 19<sup>th</sup> January. LINK hopes to use the opportunity to pursue discussions around budget cuts and environment referencing LINK's paper [Protecting the Environment in a Time of Cuts](#). Contact [Jen](#) for more information.

LINK's audit of local authority SOAs will be published in January. For more information, please contact [Jen](#)

**Scottish Environment Week 2011, 1-3 March, Holyrood, hosted by Sarah Boyack MSP.**

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.

**Notes of LINK's Strategic Planning Meeting**, held in November in Dunblane, outlining the Network's strategic priorities for the next 12 to 18 months are now available on the [LINK website](#).

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## MEMBER NEWS

**TAKE ACTION: Support WWF's e-action on the RPP debate** – next Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January the Scottish Parliament will be debating the Report on Policies and Proposals which sets out how Scotland will meet its climate change targets. With the most ambitious climate change legislation in the world, it is crucial that Scotland keeps walking the talk when it comes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, leading the way towards a better future for people and wildlife. You have a great chance right now to stop our Climate Change Act from falling at the first hurdle. Please ask your MSP to do all they can to strengthen key areas - particularly in transport and energy efficiency. [Visit WWF's e-action page](#).

After eight years as Chief Executive of **Friends of the Earth Scotland**, Duncan McLaren is stepping down in March. He and his family will be moving to Sweden, his partner's home country.

**Friends of the Earth Scotland's** latest report [42% Better](#), states that meeting Scotland's target of a 42% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 could increase employment, cut health-care costs and reduce social exclusion. The report finds for example, that investments in energy efficiency typically reduce future energy costs and more than repay the initial investment. Other benefits accrue both directly to individuals and more widely to society as a whole such as improved health, reduced congestion, improved comfort, and significant reductions in the incidence of fuel poverty.

**'The Power of Scotland Secured'**, Friends of the Earth Scotland, RSPB & WWF have published a report on Scotland's potential energy future. Read it at <http://www.foe-scotland.org.uk/sites/files/possv6final.pdf>

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## PUBLICATIONS

**SDC Scotland's Fourth Annual Assessment** warns that the Government is putting Scotland's long term prosperity at serious risk by failing to make the hard choices for a sustainable economy. The Commission welcomes the good work on renewables but warns that it has failed to signal the move away from dependence on oil and gas which is crucial to future-proof Scotland's economy. Download the report [here](#)

**SNH Commissioned Report 382: Involving people in biological recording** - This research addressed "how best to increase the numbers and range of people and organisations involved in voluntary biological recording, and to increase the total pool of available skills and knowledge". Key findings include: data quality is generally high but there are insufficient experienced recorders, particularly in some regions, to meet the demand; attracting people to biological recording is fairly straightforward but requires clear and simple ways to get involved and the support of experienced people to train, direct and motivate volunteers; and, new technologies

have the potential to play a critical role in supporting voluntary effort through better data management, help with identification, and improved communication. Download [here](#)

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## CONSULTATIONS

**Securing the Benefits of Scotland's Next Energy Revolution** - Scottish government consultation on proposals to ensure Scotland and its local communities benefit from renewable and low carbon energy developments. Details [here](#) (see also Andy Whiteman's [suggestion](#) which is to amend the Crown Estate Act of 1961 to the effect that it doesn't apply to Scotland). Open until 18<sup>th</sup> February 2011.

**Adapting to the Changing Climate: Consultation on the Environmental Impacts of Adaptation** - This is the SEA Environmental Report on the draft Sector Action Plans, which sit beneath the Climate Change Adaptation Framework. Details [here](#). Scottish government consultation open until 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011.

**Consultation on the Inventory of Scottish Battlefields** - Historic Scotland is preparing an inventory identifying Scotland's nationally important battlefields to ensure that they are looked after now and for future generations. The Inventory of Historic Battlefields is being delivered in two stages, the first by March 2011, the second by March 2012 and Historic Scotland is currently consulting on the first stage of the inventory. The consultation is open until 11 February 2011. More details [here](#)

**Pollution Prevention and Control (Scotland) Regulations 2010: Proposals to Introduce Standard Rules** - Scottish Government consultation to introduce provisions into the PPC regulatory regime to enable the Scottish Environment Protection Agency to take a more risk-based and proportionate approach to regulation across a range of lower risk activities, consistent with the need to protect human health and the environment. Details [here](#). Consultation closes 9<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

**Application to register the name 'Stornoway Black Pudding' as a Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) under the EU protected food name scheme** - Scottish Government consultation for an application the Scottish Government has received to register 'Stornoway Black Pudding' as a Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) under the EU Protected Food Name Scheme. Details [here](#). Consultation is open until 4<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

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## EVENTS AND SEMINARS

**Localism: What next for the relationship between local government and the third sector?** SCVO conference, 18<sup>th</sup> January, Edinburgh. For more information please visit [SCVO's website](#).

**Scottish Government's Sustainable Food and Drink Procurement in the Public Sector in Scotland Conference**, 18<sup>th</sup> January, Hampden Park, Glasgow. More details at the Sustainable Scotland Network [website](#).



**Scottish Renewables Planning 2011**, Conference & Exhibition, Thursday 27 January 2011: The Hilton Grosvenor, Edinburgh, in association with the Royal Town Planning Institute Scotland (RTPI) [Register here](#)

**Count your Carbon and your Pennies**, SCVO training course, 31<sup>st</sup> January, Edinburgh. This course aims to raise awareness of the opportunities for voluntary organisations to manage their carbon and energy more efficiently and to benefit from the associated cost savings. Booking information [here](#).

**Scottish Renewables Offshore Wind 2011**, Conference & Exhibition, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2011: AECC (Aberdeen Exhibition & Conference Centre), Aberdeen. Scotland's largest ever Offshore Wind Conference & Exhibition. [Register here](#)

**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](mailto:jelliott@talkaction.org)

**Scotland's Maritime Future: Developing an industry of the sea policy for energy, fisheries, transport, manufacturing and tourism**, Tuesday 22nd February 2011, Edinburgh. Keynote address by Keith Brown MSP, Minister for Transport and Infrastructure. To receive a booking form email [gshannah@mackayhannah.com](mailto:gshannah@mackayhannah.com)

**2011 Scottish Green Energy Conference**, in association with the European Commission, Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, Edinburgh. Keynote Speaker, First Minister Alex Salmond MSP. The conference will provide an opportunity for open dialogue between all green energy stakeholders and will feature master classes on themes including carbon capture and storage, generation and transmission, grid development and smart grids, funding and project planning and development. To receive a booking form please email [lmcclelland@mackayhannah.com](mailto:lmcclelland@mackayhannah.com)

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## STOP CLIMATE CHAOS SCOTLAND LATEST

**Scottish Government's Report on Proposals and Policies (RPP)** - The RPP sets out how Scotland will meet its climate change targets between now and 2022. The Scottish Parliament have 60 days to consider the draft report. SCCS provided written evidence to the TICC Committee, which you can read here [http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/sccs%20evidence\\_rpp\\_final.pdf](http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/sccs%20evidence_rpp_final.pdf). SCCS also plans to write to party leaders to highlight concerns in advance of the Parliamentary debate on this.

**Cancun Summit** - Lexi Barnett from SCIAF and Lang Banks from WWF Scotland attended the conference and did work on behalf of SCCS, including talking about the Scottish climate change Act to delegates and promoting it using badges, lanyards and bottles of 42% whisky. SCCS's media statement at the end of the summit, looking forward to the talks later this year in Durban is available [here](#). Lang and Lexi also kept a daily [blog](#) during the summit.

Environment Minister, **Roseanna Cunningham MSP** has been given Climate Change responsibilities following the resignation of Stuart Stevenson as Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Minister in December.



SCCS's [Scottish Elections web page](#) is now live, providing updates on SCCS election work. The two key components of SCCS's campaign will be Climate Cafes across the country at the end of February/beginning of March and a live online political debate on climate change – this is scheduled to happen in mid-April, when the parties are in the midst of their election campaigns. For more information on the SCCS election campaign and how to hold a Climate Café please contact [info@stopclimatechaosscotland.org](mailto:info@stopclimatechaosscotland.org)

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

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

**Council decisions from the 75<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IUCN Council**  
**Overview of the 75th Council meeting**  
**IUCN Energy Newsletter**  
**IUCN Ecosystem Newsletter**  
**IUCN Ecosystems and Human Well-being newsletter**

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## OTHER NEWS

**£10.3m Climate Challenge Fund is now accepting new bids** - application forms for the one year grant scheme from the Scottish Government which supports communities to tackle climate change by reducing their carbon emissions available at the [Keep Scotland Beautiful website](#). Following the Scottish government's announcement to cease funding SDC Scotland, the future operation of the Climate Challenge Fund Supporting Alliance (of which LINK is a member) which provides networking and support functions for the fund remains unclear. The Alliance will however continue operating out of SDC Scotland for a short while, with transfer of functions to other organisations to be announced in due course.

**Improving Access to Rural Funding: Rural Direct Evaluation** - The Scottish Government is seeking views on how to improve information and support for accessing rural funding in general and, more specifically, feedback on the Rural Direct service. Access the questionnaire [here](#)

**Scottish Renewables industry meets a quarter of electricity needs** - Figures published by the Department of Energy and Climate Change in December show that Scotland generated 27.4% of electricity demand from renewables in 2009. [More details](#)

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## VACANCIES

**Chief Executive, Friends of the Earth Scotland, Edinburgh** - An exciting opportunity has arisen for a dynamic leader to take over the strategic management of Friends of the Earth Scotland. We are seeking a high calibre, experienced campaigner with sharp political insight, ideally with a background of working on environment, human rights, development or social justice issues.

You will have an impressive track record of devising and influencing policy and experience of working with senior stakeholders including Government, funders and business leaders. As our



principal spokesperson, you will have exceptional communication skills and substantial experience of working with the media. You will be an experienced senior manager with demonstrable success of fundraising, financial and staff management. Leading an independent Scottish charity, you will be directly accountable to the Board of Friends of the Earth Scotland.

The position is full time, permanent, 35 hours a week, with a salary between £44,523 and £49,963. We offer 28 days annual leave, ten public holidays a year, flexible working and a 6% pension contribution. Please visit the [Friends of the Earth Scotland website](#) for more information and details on how to apply. Closing date is Friday 21 January at 12.00.

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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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