

LINK Members' Bulletin October 2009

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LINK News

Elections: Andy Myles is developing our 'spinal' manifesto document reflecting headings political parties work to, proposing environmental asks within these, in relation to UK, Holyrood, local government and even EU elections ahead. This will circulate to members in due course.

UK LINKs: LINK reps met with the other UK Links in London last week to discuss particularly the possibility of a coalition UK government and the opportunities for eNGOs/environment that might present during the negotiations phase. Useful discussions! Earlier in the day we met with Director of Green Alliance who was also very interested in Scottish experience of working under coalition administrations.

SOAs: Our paper on key issues and indicators will go as a final draft shortly to the Improvement Service, CoSLA, SOLACE and one or two other contacts including John Mason (SG). A new menu from Improvement Service is due in October against which we will check and refine our paper before publishing electronically and circulating to a wider audience including local authorities. We are seeking a meeting with CoSLA for further discussion and to identify key targets across the LAs. Beyond that we will be into the business of promoting the 'asks' as LINK and as members, and monitoring.

Health, wellbeing and environment: We have 'mapped' where many members interface with the health and wellbeing agenda - see our summary report. We are due to meet SNH, Health Scotland, Paths for All and BTCV in a month's time. Still aiming to identify whether there are things LINK and its members can help with, to promote links between health and environment.

Healthy Environment Network (HEN): Andy Fairbairn and Maggie Keegan are the LINK joint representatives in this cross-sectoral steering group ?

WNE Bill: having submitted our response to the consultation in early September we are ready to follow legislation although this may not begin till mid-later 2010.

Sustainable Land Use: In the wake of the very good workshop at the end of September at the LINK offices in Perth, John Mayhew is refining the LINK proposals on a sustainable land use strategy. This will circulate for comment very soon to all reps. John will take feedback on board in a final version and the steering group will sign this off and discuss next steps on 20 October. If you would like to join the group please contact [Jen](#) or [Andy Myles](#).

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Member Focus

Bat Conservation Trust

At the Bat Conservation Trust life is hectic. The Scottish Bat Officer Anne Youngman and a team of volunteers are trying not to get into a flap as they prepare for the Scottish Bat workers conference on 31st October (yes Halloween).

Bookings are flying in almost as fast as speakers are dropping out! The event will be held at Stirling University. Around 100 bat workers from all over Scotland and northern England will congregate for a



day of talks, workshops, displays, bat chat and the Bridge of Allan (in)famous bat beer. This year's beer is Dracula's Draught in honour of the day.
For more information see the BCT website www.bats.org.uk

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NEWS

Northern Ireland Environment LINK (NIEL) September Bulletin

A wide range of reports on planning reform, climate change, NI Assembly News, policy updates and members' news.

Wales Environment Link (WEL) Quarterly News

News of WEL's responses and briefings on climate change, energy, transport and Glastir, the new agri-environment scheme for Wales.

Wildlife and Countryside Link (WCL) Quarterly News

News of WCL's responses and briefings on the UK Marine Bill, the Draft Flood and Water Management Bill, ecosystems approach, conservation credits.

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Go Greener Campaign website

The Greener Scotland Unit of the Climate Change & Greener Scotland Division are looking for articles and information for the News section of the Go Greener website. A few short paragraphs with hyperlinks and graphics are ideal, see

<http://www.infoscotland.com/gogreener/24.html>.

For any future events please send them a few weeks before the date.

The Unit also welcomes suggestions for useful tips to make our lives greener See <http://www.infoscotland.com/gogreener/642.22.41.html> for the current tips.

Please send your information to Gillian.Stuart@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

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PAW Scotland Grant Fund

PAW Scotland is the Partnership for Actions against Wildlife crime in Scotland. It is a multi-agency organisation that aims to combat wildlife crime in Scotland.

The PAW Scotland fund for fighting wildlife crime supports suitable projects aimed at stamping out wildlife crime in Scotland, and has £200,000 to award to projects up until the end of March 2011. Awards can be made of up to £20,000 in any one financial year and normally for up to 50% of the total project costs. Grants can be offered to support individuals and organisations, and you don't need to be a member of PAW Scotland. The next deadline for applications is 15 April 2010 but applications may be submitted at any time.

For details see www.snh.org.uk or PAW [poster](#)

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Free Waste Prevention Workshops for communities and businesses

Friends of the Earth Scotland runs a national project called CREW (Communities Reducing Excess Waste). A waste prevention programme targeting waste at the source, CREW is available for businesses and households across Scotland. It runs interactive training days and workshops which provide people with the tools, knowledge and resources needed to reduce waste See www.reducewaste.org.uk or telephone Sam Adderley on 0131 243 2707.

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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.

In addition to the Scottish Government consultations

Forestry Commission Disability Equality Scheme 2009-12 The draft Scheme and Action Plan has received input from focus groups of individuals with a disability and external organisations representing the views of people with disabilities.

27 November 2009 Further views and comments are welcomed, see www.forestry.gov.uk/consultations.

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Events and Seminars

21 October **Finding Our Place – Reconnecting with nature in a time of uncertainty**

9.30am-4.15pm With three speakers from the fields of environmental education, conservation and environmental ethics.

Battleby

To book a place (£55), email Suzanne.kilbane@snh.gov.uk

SNH Sharing Good Practice

26 October **Scottish Third Sector Research Conference**

9.45am-5pm The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations and the Centre for Public Services Research at Edinburgh University Business are holding a joint conference to connect researchers, policy makers and practitioners.

[More details.](#)

29 October
Edinburgh
10am-12 noon
SCVO Seminar

A Board's Guide to Surviving the Economic Downturn

This seminar will look at trustees' duties and good governance; when to have more frequent board meetings and what should be discussed; risk assessment and forward planning; reserves; SORP responsibilities; wrongful trading provisions and proactive ways to avoid redundancies. Cost: £15 SCVO members, £25 non-members. [Booking Form](#).

3 November Joint Transform Scotland and University of Edinburgh Seminar

5.30-7.30pm 'Oil Crunch' - discussions on energy security, peak oil and transport.

Informatics Forum, Crichton Street, Edinburgh Free but ticketed. To register, email **Helen Todd** or telephone 0131 243 2692. [More details](#)

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LINK Diary 2009

October 22 Board meeting, am. Board and Convenors/Members Networking pm. Perth.

November 19-20 LINK Annual Congress and Forward Planning, Dunblane.

December 16 Festive Evening Reception, St Augustine's Church, Edinburgh.

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Publications Received

How the public thinks lower-carbon behaviour could be made mainstream

Institute for Public Policy Research Report into how behaviour that produces fewer emissions can be stimulated.

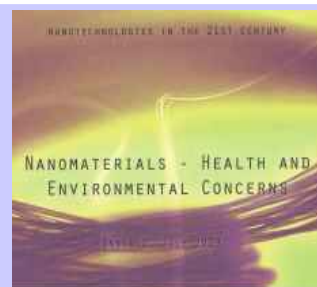


EEB -Nanomaterials - Health and Environmental Concerns

This series of four reports is meant to serve as a capacity building tool empowering environmental NGOs to work actively in the field of sustainable governance and use of nanotechnologies and nanomaterials.

One of the greatest challenges in the coming years will be how to successfully assess the potential of nanomaterials to cause harm before many more products containing such materials are available on the market.

The first report in the series published in April



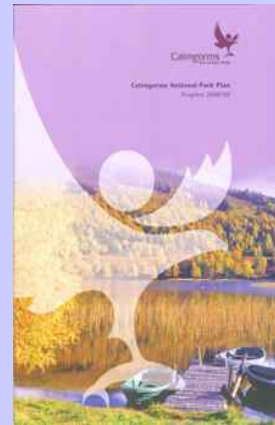
2009 **Can Nanotechnologies Assist in Solving 21st Century Environmental Challenges? A Critical Review of Opportunities and Risks** covered emerging concerns.

The third report will cover a range of governance and regulation issues. The fourth report will give NGO guidelines on sustainability assessment of nanotechnology and nanomaterials.

Cairngorms National Park Authority Progress Report 2008

Covers the second year of its five-year plan, its seven priorities, achievements and milestones for 2008-09.

Case studies include young people being involved in practical projects and through links with the Curriculum for Excellence and the Cairngorms Wildcat Project with a range of other partners.



Climate Challenge Fund Newsletter

gives news of the CCF Gathering in September where the challenges of reaching out to the wider public to have more carbon neutral ways of living were discussed.

Also news of various CCF workshops coming up including Behaviour Change, Communicating Climate Change and Community Participation.



NTS Annual Review 2008-09

Notwithstanding the financial challenges, NTS membership and visitor numbers have increased. The future will depend on forging new partnerships throughout Scotland.

