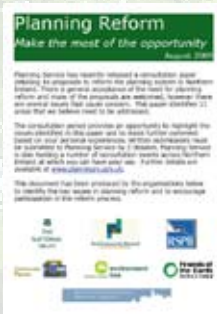


# NIEL NEWS



Planning Reform  
New Fact Sheet  
Available  
P 2



Executive's Work Programme Takes Shape  
P 4



Will You Cut Your Emissions by 10% in 2010?  
P 10

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## Submissions for NIEL News

We welcome your contributions for NIEL News. If you'd like us to publicise your news and events please send details to [info@nienvironmentlink.org](mailto:info@nienvironmentlink.org) or post.

The copy deadline is the **1st of every month.**

# News from NIEL

## New Fact Sheet Available

*Planning Reform: Make the Most of the Opportunity*

Leading environmental and community groups are asking the public to get involved in **Planning Reform**. The reform offers the opportunity to improve our system of land use planning, but it could also fundamentally change your rights to be heard. Planning Service is holding a series of consultation events across Northern Ireland during September. These events represent a great opportunity for individuals and community groups to have their say on planning.

The need for planning reform is widely accepted. However, many groups are concerned that the current proposals will not encourage community involvement in the planning process. There is particular concern that some proposals will limit citizens' ability to participate in planning the future of their neighbourhoods.

A briefing paper produced by the environmental and community groups identifies 11 key areas that need to be addressed during the consultation period. Addressing these issues requires widespread public input into the debate. Individuals are encouraged to make their opinions heard by written submission to the Planning Service by the 2 October, or by attending any of the consultation events being held across Northern Ireland. The environmental and community groups involved in the production of this briefing paper are: Community Places, Friends of the Earth, NIEL, Rural Community Network, the National Trust, RSPB and Ulster Architectural Heritage Society and it is available from NIEL at: [www.nienvironmentlink.org](http://www.nienvironmentlink.org). For further information contact Catherine Cassidy at NIEL at tel: 028 9045 4093 or email: [catherine@nienvironmentlink.org](mailto:catherine@nienvironmentlink.org).

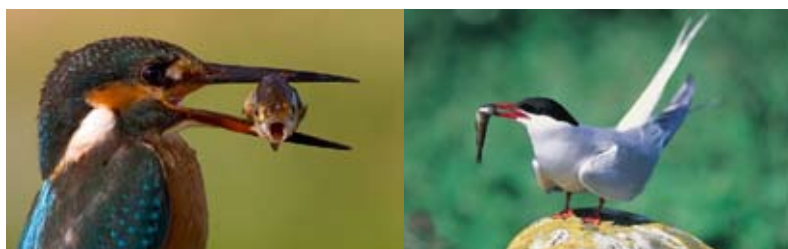


## Members' Survey 2009

Thank you to all members who have so far completed our Member's Survey 2009. If you are a member organisation of NIEL or an individual member and you have not completed our survey, we would be grateful if you could take time to do so as soon as possible. Contact Catherine at [catherine@nienvironmentlink.org](mailto:catherine@nienvironmentlink.org) if you have any queries or need assistance in completing the survey. Many thanks.

## Dates for the Diary

Date	Event	Venue	Contact
24 Sept 9.15am	<b>Planning Reform Seminar</b>	Linen Hall Library	Seamus
5-6 October	<b>Brussels Study Visit</b>		Sean
8 October 2pm	<b>Stop Climate Chaos NI Plenary</b>	NIEL	Sean
19 Oct 10am	<b>Resource Forum (WaRP) Seminar on CWIF Evaluation</b>	TBC	Sue
4 Nov	<b>NIEL Executive Governance Training</b>	TBC	Sue
16 Nov 10.30am	<b>Finance and Human Resources Committee</b>	NIEL	Sue
1 Dec 10am	<b>Strategic, Information and Membership Committee</b>	NIEL	Sue
1 Dec 11.30am	<b>NIEL Executive Committee</b>	NIEL	Sue



# News from NIEL

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## NIEL Meetings in July / August

2 July

*NIAF Meeting on the RPA and the Archaeological Heritage*

NIAF members heard from the DOE about the current state of the RPA and discussed how best to ensure that the archaeological heritage is protected as powers devolve to local authorities. Is the heritage best served by centralised or localised services? Discussion will continue; what is clear is that we need to plan now to ensure that structures are in place to protect and promote heritage as an integral and vital constituent of local pride, tourism and community development.

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21 July

*Future of UK Land Use*

A seminar at Crawfordsburn looked at some potential scenarios for the future of land use in a changing physical and political climate. It was repeatedly stressed that it is vital to consider the specific impacts on Northern Ireland when developing UK projections which will influence policy and practice here. There are specific differences in Northern Ireland; political, physical and social; which impact on land use and these are markedly different from the situation elsewhere; ignoring this means that the work will not be locally relevant, thus missing an important opportunity to influence local political direction.

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30 July

*National Parks with PEPG*

It is hoped that legislation to pave the way for designating National Parks in Northern Ireland will be progressing over the coming months. The legislation is about paving the way for the process, not about designating any specific area. There will be full public consultation in due course, probably in the autumn-winter of 2009 – 2010.

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5 August

*NI Allotments Forum*

A number of those involved in allotments including local authorities, NGOs, government departments and agencies and private suppliers met to discuss the current trends in allotments and the need and role for a Forum. It was agreed that a Forum is desirable to move work forward to encourage greater provision and take up. NIEL is helping FCFCG and councils to progress this; there will be 6 monthly meetings; contact Sue if you're interested in being added to the circulation list.

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11 August

*Environmental Liability Directive*

The local implementation of this legislation is proceeding in line with legislation in the rest of the UK. It is a 'minimal transposition' of the EU regulation, as with the UK.

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19 August

*Minister of the Environment, Edwin Poots MLA*

We met with the Minister and advisors to discuss the Policy Priorities – Climate Change, Environmental Protection and Planning. The Minister was receptive and understood the issues; discussion centred on the Reform of Planning and climate change primarily. It is very unlikely there will be a Climate Change Act in this Assembly as the legislative schedule is very tight; there will be High Hedges legislation and the Clean Neighbourhoods Act is scheduled. Officials asked for our input so meetings will be scheduled.

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20 August

*Meeting with UUP MLA's*

NIEL staff members met with UUP MLA's Roy Beggs and Danny Kinahan to highlight the main issues contained with our *Policy Priorities for Northern Ireland's Environment* document. Sustainable Development, Climate Change, Energy, Waste and Transport were all discussed as was NIEL's Planning Reform briefing paper. Despite a heavy work programme the MLA's stated their interest in inviting NIEL to present its views on planning at a future UUP Assembly grouping meeting.

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1 September  
*NICCIP*

NICCIP welcomed its new Chairman, John McMullan of Bryson House and thanked outgoing Chair Douglas McIlDoon who is moving to France. Presentations on Transition Towns were followed by discussion of NICCIP's workplan to be discussed further at the next meeting.

# Assembly News

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By Sean Kelly and Seamus óg Gallagher, Policy Officers, Northern Ireland Environment Link

## Executive Statement - 30 July 2009

[www.northernireland.gov.uk/executive-statements-index/news-eis-300709-executive-agrees-a.htm](http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/executive-statements-index/news-eis-300709-executive-agrees-a.htm)

The Executive has approved a wide range of papers and draft Bills representing significant future work for the Assembly and government departments. Among the papers and draft Bills approved include agreement to publish Planning Policy Statement 18: Renewable Energy and to set out proposals committing to carbon reduction. Consultations will also begin on a range of proposals including: A Bio Energy Action Plan for Northern Ireland 2009 – 2014; Dormant Accounts Scheme and a Review of the Regional Transportation Strategy. Other papers approved also included Draft Regulations to transpose the EU Floods Directive.

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## Answers to Written Questions [www.niassembly.gov.uk/qanda/answer.htm](http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/qanda/answer.htm)

*Department of the Environment  
Historic or Environmentally Important Site*

[www.niassembly.gov.uk/qanda/2007mandate/writtenans/2008/090626.htm#7](http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/qanda/2007mandate/writtenans/2008/090626.htm#7)

Minister of the Environment (Mr S Wilson) stated that the current maximum penalty for a person carrying out unauthorised demolition, alteration or extension to a listed building is, on summary conviction, imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or a fine not exceeding £30,000, or both. On conviction on indictment, the term of imprisonment increases to a maximum of 2 years or a fine, or both. The Department has, in the last 3 years, had 8 cases where prosecution has successfully been brought for unauthorised works to a Listed Building with fines ranging from £283 - £30,000. In relation to archaeology, the Minister added there has been no need to take measures against developers because the system has worked effectively; developers have been responsible in archaeological matters and there has been no significant unmitigated damage to archaeological sites.

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*Northern Ireland Environment Agency  
(3 July)*

In response to what independent scrutiny measures he intends to introduce to monitor the success of the revised NIEA Enforcement and Prosecution policy, the Minister replied that the purpose of the revised Enforcement Policy was to ensure a balanced approach to regulation and enforcement as part of the NIEA's Better Regulation Programme and to outline the powers employed by enforcement staff. The Minister stated that the Criminal Justice Inspectorate provides an important scrutiny role for DOE enforcement, their first inspection report having been published in October 2007. **A follow up inspection of the Department's policies and procedures is scheduled for December 2009.**

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*Office of Environmental Enforcement*

[www.niassembly.gov.uk/qanda/2007mandate/writtenans/2008/090703.htm#7](http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/qanda/2007mandate/writtenans/2008/090703.htm#7)

The Minister revealed that the Northern Ireland Environment Agency's Environmental Crime Unit currently employs 33 staff and has a total budget for this year of £1.6m. Since the Unit was set up in December 2008, it has overseen 22 successful prosecutions for environmental crimes with 56 further cases currently going through the court system.

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*Septic Tank and Sewage Sludge*

[www.niassembly.gov.uk/qanda/2007mandate/writtenans/2008/090703.htm#7](http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/qanda/2007mandate/writtenans/2008/090703.htm#7)

In response to a series of questions on Septic Tank Sludge and Sewage Sludge and their application on land, the Minister stated that such sludge can be applied by deep burial, injecting into the soil or spreading on the soil. In addition to the requirements of the Sludge (Use in Agriculture) Regulations, applications of sewage sludge must also comply with the Nitrates Action Programme Regulations. As the Nitrates Action Programme Regulations define both septic tank and sewage sludge as 'organic manure', application of organic manures must comply with certain conditions which include a closed spreading period (15 October -31 January), the necessity for suitable soil and weather conditions, non-spreading zones around water/waterways and consideration of the crop nutrient requirements. In addition, the Sludge Regulations mean that grazing livestock should not be permitted on land that has been treated with sludge or septic tank sludge for 3 weeks commencing on the date of the spreading.

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*Wildlife: Endangered Species Research*

[www.niassembly.gov.uk/qanda/2007mandate/writtenans/2008/090703.htm#7](http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/qanda/2007mandate/writtenans/2008/090703.htm#7)

The Minister outlined the nature of the NIEA's long term research arrangements with the two local universities. Since the mid-80s, NIEA, and its predecessors, has funded the University of Ulster to undertake a series of Northern Ireland Countryside Surveys, which constitute a landscape-scale audit of the countryside with this data being used in conjunction with species data to provide contextual information on species distributions and to identify where further work is needed to target threatened habitats and their species. Last year following competitive tendering in the European Journal, NIEA established a 10-year research partnership with Queen's University, known as the Natural Heritage Research Partnership (NHRP).

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# Assembly News

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This NIEA contract has the high level aim of providing high quality research to underpin decisions relating to NIEA's statutory duties relating to the conservation of nature and to help deliver strategic targets relating to the Government's key themes of sustainable development, biodiversity and climate change. Current NHRP wildlife projects include investigating the causes of diving duck declines in Lough Neagh, the threatened Freshwater Pearl Mussel reproduction in the wild, annual population estimates of the Irish Hare and the distribution and genetic diversity of River Water-crowfoot.

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## *Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (10 July) Climate Change – Personnel*

[www.niassembly.gov.uk/qanda/2007mandate/writtenans/2008/090710.htm#2](http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/qanda/2007mandate/writtenans/2008/090710.htm#2)

The Minister revealed that within her Department, 5 members of staff have either full or partial responsibility for addressing issues on climate change. In addition the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute an executive Non-Departmental Body sponsored by DARD which provides 'a sound, scientific basis for government policy on agriculture and the environment' have 28 staff with either full or partial responsibility for addressing issues on climate change. The Minister added that her officials, and in particular the Departmental Scientific Advisor (DSA), are closely engaged with DEFRA, other devolved administrations and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on scientific issues relevant to climate change. The DEFRA Rural Climate Change Forum, RCCF (chaired by John Gilliland) also intends to include the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) as part of its ongoing work on developing an evidence base for policy on mitigating greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture.

In a later response the Minister revealed that her officials are meeting regularly with their DOE and DEFRA counterparts on the development of the Climate Change Strategy and that England, Wales and Scotland are also basing their mitigation strategies around themes such as agri-environment, protection and expansion of forestry including farm woodland, nutrient efficiency and renewable energy such as anaerobic digestion and short rotation coppice. The Minister added that work to form a Climate Change Strategic Plan is a likely next step taking into account the level of annual reduction that we will need to achieve.

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## *Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (10 July) Green New Deal Group*

[www.niassembly.gov.uk/qanda/2007mandate/writtenans/2008/090710.htm#6](http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/qanda/2007mandate/writtenans/2008/090710.htm#6)

The Minister stated her Department is currently considering the recommendations from the Green New Deal Group report on developing the green economy. However, given the cross cutting nature of many of the recommendations, DETI is seeking views from all Departments represented on the Sustainable Energy Interdepartmental Working Group (SEIDWG) as well as the Economic Opportunities sub group of the SEIDWG. The Minister added that as Invest NI is developing a Renewable Energy Strategic Action Plan to position Northern Ireland as a leading region in renewable energy development. In light of this Invest NI will also be considering the recommendations presented in the Green New Deal proposal and will make a formal response. The Minister also stated her intention to reply to the Chair of the group when she had fully considered the report and its implications.

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## *Department for Regional Development (10 July)*

<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/qanda/2007mandate/writtenans/2008/090710.htm#10>

### **Bus Lanes**

In response to a question on the effectiveness of bus lanes the Minister revealed that the autumn 2007 Passenger's Charter survey of bus users, indicated that 14% of Metro and 9% of Ulsterbus passengers were encouraged to use buses due to the availability of bus lanes alone, or by bus lanes in conjunction with other factors, such as increased frequency of buses. Other factors involved in contributing to public transport becoming a more attractive alternative for non essential car users included: the provision of bus shelters, many of which are equipped with real time passenger information; bus priority at a number signalised junctions, giving extra green time to buses which are running more than two minutes late; and park and ride facilities with dedicated bus services. Despite the fact that car ownership has been increasing by 4% per annum over the last few years, it is recognised that the use of public transport makes very effective use of available road space. On the Lisburn Road for example, approximately 33% of people in transit during the morning peak period travel on public transport. However, the buses account for only 2% of the traffic on the road at this time. The Minister added that his Department will therefore, continue to highlight these benefits and promote the use of public transport, in an effort to make it more appealing to non-essential car users. In a response submitted on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July, the Minister revealed that Northern Ireland Annual Cycle Usage Report has indicated that, between 2000 and 2008, overall cycle usage has increased by an encouraging 57%, and in Belfast the increase is 116%.

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# Government News

## NIEA Catchment Stakeholder Group Meetings

The NIEA Catchment Stakeholder Group meetings provide an open forum to discuss and resolve local water management issues. All are welcome to attend. All meetings start at 7pm. These Catchment Stakeholder Group meetings will be attended by representatives from Government Departments/Agencies, angling groups, NGOs, landowners, and members of the public, who work together to; address key local water management issues, influence decisions and assist in the implementation of solutions. They will allow wide participation in the development of River Basin Management Plans and the implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

Catchment Group	Date	Venue	Contact	Chair
Lower Neagh Bann	Thurs 1 Oct	Ballymena Golf Club	<a href="mailto:Eileen.Mallon@doeni.gov.uk">Eileen.Mallon@doeni.gov.uk</a>	M Livingstone
Belfast Lough & Lagan	Wed 7 Oct	Island Civic Centre, Lisburn	<a href="mailto:Helen.Nutt@doeni.gov.uk">Helen.Nutt@doeni.gov.uk</a>	D Foster
Upper Foyle	Wed 14 Oct	The Grange, Omagh DC	<a href="mailto:Joanne.Livingstone@doeni.gov.uk">Joanne.Livingstone@doeni.gov.uk</a>	P Archdale
Strangford & Lecale	Thurs 15 Oct	Castle Espie, Comber	<a href="mailto:Helen.Nutt@doeni.gov.uk">Helen.Nutt@doeni.gov.uk</a>	C Vincent
Carlingford & Mourne	Wed 21 Oct	WIN Business Park, Newry	<a href="mailto:Eileen.Mallon@doeni.gov.uk">Eileen.Mallon@doeni.gov.uk</a> or <a href="mailto:Helen.Nutt@doeni.gov.uk">Helen.Nutt@doeni.gov.uk</a>	M Livingstone
Lower Foyle	Wed 4 Nov	Roe Valley County Park	<a href="mailto:Joanne.Livingstone@doeni.gov.uk">Joanne.Livingstone@doeni.gov.uk</a>	N Henderson
Bush & Glens	Tue 10 Nov	Coastal Zone, Portrush	<a href="mailto:Helen.Nutt@doeni.gov.uk">Helen.Nutt@doeni.gov.uk</a>	C Vincent
Erne & Melvin	Wed 18 Nov	Castle Archdale Country Park	<a href="mailto:Joanne.Livingstone@doeni.gov.uk">Joanne.Livingstone@doeni.gov.uk</a>	N Henderson
Upper Neagh Bann	Wed 25 Nov	Armagh Market Place	<a href="mailto:Eileen.Mallon@doeni.gov.uk">Eileen.Mallon@doeni.gov.uk</a>	G Nelson

## New MD for JNCC



The Joint Nature Conservation Committee has announced the appointment of its new Managing Director. Marcus Yeo. He will succeed Deryck Steer who will be retiring following over eleven years service, as the head of the organisation that advises both the UK and devolved governments on nature conservation issues. Marcus was previously JNCC's Head of Planning and Resources, and prior to that Head of Habitat Advice. Marcus spent nine years with the Countryside Council for Wales, first as a Vegetation Surveyor, before becoming their Upland Ecologist from 1993 to 1999. He has a personal interest in nature conservation, in particular bryophytes, being an active member of the British Bryological Society. He is also a keen cyclist. To read this story in full visit: <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-4899>.

## Appointment of Two IBMs



The Department has appointed two Independent Board Members to the NIEA Board. They are Ms Eileen Mullan and Mr Martyn Todd. Eileen is a lecturer with Belfast Metropolitan College and Martyn (who expects to retire shortly) is Director of Recreation and Community Services at Down District Council. Both IBMs will assist the Chief Executive and the Board in the discharge of their responsibilities and will attend monthly Board meetings. They will also take over chairmanship of the Agency Audit Committee. Visit [www.ni-environment.gov.uk](http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk) for more information.



# Government News

## Poots Invites Views on Finance Arrangements for District Councils



Environment Minister Edwin Poots has encouraged the public to comment on the draft Local Government Finance Bill as he launched a 14-week consultation. The Bill includes proposals for a more modern legislative framework for the finances of district councils. The draft Bill proposes the introduction of a prudential regime for capital finance to ensure that finances are managed as carefully as possible; giving councils more responsibility for the management of their own financial affairs through the removal of the need to obtain the prior approval of the Department of the Environment in most instances; and the introduction of certain new powers, including the power to invest.

The Bill also includes proposals to update the legislation on councillors' remuneration. This includes making provision to enable an independent remuneration panel to be established to consider and make recommendations to the DOE on allowances for councillors. Read this story in full at: <http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/news/news-doe/newpage-doe-230709-poots-invites-views.htm>.

## Continuous Household Survey Bulletin 2008/09



The Continuous Household Survey Bulletin 2008/09 was published on 30 July by the Central Survey Unit of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. The bulletin provides summary information as well as some trend data from previous years. It includes information on renewable energy, recycling, internet access, health, smoking, drinking, voluntary work, parental involvement in children's education and job applications. The Survey's key findings include:

- Almost all households (97%) had at least one form of energy saving measures; with the most common being double glazing (84%), loft insulation (83%) and hot water cylinder insulation (77%).
- The factors considered most effective at making people more energy efficient were educating children in school (88%), clearer information on running costs when buying appliances (85%) and better labelling on appliances (83%).
- The majority of households (92%) regularly recycled at least one of the following: glass, paper and cans, a similar level to the previous year (91%). The proportion of households regularly recycling paper (91%) and glass (85%) has increased significantly every year since 2003-04.
- Over half (55%) of households used energy saving light bulbs an increase from 51% the previous year. 41% had reduced the amount of energy used in the home.

Copies of the bulletin and tables are available from the Central Survey Unit website at [www.csu.nisra.gov.uk](http://www.csu.nisra.gov.uk) where a wide range of additional Continuous Household Survey trend data can also be obtained.

## New Policy Will Help Renewable Energy Sector Grow



Environment Minister Edwin Poots and Energy Minister Arlene Foster have pledged their continued efforts in helping the renewable energy sector grow. The Ministers were speaking on 11 August during a visit to Enniskillen company Balcas Timber Ltd to view at first hand its successful diversification into the renewable energy industry. An Invest Northern Ireland client, the company was established in 1962 and previously focused solely on the supply of timber. In recent years Balcas has seized the opportunity to diversify into renewables, converting sawmilling residue, chips and bark into fuel pellets for use in biomass boilers. Minister Poots acknowledged that greater use of renewable energy technologies will reduce Northern Ireland's dependence on imported fossil fuels and will bring diversity and security of supply to our energy infrastructure. Arlene Foster congratulated Balcas on its commitment to innovation and growth within the local renewable energy industry and highlighted her department's continued work in developing a sustainable energy future for Northern Ireland. Read this story in full at: [www.northernireland.gov.uk/news/news-doe/news-doe-110809-new-policy-will](http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/news/news-doe/news-doe-110809-new-policy-will).

## Foster Seeks Views on Bioenergy Action Plan



Energy Minister Arlene Foster is seeking views on the draft Bioenergy Action Plan, which sets out how Northern Ireland can capitalise on natural energy resources. Bioenergy is an organic based resource that can be grown or collected, including energy crops, wood products, farm by-products and food processing waste. The draft Strategic Energy Framework 2009, which has been launched for consultation outlines the key energy goals in terms of competitiveness, security of supply, sustainability and infrastructure. The consultation on the draft Bioenergy Action Plan is scheduled to run until 30 October 2009. Read story in full at: [www.detini.gov.uk](http://www.detini.gov.uk).

## Poots Welcomes Climate Change Survey Findings

Environment Minister Edwin Poots has commented on findings from a survey on the public's perceptions on climate change. He was speaking after the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency published the results on the Public Perceptions on Climate Change in Northern Ireland. The Public Perceptions on Climate Change in Northern Ireland report covers four main issues: public opinion on the causes of climate change; their concerns about climate change; climate change and lifestyle; and their views on combating climate change. To read more on this story and read the key findings visit: [www.northernireland.gov.uk/news/news-doe/news-doe-100909-poots-welcomes-climate.htm](http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/news/news-doe/news-doe-100909-poots-welcomes-climate.htm).

# Government News

## Wilson Welcomes Consultation on Measures of Social Deprivation

Finance Minister, Sammy Wilson, has welcomed new proposals aimed at measuring social deprivation more effectively. The new proposals, which are out for consultation until November, are aimed at updating the current measures by which disadvantaged areas and communities are identified. The current measures of deprivation relate mostly to data from 2003. These measures identified that the most deprived parts of Northern Ireland are areas within the Whiterock, Shankill, Falls and Crumlin wards in the north and west of the Belfast City Council Area. The measures are used widely by government departments in a variety of spending programmes and in monitoring the impact of government strategies. The consultation period will run until 6 November 2009. The resultant measures are planned for publication in early 2010. The Consultation Document is available at [www.nisra.gov.uk/deprivation.htm](http://www.nisra.gov.uk/deprivation.htm).



## SDC Welcomes Environmental Audit Committee Greening Government Report

Welcoming the Environmental Audit Committee's findings that the Government must act now to reduce carbon emissions, Will Day, Chair of the Sustainable Development Commission said: "The EAC is correct to stress the urgent need for Government to get to grips with carbon emissions from its own estate. Our latest Sustainable Development in Government report concluded that whilst there is strong momentum in many areas, reducing emissions is the one where the least progress has been made. The UK made history by committing to law the world's first Climate Change Bill, with its significant and binding emissions reduction targets, but the UK cannot hope to meet those targets and maintain that position of leadership without the Government leading by example by putting its own house in order."



The EAC's report draws on data from the SDC's Sustainable Development in Government 2008 report. This report found that while departments are making progress on waste, water consumption and emissions from road transport, the Government as a whole is not on track to meet targets on carbon emissions or combined heat and power. Read the EAC report here: [www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmselect/cmenvaud/503/503.pdf](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmselect/cmenvaud/503/503.pdf).

## Minister Ritchie Secures £0.5million to Continue Living over the Shop Initiative

Social Development Minister, Margaret Ritchie has announced that she has moved to secure funding for the Living over the Shop Scheme in 2009/10. The Minister made the announcement after a meeting with a delegation from local government's body, Northern Ireland Local Government Association on 27 August. The scheme helps to breathe new life and vitality into town centres by re-using under-used retail space for housing.



Margaret Ritchie said: "This is an enormous boost for this scheme, when it looked like it could not continue being funded because of budget pressures from within the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. I view the LOTS scheme as an important tool in revitalising towns and cities and one which I have already decided to move to the new Councils in 2011. By making this funding available it will also ensure that much needed housing requirements are addressed." Up to now, funding for LOTS has been administered by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. This funding pot is under enormous pressure and the LOTS scheme, which is primarily about urban regeneration, was in danger of missing out. Budget from within the Urban Development Grant has been secured to continue with this scheme. Read this story in full at: [www.northernireland.gov.uk/news/news-dsd/news-dsd-280809-minister-ritchie-secures.htm](http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/news/news-dsd/news-dsd-280809-minister-ritchie-secures.htm).

## Minister Opens Debate on Planning Reform

Environment Minister, Edwin Poots has urged local government representatives to make their voices heard with regard to proposals for reform of the local planning system. The Minister was speaking as he outlined the reform proposals at a joint Northern Ireland Local Government Association, Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Planning Service conference. This event with local government is taking place in advance of an intensive period of stakeholder engagement for the recently published planning reform consultation paper: 'Reform of the Planning System in Northern Ireland: Your Chance to Influence Change'.



In his speech the Minister reflected on the opportunities presented by the transfer of planning functions to local government in May 2011. The Minister highlighted that planning will become a key local government function, and that there is a real opportunity now to ensure that local government is designed and transformed in a way that enables planning to be at the heart of the new councils, so that it can deliver to its full potential. Eleven planning reform roadshows take place across Northern Ireland in September with a full listing and an online booking facility available at [www.event-ful.co.uk/planning](http://www.event-ful.co.uk/planning). Read this story in detail at: [www.northernireland.gov.uk/news/news-doe/news-doe-260809-minister-opens-debate.htm](http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/news/news-doe/news-doe-260809-minister-opens-debate.htm).

# Government News

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## Poots Outlines Importance of Local Wind Energy Industry



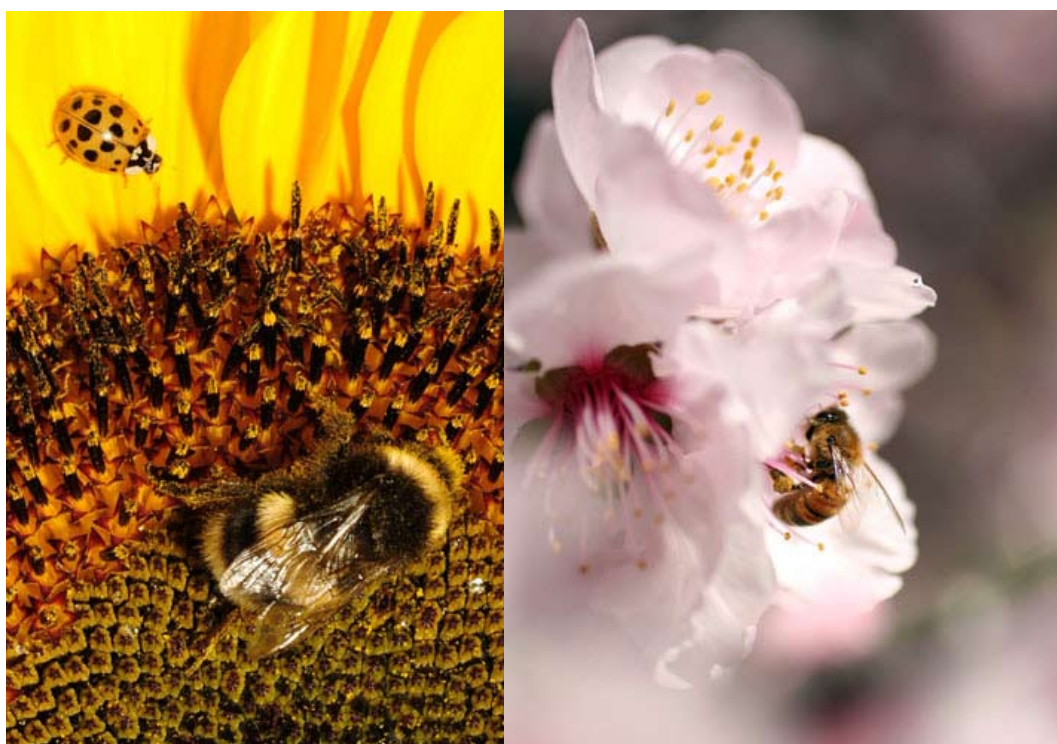
Environment Minister Edwin Poots has said that he foresees wind energy as the foundations to meeting Northern Ireland's current renewable energy targets. As keynote speaker at the Irish Wind Energy Association Workshop in Belfast the Minister said: "I am firmly committed to supporting the wind industry and all other renewable energy technologies so that together we can meet our commitments to tackle climate change."

The Minister highlighted that his Department has a pivotal role to play in facilitating the deployment of renewable electricity generation necessary for Northern Ireland to meet challenging renewable energy targets. He said: "I am fully aware that more needs to be achieved over the next 10 years if we are to meet the 40% target of electricity generation from renewable sources by 2020 set out in the Draft Strategic Energy Framework. While other renewable energy technologies will play an increasingly important role, I believe it is the mature technology of wind energy that will provide the most significant contribution toward the achievement of this target." More details at: [www.northernireland.gov.uk/news/news-doe/news-doe-020909-poots-outlines-importance.htm](http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/news/news-doe/news-doe-020909-poots-outlines-importance.htm).

## Regional Development Minister Launches Biodiversity Plan for Translink



Minister for Regional Development, Conor Murphy, has launched Translink's first Biodiversity Action Plan. The plan, which is a key element of Translink's environmental strategy, will guide the conservation of the natural heritage found in and around Translink's property, within the context of operational and safety requirements. At an event to launch the plan in Malone House in Belfast, the Minister said: "I welcome the introduction of this five year Biodiversity Action Plan and recognise that it is an important part of Translink's environmental strategy going forward." Read the full story at: [www.drdni.gov.uk/newsDetails.htm?newsRef=1086](http://www.drdni.gov.uk/newsDetails.htm?newsRef=1086).



# Climate Change News

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## 10:10 Campaign Launched

The 10:10 campaign, which was launched in the Guardian on September 1, is designed both to answer the call for immediate action, and to offer individuals and organisations a meaningful way of taking it. It is the brainchild of Franny Armstrong, the film-maker behind *The Age of Stupid*. The idea is compellingly simple: by signing up, individuals and organisations from multinational companies to schools and hospitals commit to doing their best to cut their emissions by 10% by the end of 2010, precisely the sort of deep, quick cut the scientists say is needed.

### **Ian Katz of the Guardian explains:**

"Central to the 10:10 campaign is an acknowledgement that the kind of action we are typically urged to take to combat climate change is all too often either footling or forbiddingly hair-shirted. As the environmental writer George Marshall has powerfully argued, focusing on easy, "achievable" targets such as recycling has both distorted public understanding of the impacts of our lifestyle and risks trivialising the issue. At the same time the kind of scorched-earth lifestyle transformation some environmentalists demand is more than most of us are willing to embrace. At least yet. "You are being asked not only to change your life but to make your life very different to the people around you," says the low-carbon expert Chris Goodall. "It's almost an aggressive act. All of a sudden you move outside the mainstream milieu."

10:10 aims to find a space between these poles by promoting action that is both achievable and meaningful. While collectively cutting 10% of emissions in the next year or so would represent a significant step on the road to a low carbon Britain, it is for each of us – and for most businesses – a relatively modest challenge. The first 10% is what the experts call the low-hanging fruit, the savings we can make through relatively small sacrifices such as changing lightbulbs, insulating our homes more effectively, turning down our central heating or swapping one or two flights a year for rail journeys. Even for those of us who have already taken these easy steps, the next 10%, as some of our case studies show, is within reach without wholesale renunciation of a western consumer lifestyle. A group of Oxford householders who recently embarked on a carbon diet managed to reduce their emissions by between 25% and 30% during the course of the last year.

Over the next 16 months we'll be offering plenty of advice on how to do it and following the progress of a number of families, businesses and other organisations as they try to hit the 10% target."

Sign up to 10:10 at [www.1010uk.org/](http://www.1010uk.org/)

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## UKCIP's Climate Digest

For the latest (August) UKCIP Climate Digest, go to:  
[www.ukcip.org.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=214&Itemid=482](http://www.ukcip.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=214&Itemid=482).

### **The Mitigation-Adaptation Dichotomy and the Role of Spatial Planning**

The paper addresses the relationship between climate change responses and spatial planning. Mitigation, adaptation and sustainable development objectives and relationships are very dependent on location factors; developing an integrated approach is required for effective mitigation and adaptation options where synergies and trade-offs are encouraged for effective climate change management.

Traditional administrative regions may compromise such strategies and this paper suggests that climate change sensitive variables such as water systems might be a more effective management structure with a river basin approach as the new administrative level at which spatial planning can increase the effectiveness of adaptation and mitigation measures and integrate these into other sustainable development policies.

*Biesbroek, G. R., Swart, R. J., van der Knaap, W. G. M. (2009) The mitigation-adaptation dichotomy and the role of spatial planning. Habitat International, 33 (3), 230-237. Doi:10.1016/j.habitatint.2008.10.001.*

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# Climate Change News

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## Important Developments

**David Miliband Sets Out to Shock on Global Warming Tour** (7 September): The spectre of a 4°C warmer world, with alligators basking off the coast of Sweden, a vast desert surrounding the Mediterranean and a largely uninhabitable mainland Europe, is to be presented to European Union countries by the foreign secretary, David Miliband. As part of a diplomatic push by Britain to persuade rich countries to put climate change at the top of their agendas, Miliband will address EU, French, Swedish and Danish foreign ministries.

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**EU Ready to Shoulder a Quarter of Global Climate Funding** (8 September): The EU is prepared to put up to 30% of the money required at global level to finance an ambitious post-Kyoto climate treaty and overcome the current standoff in the negotiations, a draft European Commission document shows. The paper outlines the financing needs of developing countries for climate change mitigation and adaptation and sketches out a scheme of how the burden might be shared among developed countries. The Commission plans to present the paper in the coming days, possibly as early as 10 September.

[www.euractiv.com/en/climate-change/eu-ready-shoulder-quarter-global-climate-funding/article-185198](http://www.euractiv.com/en/climate-change/eu-ready-shoulder-quarter-global-climate-funding/article-185198)

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**Japan Vows Big Climate Change Cut** (7 September): Japan's next leader has promised a big cut in greenhouse gas emissions, saying he will aim for a 25% reduction by 2020 compared with 1990 levels. Yukio Hatoyama is due to take over as prime minister on 16 September, after a resounding election victory in August. His predecessor, Taro Aso, had pledged cuts of only 8%.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/8241016.stm>

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**New Estimates Confirm the Declining Trend in EU Greenhouse Gas Emissions** (31 August): New European Environment Agency (EEA) estimates indicate that EU greenhouse gas emissions decreased in 2008 for the fourth consecutive year. Compared to the 2007 official emissions published earlier this year, the annual reduction is estimated to be about 1.3% for the EU-15 and 1.5% for the EU-27. Based on these estimates, the GHG emissions in 2008 stand approximately 6.2% below the Kyoto base-year emissions for the EU-15 and 10.7% below the 1990 level for the EU-27.

The vast majority of the decline in emissions in 2008 was due to lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fossil fuel combustion in the energy, industry and transport sectors. The 2008 emission reductions reflect the effects of the global economic recession which began in 2008, which resulted in reduced industrial output and reduced energy consumption by industry, and correspondingly reduced freight transport.

[www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/new-estimates-confirm-the-declining-trend-in-eu-greenhouse-gas-emissions](http://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/new-estimates-confirm-the-declining-trend-in-eu-greenhouse-gas-emissions)

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**Seven Arrests in Suspected £38m Carbon Credit Fraud** (19 August): Seven people have been arrested and 27 addresses raided over a suspected £38m fraud involving the trade of carbon credits to avoid paying value-added tax (VAT). Members are believed to have been trading large volumes of high-value carbon credits from overseas sources free of VAT.

[www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/markets/6057263/Seven-arrests-in-suspected-38m-carbon-credit-fraud.html](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/markets/6057263/Seven-arrests-in-suspected-38m-carbon-credit-fraud.html)

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**Report Highlights Government's Poor Progress on Cutting Carbon** (5 August): An Environmental Audit Committee report published today warns that the Government is not on track to meet targets for cutting its own emissions and could have to pay money to large private sector firms – who may have done more to reduce their emissions – in a new carbon trading scheme due to begin in April 2010. The Committee's latest report on Greening Government also shows that the proportion of renewable energy used by Government departments has dropped in the last year.

<http://news.parliament.uk/2009/08/report-highlights-governments-poor-progress-on-cutting-carbon/>

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**Beneficial Biofuels—The Food, Energy and Environment Trilemma** (16 July): "Done right," biofuels can be produced in large quantities and have multiple benefits, but only if they come from feedstocks produced with low life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions, as well as minimal competition with food production. This consensus emerges in a new journal article by researchers from the University of Minnesota, Princeton, MIT and the University of California, Berkeley.

<http://environment.umn.edu/newsroom/newspages2009/biofuels07162009.html>

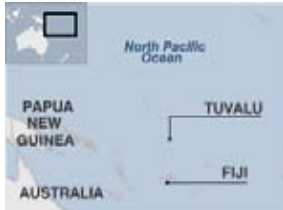
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# Climate Change News

## Articles of Interest

### Tuvalu Vows to go Carbon Neutral

**BBC NEWS**



The tiny Pacific island state of Tuvalu has said it wants all its energy to come from renewable sources by 2020. Public Utilities Minister Kausea Natano said his nation of 12,000 people wanted to set an example to others. Tuvalu is made up of a string of atolls with the highest point only 4.5m above sea level, making it extremely vulnerable to flooding. The government hopes to use wind and solar power to generate electricity, instead of imported diesel. "We look forward to the day when our nation offers an example to all - powered entirely by natural resources such as the sun and the wind," Kausea Natano said.



Tuvalu and many other low-lying atolls in the Pacific, the Caribbean and the Indian Ocean fear that global warming could lead to sea level rises that could literally wipe them off the map. Other nations - including Norway, New Zealand, Iceland and Costa Rica - have also vowed to become carbon neutral, reducing their emissions of greenhouse gases to zero. Most of these countries have relatively small populations, and their pledges are unlikely to make a significant difference in the overall battle against global warming. But many environmentalists say their stance is nevertheless important, as they provide a lead for other countries to follow. Other nations that have committed to carbon neutrality are: Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Iceland, Maldives, Monaco, New Zealand, Niue, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal. Read this story in full at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/8158604.stm>.

### Ballymena Set to Become First Town in Ireland to Harness Deep Geothermal Energy



Ballymena Borough Council and GT Energy, an Irish company engaged in the development of deep geothermal energy, have announced the formation of a strategic alliance to develop a geothermal-led renewable district heating energy system for the town. Under the agreement, GT Energy and the Council will closely collaborate on developing a new integrated district heating network throughout the town of Ballymena, which will supply heat sourced from geothermal energy. The project will also see the construction of biomass systems to supplement the network heat demand during peak load periods and for back up purposes.



Geothermal energy is a renewable and sustainable energy source generated from the heat in the earth's core. It is harnessed by extracting hot water from deep underground and distributing it through a district heating network to heat users. Although already widely used around the world in countries such as Iceland, the US, Italy, France and Germany, to date no deep geothermal projects have been completed in Ireland. To read this story in full visit: <http://www.actionrenewables.org/site/default.asp?CATID=4878&CID=14104>.

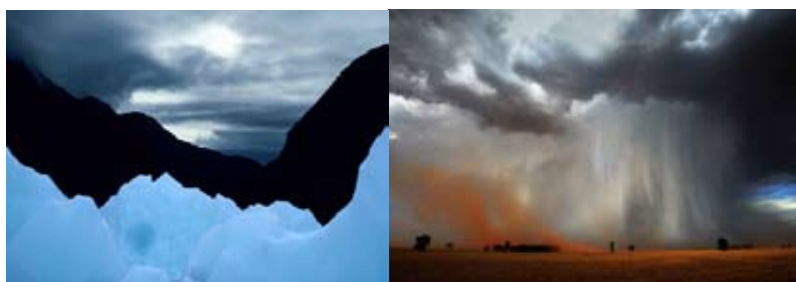
### Greenpeace Activists Scale Mount Rushmore in Global Warming Protest

[guardian.co.uk](http://guardian.co.uk)

In July environmentalists scaled Mount Rushmore and unfurled a banner along President Abraham Lincoln's face challenging America's leaders to stop global warming. Eleven people were charged with trespassing and the misdemeanour crime of climbing on Mount Rushmore National Monument. They pleaded not guilty to all charges.



The environmental group Greenpeace said in a statement that three of its members hung the banner on Mount Rushmore while other activists blocked access to the site. Greenpeace said the climbers, using existing rock anchors that the park service uses for occasional cleanings, went up the back of the monument, then rappelled down its face to unfurl a 20 x 11 metre banner reading: "America honors leaders not politicians: Stop Global Warming." The Mount Rushmore protests followed the hijacking of Italian coal power stations by Greenpeace campaigners earlier in the day, in a move that activists said was designed to make world leaders take decisive action on climate change. Read this story in full at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/jul/09/mount-rushmore-greenpeace>.



# Climate Change News

## Empire State Building Gets Eco-Makeover

Rebecca Schischa



New York's most iconic landmark, the Empire State Building, is set to become one of the city's greenest buildings, thanks to a \$20-million retrofit that will slash energy use by nearly 40% over the next 15 years. Forming part of a wider \$500-million rebuilding programme for the 381-metre high skyscraper, the refurb will save an estimated \$4.4 million each year in energy costs and has a payback of under five years. Measures include:



- Insulation: trapping radiator heat; triple-glazing the tower's 6,500 windows (manufactured on-site to reduce transportation);
- Low-energy air con: refurbishing the existing system, and sending waste metals for recycling;
- Educating tenants: a model 'green' office suite on display;
- Incentivising tenants: an energy metering system displaying their real-time usage; sub-metered billing to replace flat-rate charges.

Read more here: [www.forumforthefuture.org/greenfutures/articles/empire\\_state\\_building](http://www.forumforthefuture.org/greenfutures/articles/empire_state_building).

## BP in 'Giant' New Oil Discovery



Oil giant BP says it has made a "giant" new oil discovery in its fields in the Gulf of Mexico. BP is currently the largest producer of oil and gas in that area, with net production equivalent to more than 400,000 barrels of oil a day. The company said it had drilled the well, dubbed Tiber, to a total depth of about 35,055ft (10,685m), making it one of the deepest wells drilled to date. Tiber represents BP's second material discovery in the Lower Tertiary area of the Gulf of Mexico, after Kaskida. BP said the discovery, amounting to more than three billion barrels, would "support the continuing growth of our deepwater Gulf of Mexico business into the second half of the next decade". The oil firm will now undertake surveys to determine the oil field's size and commercial potential. Read more at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/8233504.stm>.



## Eden Project Plans to Tap 'Hot Rock' Technology

Alex Johnson



The Eden Project, Cornwall's acclaimed eco-centre, has teamed up with EGS Energy to create the country's first geothermal power plant. Planned for the vast former clay pit near St Austell, the plant would draw heat from the granite rock strata, via deep boreholes. "It's a pioneering scheme that will give Eden and the national grid as much as 3MWe a year of independent power without burning fossil fuels," says Tim Smit, Eden's Chief Executive.



The scheme will work by drilling two boreholes up to four kilometres deep into the rock, where heat is generated by the natural decomposition of the radioactive metals uranium, thorium and potassium. Water would be pumped down one of the holes and passed through fractures in the rock, heating the liquid to temperatures of between 150°C and 200°C. The resulting vapour would then drive an electric turbine on the surface, at the top of the second borehole. Any waste heat from the electricity generation will be tapped to heat Eden's 'biomes' – the huge futuristic greenhouses which have made it famous. Read the full story here: [www.forumforthefuture.org/greenfutures/articles/EdenProject\\_to\\_tap\\_hot\\_rock\\_technology](http://www.forumforthefuture.org/greenfutures/articles/EdenProject_to_tap_hot_rock_technology).

## Bord na Móna Announces 300 New 'Green' Jobs



In conjunction with the launch of their Annual Report 2008-2009 and their first Sustainability Report (see Publications section), the CEO of Bord na Móna, Gabriel D'Arcy, announced on 20 July 2009, the creation of 300 new green jobs across Ireland. This announcement comes on the back of the publication of strong financial figures for the past year and the announcement of ambitious sustainability targets for the company over the next five years. The jobs will be created in green energy, resource recovery and environmental solutions using Bord na Móna's innovative green technologies. Profits across the key core business areas – fuels, energy and resource recovery – are up, with operating profit for the past year standing at €23.8 million, up €1.3 million on the previous year's results. Company turnover for the past year stands at €401.6 million, up 8% on the previous year. And a dividend of €12.9 million was paid to shareholders.

These figures provide a platform for Bord na Móna to diversify its operations and to significantly grow the business. In this regard, Bord na Móna will announce significant planned capital investments in a range of products and services that are beneficial to the environment, encompassing electricity, heating solutions, resource recovery, water, horticulture and related services. The publication of Bord na Móna's first Sustainability Report is an important step for the company, signalling the new diversification of business, first launched with the announcement of Bord na Móna's New Contract with Nature in 2008. The company has set itself stretching targets in green business areas over the next five years, demonstrating its commitment to its environmental impact and enabling the expansion of the business. To read more visit: <http://www.bnm.ie/corporate/index.jsp>.

# Members' News

## What Makes Mourne So Special?



The Mourne Heritage Trust has recently embarked on a process to find out what people think about the special qualities of the Mourne and Slieve Croob Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and generate ideas and comments on how it should be looked after. This work is aimed towards the development of a non-statutory 'management plan' for the AONB. Recently appointed Management Plan Officer, Emma Cunningham highlighted the importance of the landscape of the Mournes saying, 'This outstanding environment, shaped by natural forces and moulded over centuries by the hands of farmers and others, was given AONB status in 1965. Increasingly there are new pressures and issues which affect all of us who live and work in the area. This management plan will identify and highlight what makes the AONB so special by developing a number of recommendations to safeguard and enhance these attributes'.

Speaking after the first Management Plan steering group meeting, Martin Carey, Chief Executive of Mourne Heritage Trust, highlighted the importance of cooperation to look after the area's rich natural heritage. 'The management plan exercise is partly driven by our recognition that there are multiple organisations carrying out many different activities, which help to protect and enhance the beauty of the landscape. I hope that the AONB management plan will bring together all these efforts and aspirations and I am grateful to Northern Ireland Environment Agency for providing the funds to allow us to undertake this important work.'

Mr Carey went on to explain that the plan would identify the current issues, and future threats and go on to set out a vision for future management of the area, together with clear objectives and policies, providing guidelines by which the statutory, private, community and environmental sectors may work together towards a common aim. A key part of the development of this management plan is the continuous consultation process. As well as traditional meetings and events, over the course of the next nine months Mourne Heritage Trust will be making full use of its website – [www.mournelive.com](http://www.mournelive.com) – and the various interactive technologies available to gain insights into the issues affecting the area.

The Mourne Heritage Trust encourages NIEL members with an interest in the Mournes and Slieve Croob Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to attend a meeting on 28th October 2009 at 10.30am in the NIEL Offices. To confirm attendance and receive further information please contact Emma Cunningham at Mourne Heritage Trust on 028 4372 4059 or [Emma.Cunningham@mourne.co.uk](mailto:Emma.Cunningham@mourne.co.uk).

## Walkers Step Out in Hundreds to Climb Cave Stairway



Almost 1,000 people enjoyed a glorious day out with Belfast Hills Partnership when they walked up a specially constructed stairway to scenic heaven and into the first cave on Cave Hill. With some participants as young as six months and others as mature as 80, it was a spectacular sight that awaited walkers for the launch of the [Friends of the Belfast Hills Group](http://www.belfasthills.org.uk) on July 25. Throngs of people gathered from early morning on the site above the Devil's Punchbowl with walkers from as close as Antrim Road and from as far as the USA, South Africa and mainland Europe making the trek to Cave Hill.



Stories abounded of long days enjoyed on Cave Hill from as far back as the 1940s as traditional music played out. People dressed in Victorian costume brought back the heydays of the Victorian era when townspeople took advantage of the new trams and got out of the city smog and into the hills. At one stage a mystery piper in kilt played out a spine-tingling rendition of 'Amazing Grace' from the top of McArt's Fort. The music drifted out toward the Mull of Cairnryan across Belfast Lough to the coast of Scotland which was easily visible on the day. Projects Officer Lizzy Pinkerton congratulated everyone who took part. Click [here](http://www.belfasthills.org.uk) to find out more about Belfast Hills Partnership.

## CVNI at 10 Downing Street



Conservation Volunteers  
Northern Ireland

Four volunteers and a member of Conservation Volunteers staff attended a reception at 10 Downing Street this summer. They were among 150 environmental volunteers from a range of organisations across the UK. The PM used the event to highlight the government's commitment to Copenhagen. Readers can listen to Ivan chatting to Sarah Brett on BBC Radio Foyle about the visit at: [www.cvni.org/stories/10-downing-street](http://www.cvni.org/stories/10-downing-street).



# Members' News

## Anti-Wind Power Arguments Blown Away!



A new report dismisses technical objections to expanding wind power in the UK. A landmark study, produced by experienced energy expert David Milborrow, concludes that there's no reason why the National Grid can't cope with large amounts of wind energy. WWF, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace and the RSPB, who commissioned the report, say it "scuppers the final arguments against wind power". These organisations are now calling on the government to encourage more investment in wind power, and give it priority access to the energy market and electricity grid. The report's main conclusions are:

- The National Grid can manage a variable input when the wind rises and drops – it's already designed to do so.
- Wind power doesn't need lots of extra backup from 'conventional' fuels.
- It won't add significant costs – only £2 to every £100 bill.
- Prices will drop as new technologies develop – and more accurate wind forecasting could cut costs by 30%.
- Wind power will create lots of new jobs in the UK – up to a million by the end of the decade.

To read this report online go to: [http://www.wwf.org.uk/news\\_feed.cfm?uNewsid=3144](http://www.wwf.org.uk/news_feed.cfm?uNewsid=3144).

## Community Land Bank Solution



The Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens has launched a consultation and feasibility study into the creation of a not-for-profit Community Land Bank, to support new and emerging community farm and garden sites across the UK, while providing a temporary alternative to the many thousands on lengthening allotment waiting lists in our cities. The Bank would be responsible for negotiating for land, holding it and releasing it to user groups under legally enforceable contracts, attracting charitable funding as appropriate, and facilitating transfers of tenants (community gardening groups) across a dynamic portfolio of holdings. Initial responses from a wide range of stakeholders have been positive - more details will emerge in the autumn as the consultation proceeds.

The consultation has been initiated in response to a rapid rise in the demand for land for local food growing. Many allotment sites are under strain, with some estimates suggesting that there are now 100,000 people on waiting lists for the current 300,000 plots. In London the wait for a plot could be at least 10 years, in Bristol the wait can be 2-3 years. Even with the growing trend to offer half plots and more rigorous re-allocation of uncultivated plots, demand will continue to outstrip supply. The need for land for local people to cultivate seems destined to grow further, fuelled by the economic downturn and growing unemployment, as well as increasing concerns over climate change, well-being, health and knowing where your food comes from. To read this story in full visit: <http://www.farmgarden.org.uk/news/474-community-land-bank-solution>.

## Speedwell Summer Fun a Huge Success



This summer Speedwell Trust, in conjunction with NIEA and BBC Breathing Places, organised two weeks of action packed activities and fun at its centre in Parkanaur Forest Park. Fifty children participated in the programme which ran for two weeks. A variety of activities was developed aimed at raising children's awareness about their natural surroundings and promoting ways of enjoying and protecting the environment. These included minibeast hunting, pond dipping, river detectives, wildflower and tree trails, bird watching, orienteering, recycling and composting. In addition to this there were lots of art and craft workshops as well as practical fun activities.

The programme was led by Speedwell staff who are qualified and experienced teachers and educational assistants who work with local schools throughout the year. An evaluation of the scheme showed that all parents of children participating felt that their children had increased their knowledge of the local environment. Learn more about Speedwell Trust at: [www.speedwell-trust.org](http://www.speedwell-trust.org).

## Allotments Forum First for Northern Ireland



FCFCG was invited to take part in the first Northern Ireland Allotments Forum in August. Dr Richard Wiltshire (FCFCG policy advisor on allotments) and FCFCG Director, Jeremy Iles, attended. Initiated by Stephen Daye of Carrickfergus Borough Council, the Forum provides an opportunity for local authorities from across Northern Ireland to come together and exchange news and views on the provision of allotment sites. FCFCG are pleased to have been involved in this first meeting, and will now offer further support as appropriate to the emerging allotments and community garden networks in Northern Ireland. Learn more at: [www.farmgarden.org.uk/home](http://www.farmgarden.org.uk/home).

# Members' News

## Action Renewables Wins Coveted Accreditation - A First for Northern Ireland



Action Renewables is the first organisation in Northern Ireland to receive a national accreditation, enabling them to certify renewable energy installers across the country, through the Microgeneration Certification Scheme. In helping to drive what is already a rapidly growing industry in Northern Ireland, the scheme focuses on increasing standards by evaluating renewable energy installers against robust quality and performance criteria for microgeneration technologies including: solar heating collectors, solar photovoltaic, micro and small wind turbines, heat pumps and biomass.

The MCS is also helping to build consumer confidence in the industry by offering enhanced protection for consumers investing in renewable technologies and ensuring that any grant money received to assist with installations is spent cost effectively. Michael Doran, Director of Action Renewables commented; "This is great news for installers and customers alike. Until recently Northern Ireland installers could only be certified by an approved body in the UK and so we are delighted that we can now offer this service to installers locally."

"As part of the scheme, installer companies are required to maintain quality management systems and demonstrate best practice for installing renewable technologies. This is very important because having a regulated renewable energy scheme here will ultimately help to encourage consumers to install renewables with confidence. Larger scale projects can also benefit from grant aided work. Together these factors will continue to drive the development and raise standards of the renewables industry here in Northern Ireland and assist in cutting dependency on fossil fuels and carbon dioxide emissions." For further information, please contact Ursula McKinley (07904 707204) or Aisling Doyle (07766 147949) at Cactus PR on 028 9045 7700 or e-mail [ursula.mckinley@cactuspr.co.uk](mailto:ursula.mckinley@cactuspr.co.uk) / [aisling.doyle@cactuspr.co.uk](mailto:aisling.doyle@cactuspr.co.uk).

## Reminder: Northern Ireland Litter Summit

2 October 2009  
Pump-House,  
Northern Ireland  
Science Park,  
Belfast



The most comprehensive Litter Summit ever staged in Northern Ireland will be hosted by TIDY Northern Ireland later this year. With millions of pounds spent annually cleaning the litter off our streets TIDY Northern Ireland is inviting anyone with an interest in the cleanliness of our local environment to the first NI Litter Summit, to share best practice and raise the bar on tackling littering and related issues. Tailored towards specific litter issues that directly affect the province, speakers from around Northern Ireland, the UK and the Republic of Ireland will share their successes and lessons learnt. Topics addressed will include:

- Effective Enforcement;
- Litter monitoring & targeted campaigns;
- Legal Issues;
- PSNI/Council partnerships;
- How councils & businesses can work together;
- Encouraging Public Involvement;
- Running an effective litter campaign.

Book your place now to help make Northern Ireland a cleaner, safer place to live. Anyone wishing to book a place at the Northern Ireland Litter Summit should contact TIDY Northern Ireland on 028 9073 6920 or email [nigel.frazer@tidynorthernireland.org](mailto:nigel.frazer@tidynorthernireland.org).



# News from EEF



By Andy Griggs, Co-ordinator, Environmental Education Forum

The Environmental Education Forum (EEF) is a networking organisation that promotes a co-ordinated approach to the delivery of environmental education and education for sustainable development in Northern Ireland.

## EEF Conference: Growing School Grounds: 29 September, Antrim

The EEF autumn conference will take place at **CAFRE, GREENMOUNT CAMPUS, ANTRIM** on **TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER**. The title of the conference is '**GROWING SCHOOL GROUNDS – Good for Health, Good for Learning, Good for Biodiversity: Reaping the Benefits of Learning Outside and Beyond the Classroom**'.

### **SPEAKERS INCLUDE:**

**Catherine Gleave:** **Feedback from the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge**  
**Irene Mohan:** **Connecting the Community to the Classroom**  
**Jenni Wiggle:** **Have you got an Appetite for Action?**  
**Jocelyn Brown:** **Ballycraig Primary School - Our School Grounds**  
**Janet Wilson:** **Breathing Places Update**

The background, outcomes and full conference programme for the day can be found at [www.eefni.org.uk/conferenceproceedings](http://www.eefni.org.uk/conferenceproceedings). This conference is free to EEF members. There is a charge applied to non members to help cover costs. Please contact [eef@nienvironmentlink.org](mailto:eef@nienvironmentlink.org) to book a place.

## Action Renewables & British Council Looking for Climate Champions



Action Renewables is working with the British Council to recruit International Climate Champions (ICCs) for Northern Ireland. The aim is to help young people, aged 18 to 35, who have a passion for action on climate change to develop and implement their own Climate Champion projects within their local communities. Climate Champions will choose the subject and methods for their own unique climate change projects, and after a successful application will receive £1,000 of funding as well as assistance for projects that can limit the impact of climate change (adaptation), and/or reduce carbon footprint (mitigation). Climate Champions will then spend up to year working with their local communities carrying out projects that raise awareness of climate change, and encourage people to change their behaviour.

As well as working in their local area, International Climate Champions meet with local and national leaders to share their experiences. Some champions will have the chance to express their views to world leaders at international meetings, such as the United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen in December 2009. **To download and fill in an application form with your project idea, or to get more information on becoming a Climate Champion, visit the dedicated website [www.britishcouncil.org/northernireland-science-icc](http://www.britishcouncil.org/northernireland-science-icc) or talk to them via the social profile by searching Facebook for Climate Champions Northern Ireland.**

## Green Teacher of the Year Awards



Does your teacher recycle plastic bottles into jet rockets, encourage you to give a bug a hug or lead a double life as an energy saving superhero? ... **if so Webster (Belfast Harbour's Environmental Guardian) wants to hear from you!** Please write in no more than 100 words why your teacher should be... **"GREEN TEACHER OF THE YEAR"** and send your entries to: [education@actionrenewables.co.uk](mailto:education@actionrenewables.co.uk) You could win a fantastic fun day out at W5 for your teacher and your whole class on Thursday 19 November! Finalists will be invited to take part in the "Challenge Day". Invent wind-powered racing machines and enjoy an interactive "Talking Rubbish" show!

### Prize Includes:

Challenge Day at W5	(6 Finalists – Teachers & Classes)
Waterfront Hall Christmas Pantomime Tickets	(Winning Class)
Christmas Hampers	(Winning Teacher & 2 Runners-Up)
Webster Goodie Bag	(Every Pupil)

Visual/photography evidence of your teacher in action is optional. Deadline for entries is Friday 16th October, 2009. Entries can also be sent by post to: Webster's "Green Teacher of the Year", Action Renewables, The Innovation Centre, NI Science Park, Queen's Road, Belfast BT3 9DT.

## Join the Forum

Are you interested or involved in environmental education? Then why not consider joining the Forum? Membership is open to all organisations and individuals, and fees are based on a band system. As well as being part of a major network of environmental education providers, you will benefit from: a quarterly newsletter (LEEF), regular e-bulletins, Forum meetings (5 per year), conferences (2 per year), University ESD Days (as above), support and publicity for your work and much more!

**For more information on the EEF or how to join please contact Andy Griggs, EEF Co-ordinator on tel: 028 9094 2156, email: [eef@nienvironmentlink.org](mailto:eef@nienvironmentlink.org) or visit [www.eefni.org.uk](http://www.eefni.org.uk)**

# Environmental News

## FRESH Ideas for Healthy Eating



Five community groups across five council areas will get support on healthy eating through the FRESH project. The FRESH (Focussing Resources on Eating and Shaping Health) Project is a new two year pilot healthy eating programme for the Southern Area. As levels of obesity are on the rise it is widely known that the main causes are inactive lifestyles and high fat, high calorie eating habits. The FRESH Project offers practical support and advice to people on healthy eating so that they can realistically achieve a more healthy, balanced and safe diet.



FRESH has been funded by the Public Health Agency (Southern Office) and will be delivered by the Southern Group Environmental Health Committee in conjunction with Armagh City and District Council, Banbridge District Council, Craigavon Borough Council, Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council and Newry and Mourne District Council. It is anticipated that the FRESH Project will work with five community groups from the five constituent Council areas of Armagh, Banbridge, Craigavon, Dungannon and Newry and Mourne. For further information on the FRESH Project please contact Tracey Powell Community Project Officer (Nutrition), tel. 028 3751 5800, email: [tracey.powell@sgehc.com](mailto:tracey.powell@sgehc.com) or Collette O'Brien, (Dietician Specialist), tel. 028 3751 5800, email: [collette.obrien@sgehc.com](mailto:collette.obrien@sgehc.com).

## Charity's Mission to Get the Nation Growing Reaches Buckingham Palace



Garden Organic, which has been campaigning for back-garden food growing since 1958, has donated seeds to kick-start the new vegetable allotment in the Buckingham Palace garden. For the first time since the Second World War, Buckingham Palace will grow beans, lettuce and tomatoes from seeds donated by Garden Organic on a new allotment plot in its gardens. The Palace has been donated seeds of six endangered, historic vegetables from Garden Organic's Heritage Seed Library - a collection of over 800 rare vegetable varieties including tomato White Queen, Queen of Hearts and Golden Queen, lettuce Northern Queen, climbing French bean Blue Queen and dwarf French bean Royal Red, all of which will appear on the allotment.



Climbing French Bean 'Blue Queen'

And, while The Queen is growing a selection of tomatoes, beans and lettuce, there are still cucumbers, carrots, peas, cabbages, beetroot and onions, amongst others, that need the support of Britain's gardeners if they are to be kept from being lost for good. The Queen is not the first member of the Royal family to champion the importance of protecting plant diversity, indeed Patron of Garden Organic, The Prince of Wales, is already the adoptive parent of another vegetable in the charity's collection - the Rat's Tail Radish. Read more about this at: <http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk>.

## World Food Day: 16 October 2009



### Achieving Food Security in Times of Crisis

At a time when the global economic crisis dominates the news, the world needs to be reminded that not everyone works in offices and factories. The crisis is stalking the small-scale farms and rural areas of the world, where 70 percent of the world's hungry live and work. With an estimated increase of 105 million hungry people in 2009, there are now 1.02 billion malnourished people in the world, meaning that almost one sixth of all humanity is suffering from hunger. On the occasion of World Food Week and World Food Day 2009, let us reflect on those numbers and the human suffering behind them. Crisis or no crisis, we have the know-how to do something about hunger. We also have the ability to find money to solve problems when we consider them important. Let us work together to make sure hunger is recognized as a critical problem, and solve it. The World Summit on Food Security proposed by FAO for November 2009 could be fundamental for eradicating hunger. Learn more at: [www.un.org/Depts/dhl/food/index.html](http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/food/index.html).

## Organic 'Has No Health Benefits'



Organic food is no healthier than ordinary food, a large independent review has concluded. There is little difference in nutritional value and no evidence of any extra health benefits from eating organic produce, UK researchers found. The Food Standards Agency who commissioned the report said the findings would help people make an "informed choice". But the Soil Association criticised the study and called for better research.

Among the 55 of 162 studies that were included in the final analysis, there were a small number of differences in nutrition between organic and conventionally produced food but not large enough to be of any public health relevance, said study leader Dr Alan Dangour. Overall the report, which is published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, found no differences in most nutrients in organically or conventionally grown crops, including in vitamin C, calcium, and iron. The same was true for studies looking at meat, dairy and eggs. Differences that were detected, for example in levels of nitrogen and phosphorus, were most likely to be due to differences in fertilizer use and ripeness at harvest and are unlikely to provide any health benefit, the report concluded. The review did not look at pesticides or the environmental impact of different farming practices. Read this story in full at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/8174482.stm>.

# Environmental News

## 'Radical Rethink' Needed on Food

Mark Kinver

**BBC NEWS**

A "radical rethink" of how the UK produces and consumes its food is needed, Environment Secretary Hilary Benn has warned. He was speaking at the launch of the government's assessment of the threats to the security of what we eat. The food supply was currently secure but population growth and climate change could have an impact, he warned. Producers, supermarkets and consumers have been invited to suggest how a secure food system should look in 2030. Some of the findings from the consultation are expected to be published in the autumn. As well as launching the consultation process, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has published a scorecard-style assessment of the current state of the UK's food supply. Environment Secretary Hilary Benn said while Britain was more self-sufficient now than it was in the 1930s and 1950s, everyone had to start thinking ahead about how to produce more using less water and less fertiliser. He also encouraged British consumers to buy more UK-grown produce and called for a re-think on best before or sell by dates to reduce waste. Read this story in full at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/8189549.stm>.

## Organic Fortnight 5-20 September 2009

Organic Fortnight is a nationwide campaign highlighting all the great things about organic. Up and down the UK, people in shops, schools, cafes, churches and farms will be hosting events and raising awareness about why organic is the healthy choice, the best for animal welfare and the right thing for the planet. As we all look to make each pound go further, organic offers genuine good value. The benefits stretch far beyond great-tasting, additive-free food and drink. If we want food, beauty products or clothes which don't just taste, look and feel good, but which are environmentally-friendly, healthy and have the highest animal welfare standards in the UK too, then organic gives us just that. Learn more at: <http://www.soilassociation.org>.



## Trees are 'Crucial Famine Food'



Trees can serve as a vital "famine food" to keep drought-hit communities alive when all other food crops fail, according to campaigners. Food insecurity is a routine fact of life for many of the world's poorest people, Miranda Spitteler, chief executive of Tree Aid told BBC News. She said the West needed to recognise the important role trees could play in reducing the need for conventional aid. She also called for support for a local tree-based solution to food shortages.

At this year's G8 summit, hosted by Italy, the leaders of the world's biggest economies recognised the need to improve global food security. They pledged to spend \$20bn over three years in an effort to support food production in developing nations, reducing the need for emergency food aid. But Ms Spitteler commented: "What is missing from this pledge is any mention of the key role that trees can play." In an article for the BBC News website's Green Room column, she added: "'Conventional' crops are often not native and require expensive inputs, significant irrigation and land preparation in order to produce a successful harvest. Trees, on the other hand, often survive when other crops fail." Trees provide fruits, nuts, seeds, leaves, flowers, sepals, even sap, which can be used as food. Read more at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/8182673.stm>.

## National Care Farming Initiative (UK) Launch New Website

A new website has been launched to help promote care farming in the UK. Care farming is the use of farms and their landscapes to promote physical and mental health. The website features news, information and other resources, as well as an interactive map, which will allow professionals, researchers and potential clients to find care farms across the UK. FCFCG serves on the steering group of NCFI (UK), which aims to provide supportive services for care farms and raise their profile at policy level. To visit this website go to: <http://www.ncfi.org.uk>.



## European Shark Week 2009



This year's European Shark Week will take place from 10-18 October. It's a unique opportunity for people across Europe to demonstrate their support for shark conservation and effect change. Thanks to aquariums, dive clubs and conservation organisations, European Shark Week 2008 saw more than 200 activities in 10 European countries and the collection of more than 100,000 signatures on a Shark Plan petition for EU Fisheries Ministers, with nearly 20,000 of those from the UK. The Ministers have since issued a strong response that highlights the plight of sharks and calls for prompt strengthening of the EU finning ban. Indeed, the Ministers' words reflect the concerns of a growing number of EU citizens expressed through European Shark Week. Help raise the profile of sharks and your organisation by being part of European Shark Week. To find out more about European Shark Week and available resources, materials and ideas, contact: [www.sharktrust.org](http://www.sharktrust.org).



# Environmental News

## City Bees are All the Buzz

Bridget Huber



Mary Knox Merrill,  
The Christian  
Science Monitor

Honeybees may not be the first thing that comes to mind when you think of Brooklyn. However there are a growing number of urbanites who keep bees in New York City. Their motivations vary: some are worried about the environmental impact of fewer bees to pollinate food crops. And some are urban gardeners who want to make their gardens more productive. Others say beekeeping is a way to connect with nature even in the heart of the concrete jungle. This year there are at least 30 new hives in community gardens, on rooftops, and in backyards across New York. The only hitch: beekeeping is illegal in New York City. The bee keepers are confident that the honeybee ban will be lifted soon. A city councillor has introduced a bill to legalise it, and urban gardening groups are pushing for it to be passed.



Keeping bees may have another benefit for busy city dwellers – encouraging them to slow down. One resident, who says she's the type of person who drinks too much coffee and waves her hands around when she's talking, likens beekeeping to yoga: "I plan my movements, and I do them deliberately. I'm thinking about the effect of my motions on these creatures. I have to be in a different way," she says. Just Food is a non-profit organisation that works to develop a just and sustainable food system in the New York City region and is helping to legalise urban beekeeping in NYC. Visit them at: <http://www.justfood.org/bees/?q=node/24>. To read this story in full go to: <http://features.csmonitor.com/environment/2009/07/15/in-buzzing-urbs-real-hives-revive/>.

## Bee Sting on Pesticides: Join Soil Association Campaign



The Soil Association is calling on community farmers and gardeners to support a campaign to ban pesticides which are thought to be linked to the demise of the honey bee. A third of UK bee colonies have been lost over the last two years and the Soil Association believes there is a strong link with the use of neonicotinoids – a class of pesticide first used in agriculture in the mid 1990s at exactly the time when mass bee disappearances started occurring. The evidence against these chemicals means they have been banned or suspended in France, Germany, Italy and Slovenia – but not yet in the UK.



Neonicotinoids work as an insecticide by blocking specific neural pathways in insects' central nervous systems. The chemicals are thought to impair bees' communication, homing and foraging ability, flight activity, ability to discriminate by smell, learning, and immune systems – all of which have an impact on bees' ability to survive. To sign a petition in support of the campaign, visit [www.soilassociation.org/bees.aspx](http://www.soilassociation.org/bees.aspx).

## Golden Oldie



She was a tough old bird, but at 22 years of age, time had finally run out for the oldest known wild golden eagle in the UK, which has been found dead on the island of Jura. Like many birds of prey, golden eagles have a naturally long lifespan, and in captivity have been recorded as living for over 40 years. But in the wild, the oldest one previously recorded in the UK was only 16 years of age, making the Jura bird a clear record breaker.

The bird, which may have been a male or a female, was ringed on Mull in 1987 by RSPB Scotland's Roger Broad, when it was still a tiny chick and too young to be sexed. Its body was discovered on North Jura earlier this year by a member of the public, who then reported the find to Roger. The BTO have since confirmed that this is the oldest known ringed golden eagle in the UK. Read the full story at: [www.rspb.org.uk/news/details.asp?id=tcm:9-224937](http://www.rspb.org.uk/news/details.asp?id=tcm:9-224937).

## Efforts to Save UK's Disappearing Amphibians and Reptiles Boosted by Charity Merger

The mounting 'extinction crisis' facing frogs, toads, newts, snakes and lizards across the UK and Europe has led to the merger of two UK-based organisations dedicated to their conservation. Launched at the beginning of July, the new charity 'Amphibian and Reptile Conservation' - formed from the merger of The Froglife Trust (Froglife) and The Herpetological Conservation Trust (The HCT) - will be a single voice for the conservation of these animals and their habitats. The charities have merged in order to use limited resources more efficiently to tackle the causes of the recent decline. Major threats include habitat loss, pollution, non-native diseases, climate change and the isolation of populations by roads and other infrastructure. You can read the full story here: <http://froglife-frogbites.blogspot.com/2009/07/efforts-to-save-uks-disappearing.html> and visit the new ARC website by clicking here: <http://www.arc-trust.org/>.



# Environmental News

## RSPB Launch Photo Competition to Capture 'Nature's Hotspots' of Northern Ireland



RSPB Northern Ireland has launched a brand new photographic competition to capture images of Northern Ireland's wildlife, habitats and fantastic scenery. 'Nature's Hotspots' will run from the summer through to the beginning of November 2009 and culminate with a photo exhibition at Parliament Buildings, Stormont on 23 November. The competition signals a re-launch of the RSPB's 'Safe and Sound' campaign, to ensure that Northern Ireland's most special natural places - Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) are protected and maintained.

Categories include Best Bird Photo, Best Wildlife Photo (excluding birds), Best Landscape/Habitat photo, Under 16s category - any image taken on an ASSI. The RSPB panel of judges will also choose an overall winner. RSPB is also encouraging people to submit some text with the image, to describe what the photo means to them (text is optional). For full details on how to enter the competition, terms and conditions and a map of Northern Ireland's ASSIs, please go to [www.rspb.org.uk/northernireland](http://www.rspb.org.uk/northernireland). The closing date of the competition is 1 November 2009, and an exhibition and a selection of entries (as well as the announcement of winners) will be on display at a launch in Parliament Buildings, Stormont on the 23 November 2009.

## Wikipedia-Style Website to Record Every Species on Earth

Stephen Moss

[guardian.co.uk](http://guardian.co.uk)

A complete list of all the species on the planet is, for many biologists and conservationists, the natural history equivalent of the Holy Grail. So the recently-launched EoL (it stands for 'Encyclopedia of Life'), which aims to create not just a list, but an individual web-page, for every single one of the world's plant and animal species, is bound to cause a buzz. This will be a truly Herculean task. There may only be about 5,000 species of mammals, 8,000 species of reptiles, and 10,000 or so species of birds. But once we get to groups like flowering plants (about 250,000 species, and that's not including hybrids), insects (over 1m species described, with perhaps another 5m new ones waiting to be discovered), let alone micro-organisms such as viruses and bacteria, it's easy to see why EoL might seem little optimistic.

So how does EoL work? Like its forerunner [Wikipedia](http://Wikipedia), EoL is a self-perpetuating encyclopedia, written by and refereed by anyone who wants to contribute. In practice, the contributors are likely to be mainly professional scientists or talented amateur naturalists - in some cases the leading experts on a species or group. Others can add text, images and even video clips to each entry, with the ultimate goal of making information about all the world's organisms freely available. Find out more by visiting: [www.eol.org](http://www.eol.org) or by reading Stephen Moss's Environment Blog at: [www.guardian.co.uk/environment/blog/2009/jul/30/encyclopaedia-of-life](http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/blog/2009/jul/30/encyclopaedia-of-life).

## New Blog about Wildlife in Lagan Valley Regional Park



If you have a wild side make sure you take a peek at the RSPB's new blog about wild things on the Lagan. Siobhan Dignan, RSPB volunteer and avid Lagan towpath walker, is the writer who blogs. "I've been volunteering with the RSPB now for nearly five months, but I've walked the towpath regularly for much longer than that. When it was suggested that I start a blog which lets people know about the work that the RSPB does in partnership with Laganscape, it felt like the most natural thing," she explains. The blog is part of the RSPB's work with the Lagan Valley Regional Park's Laganscape. The project aims to identify the birds that are in the Park and help them breed. The blog covers the comings and goings at the park from a walker's point of view. To read the blog go to [www.rspb.org.uk/community/blogs/laganvalley/](http://www.rspb.org.uk/community/blogs/laganvalley/). To find out more about the project go to [www.rspb.org.uk/northernireland/laganvalley.asp](http://www.rspb.org.uk/northernireland/laganvalley.asp)



## Civil Service to fly Aer Lingus



Aer Lingus has won a lucrative government contract to fly civil servants between Belfast and London. The two-year deal means the company will be the sole carrier for the Northern Ireland Civil Service between Belfast International and Heathrow. Aer Lingus Director of Corporate Affairs, Enda Corneille, said the contract is estimated to be worth around £500,000 per year. The Irish airline opened its UK hub at Belfast International 18 months ago. In recent months there has been criticism of the amount of money which the Northern Ireland Civil Service spends on travel. The Department of Finance and Personnel has confirmed that, in a period of just nine months last year, civil servants took over 2,584 bmi flights to Heathrow, at an average price of £199 per seat, resulting in a bill of £514,503. Less than a tenth of civil servants who travelled to London in the same period chose to take a cheaper route via Belfast International airport.

Commenting on claims in the Irish News that a ban has been introduced on business class travel within the Northern Ireland Civil Service, a spokesman for the Department of Finance said it has been long standing policy for staff to take the most economical method of travel available. Aer Lingus is now considering adding a fourth daily flight to Heathrow. Read this story in full at: [news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/northern\\_ireland/8185552.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/northern_ireland/8185552.stm).

# Environmental News

## 4,000-Year-Old Timber Circle Found in Tyrone



The remains of a timber circle from more than 4,000 years ago have been uncovered by archaeologists in County Tyrone. The timber circle was found by the Headland Group near Ballygawley in 2006/2007 as part of an excavation project linked to the A4 and A5 road improvements scheme. Project Officer at Headland Archaeology, Kirsty Dingwall, said radiocarbon dating had confirmed it was from around the middle of the third millennium BC, "although some elements of it may be earlier". "The specific use of timber circles is not well understood but it is thought that they were used as ritual sites, perhaps for feasting or for commemorating the dead," she said. "The find is very significant for archaeology and for Northern Ireland in particular, as very few timber circles have been fully excavated. The results of the analysis will be submitted to the Roads Service in 2010." Kirsty said the circle near Ballygawley was an example of a "relatively rare type of site, generally dating from the Neolithic and Bronze Age". The Department for Regional Development said road construction would not be affected by the discovery of the timber circle remains. Read the full story here: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/northern\\_ireland/8202364.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/northern_ireland/8202364.stm).

## 2011 to be the European Year of Volunteering



The European Commission has decided to propose that 2011 be designated the European Year of Volunteering. The Council is expected to endorse this decision, after the European Parliament has been consulted, by the beginning of next year. For the Commission, volunteering is an active expression of civic participation and strengthens common European values such as solidarity and social cohesion. Volunteering has a great, but so far under-exploited, potential for the social and economic development of Europe. The Commission expects that the European Year of Volunteering will lead to an increase in volunteering and to greater awareness of its added value, and that it will highlight the link between voluntary engagement at local level and its significance in the wider European context. The Commission proposes to allocate a budget of 6 million Euros for the European Year and an additional amount of 2 million Euros for the preparatory actions starting in 2010. Learn more at: [http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/news/news820\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/news/news820_en.htm).

## Eco-Fashion Goes Solar



Entrepreneurial designer Elena Corchero has re-invented eco fashion with clothes and accessories which will literally light up your evening. By threading custom-made solar panels into clothes and accessories, she creates pretty outfits by day that transform into decorative lights. From an intricate vintage fan that causes a sparkle after dark, to a quirky parasol that converts into a delicate chandelier, Corchero's Solar Vintage collection is a rare combination of high fashion and functionality. Via her recently launched online boutique, Lost Values, eco-friendly consumers can commission their own solar-powered clothes, accessories and jewellery, interacting with the designer.

The Solar Vintage collection explores mobile power generation from an haute couture perspective. Energy can be captured passively in an eco-friendly way while the user engages in daily life outdoors and at a distance from traditional power sources. Electronic components like solar cells, resistors, and LEDs are integrated directly into antique and hand-embellished fabrics and wired together into working circuits using conductive thread. The materials used in each piece are selected with environmental sensitivity in mind. For example, the threads and support structures are cellulose-based (viscose and thin wood), and the electronic components are free of harmful materials. By using such accessories, consumers can visibly signal their support for environmental causes without extra effort and without compromising their potentially high standard of fashion. Because they are distinctive and invite conversation, the level of attention to these topics in the public sphere can be increased in a bottom-up fashion, and the adoption of greener practices might become more widespread. To learn more about Elena Corchero's designs visit: <http://www.distanceclab.org/projects/solarvintage/>.

## Keep Sentry Hill Green Campaign



This campaign exists because this important green space is under threat of development and deserves a voice to protect it. Sentry Hill Park plays an important role in the lives of the Ballymena community. There is a proposal to possibly build a school or a housing development that would destroy the Park. Located between the Doury Road and the Old Ballymoney Road in Ballymena, Sentry Hill Park is the only space in town that boasts a mini-ecosystem of its own and provides an oasis of peace and calm for many of the residents looking to get away from the busy pace of life. The campaign organisers are hoping that people will add their names to their petition in support to "Keep Sentry Hill Park Green". Visit [www.keeptentryhillgreen.org](http://www.keeptentryhillgreen.org) to join the campaign.

## Baglady's ASAP World

On 21 August Baglady's ASAP World was launched. Pledge ASAP asks you to sign up to give up one thing and take up one thing to safeguard the future of the planet. Anyone can do this, and everyone will benefit, wherever we happen to live on earth. Baglady has pledged to give up soya milk, and to take up always unplugging her modem when leaving the house. You can read all pledges so far by clicking [here](#). However, everyone needs to get involved. To take your pledge click [here](#). Find out more about Baglady's ASAP World by clicking here: [www.bagladyproductions.org](http://www.bagladyproductions.org).

# Publications

## Bridging the Gap: Transforming Public Transport in NI



Northern Ireland's investment in public transport is falling well behind the rest of the UK and Ireland, according to a new study published by business advisors, PricewaterhouseCoopers. This report says that over the past decade, England, Wales and the Republic of Ireland have invested twice as much on public transport per head of population than Northern Ireland, while Scotland currently invests five times more.

PwC says that is unlikely to change over the next decade, with the Northern Ireland Executive planning to invest £3 billion on the North's regional road network, while the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland has earmarked only £725 million for public transport. In contrast, RoI's National Development Plan 2007-2013, makes developing additional public transport a priority, with over €13bn (£11.4bn) committed to public transport, including a rural transport initiative. Read this publication online at: [www.niassembly.gov.uk/regional/2007mandate/inquiry\\_sustainable/GF\\_Public\\_Transport0609.pdf](http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/regional/2007mandate/inquiry_sustainable/GF_Public_Transport0609.pdf).



## The Planning System: A Guide for Community Groups and Individuals

This guide provides information on: the planning system; the preparation of Area Development Plans and planning policies; applying for planning permission; and commenting on or objecting to a planning application. Visit the Community Places website for more details at: [www.communityplaces.info](http://www.communityplaces.info).



## The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan

The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan plots out how the UK will meet the cut in emissions set out in the budget of 34% on 1990 levels by 2020. A 21% reduction has already been delivered – equivalent to cutting emissions entirely from four cities the size of London. Transforming the country into a cleaner, greener and more prosperous place to live is at the heart of the economic plans for Building Britain's Future and ensuring the UK is ready to take advantage of the opportunities ahead. You can read this publication online at: [www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/publications/lc\\_trans\\_plan/lc\\_trans\\_plan.aspx](http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/publications/lc_trans_plan/lc_trans_plan.aspx).



## A Living Landscape



The Wildlife Trusts represents a call to arms to make 'A Living Landscape' a reality in the UK. In this summary report The Wildlife Trust outlines a four point plan to overcome the barriers and act on the opportunities for landscape-scale conservation.

Read this publication online at: [www.wildlifetrusts.org/index.php?section=about:publications:free](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/index.php?section=about:publications:free).



## Suffering the Science: Climate Change, People, and Poverty



This report outlines evidence of how climate change is affecting every issue linked to poverty and development from access to food and water to health and security. It warns that without immediate action 50 years of development gains in poor countries will be permanently lost. One of the most worrying trends highlighted in the report is the impact of erratic weather on agriculture. Poor farmers, who can no longer rely on seasons, are losing crop after crop because of sudden heat waves or heavy rains. Read this report online at: [www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/climate-change/suffering-science-climate-change.html](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/climate-change/suffering-science-climate-change.html).



## The Anatomy of a Silent Crisis



A comprehensive report documenting the global impact of climate change on human society today. The Human Impact Report is the first consolidated volume specifically and exclusively focused on the adverse impacts of the climate change on human society across the world. The report is based on latest and best information on the human impact of climate change as well as inputs from world-leading scientists and climate, humanitarian and development experts.

In order to provide an idea of the order of magnitudes of the current impacts of climate change, the report also includes estimates on the numbers of deaths and casualties as a result of climate change, the economic costs of climate change, as well as making projections 20 years into the future. The aim of the report is to fill a void in both a general public understanding of climate change as well as to senior policymakers. This report can be read online here: [www.ghfgeneva.org/OurWork/RaisingAwareness/HumanImpactReport/tabid/180/Default.aspx](http://www.ghfgeneva.org/OurWork/RaisingAwareness/HumanImpactReport/tabid/180/Default.aspx).



# Publications

## Northern Ireland Irish Hare Survey 2009



The Irish hare is the only native lagomorph in Ireland and is currently classified as an endemic sub-species of the mountain hare. It currently has two Species Action Plans one for Northern Ireland and another covering All-Ireland. It is one of the highest priority species for conservation action in Northern Ireland. This survey was conducted during January to March 2009 and compared hare densities to previous surveys undertaken from 2002 to 2008. Standardised field survey methods and analytical techniques were employed to enable direct between-year comparisons enabling relative change in hare density to be evaluated. Read the full report here: <http://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/Quercus/Projects/2009/1NIrishharesurvey2009/>.

## Renewables, Growth & Jobs

A new study conducted on behalf of the European Commission's DG for Energy and Transport, has assessed for the first time in detail, the economic effects of supporting renewables energy sources. 'The Impact of Renewable Energy Policy on Economic Growth and Employment in the European Union' examines the RES sector itself, but takes into account impacts on all sectors of the economy. The study has determined that policies that support RES provide a significant boost to the economy and the number of jobs created. It concludes that improving current policies so that the target of 20% RES in final energy consumption in 2020 can be achieved will provide a net effect of about 410,000 additional jobs across the EU and an average 0.24% jump in GDP. The study is to be found at: [http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/studies/doc/renewables/2009\\_employ\\_res\\_report.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/studies/doc/renewables/2009_employ_res_report.pdf).



## Biochar for Environmental Management Science and Technology

*Lehmann & Joseph*

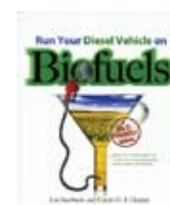
Biochar is the carbon-rich material produced when biomass (such as wood, manure or crop residues) is heated in a closed container with little or no available air. It can be used to improve agriculture and the environment in several ways. Biochar sequestration, in combination with sustainable biomass production, can be carbon-negative and therefore used to actively remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, with major implications for mitigation of climate change. This book is the first to synthesize the expanding research literature on this topic. Purchase this publication at: [www2.cat.org/shopping/product\\_info.php?products\\_id=2090&osCsid=1772c3fa8e4711374d3c7e672d4e7b36](http://www2.cat.org/shopping/product_info.php?products_id=2090&osCsid=1772c3fa8e4711374d3c7e672d4e7b36).



## Run Your Diesel Vehicle on Biofuels

*Starbuck & Harper*

All the information you need to make the switch from expensive, environment-damaging carbon fuel to cheap (and, in many cases, free), clean fuel for your vehicle. Practical and decidedly apolitical, this unique guide focuses on technical details, parts, and step-by-step instructions. With helpful illustrations for projects such as building and properly using a homemade biodiesel reactor. Purchase this publication at: [http://www2.cat.org/shopping/product\\_info.php?products\\_id=2089&osCsid=4cb11eefef60fe1d7d1316e092add46e](http://www2.cat.org/shopping/product_info.php?products_id=2089&osCsid=4cb11eefef60fe1d7d1316e092add46e).



## The National Cycle Network Route User Monitoring Report 2008

In these challenging times, with the spotlight on the transport sector's contribution both to greenhouse gas emissions and our sedentary lifestyles, we urgently need a low carbon, active travel network that delivers real value for money. The National Cycle Network is it. You will see from this report that the Network is making a real contribution to the UK's economic prosperity, contributing to the nation's health and adding to carbon savings. Read this publication online at: [www.sustrans.org.uk/assets/files/rmu/sustrans\\_ncn\\_monitoring\\_report\\_end08.pdf](http://www.sustrans.org.uk/assets/files/rmu/sustrans_ncn_monitoring_report_end08.pdf).



## Green Wood Chairs: Chairs and Chairmakers of Ireland

*Alison Ospina*

Green Wood Chairs is both an inspirational and practical book featuring the author's naturally graceful work and projects. The book projects, inspired by Shaker design and the magic of the West Cork landscape, range from stools and small tables to a full size rocking chair, using natural branch wood and stems, which you can gather yourself and make using basic tools. Includes a gallery showcasing the stylish work of an array of Irish chairmakers. Learn more at: [www.amazon.co.uk/Green-Wood-Chairs-Chairmakers-Ireland/dp/0854421513/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1249558629&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Green-Wood-Chairs-Chairmakers-Ireland/dp/0854421513/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1249558629&sr=1-1).



## RSUA Yearbook & Directory

The Royal Society of Ulster Architects Yearbook and Directory is traditionally published in late summer and, provides an historical record and summary of the main events and activities of the Society during the previous Council year. A detailed account of the work of Council and the Committees is set out in the Annual Report and all architectural awards received during the year are featured in the Awards section. Learn more at: <http://www.rsua.org.uk/publications.aspx>.



# Publications

## Two Year Rural Review

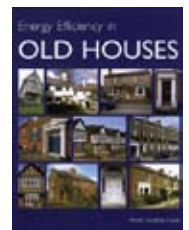
When the Northern Ireland Housing Executive published their two-year Rural Action Plan in 2006/7, they stated that they would produce a progress report at the end of 2008/9 on what had happened in the first two years of their five year 'Rural Homes and People' policy. This review sets out what they have and have not achieved to date. It also outlines how some of the action points in the Rural Action Plan could not be progressed as quickly as originally planned. Find out more at: [www.nihe.gov.uk](http://www.nihe.gov.uk).



## Energy Efficiency in Old Houses

*Martin Godfrey  
Cook*

Most people in the UK live in an old house built before the age of modern building regulations and energy-efficiency standards, and one in four of us lives in a house that is at least a century old. However, it is possible to upgrade our existing housing stock and to live in our old houses in an energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable way. This invaluable book is packed full of useful information, tips and case studies to help improve energy efficiency. Purchase this book from [www.cat.org.uk](http://www.cat.org.uk).



## Growing Stuff: An Alternative Guide to Gardening

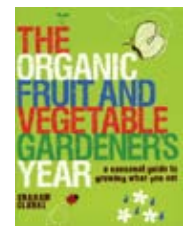
Gardening can be enjoyed by all and happen in any space, regardless of size, location or budget. Easy-to-follow instructions on the basics of growing flowers, herbs, vegetables and more, with a wide selection of creative 'recipes' that will help you take growing plants to the next level. The book shows you that things can be grown in even the most unexpected places e.g. Wellington boots, suitcases etc., and with minimum prior knowledge or skill. View this book at: [www2.cat.org.uk/shopping/product\\_info.php?products\\_id=2094&osCsid=1772c3fa8e4711374d3c7e672d4e7b36](http://www2.cat.org.uk/shopping/product_info.php?products_id=2094&osCsid=1772c3fa8e4711374d3c7e672d4e7b36).



## The Organic Fruit and Vegetable Gardener's Year

*Graham Clarke*

A seasonal guide to growing what you eat. Whether you're planting on a narrow windowsill, in a small patio, an allotment or a large garden, you can dip in to this easy-to-navigate reference book and discover facts, tips and inspiration. With guidance on pruning, harvesting, propagating, watering, pest control etc. plus organic tips, small garden tips and advice on how best to manage pests and disease without using toxic substances. This publication can be purchased here: [www2.cat.org.uk/shopping/product\\_info.php?products\\_id=2095&osCsid=ae6222db542b4e13e9f91ec1127bd681](http://www2.cat.org.uk/shopping/product_info.php?products_id=2095&osCsid=ae6222db542b4e13e9f91ec1127bd681).



## Sharkwater DVD



This debut, groundbreaking film from Canadian filmmaker Rob Stewart uses footage shot in 14 different countries to expose the horrific and illegal global trade in shark finning and took four years to make. Sharkwater is the latest powerful challenge to the way the media continue to perpetuate the Jaws myth and shows the important role sharks play in the planet's eco-system. Learn more about this film at: <http://www.sharktrust.org/content.asp?did=29226>.



## Fighting the Banana Wars and Other Fairtrade Battles

*Harriet Lamb*

Harriet Lamb's account of the beginnings and growth of Fairtrade achieves an excellent balance between clearly explaining the knotty economic and political issues involved, and taking the reader on a journey around the world to where Fairtrade is having a tangible impact. An inspiring read and great resource for anyone wanting to find out more about the real facts and figures behind Fairtrade.

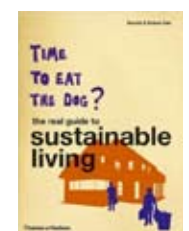
Purchase this book at: [www.amazon.co.uk/Fighting-Banana-Other-Fairtrade-Battles](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Fighting-Banana-Other-Fairtrade-Battles).



## Time to Eat the Dog?: The Real Guide to Sustainable Living

*Robert Vale &  
Brenda Vale*

The world and its resources are finite, yet we are seemingly locked into a system based on growth: growth of population, growth of income and growth of consumption. From this irrefutable starting point, this publication attempts to uncover what sustainability really means. Drawing on a huge amount of data from around the world, this will really make you see your life, your place in the world and your environmental impact in a completely new light. Learn more and purchase at: [www.amazon.co.uk/Time-Eat-Dog-Sustainable-Living/](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Time-Eat-Dog-Sustainable-Living/).



# Publications

## Condition and Management Survey of the Archaeological Resource in Northern Ireland: CAMSAR Report

The archaeological resource of sites and monuments within the historic landscape has been handed down the generations for thousands of years. As part of the wider European landscape it is valued as a link with our past providing unique interest and character to Northern Ireland. If future generations are to have an archaeological heritage to enjoy and understand, then we need to ensure that it is protected and managed appropriately and that everyone plays their part.

Read this publication online at: <http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/camsarreport.pdf>.



## Eden Allotment Gardens: Your Guide to Good Allotment Use

Allotments can provide a great sense of well-being and give pleasure and satisfaction to people who through their own skills and effort produce their own food and of course in addition allotments are also beneficial to the environment and wildlife generally. Carrickfergus Borough Council is has produced this guide to help build on the good practices and positive improvements which have already occurred at Eden Allotment Gardens. To learn more visit: [www.edenallotments.org/](http://www.edenallotments.org/).



## JNCC Annual Report 2008/2009

JNCC's Annual Report 2008/2009 is now available. This annual report shows the continued work that JNCC has been involved with. During the past year the Committee has worked together to tackle a revision of JNCC's vision and mission. This new vision and mission prepares JNCC for the challenges ahead, and has set a long-term direction. To read the Annual Report online go to: <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-4916>.



## CAAN Operation Plan 2009-2012

CAAN's new Operation Plan sets out its priorities for the next three years. Funding of £1.6 million towards delivering the plan has been secured from NIEA, SportNI, NITB and Inland Waterways and Fisheries Division of DCAL.



To read this publication online go to: <http://www.countrysiderecreation.com/>.



## Ecohouse (3rd edn)

*Sue Roaf*

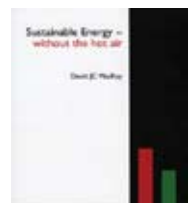
As the need to slow climate change becomes increasingly urgent, growing numbers of people are looking to dramatically reduce the carbon footprint of their buildings by using more ecologically sound techniques. This book has design information about the latest low-impact materials and technologies and advice on powering Ecohouses using renewable energy - including wind, micro hydro and heat pumps - and an introduction to low impact building materials such as lime, earth and hemp. Both a technical guide and an inspiration for thousands of architects, designers and eco-builders all over the world. Purchase this publication here: [www.cat.org.uk](http://www.cat.org.uk).



## Sustainable Energy: Without the Hot Air

*David JC MacKay*

A remarkable book that is sure to set the standard for all future debate on energy policy and climate change. We're told that 'huge' amounts of renewable power are available; however, our current power consumption is already 'huge'. How do we compare 'huge' to 'huge'? MacKay has highlighted a need for numbers, not adjectives. It shows how to estimate those numbers, and what they depend on. Taking the UK as an example, it asks can Britain live on renewable energy resources alone and how can it make a realistic post-fossil-fuel energy plan that adds up? It proves it is possible but it won't be easy! Purchase this book at: [www.cat.org.uk](http://www.cat.org.uk).



## The Organic Garden: Green and Easy

*Allan Shepherd*

Previously published in hardback as 'The Organic Garden', this guide redefines what it means to be an organic gardener. A practical and thought-provoking handbook, it is both a manual of organic practice and a starting point for ethical living. Learn more at: [www2.cat.org.uk/shopping/product\\_info.php?products\\_id=2071&osCsId=c5961a554badf2b023a5211198a6fba3](http://www2.cat.org.uk/shopping/product_info.php?products_id=2071&osCsId=c5961a554badf2b023a5211198a6fba3).



# Publications

## Think Nature!



This report measured the performance of the different UK Governments against their own targets for protecting wildlife and tackling climate change. It found that, while some are doing better than others, all are struggling to make real progress. This is despite increasing evidence of the value of the natural world to people. Read this report online here: [www.rspb.org.uk/news/details.asp?id=tcm:9-218721](http://www.rspb.org.uk/news/details.asp?id=tcm:9-218721).



## Meeting Environmental Challenges: The Role of Human Identity

Tom Crompton & Tim Kasser

In addressing environmental challenges like climate change, governments, charities and business tend to focus either on changing policy or business practice, or on urging individuals to adopt different behaviour. The role of human identity is largely absent from the debate. And yet, our identities – who we see ourselves as being – have a profound impact in shaping the responses we make to environmental challenges.

This provocative book will rattle the cages of many environmentalists, 'green-minded' business-people and policy makers. In it, Crompton and Kasser suggest that many current approaches to addressing problems like climate change may actually inadvertently serve to reinforce those aspects of identity that drive us towards unsustainable behaviour in first place. To purchase this publication go to: <http://www.greenbooks.co.uk>.



## The ATMOS Project: Transition in Action

About 2 years ago, in Totnes, Dairy Crest, the major employer in the town, closed, with the loss of 160 jobs. The site on which it was based, 8 acres adjoining the railway station and running down to the river, now stands derelict. Although most of the buildings are unspectacular steel factory buildings, it is also home to a building built by Brunel for an experimental approach to running the UK's railway system that never took off, atmospheric railway, and also to a landmark tall chimney. A number of local groups, including Transition Town Totnes, have got together and are proposing to bring the site into community ownership and to create an visionary development that embodies the principles and opportunities of Transition. A new masterplanning document for the site has just been published and it can be downloaded from: <http://transitionculture.org/2009/07/21/the-atmos-project-transition-in-action/>.



## Wildlife Gardening

Rhoda Nottridge

Wildlife Gardening gives you all the ideas and advice you need to encourage wildlife back into your garden. Whether you want to redesign your entire garden or incorporate just a few elements, this practical book explains the steps you can take to welcome more natural visitors and how to care and live with them. Topics covered include: care for soil; create a pond or bog garden; plant wildlife-friendly hedges, walls and roofs; select suitable plants and trees; get to know your garden visitors; learn to control pests and diseases; construct shelters for wildlife; make a wildlife meadow; plan for a wildlife-friendly future. Purchase online at: <http://www.birdfood.co.uk>.



## Asian Vegetables

Sally Cunningham

eco-logic books

Asian Vegetables is a great book for gardeners who want to grow something a little bit out of the ordinary. There are some wonderful plants included, and the author is very open about which stand a chance in the British climate, and those that do not. All-in-all this is a thoroughly researched and helpful book and the author has practical experience of growing these plants and an obvious love of the subject. To purchase go to: <http://www.eco-logicbooks.com/>.



## Bord na Móna Annual Report and Sustainability Report 08/09

BORD NA MÓNA  
Annual Report 2008/2009

The publication of Bord na Móna's first Annual Report and Sustainability Report 2008-2009 is an important step for the company, signalling the new diversification of business, first launched with the announcement of Bord na Móna's *New Contract with Nature* in 2008. The company has set itself stretching targets in green business areas over the next five years, demonstrating its commitment to its environmental impact and enabling the expansion of the business. Over the next five years Bord na Móna will aim to deliver impressive results in line with the Sustainability Report:

- Tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per MW hour will be reduced by 50%.
- The dilution of peat products with green waste will be raised to 50%.
- Diversion of waste from landfill will be raised to 80%.
- Bord na Móna will be the market leader in organic waste recovery.
- Bord na Móna will be the market leader in the UK and Ireland for sustainable horticultural products.
- Bord na Móna will meet its target of providing 500MW of wind energy.

To read this online visit: <http://bnm.annualreport08-09.com/>.

# Consultations

## Consultations (recent and ongoing) relevant to the sector

**NB: If you are aware of an active or upcoming consultation that NIEL members might be interested in please let us know.**

Consultation	Response by NIEL	Organisation	Response Date	Contact Details
<i>Consultations shaded in grey were included in a previous issue</i>				
Gas (NI) Bill – Policy Consultation	No	DETI	25 September	<a href="http://www.energy.detini.gov.uk">www.energy.detini.gov.uk</a>
A Draft Strategic Energy Framework for Northern Ireland 2009.	Yes	DETI	30 September	Paul Dolaghan <a href="mailto:Paul.dolaghan@detini.gov.uk">Paul.dolaghan@detini.gov.uk</a> <a href="http://www.detini.gov.uk">www.detini.gov.uk</a>
Reform of the Planning System in Northern Ireland	Yes	DOE Planning Service	2 October	<a href="http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/news/news_consultation/news_consultation-reform-060709.htm">http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/news/news_consultation/news_consultation-reform-060709.htm</a>
Tourism (NI) Order (Amendment) Bill 2010 & The Statutory Regulation of NI Tourist Accommodation	No	DETI	2 October	<a href="http://www.detini.gov.uk/cgi-bin/moreutil?utilid=1207">www.detini.gov.uk/cgi-bin/moreutil?utilid=1207</a>
The Draft Water Environment (Floods Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009	Yes - FWTF	Rivers Agency	2 October	<a href="http://www.riversagencyni.gov.uk/index/about-rivers-agency.htm">www.riversagencyni.gov.uk/index/about-rivers-agency.htm</a>
A Consultation Paper on a Volunteering Strategy for Northern Ireland	No	DSD	9 October	<a href="http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/consultations/consultations-join-in-get-involved.htm">www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/consultations/consultations-join-in-get-involved.htm</a>
Managing Stormwater: A Strategy for Promoting the Use of SuDS within Northern Ireland	Yes - FWTF	NIEA	16 October	Dave Foster <a href="http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/index/publications/consultations.htm">http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/index/publications/consultations.htm</a>
Consultation on Renewable Electricity Financial Incentives in Great Britain	Yes	DECC	15 October	Malachy McKernan <a href="http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/elec_financial/elec_financial.aspx">http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/elec_financial/elec_financial.aspx</a>
Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Scheme	Yes	DFP	29 October	<a href="http://www.dfpni.gov.uk/dorman-account-consultation.pdf">www.dfpni.gov.uk/dorman-account-consultation.pdf</a>
Consultation on a Bioenergy Action Plan for NI 2009-2014	Yes	DETI	30 October	Sandra McMillan <a href="mailto:bioenergy@detini.gov.uk">bioenergy@detini.gov.uk</a> <a href="http://www.energy.detini.gov.uk">www.energy.detini.gov.uk</a>
Draft Local Government (Finance) Bill	No	DOE	31 October	<a href="http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/local_government/local_government_consultations.htm">www.doeni.gov.uk/index/local_government/local_government_consultations.htm</a>
The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2005	No	NISRA	6 November	<a href="http://www.nisra.gov.uk/deprivation/update_of_nimdm_2005.htm">www.nisra.gov.uk/deprivation/update_of_nimdm_2005.htm</a>
Charity Commission for Northern Ireland	Yes	CCNI	27 November	<a href="http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/ccni.htm">www.dsdni.gov.uk/ccni.htm</a>
Consultation on the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy		EU	31 December	<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/reform/consultation_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/reform/consultation_en.htm</a>

### Recent Responses

Please note that all responses submitted by NIEL are available on our website (for a limited period) or on request from the office. A list of all responses submitted is updated quarterly and annually. [www.nienvironmentlink.org/publications/?catID=8](http://www.nienvironmentlink.org/publications/?catID=8)

### Recent Feedback

DARD Evidence and Innovation Strategy – the final version of the Strategy and all the responses received are available at - [www.dardni.gov.uk/index/publications/pubs-dard-strategies-reports-and-accounts/publications\\_strategies\\_newpage-2/publications\\_dard-research.htm](http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/publications/pubs-dard-strategies-reports-and-accounts/publications_strategies_newpage-2/publications_dard-research.htm)

Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations (NI) 2009 – the final Regulations came into operation on 3 August. The consultation report is available at [www.drdni.gov.uk](http://www.drdni.gov.uk)

# Consultations - Responses

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## **Consultation on the Detailed Operational Arrangements and the Revised Framework Document NIAUR**

*Response Date:  
21 August 2009*

### **Key Points:**

- Northern Ireland Environment Link welcomes the publication of the NISEP. We feel that the level of information provided in the Framework Document and accompanying Appendices is of sufficient detail for prospective bidders to the Programme.
- NIEL supports both target setting and incentive mechanism criteria outlined in Table 1 and welcomes the increase in available funding. We believe that Ex-Post Target Setting offers the best opportunity for the setting of more ambitious targets.
- NIEL welcomes the doubling of the targets for priority groups and the increase on the incentive payments. Recycling incentives above 8% threshold should therefore continue as this will direct funding towards fuel poverty projects rather than towards profit generation for bidder organisations.
- carbon content of fuels) should continue to be the priority for levy/SEP funding, but that renewable energy technologies should also receive funding in some specific instances: for example, in instances when they have been shown to be a cost effective solution to fuel poverty in a house where no further energy efficient measures are appropriate.
- It is important that energy efficiency information is offered as part of every intervention using the NISEP as this will improve overall effectiveness of the scheme.

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## **Proposals for a Waste Bill Department of the Environment**

*Response Date:  
22 June 2009*

### **Key Points:**

- We support the proposals to allow Councils additional powers of investigation, prosecutions and fines.
  - It is very important that the level of fines and additional costs be high enough to discourage illegal behaviour and to encompass the entire costs of reinstatement where environmental damage has been caused.
  - Fixed penalties are most appropriate for minor breaches. Levels of the penalties should be banded to allow for different fines for different levels of severity of breach.
  - While we accept the need for this change we would urge caution in removing the 'presumption of innocence' and shifting the burden of proof from the prosecution to the defence as a general rule. This is only acceptable given the change in legislation allowing for 'all reasonable care' as a defence.
  - We strongly support including the legislation which will allow NI to move to a SWDA in the future as the most efficient way to address waste issues throughout the jurisdiction. While the work of the three WMGs has brought a great improvement in coordination of waste, Northern Ireland is of a size where a single authority will be of advantage.
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# Environmental Events

*Have an event to plug? Why not publicise it, free of charge, on our online events calendar?*

Simply click on [www.nienvironmentlink.org/events/add.asp](http://www.nienvironmentlink.org/events/add.asp) and add the details.

Date	Event	Organiser	Venue	Contact
<i>Events shaded in grey were in a previous edition</i>				
Tues 15 <sup>th</sup> September 9.45am – 1pm	<b>Building Community Assets in Northern Ireland</b> This event is targeted at voluntary, community and social economy groups who are considering purchasing community assets and wish to find out more to help inform their decision. Key staff and Board Members are most appropriate. Price £20 per NICVA member; £30 per non NICVA member	Community Places	NICVA	Georgie Finlay at NICVA 028 9087 7777 or email <a href="mailto:Georgie.finlay@nicva.org">Georgie.finlay@nicva.org</a> before 5pm on Thursday 10 September 2009.
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> Sept & 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept 9.45am – 3pm	<b>When the Oil Runs Out ... ?</b> A one day reality based workshop getting to grips with the very real threat of energy shortages.	Transition Towns and Women	Silver Birches Hotel, Omagh on 16 <sup>th</sup> .  The Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen on 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Transition Town Omagh: 078 9986 0773  Women in Agriculture: 028 6634 2996
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> September 12noon – 5pm	<b>Harvest Fair &amp; Wife Carrying</b> Don't miss this day out for all the family. Display of vintage threshing, garden tours, WI stalls, organic food stalls, crafts, children's trail and of course wife-carrying! Adult £5, Child £2.	The National Trust	Springhill Moneymore	028 8674 8210 <a href="mailto:springhill@nationaltrust.org.uk">springhill@nationaltrust.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk">www.nationaltrust.org.uk</a>
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> September 10am – 12.30pm	<b>MCS Beachwatch</b> A litter survey and clean up of Portstewart Strand. Gloves, bags and survey forms provided. Meet at the visitor centre for bags and litter pickers. No charge.	The National Trust	Portstewart Strand	028 7083 6396
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> – Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>European Heritage Open Days</b> A chance to visit some of Northern Ireland's most interesting buildings. Many of these are not normally open to the public so it's your chance to see inside cottages and castles, mills and mansions, public and private buildings and many more, all for FREE. You can get a full brochure of properties opening from Tourist Information Centres, Libraries, or from the website.	Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)	Various Locations	028 9054 3022 <a href="http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk">www.ni-environment.gov.uk</a>
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> September 1 – 5.30pm	<b>Musical House Tour</b> Enjoy a relaxing afternoon listening to the sounds of the barrel organ whilst you tour around this neo-classical masterpiece. Normal admission, members free.	The National Trust	The Argory Moy	028 8778 4753 <a href="mailto:argory@nationaltrust.org.uk">argory@nationaltrust.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.ntni.org.uk">www.ntni.org.uk</a>
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> September 10am	<b>Beachwatch</b> This is an annual UK-wide day of action organised by the Marine conservation Society. We will be collecting rubbish on a scenic beach near the mouth of Strangford Lough. Leader Ken Orr.	Grassroots NI	Killard Point Near Strangford	028 9058 0339 Mobile 07901 944 001 <a href="mailto:grassrootsni@fastmail.fm">grassrootsni@fastmail.fm</a> <a href="http://www.grassrootsni.org">www.grassrootsni.org</a>

# Environmental Events

Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> September 10am – 4pm	<b>RCN – AGM - A Changing Sector in Challenging Times</b> The 18th Annual Conference is held against the backdrop of a continuing recession. Resentment remains high for most people who have witnessed the seemingly bottomless pit of money made available to bail out the banks whilst, at the same time, being constantly informed that efficiencies will have to be found and, unfortunately, cuts will have to be made in public sector spending. For Prices see the website.	Rural Community Network	Millbrook Lodge Ballynahinch	028 8676 6670 Fax. 028 8676 6006 <a href="mailto:info@ruralcommunitynetwork.org">info@ruralcommunitynetwork.org</a> <a href="http://www.ruralcommunitynetwork.org">www.ruralcommunitynetwork.org</a>
Sat 26 <sup>th</sup> September 1 – 5pm	<b>Toy Trade</b> Hundreds of new and used toys to buy. Also trade your own toy during trading hour 3 – 4pm. Don't miss Herbie the Clown shows, story-telling and face painting during this great event. Normal admission, members free.	The National Trust	Castle Ward Strangford	028 4488 1204 <a href="mailto:castleward@nationaltrust.org.uk">castleward@nationaltrust.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk">www.nationaltrust.org.uk</a>
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> September 11am - 5pm	<b>Fungi Foray &amp; Feast</b> Discover the fascinating world of fungi at Crom. An all day event including a morning collection session, followed by lunch and an afternoon ramble. Adult £10, Child £5.	The National Trust	Crom Upper Lough Erne Newtownbutler	028 6773 8118 <a href="mailto:crom@nationaltrust.org.uk">crom@nationaltrust.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk">www.nationaltrust.org.uk</a>
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> September 2pm	<b>From Seeds to Trees</b> Experience the autumn riches of Kilbroney Park's native trees on a guided walk to celebrate Seed Gathering Season. Find out why native trees are important and help ensure their survival by collecting seeds to plant at home. Run in conjunction with Newry and Mourne District Council.	Ulster Wildlife Trust	Kilbroney Park Rostrevor	028 4483 0282 <a href="mailto:events@ulstewildlifetrust.org">events@ulstewildlifetrust.org</a> <a href="http://www.ulsterwildlifetrust.org">www.ulsterwildlifetrust.org</a>
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> September 3pm	<b>Off The Beaten Track Tour</b> Discover hidden Castle Coole on a walk led by the Head Warden. <b>Booking essential</b> , Adult £5.	The National Trust	Castle Coole	028 6632 2690 <a href="mailto:castlecoole@nationaltrust.org.uk">castlecoole@nationaltrust.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.ntni.org.uk">www.ntni.org.uk</a>
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> September 2 – 5pm	<b>Food For Free</b> Outdoor clothing and walking boots essential. The country park is popular for quiet countryside recreation but would you consider it as being 'Mother Nature's Larder?' Join a wild food expert as we explore the area to see what free food is on offer. Refreshments will be available. Admission free.	Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)	Scrabo Country Park	028 9181 1491 <a href="http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk">www.ni-environment.gov.uk</a>
Thur 1 <sup>st</sup> – Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	<b>6<sup>th</sup> All Ireland Population Health Autumn School</b> Many of the major determinants of ill health and inequalities have roots in complex relationships between the individual and social forces shaping our choices and experiences over the life-course. Our efforts will too often be "confounded" and frustrated, if we imagine that we can easily unpack "the black box". More details to follow.	Co-hosted by the UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health (NI), the HRB Centre for Health and Diet Research (University College Cork) and the Institute of Public Health in Ireland (IPH)	Queen's University	<a href="http://www.qub.ac.uk/coe">www.qub.ac.uk/coe</a> <a href="http://www.publichealth.ie">www.publichealth.ie</a>

# Environmental Events

Fri 2nd October	<b>Northern Ireland Litter Summit</b> TIDY Northern Ireland is in the business of changing behaviour and this summit will explore the evidence available to demonstrate what approaches work best in achieving this.	TIDY Northern Ireland	Pump House, Northern Ireland Science Park, Belfast	<a href="mailto:nigel.frazer@tidynorthernireland.org">nigel.frazer@tidynorthernireland.org</a>
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> October 2pm	<b>Native Nutkin Safari at Delamont Country Park</b> Celebrate Red Squirrel week by getting acquainted with this much loved native mammal. Watch for sights and signs as you explore the woodland and have fun with lots of squirrel-inspired activities. Run in conjunction with Down District Council.	Ulster Wildlife Trust	Delamont Country Park, Killyleagh	028 4483 0282 <a href="mailto:events@ulstewildlifetrust.org">events@ulstewildlifetrust.org</a> <a href="http://www.ulsterwildlifetrust.org">www.ulsterwildlifetrust.org</a>
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> October 10.30am – 3.30pm	<b>No Scrubs at Murlough</b> Volunteers are needed to help remove invasive sea buckthorn and sycamore scrub from the fore dunes to stop it spreading over the wildflower rich areas of this internationally important site. Meet at Murlough information centre car park. Suitable footwear essential.	The National Trust	Murlough National Nature Reserve Dundrum	028 4375 1467 <a href="mailto:murlough@nationaltrust.org.uk">murlough@nationaltrust.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk">www.nationaltrust.org.uk</a>
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> – Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> October 10am – 5pm	<b>Harvest Food Fayre</b> Taste, talk and buy home produced traditional ranges of food and drink direct from the producer. Live music and children's craft sessions with an autumn theme. Normal admission, members free.	The National Trust	Mount Stewart Portaferry Road Newtownards	028 4278 8387 <a href="mailto:mountstewart@nationaltrust.org.uk">mountstewart@nationaltrust.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk">www.nationaltrust.org.uk</a>
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> October 12noon – 5pm	<b>Autumn Plant Fair</b> Garden enthusiasts should not miss this event! Local specialist nurseries and Rowallane Garden will have a wide range of plants for sale. Normal Admission, members free.	The National Trust	Rowallane Garden Saintfield	028 9751 0131 <a href="mailto:rowallane@nationaltrust.org.uk">rowallane@nationaltrust.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk">www.nationaltrust.org.uk</a>
Tues 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<b>Food Farming &amp; Conservation</b> Keynote speaker: Simon Fairlie (rural sustainability commentator and author of Can Britain feed itself!). This workshop will explore how the pressure to increase food production can be balanced with the need to maintain and restore farmland biodiversity. Issues to be addressed include: Can Britain feed itself – and at what cost? Should food production and nature conservation be geographically integrated or segregated? Can the rural land management schemes deliver? Challenges for interdisciplinary projects will be discussed. The output will be a paper for policy makers and NGOs. Price £45 (£35 BES members and concessions).	British Ecological Society with Flora Locale	Fordingbridge, Hampshire	<a href="mailto:info@floralocale.org">info@floralocale.org</a> <a href="http://www.floralocale.org">www.floralocale.org</a>



# Conferences

## Irish Sustainable Building Show

17-19 September 2009

Simonscourt, RDS, Dublin

With climate change, expensive energy costs and the difficult economic conditions the Irish Sustainable Building Show has never been more important. The Show is packed with informative seminars, exciting features and valuable business opportunities - all of which make the Irish Sustainable Building Show Ireland's leading sustainable construction trade Show. This event is being co-ordinated by [Cultivate.ie](http://Cultivate.ie). Learn more at: [www.sustainablebuildingshow.com](http://www.sustainablebuildingshow.com).



## 5th Annual Environment Ireland Conference 2009

23 - 24 September 2009

Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin

Environment Ireland, now in its fifth year, is Ireland's largest conference on environmental policy and management. The conference is organised in association with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Alongside the visiting experts, the programme also features many of the key players in the local environment sector. Environment Minister John Gormley will participate in the conference on Day 1, as will Mary Kelly, Director-General of the EPA and the opening session will be chaired by Tom O'Mahony, Assistant Secretary in the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. More details to be found at: [www.environmentireland.ie](http://www.environmentireland.ie).



## A Changing Sector in Challenging Times

RCN Annual Conference & AGM 25 September 2009

Millbrook Hotel, Ballynahinch, Co Down

As the rural community infrastructure enters a critical phase in a change process, the RCN Annual Conference is a timely reminder that we are not on our own during this journey. Several organisations at regional, sub-regional and local level have embarked on a change programme and these journeys will be highlighted by the various speakers within the conference. The event will also afford delegates the space to reflect on all our change experiences and give critical assistance and impetus in the continual development of a rural community development networking infrastructure that will not only meet current and future challenges but will create and seize opportunities that may arise from them. To find out more and register visit: [www.ruralcommunitynetwork.org](http://www.ruralcommunitynetwork.org).



## Raising the Standard

29 September 2009 Manchester



This conference, which will focus on sharing best practice and guidance from Green Flag award winners, is organised in partnership with IPGS and the Green Flag Awards. We know that Green Flags are highly valued throughout the sector, but how can existing winners keep working to improve their sites? Which sites can be considered for the Green Flag award for innovation, and what lessons can be learned from existing award-winners? Raising the Standard will address these questions and more. The conference will provide an opportunity for delegates to learn from the example set by some of the top green flag-holding sites. Learn more at: [www.green-space.org.uk/events/GS/latestconference.php](http://www.green-space.org.uk/events/GS/latestconference.php)

## The Complete Wood Pellet Experience

30 September 2009 Manor House Hotel, Enniskillen

Balcas, in association with Action Renewables, is hosting a specialist one-day conference to highlight the commercial benefits of using renewable technologies, in particular wood pellets, for architects and specifiers across Northern Ireland. The conference will include high calibre speakers, working case studies and a tour of the *brites* manufacturing plant. For more information please contact: [conference@actionrenewables.co.uk](mailto:conference@actionrenewables.co.uk).



## 6th All Ireland Population Health Autumn School

1-2 October 2009 Queen's University, Belfast

### When is a Simple Answer Sufficient? Understanding Complex Interventions: Implications for Policy and Practice in Public Health

Many of the major determinants of ill health and inequalities have roots in complex relationships between the individual and social forces shaping our choices and experiences over the life-course. Building on the highly successful summer schools in Cork, this Autumn School will focus on complex interventions and their evaluation. Co-hosted by the UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health (NI), the HRB Centre for Health and Diet Research (University College Cork) and the Institute of Public Health in Ireland (IPH), the school will encourage participants to learn from and debate with a panel of distinguished international speakers with varied perspectives and vast experience. Learn more at: [www.publichealth.ie](http://www.publichealth.ie).



# Conferences

## Annual Scotland National Networking Event

2 October 2009  
SNH Headquarters,  
Battleby, Perth

This FCFCG event is aimed at anyone who is interested in or involved in community, therapeutic and allotment gardens! There are plenty of workshops to choose from including fundraising, community cooking, winter activities, challenging behaviour, allotments and councils, maximising biodiversity, making money from your project. There will be a chance to speak with a variety of funders and it's a great opportunity to network with like-minded people. There will also be case studies on social enterprise, food growing and re-seeding communities. Visit this link to find out more: [www.farmgarden.org.uk/farms-gardens/your-region/scotland/scotland-news-and-events](http://www.farmgarden.org.uk/farms-gardens/your-region/scotland/scotland-news-and-events).



## Environmental Regulation and Access to Justice in Northern Ireland

13 October 2009  
Malone House,  
Belfast

With the establishment of the new Environment Agency in Northern Ireland, but not in the fully independent way that some had hoped for, speakers from law firms, government and NGOs reflect on environmental regulation and access to environmental justice issues.

Opening address given by Edwin Poots MLA, Environment Minister. More information from: [www.ukela.org](http://www.ukela.org).



## Water for Life – LIFE for Water

14-15 October 2009  
Brussels, Belgium



The LIFE Unit is organising this conference to facilitate the dissemination of results of LIFE water projects. The event will involve more than 100 invited participants, including LIFE project beneficiaries, national and international water authorities, NGOs, the media and other relevant stakeholders. Best practices will be highlighted and innovative solutions will be demonstrated in order to share know-how. The ultimate aims of the conference are to help improve the implementation of EU policies such as the Water Framework Directive and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive; to disseminate and share information; and to facilitate networking. Please visit: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/news/events/events2009/october09.htm#water> for further information about the event's background, programme and registration process.

## Impacts of Environmental Change on Reproduction and Development in Wildlife

15 - 16 Oct 2009  
The Zoological  
Society of London

Species adapt to the environment over millennia, and reproduction is therefore highly controlled by environment, but what happens when the environment changes more quickly than expected? Will reproduction go wrong or is it sufficiently robust to cope? This symposium will examine the ways in which environmental change, such as global warming, increased radiation and exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals, influence not only short-term reproductive success and development but also long-term survival and fitness. Learn more and register at: [www.zsl.org/science/scientific-meetings/](http://www.zsl.org/science/scientific-meetings/).



## Developing Northern Ireland's Waste Infrastructure

20 October 2009  
Stormont Hotel,  
Belfast



The 2nd Developing Northern Ireland's Waste Infrastructure conference, a follow-up to last year's highly successful inaugural event, takes place at an important time for the Northern Ireland waste sector. Procurement is underway for new waste infrastructure facilities, with the process being taken forward by Northern Ireland's three local waste management groups - Arc21, SWaMP2008 and the North West Region Waste Management Group. The overall investment in Northern Ireland's waste treatment infrastructure, expected to be in the region of £600 million, envisages a mixture of waste technologies including energy from waste (EfW) and mechanical and biological treatment (MBT). For more information and to register go to: [www.bmfconferences.com/events/Developing\\_Northern\\_Ireland's\\_waste\\_infrastructure\\_20th\\_October\\_2009\\_Stormont\\_Hotel\\_index.php](http://www.bmfconferences.com/events/Developing_Northern_Ireland's_waste_infrastructure_20th_October_2009_Stormont_Hotel_index.php).

## Finding Our Place – Reconnecting with Nature in a Time of Uncertainty

21 October 2009  
Battleby, Redgorton,  
Perth

Climate change poses the greatest global challenge of the modern age. How will nature conservation respond and adapt? Can we move from strong ecological knowledge and understanding to ecological 'being', where a new interconnected environmental ethic takes its place equally alongside science and technology? Join key thinkers in nature conservation, human ecology and environmental education to explore how our relationship with nature may be at the core of our capacity to address climate change. This event is aimed at people already engaged with climate change as educators, conservationists, land managers, policy makers and concerned individuals. To learn more and register visit: <http://www.snh.org.uk/>.



# Conferences

## Resource Efficiency: The Future for UK Business?

4 November 2009  
The Royal Society,  
London

UK businesses could save £6.4 billion per year and help create and protect jobs by improving the way they use resources. Join UK business leaders, consumer representatives and environmental experts in a Question Time style debate, hosted by Today's John Humphrys. Hear the results of WRAP's research highlighting the benefits of resource efficiency and find out how your business could make savings. Visit [www.wrap.org.uk](http://www.wrap.org.uk) for more information.



## Environment 09 Creating the Climate for Change

9-10 November 2009  
QEII Conference  
Centre, London

Tackling climate change will involve large scale change for business, local communities, government and their relationships with people. The speed of change and the direction of change are being decided now in government and international forums. With change will also come opportunity and new business challenges, new regulatory challenges whether at national or local government levels. There will be some difficult transitions and both business and local government will share the challenge of carrying the consent of customers and public with them. Find out more about this conference at: [www.neilstewartassociates.com/sw116](http://www.neilstewartassociates.com/sw116).



## Upcoming IEEM Conferences



### Joint IEEM/FBA Conference: The Future of Freshwaters

Wednesday 16 - Thursday 17 September 2009 at Warwick University, Coventry. To view the programme and book a place on the conference please visit [www.ieem.net/ieemfbafreshwaterconference2009.asp](http://www.ieem.net/ieemfbafreshwaterconference2009.asp).

### IEEM Annual Conference: Species Reintroductions: Philosophy, Issues and Implications

Thursday 8 October 2009 at Cairnbaan Hotel, near Lochgilphead, Argyll. To book a place on the conference please visit [http://www.ieem.net/ieem\\_scottish\\_conference\\_2009.asp](http://www.ieem.net/ieem_scottish_conference_2009.asp).

### IEEM Annual Conference: Protected Areas: Past, Present and Prospects

Tuesday 10 - Thursday 12 November 2009 at Centre Parcs, Elveden Forest, Brandon, Suffolk. To book a place on the conference please visit <http://www.ieem.net/ieemautumnconference2009.asp>

# Training

## The Organic Centre

Courses September/  
October

[www.theorganiccentre.ie](http://www.theorganiccentre.ie)



### September 2009

- 19 Sep [Home Made Remedies for the Winter Months](#)
- 19 Sep [Storing and Preserving Vegetables and Fruit - Jam without Sugar](#)
- 20 Sep [EXTRA! Poultry Course with Mary Luthers, September 20](#)
- 20 Sep [Autumn Harvest Felt Workshop](#)
- 26 Sep [Plan your Garden Now - Organic Gardening for Beginners](#)

### October 2009

- 3 Oct [The Complete Organic Garden - A Month by Month Guide - Day 9 \(Rossinver\)](#)
- 3 Oct [An Introduction to Alternative Energy Focusing on Solar PV and Wind Energy](#)
- 10 Oct [Growing Trees from Seed](#)
- 10 Oct [Plan your Garden Now - Organic Gardening for Beginners](#)
- 11 Oct [Natural Paints - How to Make and Use Them](#)
- 11 Oct [Cooking with the Grass Roof Café - An Introduction](#)
- 17 Oct [Wine Making](#)
- 17 Oct [Growing in Polytunnels - An Introduction](#)
- 18 Oct [Grow your Own Mushrooms](#)
- 18 Oct [Spinning for Beginners](#)
- 24 Oct [Reedbed Systems](#)
- 24 Oct [Sprouts, Wheatgrass, Juices and Smoothies - Live Food for Alive People](#)
- 25 Oct [Completing the Human Nutrient Cycle](#)
- 31 Oct - 1 Nov [Felt Making Weekend \(2 days\)](#)
- 31 Oct [The Complete Organic Garden - A Month by Month Guide - Day 10 \(Rossinver\)](#)

# Training

## CIPFA Training Courses Programme Autumn 2009



The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy is one of the six professional accountancy bodies in the UK and the leading provider of training to the public services in Northern Ireland. The Autumn 2009 Training Courses Programme includes a range of courses on the key areas of finance and accounting, audit and governance and grants management as well as some of their most popular courses on performance, communications and managerial issues. All of their courses can be delivered on an in-house basis for your organisation which is often the more cost effective option if you have six or more interested in a particular course. If you do not see the course you are looking for in the brochure ask as they have a range of courses on related subjects that are not included in this autumn programme.

Further information from Anna Egner at [anna.egner@cipfa.org.uk](mailto:anna.egner@cipfa.org.uk). Alternatively please call 028 9026 6777. You can also download the programme at: [http://www.cipfa.org.uk/NI/public\\_training.cfm](http://www.cipfa.org.uk/NI/public_training.cfm).

## On Board Training Programme for Board Members of Public Bodies



The CIPFA *On Board* training programme is being run in Belfast on a public basis during 2009 and 2010 on the following dates: **2 December 2009; 5 March 2010; 2 June 2010; 3 September 2010; 1 December 2010**. The *On Board* course provides practical advice and guidance to executive and non-executive Board Members of public bodies. Through practical case studies, group discussion and presentations participants will learn about:

- Roles and responsibilities of the Board, Board Members and the Chair;
- Relationship between the sponsor Department and public body;
- Practical application of the Nolan Principles;
- Accountability, value for money and the Public Accounts Committee.

Learn more at [www.cipfa.org.uk](http://www.cipfa.org.uk).

## The Tax Man Owes Your Organisation Money

8 September 2009



If you are not fully aware of the amount of money that your organisation can claim from the tax man on top of donations you receive then this course is for you. Not using Gift Aid is to miss out on an important benefit of your charitable status. Gift Aid Gold on 8 September 2009 is for organisations that do not currently use Gift Aid - or that are not fully exploiting the scheme. Gift Aid is worth at least an extra 28% on top of eligible donations - representing an impressive additional income. To find out more about this course and download a booking form, please visit [www.nicva.org](http://www.nicva.org) or contact Roisin Kelly on 028 9087 7777 or email [roisin.kelly@nicva.org](mailto:roisin.kelly@nicva.org). Learn more about other NICVA training courses coming up this autumn by clicking here: [www.nicva.org/index.cfm/section/article/page/TrainingNICVA](http://www.nicva.org/index.cfm/section/article/page/TrainingNICVA).

## NI WiSe Scheme – Courses and DVDs



The *WiSe Scheme* has been set up to deliver training and accreditation for operators of registered passenger and charter vessels who wish to view marine wildlife. Over 1,000 operators/marine professionals have now been trained, so look out for the *WiSe* logo on boats and brochures. All *WiSe* operators have attended and passed a course designed to ensure they have an understanding of how to approach marine wildlife, and how to minimise any disturbance to those animals.

With the support of the NIEA two courses have already been run in Northern Ireland and further one is planned for 2009. If you are a skipper or marine ecotourism guide and are interested in becoming *WiSe* accredited in the future, please register your interest with the NIEA Coastal and Marine Communications Officer at: [eric.bann@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:eric.bann@doeni.gov.uk). *WiSe* DVDs targeting the boat-owning public have been produced with support of the NIEA and other main conservation agencies in Britain. The DVD provides practical guidance on how to approach marine wildlife in a way that respects their wild nature. Complimentary copies are freely available to the boating community in Northern Ireland and may be requested directly from Shauna Ward at: [shauna.ward@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:shauna.ward@doeni.gov.uk). More information on the *WiSe Scheme* at: [www.wisescheme.org/](http://www.wisescheme.org/).

## RTPI's In-House Training Catalogue 2009/2010



Royal Town Planning Institute is a dynamic organisation leading the way in the creation of places that work now and in the future. RTPI understands that, just as people develop places, places develop people. They are committed to the enhancement of our natural and human environment. Good planning combines an awareness and an ability to manage the competing pressures on our built environments and the very real effects on our space.

RTPI training courses offer an introduction for those new to the planning field, a forum for debate on technical aspects of planning for experienced planners and an opportunity for all staff to improve their personal management skills. Learn more at: [www.rtpiconferences.co.uk/rtpi](http://www.rtpiconferences.co.uk/rtpi).

# Training

## New QUB Autumn/ Winter Open Learning Brochure Available

The Open Learning division of School of Education at Queen's University has a long and proud tradition of offering short courses in a wide range of subjects including those in environmental subjects. These courses are open to all adults regardless of qualifications or experience. There is no upper age limit; however, the minimum age for students attending our adult education courses is 16, unless otherwise stated. To read the brochure online and register visit: [www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SchoolofEducation/ProspectiveStudents/OpenLearning](http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SchoolofEducation/ProspectiveStudents/OpenLearning).



## Introduction to Landscape Character Assessment

The Heritage Council and its Project Partners have developed an Introduction to Landscape Character Assessment CPD Training Module, which will be run on 16-17 September 2009 at Spanish Point and Tulla, County Clare, in partnership with Clare County Council and the Landscape Observatory of Catalonia. This multi-disciplinary landscape management course, the first of its kind in Ireland, is being developed in accordance with Article 6B - 'Training and Education', of the European Landscape Convention.



This CPD training course will be of value to those whose professional work impinges on the Irish landscape. This includes planners, landscape architects, archaeologists, ecologists, architects and engineers. Such individuals might - for example - be working for a local authority or in private practice. For details of the September LCA CPD course, please contact the course co-ordinator, Alison Harvey (Planning and Development Officer) on tel: 056 7770777, email: [aharvey@heritagecouncil.ie](mailto:aharvey@heritagecouncil.ie) or mobile: 087 419 3458. Learn more at: [www.heritagecouncil.ie](http://www.heritagecouncil.ie).

## Business Support for Local Community Groups

Business

Community

Could your community group benefit from professional assistance and advice from a local business person? Business in the Community has developed a unique programme that could bring valuable business skills to assist your group to be more sustainable. The Building on Talent programme helps employees identify and value their existing skills. From the community perspective, Building on Talent provides a unique opportunity to benefit from a range of business skills and expertise on a pro-bono basis. Find out more and download expression of interest forms at: [www.communityni.org/news/business-support-local-community-groups](http://www.communityni.org/news/business-support-local-community-groups).

## Back to School with NICVA's Training Calendar

This calendar has been developed to meet the needs of the voluntary and community sector and promotes a wide variety of high quality training sessions all at affordable prices. NICVA members benefit from 30% discount on all courses. The training will be delivered at NICVA but if there is substantial demand NICVA will run additional courses in other locations across Northern Ireland. Visit [www.nicva.org/index.cfm/section/article/page/TrainingNICVA](http://www.nicva.org/index.cfm/section/article/page/TrainingNICVA) to find out courses running this autumn.

## What on Earth are Transition Committees and How Can We Get Involved?



The establishment of transition committees is the latest development in the work to implement the Review of Public Administration. There are eleven committees - one for each new council area - with membership drawn from elected members from each existing area. The committees are important as they have the power to try out community planning in local areas as well discussing and agreeing key priorities for the council. NICVA is running a seminar on **16 September 2009** to give voluntary and community organisations the opportunity to find out more about the work of transition committees and catch up on other developments in the changes to local government and discuss any issues or concerns. Please Contact Cathy Breslin to register on 028 9087 7777 or [cathy.breslin@nicva.org](mailto:cathy.breslin@nicva.org)

## Running an Effective Organisation

NICVA has organised this latest members' session as a direct response to requests for practical help and information on general governance and finance issues for smaller organisations. This session will take place on **16 October 2009** at NICVA. Visit [www.nicva.org](http://www.nicva.org) for further information.



## Talk Action Dublin- Based Training



### Climate Change: Effective Communication – 8 October 2009

A day-long course that will help you master the skills and techniques required to communicate the issue of climate change in a wide variety of contexts. Carmichael Centre, North Brunswick Street, 10 am - 4 pm.

### Facilitation Training – 9 October 2009

A day long course that will help you master tools and techniques to make your facilitation engaging and productive. Carmichael Centre, North Brunswick Street, 10am - 4 pm. See [www.talkaction.org](http://www.talkaction.org) for more details. If you are interested in either of these courses, please contact [matt@talkaction.org](mailto:matt@talkaction.org) or on (00 44) 207 324 4774.

# Funding

## DFID Development Awareness Mini Grant Scheme

Applications are now invited for the DFID Development Awareness Mini Grant Scheme for Northern Ireland 2010. The scheme is aimed directly at not-for-profit organisations working at a grassroots level in Northern Ireland. The Mini Grant guidelines set out how to apply for grants under the scheme and are available at [www.dfid.gov.uk/Working-with-DFID/Funding-Schemes/funding-for-not-for-profit-organisations/DAF](http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Working-with-DFID/Funding-Schemes/funding-for-not-for-profit-organisations/DAF). The closing date for applications is 5.00pm on 30 October 2009.

The Centre for Global Education will deliver briefing seminars for potential applicants to the fund in Belfast and Derry as follows:

- 21 September 2009 - VSB Belfast, 34 Shaftsbury Square - 10.30am to 12.30pm
- 25 September 2009 - The Junction, 8 Bishop Street, Derry - 11.00am to 1.00pm

For more information and to register for the seminar please contact Stephen McCloskey at Centre for Global Education on 028 9024 1879, email: [Stephen@centreforglobaleducation.com](mailto:Stephen@centreforglobaleducation.com).

## Coca-Cola Clean Coast Awards 2009



TIDY Northern Ireland is running the very first Clean Coast Awards in Northern Ireland in association with Coca-Cola. Designed to acknowledge the excellent work of individuals and groups involved in the volunteering up and down our coast, the awards recognise the vital role volunteers play in protecting our fragile coastal environment. A panel of judges will select the ten finalists who will each receive £200 worth of equipment for their group or £100 worth of equipment for each individual finalist. Entries should be submitted by Monday 21 September. Visit [www.tidynorthernireland.org](http://www.tidynorthernireland.org) for more information and to download an entry form or call 028 9073 6920.

## 2010 GlaxoSmithKline IMPACT Awards



The IMPACT Awards have been running since 1997 and are designed to recognise and reward charities that are doing excellent work to improve people's health. They are funded by GlaxoSmithKline and managed in partnership with The King's Fund. The awards are open to registered charities that are at least three years old, working in a health-related field in the UK, with a total annual income between £10,000 and £1 million. Deadline for applications for the 2010 awards is 25 September 2009. More information can be found here: [www.kingsfund.org.uk/research/projects/gsk\\_impact\\_awards/](http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/research/projects/gsk_impact_awards/).

## Chance to Win GrantTracker Free for a Year



NICVA is offering GrantTracker free for a year to one lucky organisation or person who creates a profile and signs up to the Fundraising Information Group at [www.communityni.org](http://www.communityni.org). GrantTracker provides subscribers with access to a database of hundreds of funding opportunities. Features like MyTracker enable users to create their own funding directory online. The Fundraising Information Group is an online forum to talk with other fundraisers, discuss fundraising issues, ask questions, view events and access publications. It is entirely free to join.

To be in with a chance of winning the year's subscription you need to visit [www.communityni.org](http://www.communityni.org), create a profile for yourself or your organisation, (preferably with a picture added) and join the fundraising information group by 29 September 2009. All members of the Fundraising Information Group at this time will be eligible for the draw which takes place on 30 September 2009. If you already subscribe to GrantTracker and you win the draw - your subscription will be extended for a year for free. Of course, if you can't wait to sign up for GrantTracker please contact the team at [grant\\_tracker@nicva.org](mailto:grant_tracker@nicva.org) or call 028 9087 7777.

## SIHP Small Grants Programme



The Southern Investing for Health Partnership is now inviting applications to a Small Grants programme. Applications should focus on physical activity, healthy eating programmes and/or other health improvement programmes. Application forms and guidance notes are available to download from their website at: [www.southernifh.com](http://www.southernifh.com). Closing date for applications is 25 September 2009.

## The Secret Millionaire Fund



The Big Lottery Fund and The Secret Millionaire have teamed up to give viewers of the programme a chance to act on the charitable inspiration fuelled by the show. Lottery funding worth £1 million has been lined up for people to apply for, or nominate projects to apply for grants of between £300 and £10,000. From here you can nominate or apply for The Secret Millionaire Fund: [http://secretmillionaire.channel4.com/funds\\_info/](http://secretmillionaire.channel4.com/funds_info/).

# Recruitment

## Outreach & Learning Manager

Ulster Wildlife Trust

Based in Crossgar, the person appointed will lead the Ulster Wildlife Trust's outreach and learning work to include the school grounds project, site based education programmes, outreach partnerships and developing innovative commercial approaches to engaging people in nature conservation. As a manager you will be responsible for work planning, assisting with funding applications, managing project staff and the UWT's team of environmental guides. As a member of the management team you will have significant input to the development and implementation of the Trust's operational and strategic plans and the ongoing operational needs of the Trust. This is a high profile post and will include working in partnership with a diverse range of stakeholders at all levels. Fixed term contract until 31 March 2011 (renewal subject to funding) plus access to contributory pension scheme. Salary: £22,084 – £31,707. For further details click the link [www.ulsterwildlifetrust.org/About+Us/Jobs/](http://www.ulsterwildlifetrust.org/About+Us/Jobs/)



## BatAtlas Volunteers Wanted



The Northern Ireland Bat Group is seeking volunteers to take part in the BatAtlas monitoring programme in order to record Pipistrelle bats and Leisler's bats across Ireland. No knowledge of how to use equipment or how to identify bats is actually necessary as Creggan Country Park's Environmental Officer can provide bat detectors and training. If you are interested in taking part in the survey please contact Karen Healy at Creggan Country Park on 028 7136 3133 or email [karen.healy@creggancounypark.com](mailto:karen.healy@creggancounypark.com). If you would like more information on the BatAtlas monitoring scheme please contact Austin Hopkirk at [a.hopkirk@ntlworld.com](mailto:a.hopkirk@ntlworld.com).



## HOPE Transition Project – Volunteers Wanted

The HOPE (Horticulture, Organic, Produce and Environment) Transition Project will provide training for 15 young people (aged 18-25), with learning disabilities, to assist with their transition from school life to adult services. It will involve training two days per week, for a period of 25 weeks. One day a week will consist of ASDAN training modules, to promote personal development, health and well-being. The second day will consist of horticultural and environmental activities with Conservation Volunteers NI. HOPE would like to recruit 10 volunteers to assist with this project, to provide a 'buddy' system and mentoring to the young people through this programme. Volunteers will be based mainly at the Playtrail, two days a week (four hours each day) and will receive any necessary training, mileage/transport costs and lunch. Further information from Christine, HOPE Transition Project, The Playtrail, 15 Racecourse Road, Derry BT48 7RE, tel: 028 7136 8173, Email: [christinedoherty@playtrail.com](mailto:christinedoherty@playtrail.com).

## Volunteer with the Woodland Trust



The Woodland Trust is seeking volunteers to help develop its new flagship site - Burntollet Wood, just outside L'derry, in the picturesque Faughan Valley. Here the Trust has ambitious plans to plant over 36,000 native trees and with tree planting beginning this November, the Trust is keen to hear from people who would like to play a part. To volunteer or simply find out more, contact Michelle McCaughtry on 028 9127 5787 or email [michellemccaughtry@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:michellemccaughtry@woodlandtrust.org.uk) For a closer look at Burntollet Wood, visit [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/burntollet](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/burntollet)



Northern Ireland Environment Link (NIEL) is the networking and forum body for organisations interested in the environment of Northern Ireland. It represents 58 full members (voluntary organisations) and 52 associate members (statutory organisations, companies or individuals).

Full members collectively represent over 89,000 individuals, 262 subsidiary groups, have an annual turnover of nearly £70 million and manage over 314,000 acres of land. Members are involved in environmental issues of all types and at all levels from the local community to the global environment.

## Full Members

Action Renewables  
ARENA Network  
Belfast Healthy Cities  
Belfast Hills Partnership  
British Council Northern Ireland  
Bryson Charitable Group  
Campaign for the Protection of the Countryside NI  
Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust  
Cavehill Conservation Campaign  
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health  
County Armagh Wildlife Society  
Colin Glen Trust  
Community Development & Health Network  
Community Places  
Conservation Volunteers Northern Ireland  
Council for British Archaeology  
Ecoseeds  
Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group Northern Ireland  
Federation of City Farms & Community Gardens  
Field Studies Council  
Forest of Belfast  
Grassroots Conservation Group  
Green Action Belfast  
Greencastle Area Residents Group  
Holywell Trust  
Institute of Public Health in Ireland  
International Tree Foundation Northern Ireland  
Irish Hare Society  
Lough Neagh & Lower Bann Advisory Committees  
Lough Neagh Partnership  
Monkstown Community Forum  
Mountaineering Council of Ireland  
Mourne Heritage Trust  
North Belfast Partnership  
NI Badger Group  
NI Cycling Initiative  
NI Energy Agency  
NI Rural Development Council  
Rural Community Network  
Speedwell Trust  
Supporting Communities NI  
Sustainable NI  
Sustrans  
Talnoy Avian Care Trust  
The National Trust  
The Organic Centre  
The Rural College  
Tidy Northern Ireland  
Ulster Angling Federation  
Ulster Archaeological Society  
Ulster Architectural Heritage Society  
Ulster Coarse Fishing Federation  
Ulster Society for the Protection of the Countryside  
Ulster Wildlife Trust  
Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust  
Waste & Resources Action Programme  
Woodland Trust  
WWF Northern Ireland

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