



## Climate South East Bulletin July 2009

Please share the information in this update with colleagues in your organisation.

**If you'd like to receive further information, join one of our groups, or include your news in the next newsletter, please contact us.**

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**Climate South East partners can register on our website: [www.climatesoutheast.org.uk](http://www.climatesoutheast.org.uk).**

### Partners' News and Events:

**CSE to become a Community Interest Company** Climate South East partners voted overwhelmingly in favour (37 for, 0 against, 1 abstention) of the proposal that the partnership become a Community Interest Company. We aim to launch the new CSE CIC at our AGM on September 15. In the meantime, we will be seeking directors. **If you would be interested in becoming a director of CSE**, please get in touch with [Matthew](#) or [Kristen](#).

**Isle of Wight re-Joins CSE** We are pleased to welcome the Isle of Wight Council back to the partnership after a year-long absence. Matthew will be taking part in a workshop in July with IoW councillors focusing on National Indicators 186 and 188.

**UKCP09** On June 18 the Government launched UK Climate Projections 09, which provides the latest information about how climate change may affect the UK during the 21st century. The [UKCP09 portal](#) contains key findings, maps and graphs, reports on observed trends and future projections, customisable information, and guidance. The data should provide valuable support to the decision-making process of anyone responsible for forward planning in the public, private, and voluntary sectors.

**New LDF Climate Change Guide** The South East England Partnership Board (formerly the Regional Assembly) earlier this month published [new guidance](#) to help local authority planners in the South East incorporate the climate change mitigation and adaptation elements of the South East Plan into their Local Development Frameworks.

**NEF Training Days** The National Energy Foundation is offering training sessions and seminars on renewables, including PV, wind turbines, wood fuel heating, and CHP. More details [here](#).

**Greening Campaign Vacancy** The Greening Campaign has expanded rapidly and is now able to offer a full-time (initial 3-month contract) post to a person who is motivated and enthusiastic about working with communities. See full details [here](#).

**Photo Caption Contest** Thanks to Mark Saunders of Vale of White Horse District Council, who provided the winning caption for April's competition. Click [here](#) to see his caption and to view the next photo. The best caption (as judged by CSE staff and associates) will receive a "really quite cool and climate-related" prize. The judges' decision is final and probably rather random. Please send your own photos for future competitions!

### **Other News and Events:**

**Consultation: Adaptation Reporting Power** The Climate Change Act 2008 gave the government power to ask public sector organisations and others (such as energy and water companies) to report on their assessment of the risks climate change poses to them and the actions they plan to take in response. This power is known as the Adaptation Reporting Power. This [consultation](#) covers the main questions about the proposed use of the new power, and seeks your views on the proposed list of priority reporting authorities, draft direction to authorities, draft statutory guidance to reporting authorities, and the costs and benefits associated with the proposals. The closing date for responses to the consultation is Wednesday, September 9.

**Consultation: Adaptation of Coastal Communities** This [consultation](#) "sets out ideas for how coastal communities can successfully adapt to the impacts of coastal change, and government's role in supporting this." Closing date is September 25.

**Developing CLG Planning Guidance for Water** This CIWEM-CLG conference on July 8 in London gives participants the opportunity to shape the CLG planning and water guidance. Local authority planning professionals and water professionals responsible for flooding, water resources, water quality, and regeneration and development can see the full programme and book a place [here](#).

**Adaptation for Critical Civil Infrastructure** July 15, 2009 at the Radisson SAS Portman Hotel, London. This [one-day conference](#) will help businesses understand climate change in order to predict risk, improve resilience, and plan for different scenarios.

**RESOLVE Seminar** Sustainable living: working towards attractive alternatives? July 23, Surrey University, 1:00pm. This seminar will look at how to make truly sustainable lifestyles attractive to contemporary affluent "consumer" cultures, given that "moving towards sustainability is unhelpful, even a distraction, unless we in some sense arrive." For more information and to register, contact [Gemma Cook](#).

**Managing the Health Effects of Climate Change** This Lancet [report](#), released in May, says that climate change could be the biggest global health threat of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Cool It Schools** is an [online global climate change project](#) for schools and institutions working with young people. Teachers and project leaders can register for free on the website to start their own online showcases in which to exhibit pupils' projects. The website contains information about climate change, as well as "suggested topics" put together with the help of the Royal Society's climate change team. Cool it Schools aims to present highlights from the showcases as a film at COP15 in December and other International venues. Cool it Schools will form an archive of children's ideas and feelings about climate change, available to be used as an educational resource in classrooms around the world.

**FAO Report on Mitigation and Adaptation Potential of Sustainable Farming Systems** The IPCC 4<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report found that agriculture accounts for about 10-12 percent of global GHG emissions and made four major recommendations about how agriculture could mitigate its impact. [This report](#) summarizes these and compares them with scientific data from agriculture to assess the mitigation potential of organic farming. Hat tip: [Tara Garnett](#)

**BUILD UP** is a new European [portal](#) for energy efficiency in buildings. It aims to be a resource for building professionals, occupants, and local authorities sharing information and good practice about reducing energy consumption in buildings.

**Insider Voices: Human Dimensions of Low-Carbon Technology** This [free event](#) (July 14 at the Bailbrook House in Bath) will feature seven insider accounts of low carbon initiatives involving industry and local authorities and show how managers and policy makers can make practical use of technological transition theories. The aim is to facilitate creative dialogue and reflection so that delegates can apply the project's learning to their own low carbon initiatives. As a particular bonus, there will also be a screening of the [Hard Rain Picture Show](#) by Mark Edwards.

**Climate Bill Narrowly Passes in U.S. House** The U.S. House of Representatives passed the (Waxman-Markey) American Clean Energy and Security Act 219 votes to 212 after an intense lobbying campaign by the Obama White House. The bill requires a 17 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020, mainly through a cap-and-trade system which would allow manufacturers, utilities, oil refineries, and others to trade pollution permits. Greenpeace says the bill is [too weak](#). The Pew Center calls it "[an historic turning point](#)." WWF: "[Not everything we need, but a critical starting point](#)." Rocky Mountain Institute: "...[will not break our dependence on oil](#)." The bill still requires passage by the Senate in order to become law.

## Partnership Projects, Groups, Meetings, Events

**Climate South East Executive Committee** This group is open to Executive Committee members only and steers the strategic direction and work of the partnership. Sector group chairs also attend Executive Committee meetings twice a year. If there are any issues you wish to bring to the Committee's or the Chair's attention, please notify [Matthew](#) or [Kristen](#).

If you are interested in becoming an Executive Committee member please let us know. Elections are held at our AGM each September.

2009 Executive Committee Meetings:

18 August  
13 October  
8 December (with working group chairs)

## Working Groups:

CSE has a number of groups working on issues within particular sectors. Please let us know if you wish to attend any of these groups Encourage colleagues within your organisation who have a relevant interest to join in and help steer sector work. Partners are also welcome to suggest ideas for new working groups. Just get in touch with [Matthew](#) or [Kristen](#).

For meeting dates and papers or for other information, see the [Working Groups](#) page on our website (partners can register to log in). Or contact [Kristen](#) for details or to register to attend.

**Planning Working Group:** The Climate South East Planning group works to ensure that measures to improve resilience to climate change impacts and to prevent further ecological degradation are implemented in planning policy at local, regional, national, and European levels. At its meeting on June 11, the group heard about Eastleigh's sustainable SPD, Brighton & Hove's experience with sustainability and planning, the Environment Agency's Environmental Infrastructure Methodology, the new SE England Partnership Board and changes to regional planning, the Regional Vulnerability Assessment, the new CC Guide for LDF Planners, and Woking's peer support programme to build capacity to address climate change through planning. The group is refining its work plan and seeking feedback about ways it can support regional planners. **The next meeting of the Planning group is scheduled for September 2.**

**Tourism Working Group:** The Tourism group brings together Climate SE members with a particular interest in tourism and a commitment to work toward a more sustainable and climate-resilient tourism sector. Currently CSE and Tourism South East are working with counterparts in the South West to refresh the [adaptation guidance](#) for tourism businesses—which we produced jointly two years ago—and turn it into a web-based tool.

**Biodiversity Working Group:** The Biodiversity group met in May and agreed to sketch out specifications for two projects. The first is a scoping study looking at "climate-proofing" the regional biodiversity strategy, focusing particularly on what land managers want/need to know about safeguarding habitats and species. The second project would identify ways that CSE could support local authority partners in making links between NIs 188 (adaptation) and 197 (preserving biodiversity). **The next Biodiversity group meeting is scheduled for September 29.**

**Business & Economy Working Group:** The group is currently working on a Defra-funded project aimed at providing simple messages about climate change adaptation, tailored to small businesses in the food and drink sector, which can be incorporated into existing sources of support and guidance for SMEs. We are working to produce a website with useful information, guidance, and case studies covering a series of sub-sectors: Hospitality, Catering, Retail, Growing, Processing, and Wholesale. We are currently seeking good examples of ways in which businesses in these sub-sectors have taken action to prepare for climate impacts.

**Emissions Monitoring Working Group:** The EMG seeks to support local authorities and others in monitoring and reporting their greenhouse gas emissions as part of their obligations under NI 185 and 186. The group met in April and agreed a [vision statement](#) and [work plan](#). Members also agreed to scope and collate information about existing tools and guidance being used by LAs. We encourage all local authority partners and non-partners to take a few moments to fill out [this survey](#) to help with this effort.

**Communities Working Group:** CSE and Partners are preparing to begin mapping community activity throughout the south east that addresses the causes and effects of climate change. This work will help support local authorities and community action by identifying and sharing good initiatives, sources of funding, gaps that we can address, and ways of capturing activity that are relevant to local authorities. We will be contacting partners in the next few weeks and hope to hear from you all! **The next meeting of the Communities group is scheduled for August 6.**

**Resilient Organisations Project/PACT:** The National Energy Foundation and Crawley Borough Council participated in a pilot project seeking to determine the feasibility of having Climate SE partners use the PACT organisational capacity building tool to review each other. Doogie Black

of Climate Sense led on this work, assisted by Kristen. CSE is now working with the PACT development team to identify next steps, including ways of making PACT accessible to CSE partners. For more information, contact [Kristen](#).

**UKIRCCG** The UK Interregional Climate Change Group comprises all of the regional climate change partnerships in the UK, with UKCIP as secretariat. The partnerships meet about three times per year to exchange updates and identify opportunities to work together on particular projects. The group met in Birmingham on June 10.

**DCReASE:** Delivering Carbon Reduction Across the South East is a networking group of organisations with the common purpose of reducing carbon emissions in the region, focusing primarily on the domestic sector. The mission of the group is to provide regional co-ordination and engagement for the implementation of carbon reduction measures and to help the region meet its climate change and fuel poverty targets.

**LRAP:** CSE represents all of the UK's regional climate change partnerships on the Local and Regional Adaptation Partnership board, whose role is to provide effective support at the local and regional level for climate change adaptation. Defra asked Government Office for London (GOL) to convene the LRAP board to produce a coordinated and effective three-year support programme to improve delivery of climate change adaptation. More information is available [here](#).

**Climate South East AGM:** September 15, 2009 (Location TBA). Hold the date!