



## Climate South East Bulletin March 2010

### News in Brief

**Welcome to Rother District Council and Portsmouth City Council** We are delighted to welcome Rother District Council as the newest member of Climate South East and we are pleased to welcome Portsmouth City Council back to the partnership. We look forward to working with them!

**Launch of Resilient Organisations II** Thirteen members of CSE are testing the new questionnaire version of the PACT organisational capacity building tool. [Read more](#)

**Engaging Businesses** We have commissioned a [case study](#) and events toolkit for anyone seeking to engage small businesses on climate change. This builds on a successful Oxfordshire/Federation of Small Businesses road show last year. [Read more](#)

**Engaging Businesses II** Partner AEA is working on our behalf to help businesses prepare for climate change impacts. We obtained £50k of funding from Defra for three exciting projects. [Read more](#)

**“Wriggle Room” Project** Members of our Biodiversity sector group have produced a project brief to restore links between riparian habitats in the Adur and Ouse river catchments to allow space for ecology to adapt to climate change impacts. This will help land managers looking at how to incorporate climate change adaptation. [Read more](#)

**Community Engagement** Our community action survey identified communities around the South East that are preparing for the effects of climate change. [Read more](#)

**ClimatePrepared Adaptation Web Tool** [more...](#)

**Tackling Climate Change Together** [more...](#)

**Tomorrow’s Kent Conference 2010** [more...](#)

**Report: Climate Tipping Points and the Insurance Industry** [more...](#)

**Emissions from the UK Food Sector** [more...](#)

[Climate Change and Ocean Uptake of CO<sub>2</sub> more...](#)

[How to Handle the Skeptics more...](#)

[From the U.S.: Al Gore Would Like to Wish Away Climate Change more...](#)

## News In Full

**Launch of Resilient Organisations II** Thirteen members of CSE are testing the new questionnaire version of the PACT organisational capacity-building tool. Earlier work with PACT highlighted problems with the amount of resource and expertise necessary to carry out full reviews. In order to address these, the PACT advisory group has been developing a simple, questionnaire-based approach which we expect will mitigate the resource problem while still helping organisations improve their ability to face the challenges that climate change presents. The aim of the pilot is to identify partner organisations' strengths and needs so that we can match them up, facilitate learning, and better prioritize the CSE work plan to meet partners' needs. This work takes place alongside and in consultation with other PACT work, including a similar questionnaire being used by Alexander Ballard Ltd to measure adaptive capability as part of the National Climate Change Risk Assessment.

**Engaging Businesses** We have commissioned a [case study](#) and events toolkit for anyone seeking to engage small businesses on climate change. This builds on a successful Oxfordshire/Federation of Small Businesses road show last year. The road show, "Make Money from Climate Change," promoted an entrepreneurial response to climate change and attracted some 300 business owners from across Oxfordshire. Its aim was to inspire businesses to explore the potential opportunities in helping customers reduce their ecological footprint and prepare for a changing climate. [Contact us](#) for a copy of the toolkit.

**Engaging Businesses II** Partner AEA is working on our behalf to help businesses prepare for climate change impacts. We obtained £50k of funding from Defra for three exciting projects. The first will focus on a group of transport authorities in the South East affected by the [Adaptation Reporting Power](#), provide an example of good practice in the form of a 'walk-through' of the reporting process, and provide further sector and regionally focused guidance in a workshop to help organisations work together where possible on climate risk and adaptation.

The second project will test **simple messages for small and medium enterprises** (SMEs) linking resource efficiency, carbon reduction, business continuity and climate resilience using existing business advice programmes (Envirowise). The aim is to provide clear guidance for those who advise businesses about how to engage SMEs successfully using current environmental issues as platforms and links.

The third project, which we are running in partnership with the London Development Agency, seeks to **Develop High-Level Messages for Senior Business Leaders**. Using the Green 500 network, it will explore how climate risk and adaptation are viewed at board level within large companies and examine the motives for considering climate risk.

All three projects will be complete by the end of March. Please feel free to [get in touch with us](#) if you'd like more information about any of them.

**“Wriggle Room” Project** A sub-group of our Biodiversity sector group looking at how to incorporate climate change adaptation into practical advice for land managers went away and produced a brief for a project that will restore links between riparian habitats in the Adur and Ouse river catchments and allow space for ecology to adapt to climate change impacts. This project will also help to deliver additional environmental benefits increasing space for flood water storage, and improving water quality. Other partners in the project include the Environment Agency, East Sussex CC, FWAG, and Natural England.

**Community Engagement** Our community action survey identified communities around the South East that are preparing for the effects of climate change. We will be examining the results in coming weeks to inform partners' efforts to engage with communities, link up community initiatives, highlight best practice, identify the kinds of support needed by local activists, and highlight sources of support for local climate action.

**ClimatePrepared Adaptation Web Tool** The [interactive web-based adaptation tool](#) for tourism businesses went live on November 24. We are delighted about this collaboration between the South East and South West climate change partnerships and tourism boards.

**Tackling Climate Change Together** The Surrey Improvement Partnership has funded [this project](#), which aims to improve capacity locally and regionally to deliver against climate change targets.

**Tomorrow's Kent Conference 2010** The 2010 Tomorrow's Kent Conference, [“Keeping the Lights On,”](#) will explore the tensions around moving toward affordable, low-carbon, low-impact reliable energy sources (and using them efficiently). The outputs of the day will drive Protect Kent's campaigning and education agenda.

**Report: Climate Tipping Points and the Insurance Industry** WWF and Allianz Insurance released [a study](#) in November examining the impacts of ecological “tipping points” and the implications for the insurance sector.

**Emissions from the UK Food Sector** The Food Climate Research Network and WWF-UK have published *How Low Can We Go? An assessment of greenhouse gas emissions from the UK food system and the scope for reduction by 2050*. You can find it [here](#).

**Climate Change and Ocean Uptake of CO<sub>2</sub>** The Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership has published [this briefing note](#), which highlights the role of oceans in storing CO<sub>2</sub> and how climate change may affect the exchange of CO<sub>2</sub> between the oceans and the atmosphere.

**How to Handle the Skeptics** Skeptical Science is a [website](#) dedicated to examining the skeptics' arguments—do they have any scientific basis? What does the peer-reviewed science say?—and presents ammunition against the ten most-used skeptical arguments.

**From the U.S.: Al Gore Would Like to Wish Away Climate Change** From his recent [NY Times op-ed](#): 'From the standpoint of governance, what is at stake is our ability to use the rule of law as an instrument of human redemption. After all has been said and so little done, the truth about the climate crisis — inconvenient as ever — must still be faced.'

**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).

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