



Climate South East Bulletin September 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.

Matthew Bird: matthew.bird@climatesoutheast.org.uk tel: 07824 431 389
Kristen Guida: kristen.guida@climatesoutheast.org.uk tel : 01483 501 360
Carol Magras: carol.magras@climatesoutheast.org.uk tel: 01483 470 136

Climate South East partners can register on our website: www.climatesoutheast.org.uk.

Partners' News and Events:

CSE Now CIC Climate South East is now officially a Community Interest Company (registration no. 6980878). We see this as good news for our partners and for tackling climate change in the South East. Being a CIC means more transparency in our operations, a clearly defined sense of purpose, and the potential to bid for funding on behalf of our partners. CSE's partners will continue to direct our work programme; we believe that a partnership approach is the most effective response to the challenges of climate change.

Climate South East AGM: September 15, 2009 at the Friends' Meeting House, Brighton. In a last-minute change of programme, Ed Gillespie of Futerra Sustainability Communications will open the day with a thought-provoking talk about how we communicate the climate challenge. In these days when the economy, wars, terrorism, and resurgent climate skeptics are all vying for our attention, how can we make sure that the important messages about climate change are getting through? Alastair Brown of UKCIP will talk about the relevance of the new UK Climate Projections for the South East, and workshops will assess partners' needs in using the projections to support forward planning and decision-making. Partners will also be electing new members of the Executive Committee. **WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS!** If you are interested in becoming an Executive Committee member, or have questions about what the role entails, please [get in touch](#). Elections are held at our AGM in September. If you would like to come along, please [contact us](#).

Hampshire PACT Regional Pilot Hampshire County Council has received funding from Improvement & Efficiency South East (IESE) to support further use of Hampshire PACT on a regional basis. The Council plans to use this funding to provide PACT reviews to a range of public and private sector organisations and to encourage shared learning across the region. PACT is the organisational adaptive capacity building framework developed through the [ESPACE Project](#) by Hampshire CC and Alexander Ballard Ltd. For more information about PACT, [contact us](#).

Living With Environmental Change Debate Our own Matthew Bird will be on the panel for a lively discussion on September 9 at 6:30pm at the Stoke Pub in Guildford. Topics will include Myths and Truths, Low Carbon Society, Protecting our Natural and Cultural Heritage, and What Can We Do?

Hastings Facing Up to Climate Change Come along on September 25 to hear about examples of how Hastings and other European cities are adapting to climate change. Hastings Borough Council is hosting this conference as part of its work under the Future Cities European Interreg IVb project. Contact [Jane Dodson](#) for details or to book a place.

Sustainability Centre Open Day On October 10, 11:00-3:00, the [Sustainability Centre](#) will open its doors to the public. All will have a chance to view projects and plans for the future: the development of a derelict hostel building, the building of eco cabins in the woods, and the plans for an outdoor classroom. This should be a fun day out for all the family, with the chance to walk around the grounds, visit the restaurant, watch green woodworking, firewood and woodcraft demonstrations and engage the children in wilderness skills and craft activities. There will be lots of informational flyers and the bookshop will be open to point people in the right direction for growing projects, installation of solar panels, compost loos and much more. Entry is free. Contact [Janet Hammerton](#) for more details.

Brighton Eco Open Houses From September 10-13, [six houses](#) will be open to the public to showcase environmental improvements made by homeowners, architects, renewables installers, community groups, and local eco builders.

Aylesbury Vale's Yahoo-Funded Trees In accordance with DECC's new Quality Assurance Scheme for carbon offsetting, the Sustainability team at Aylesbury Vale District Council has launched a pilot project in which using Yahoo! as the official search engine on the council's home page will generate revenue for tree planting. Find out more [here](#).

Isn't it Bonkers? Lewes District Council, in cooperation with Common Cause and other local environment groups, is organising this event to encourage people to make small and achievable changes like reducing energy use, cutting water consumption, or buying local food. The day will feature "zones" dedicated to Transport, Waste, Energy, Biodiversity, and Water; children's activities; local food and drink; and other activities. September 26 in Newhaven. For more information, contact Sally Foote at 01273 612 539, or see the [website](#).

Climate Change: Adapting for Tomorrow [This report](#), launched in July by the Environment Agency, sets out the challenges of preparing for a changing climate, the policy framework for meeting the challenges, and case studies illustrating what is already being done to help businesses, public bodies, communities, and the natural environment adapt.

Photo Caption Contest Thanks to Andrew Tucker of the Greater London Authority, who provided the winning caption for July'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:

Projections in Practice Week GOSE will host a week of events aimed at raising awareness of the 2009 UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) and providing training on the software. November 2-6 in Guildford and Reading. You can see the schedule and book a place [here](#).

Wind Turbines in Surrey? Could it Happen? The 2009 British Science Festival will host a debate on September 8 about the challenges of climate change and the potential of the Surrey Hills AONB as a source of renewable energy. The event is free and will take place at the University of Surrey in Guildford. The panel includes Nick King of SEEDA, Hugh Broom of the Surrey National Farmers Union, and Neil Maltby of the Surrey Hills Society, and will be chaired by the BBC's environment correspondent Tom Heap. Book your place at www.britishsciencefestival.org or call 02070 194 947.

Environmental Audit Committee Inquiry: Adapting to Climate Change [This inquiry](#) aims to assess whether the government is working effectively to embed adaptation into its own programmes, policies, and decision-making, as well as those of the wider public and private sectors. The Committee will also examine whether climate change adaptation is sufficiently funded and supported, and the potential barriers to adaptation. Submissions should be sent in by October 5, 2009. The Committee will likely begin taking oral evidence in November.

LARCI Placement Fellowship Scheme The Local Authority Research Council Initiative announced a pilot placement fellowship scheme aimed at helping help local authorities meet key strategic challenges. Local Authorities can put forward projects which require access to expertise, and then the scheme provides the opportunity for an academic researcher to work within the authority, or for an authority staff member to work in a university. Placements are for up to one month. More details are available [here](#), or see the [LARCI website](#).

A Changing Climate for Maritime Biodiversity Our [counterparts in the South West](#), along with Natural England, Biodiversity SW, the Marine Biological Association, and the Marine Environmental Change Network, will hold a conference on November 5 to address issues around maritime biodiversity and adapting to climate change. The event will be at the Met Office in Exeter. More details and booking info [here](#).

Climate Change as Security Threat The U.S. Defense Department has concluded that in the next 20 or 30 years, climate change-driven food shortages, water crises, and floods in vulnerable global regions [may demand American humanitarian or military response](#). The national security argument will undoubtedly come into play in September, when the Senate is expected to vote on climate change legislation passed by the House of Representatives in June.

Partnership Projects, Groups, Meetings, Events

Climate South East AGM: September 15, 2009 at the Friends' Meeting House, Brighton. If you would like to come along, please [contact us](#).

Climate South East CIC 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](#).

The Directors Climate South East CIC has five directors who serve in a personal capacity. They are Matt Beale-Collins, Bev Draig, Justin Goodwin, Peter Midgley, and Phil Sivell. [Read their bios](#).

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

Emissions Monitoring Working Group: At its last meeting on August 13, the group reviewed the results so far of the [Emissions Monitoring survey](#) of the tools available to help local authorities monitor greenhouse gas emissions under NIs 185 and 186. Those results, along with the partners' views about issues arising from reporting on the indicators, will inform a joint CSE response to the government's consultation on the indicators. **We urge as many local authorities as possible to complete the survey to join in this response.** Your responses will help us communicate to Government your views on emissions monitoring in the SE and contribute constructively to the future design of better and more efficient systems for monitoring and reporting. Because you can respond anonymously, you can answer frankly and CSE can represent your views without naming names!

Communities Working Group: The group met on August 6 to discuss various projects and potential work around coastal communities and climate change adaptation. Also on the agenda was the plan to map community activity in the region that addresses the causes and effects of climate change. This work is intended to 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.

Planning Working Group: At its meeting on June 11, the Planning 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.

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 is investigating 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 area of the hospitality sector, which can be incorporated into existing sources of support and guidance for SMEs.

Resilient Organisations Project: CSE and Doogie Black of Climate Sense recently completed a pilot peer-to-peer review process between partners using the PACT organisational capacity building tool. The National Energy Foundation and Crawley Borough Council participated in the trial, which seeks to determine the feasibility of having Climate SE partners use the tool to review each other. We are now examining ways to take the learning from that and other regional PACT work. For more information, contact [Kristen](#).

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 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.

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

Consultations

We invite partners to contribute to joint partnership responses to government consultations. This can be a good opportunity for partners to present a unified position on important issues. Some open consultations with relevance to climate change are listed [here](#). Please [let us know](#) if you are responding to a consultation, would like CSE to prepare a joint response, or know of other consultations we should be addressing.]

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