

The Scottish Green List

The Scottish Green List launch

Awards Ceremony at
The Scotsman Offices
108 Holyrood Road
(opposite Scottish
Parliament)
6-8pm, 22nd April
**Reserve your place
here**



Issue 1 February 2009

Hello and welcome to the new look bi-monthly Scottish Sustainable Development Forum newsletter, bringing news of the Sustainable Development Commission Scotland and the Government's Climate Challenge Fund.

SSDF News: The Scottish Green List

Nominate your sustainability champion now!

SSDF is looking for the unsung heroes of sustainable development in Scotland and has opened nominations for a top 50 which will be published in The Scotsman.

"The Scottish Green List is a way of raising the profile of individuals who really make a difference to how sustainable Scotland is. The economic difficulties make this a crucial time to keep focused and make the right choices for our future," says chair of the judging panel, James Curran.

The judges want to champion those who can really inspire. They will be looking for individuals who are making links between tackling environmental and social issues, and who challenge status quo.

The hope is to have hundreds of nominations across all sectors of Scottish society and all ages and backgrounds. The list will only be a success if it manages to capture what is going on across Scotland with regards to sustainable development.

"We are looking for people who have influenced organisations from within, or worked on the ground in their communities, and that means we are not first and foremost looking for chief executives," says Curran.

With this scheme the SSDF wants to recognise excellence in sustainability across many different fields, making the Scottish Green List an excellent networking opportunity. SSDF hopes all the nominees will be interested in taking their ideas to a wider audience, giving sustainable development a real boost in Scotland.

"We are all very excited to be part of this initiative to honour the brilliant work done by so many in local groups, organisations and business," says the Chair.

The list will be published by the Scotsman. The winners will be announced at an event in Edinburgh on 22nd April.

The online nomination form is now available at www.ssdforum.org.uk. Be sure to nominate those you think need recognition and to invite all your friends and colleagues to nominate!

SSDF Spring Conference — Wednesday 22 April

What can we learn from the Scottish Environmental Attitudes and Behaviour Survey?

What are the implications for sustainability in the credit crunch?

How can we close the gap between attitudes and behavior?

Following the success of SSDF's booked-out conference on infrastructure and behavior change last autumn, the SSDF spring event will offer an afternoon of talks and learning on environmental attitudes and behavior, with speeches from Scottish Government Environment Director Richard Wakeford, alongside other experts and practitioners.

Buffet lunch followed by afternoon discussion, Dynamic Earth.
Places are free but are limited to 100 people— [register now](#)

Climate Challenge Fund



Growing food in the polytunnel on Barra and Vatersay (above) supported by the Climate Challenge Fund means islanders don't have to import so many mainland

Shelagh Young, Project Manager at the SDC says, "Keep an eye on the Climate Alliance website for a programme of learning and development events"



Farmers markets can boost local economies

How can I apply to the Climate Challenge Fund?

For more information:

Email ccfenquiries@ksbscotland.org.uk

Tel: 01786 471333

www.infoscotland.com/climatechallengefund

Climate Challenge Fund Update

The Climate Challenge Fund is helping Scottish communities slash their carbon emissions. We'll report on its progress and activities in future issues of the newsletter.

What is the Climate Challenge Fund?

The three-year fund is aimed at communities to help them develop projects to cut emissions. So far more than 300 expressions of interest have been received by grant administrators Keep Scotland Beautiful.

What will the carbon savings be?

It is estimated that the carbon emissions saved by the current CCF participants will exceed 200,000 tons CO₂, over three years - not including the four 'exemplar' projects which have been selected as case studies to show the way.

Do all the projects focus on saving energy?

No. Carbon reduction must be at the heart of every proposal but projects can involve a range of actions from helping communities to use less energy in their homes to local food production.

How much money does it have?

The Scottish Government is offering £27.4 million from 2008 to 2011 to enable communities to come forward with their own solutions to make a significant reduction in carbon emissions. The maximum bid per project is £1 million.

What community projects are eligible for funding?

Community groups, schools, and local not-for-profit organisations can all apply. Projects are encouraged to be ambitious and aim for at least a 30% emissions reduction over three years. Priority will be given to ideas that help strengthen local economies, improve community cohesion and other social objectives.

Communities power down to tackle climate change

Working in partnership with the Climate Challenge Fund

Another project that has received funding is the Community Power Down consortium which comprises 27 community groups across Scotland from Shetland to the borders. Community Power Down was awarded £1,494,579 for projects ranging from energy audits to community training and the development of local markets and allotments.

There will be strong links with the Energy Saving Scotland Advice Centre (ESSac) network to make the most of their expertise. This is exactly the kind of partnership that the Fund is keen to promote: where the community is the driving force behind the project but gains significant support from the expertise of other organisations.

Community Carbon Exemplars

Early CCF projects lead the way for Scottish communities

One of the more ambitious plans of the 56 projects that have been currently approved comes from the Perth and Kinross Community Carbon Reduction Project - one of the fund's exemplar projects.

Over the next three years the Comrie Development Trust will launch a range of carbon cutting activities. These include a street-by-street insulation and energy advice programme, boosting community composting, increasing local food production and consumption, establishing renewable energy sources for community buildings and developing a local transport plan.

Part of this project will be rolled out through Alyth and Letham in a street-by-street insulation and energy efficiency project. If successful, this model could have the potential to be applied more widely. These activities will be backed by the sustainable development of 90 acres of land at Cultybraggan Army Camp purchased under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act last year. The land at the camp gives the opportunity to create green buildings for local workspace and manufacturing, allotments for local food production and leisure and recreation opportunities.



The SDC Scotland just held a series of Climate Change seminars in Parliament

OVER TO YOU

Do you have stories you would like to share?

Whether you're involved in a Climate Challenge Fund project, or have been to an SSDF event, or simple want to comment on the newsletter—please write in, we'd love to hear from you.

The SSDF is about bringing together people and ideas about sustainability in Scotland, and we want to promote good practice and share learning, so that people can turn good ideas into reality.

Next steps for the Climate Challenge Fund...

The Fund and its supporting alliance are focusing on helping give communities the training and support they need to access money to deliver robust projects. They're also helping connect the learning between different projects so that communities deliver the best activities they can.

Acting on Scotland's Five Sustainable Development Challenges

In its second assessment the Sustainable Development Commission set Five Challenges for the Scottish Government. Now we are starting a programme of work to support the government in addressing the challenges:

To articulate clearly how Sustainable Economic Growth is compatible with sustainable development;

To move Scotland to a low carbon economy over a short timescale;

To deliver Government action equal to the scale of the fuel poverty challenge;

To deliver the right infrastructure to foster sustainable development

And to demonstrate leadership in sustainable procurement

The first element of this work will be using the Commission's UK work on *Redefining Prosperity*. A high level audience will discuss the report on 28 April in Edinburgh. There will also be meetings with members of the Government's economic policy team to highlight the report's findings and discuss its relevance to the Scottish Government's *Economic Strategy*.

Professor Jan Bebbington, Vice Chair of the Sustainable Development Commission said, "It is clear that the Scottish Government is looking to show the lead internationally in tackling problems like climate change, but there remains a worrying mismatch between the level of commitment and the scale of the sustainable development challenge Scotland faces."

The position the Scottish Government finds itself in is not unique, as many countries face the same challenge. The SDC will be working alongside Government, changing its role from scrutineer to adviser, to help explore these sustainable development challenges in more detail.

[Click here for more information about our Second Assessment.](#)

Taking the complexity out of carbon

The Scottish Climate Change Bill represents one of the most significant pieces of legislation being placed before Parliament this term, aimed at effectively tackling greenhouse gas emissions over a 40 year timescale. The proposed Bill is a complex piece of legislation, based on the best and most up to date climate science.

For the bill to succeed, future Scottish governments must develop policies that can deliver the ambitious commitments, making a high degree of agreement across Parliament crucial.

With Parliament actively being lobbied by business and NGOs on the Bill, the Sustainable Development Commission Scotland has taken on the role of providing expert, impartial information to assist MSPs.

At the end of 2008 the Commission hosted four seminars with MSPs nominated by each of the political parties. Presentations by scientists, policy makers and civil servants focussed on relevant aspects of climate change science and policy. A summary of each of these four presentations (covering greenhouse gas scenarios; the role of mitigation and adaptation; policy options to deliver the cut; and scrutiny and technical challenges associated with the Bill) is now **available online** for wider use. The SDC is making the information available to all MSPs ahead of parliamentary debates and committee meetings.

[Click here for more information](#)

The SSDF inspires action

Edinburgh Councillor turns SSDF debate into action

On 10 February, Edinburgh council approved a proposal for Green Parking Charges. The scheme, initiated by Green Environment spokesperson Steve Burgess, will create a sliding scale of charges for residents' permits according to vehicle CO2 emissions.

Steve was inspired to take action after attending an SSDF event back in 2007—where there was a discussion about councils including charging amongst their climate policies. Edinburgh Council's scheme is the first of its kind in Scotland.

Edinburgh Council backed Steve's motion for a feasibility report and transport officials recommended it was adopted. The LibDem/ SNP insisted on a public consultation, saying they were concerned about the financial burdens on motorists. But three quarters of respondents backed the scheme and the Council's Transport Infrastructure and Environment Committee then backed it.

Steve says, "The Park Green scheme in Edinburgh might not have happened without the SSDF. It's a very valuable forum for people to share ideas and experiences."

SSDF Member Profile

Every issue of the SSDF newsletter we'll be profiling one of our members. This issue, it's the turn of the Fife Diet

The Fife Diet is a local food initiative aimed at getting people on to a low-carbon diet. Members sign up to eating nothing but food from Fife. Mike Small of the Fife Diet says, "This is a celebration of local goodness, not an exercise in self-denial. Like most regions Fife has loads of fruit and vegetables, fantastic farm-reared lamb, beef, poultry and amazing seafood."

Winter Vegetable Stew with Herby Dumplings (serves four for one-two days)

For the Stew...

Oil: olive, rapeseed or butter
2+ finely sliced onions
3 cloves crushed garlic
4-5 sliced leeks
Turnips 1-2, cut into 2cm cubes
4-5 parsnips and approx 10 carrots
Half a celeriac, peeled and cubed

For the Stock...

Bay leaves – 2 or 3
Approx 1 tsp of bouillon
Splash of red or white wine
Dash of soy sauce, salt and pepper

For the Dumplings...

4 oz self raising flour
2 oz butter
a large pinch any dried or fresh herb
salt and pepper



A week's supplies from Bellfield Organ-

Fry the garlic and onion, add the leeks to the pan, some wine if it's sticking, and the bay leaves. Add the vegetables, stock ingredients and boiling water to the surface. Bring to a boil then reduce heat to simmer for approx 45 mins. Keep an eye on it.

Right at the end mix the flour, herbs, salt, pepper and butter together to breadcrumbs. Then add enough cold water to make a dough. Divide into 10-12 balls and place on the stew, put the lid tightly back on and leave to simmer for about 20 - 25 mins.

Would you like your organisation to be profiled in the future? Email us!

Mike and Karen Grant at the Fife Diet are compiling a list of seasonal recipes. If you'd like to add to the list email fifediet@yahoo.co.uk

<http://fifediet.wordpress.com>

The Fife Diet aims to:

- Bring people together to eat good local food
- Boost the local community of food producers
- Make fresh organic produce more widely available
- Help each other re-learn to eat seasonally
- Challenge the insanity of food miles

To join—whether you can eat all of your food from Fife or not—contact fifediet@yahoo.co.uk You will be sent details of local suppliers and put on the monthly e-newsletter