



National Assembly for **Wales**
Cynulliad Cenedlaethol **Cymru**

Climate Change and Sustainability Current Awareness

This paper provides information on recent events, publications and legislative developments concerning climate change, sustainability and other environmental issues which may be of interest to Assembly Members.

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Climate Change and Sustainability Current Awareness

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Coverage

This paper provides information on recent events, publications and legislative developments concerning climate change, sustainability and other environmental issues which may be of interest to Assembly Members. The electronic version of this paper contains hyperlinks to relevant websites.

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1. Consultations

1.1 *Welsh Assembly Government*

[Consultation on maintenance dredging and disposal in the Mostyn Approach Channels by the Port of Mostyn Ltd](#)

The Port of Mostyn Ltd has applied to the Marine and Fisheries Agency for consent to dredge the inner approach channel to the Port of Mostyn and to deposit the dredged material in Mostyn Deep. The Welsh Assembly Government is inviting comments on their proposals. The consultation closes on 24 October 2008.

[Consultation on proposals to revise Woodlands for Wales: The Welsh Assembly Government's Strategy for Trees and Woodlands](#)

Woodlands for Wales is a 50 year strategy for trees and woodlands in Wales, first published in 2001. The Welsh Assembly Government invites comments on proposals for a revised Strategy. This consultation aims to look at the contributions trees and woodlands can make to improving the quality of life for the people of Wales. The consultation will close on 14th October 2008.

[South Wales Air quality action plan consultation](#)

The Welsh Assembly Government is inviting responses to its consultation on air quality action plans for zones in Wales and the South Wales air quality action plan, which includes a local plan of action for Neath Port Talbot. The consultation closes on 10 October.

[Planning Policy Changes to Support Sustainable Development in Rural Areas: Meeting Housing Needs](#)

The Welsh Assembly Government seeks comments on drafting planning policy in the following areas: essential dwellings to meet the legitimate needs of rural businesses; affordable housing in rural areas; and Low Impact Development (LID). The consultation closes on 10 October 2008.

1.2 *The Scottish Government*

[Framework for the development and deployment of renewable energy](#)

The Scottish Government in cooperation with the Forum for Renewable Energy Development in Scotland (FREDS) has launched a consultation on the renewable energy framework. The proposed framework should contribute to the Scottish element of the UK

national action plan for renewable energy if and when the proposed EU directive on renewable energy comes into force. The closing date for responses is 1 December 2008.

[Improving the energy performance of existing non-domestic buildings](#)

The consultation sets out proposals for primary legislation on the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions from existing non-domestic buildings, the assessment of the energy performance of non-domestic buildings and the implementation of measures to reduce carbon emissions. At this stage, the Scottish Government is seeking views on which measures are required and the general principles underpinning such measures, with a view to the introduction of broad enabling powers. The closing date for comment is November 24 2008.

1.3 Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

[Local authority environmental regulation of industrial plant: 2009/10 fees and charges](#)

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has launched a consultation on a revision of the prescribed fees and charging scheme in England which specifies the fees and charges to be levied by local authorities to recover the full cost of undertaking functions under regulation 65 of the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) 2007.

The Environmental Permitting Regulations 2007 provide for the setting of fees and charges for local air pollution prevention and control (LAPPC) and local air - integrated pollution prevention and control (LA-IPPC) at levels that will recover costs to local authorities of implementing the system. This consultation relates to the LAPPC and LA-IPPC fees and charges in England. The closing date for responses is 19 December 2008.

[Waste incentive schemes: Draft recycling service guidance](#)

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has launched a consultation on waste incentive pilot schemes. New legislation in the Climate Change Bill provides for five pilot authorities in England to trial specific charge-and-rebate schemes for household waste and as a result Defra has issued guidance to assist local authorities in designing and running successful pilot schemes.

Following the informal consultation launched in June, Defra is now seeking further views on the recycling service guidance. The draft guidance proposes criteria which authorities are required to meet if they want to start a pilot scheme, and seeks views on whether these are appropriate. The deadline for responses is 14 November 2008.

[Consultation on revised waste exemptions from environmental permitting](#)

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Welsh Assembly Government and the Environment Agency are reviewing the waste exemptions from environmental permitting. The review aims to provide a risk based approach to the regulation of waste recovery and disposal operations, complementing the new environmental permitting regime.

The consultation includes proposals to increase exemptions for low risk activities. The proposals also suggest removing or restricting exemptions for higher risk waste operations by regulating them with one or more permits. The consultation also seeks views on a partial impact assessment and a draft set of regulations. The consultation will close on 23 October 2008.

1.4 Department for Transport

[Charging of heavy goods vehicles](#)

The consultation seeks views on the European Commission's recent proposal to amend directive 1999/62/EC (the so-called "Eurovignette" Directive) which sets out rules governing the use of tolls, user charges and vehicle excise duties on heavy goods vehicles. The proposal forms part of a wider "greening of transport" package, which includes an impact assessment. The consultation ends on 7 November 2008.

1.5 Environment Agency

[Annual environmental protection charges consultation 2009/10](#)

The Environment Agency has launched a consultation on its charging schemes in order to ensure their costs are being recovered, and that charges are as fair as possible. The responses then form part of the agency's submission to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for approval in consultation with the Welsh Assembly Government and HM Treasury. The agency is required by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, to recover the costs of their main regulatory services from the companies they regulate.

The consultation also includes proposed changes to operator and pollution risk appraisal scores compliance which the agency now apply to the European Parliament charges so that it has a larger impact on the overall charge. The proposals give operators greater control over the amount the agency charges them. The consultation ends on 5 December 2008.

[Recycling of coal power station ash](#)

The waste protocols project, a joint Environment Agency and WRAP (Waste Resources Action Programme) initiative has launched a consultation on a new quality protocol regarding the re-use of ashes from power generation.

The quality protocol aims to reduce the environmental impact as well as increase the commercial viability of recycled ash when used in the construction and manufacturing industries. By removing the waste label and providing a quality guarantee it will make it easier to market PFA and FBA as substitutes for virgin materials and divert millions of tonnes of waste from landfill. The consultation ends on 1 December 2008.

[Operator self-monitoring of liquid effluent flow for nuclear sites](#)

The consultation seeks views on the self-monitoring of liquid effluent flow which the Environment Agency believes should apply to nuclear sites regulated under the Radioactive Substances Act 1993 (RSA93), which would take place within the monitoring certification scheme (MCERTS). MCERTS enables the agency to establish common standards for operator self-monitoring of effluent flow and ensure that flow data is reliable and accurate.

The new system would require nuclear sites arrangements for monitoring liquid effluent flow by January 2010 to be inspected to determine whether they are complying with the MCERTS performance standard. The consultation document includes a summary of the monitoring certification scheme and describes the benefits, costs and risks of applying the scheme to the nuclear industry and explains the agency's preferred option. The consultation ends on 14 November 2008.

1.6 Legal Sector Alliance

[Carbon footprint tool](#)

The Legal Sector Alliance has developed a set of climate change principles for adoption by firms across the sector, whatever their size, specialism or location, and have launched a consultation on its new tool for calculating the carbon footprint. The consultation will close in early December.

1.7 OfGem

[Biodiesel glycerol and the renewables obligation](#)

Ofgem has launched a consultation on biodiesel, glycerol and the Renewables Obligation. The Renewables Obligation is designed to incentivise renewable generation into the energy generation market in the UK. The consultation explains the approach Ofgem intend to take with regards to the use of biodiesel and looks at alternative approaches in relation to the use of biodiesel glycerol. The consultation closes on October 14 2008.

2. Press Releases, initiatives and announcements

2.1 Welsh Assembly Government

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [Schools to embrace climate change challenge](#), 7 October 2008

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [Recycling hits new high in Wales](#), 3 October 2008

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [Five out of five for Assembly Government offices environment management](#), 2 October 2008

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [Minister praises Primrose Earth Awareness Trust for promotion of sustainable food production](#), 2 October 2008

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [Small steps will mean big results for Wales' carbon footprint](#), 29 September 2008

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [Oceaneering expands to meet global demand](#), 24 September 2008

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [The green side of Bluestone](#), 18 September 2008

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [Minister visits leading green company](#), 2 September 2008

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [Wales on target to reduce landfill waste](#), 1 September 2008

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [Ensuring clean air for Neath Port Talbot](#), 29 August 2008

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [Severn tidal power feasibility study: appointment of contractors](#), 18 August 2008

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [Wales on target for better recycling figures](#), 30 July 2008

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [£6million boost for brownfield sites in Wales](#), 28 July 2008

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [Environment report shows way to greener Wales](#), 24 July 2008

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [Severn tidal power feasibility study: list of proposals published](#), 24 July 2008

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [Tackling climate change together](#), 21 July 2008

2.2 The Scottish Government

Scottish Government Press Release, [Zero waste society](#), 7 October 2008

Scottish Government Press Release, [Blueprint for a greener Scotland](#), 6 October 2008

Scottish Government Press Release, [Flooding Bill Introduced](#), 30 September 2008

Scottish Government Press Release, [Go ahead for Keltney Burn hydro](#), 24 September 2008

Scottish Government Press Release, [Funding to support local recycling](#), 23 September 2008

Scottish Government Press Release, [Project sees environment and fishing go hand in hand](#), 22 September 2008

Scottish Government Press Release, [Support for wave and tidal energy](#), 19 September 2008

Scottish Government Press Release, [Scotland's emissions challenge](#), 18 September 2008

Scottish Government Press Release, [Renewable energy targets](#), 9 September 2008

Scottish Government Press Release, [Turning the tide towards a greener Scotland](#), 9 September 2008

Scottish Government Press Release, [Hydro power potential](#), 2 September 2008

Scottish Government Press Release, [East Lothian wind farm to be extended](#), 29 July 2008

Scottish Government Press Release, [Moves to improve recycling rates](#), 27 July 2008

Scottish Government Press Release, [More green energy jobs for Scotland](#), 18 July 2008

Scottish Government Press Release, [New coal contract](#), 3 July 2008

2.3 Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Press Release, [UK to issue European carbon allowances](#), 3 October 2008

Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Press Release, [Fight must continue on fuel poverty say Ministers](#), 2 October 2008

Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Press Release, [Forestry as a renewable energy source: Scoping project launched](#), 17 September 2008

Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Press Release, [Save Money, Save Energy: Government takes action on family fuel bills](#), 11 September 2008

2.4 Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR)

Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Press Release, [Department of Energy and Climate Change established](#), 3 October 2008

On 3 October 2008 the Prime Minister announced the creation of a new Department of Energy and Climate Change. The department will bring together much of the Climate Change Group, previously housed within the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), with the Energy Group from the Department for Business, Enterprise and

Regulatory Reform (BERR). Ed Milliband will be Secretary of State for the new department.

Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Press Release, [Government welcomes EDF's £12.5 billion take over offer for British Energy and investment plan to secure UK energy supplies](#), 24 September 2008

2.5 Further Press Releases

Committee on Climate Change Press Release, [Government advised to reduce greenhouse gas emission by at least 80% in 2050](#), 7 October 2008

Renewable Fuels Agency Press Release, [Renewable Fuels Agency issues first interim quarterly report on the use of biofuels in the UK](#), 7 October 2008

Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP) Press Release, [WRAP announces CO2 savings](#), 1 October 2008

European Parliament Press Release, [Environment Committee insists on 2012 target for reducing CO2 from new cars](#), 29 September 2008

International Energy Agency Press Release, [IEA urges governments to adopt effective policies based on key design principles to accelerate the exploitation of the large potential for renewable energy](#), 29 September 2008

Carbon Disclosure Project Press Release, [Major corporations request clarity on climate change regulation](#), 22 September 2008

Department for Transport Press Release, [Fitzpatrick announces £67 million to cut freight emissions, congestion and hauliers' costs](#), 11 September 2008

HM Government Press Release, [Home energy saving programme](#), 11 September 2008

National Energy Action (NEA) Press Release, [NEA and Warm Zones welcome Government announcement on energy saving package](#), 11 September 2008

United Nations Environment Programme Press Release, [UN Secretary-General calls for greater global leadership in tackling climate change](#), 1 September 2008

2.6 Speech by Gordon Brown, Prime Minister

[Brown signals support for 80% CO₂ cut by 2050](#), *Speech by Gordon Brown, Prime Minister at the Labour Party Conference*, 29 June 2008

3. Laid documents

Written Response to the report on the Sustainability Committee's consideration of fuel poverty in Wales, GEN-LD7238, 1 October 2008

Audit Committee Report (3) 08-08 - Tir Gofal, CR-LD7215, 17 September 2008

Audit Committee Report (3) 07-08 - Delivering the Home Energy Conservation Act in Wales, CR-LD7213, 10 September 2008

The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c-) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2008, SUB-LD7203, 20 August 2008

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Variation of Schedule 5) (Wales) Order 2008 – Explanatory Memorandum, SUB-LD7180-EM, 21 July 2008

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Variation of Schedule 5) (Wales) Order 2008, SUB-LD7180-EM, 21 July 2008

Final Report - The Sustainable Development Effectiveness Report for the Welsh Assembly Government, GEN-LD7168, 17 July 2008

The Shrimp Fishing Nets (Wales) Order 2008 – Explanatory Memorandum, SUB-LD7147-EM, 9 July 2008

The Shrimp Fishing Nets (Wales) Order 2008, SUB-LD7147-EM, 9 July 2008

Sustainability Committee report on fuel poverty in Wales, CR-LD7129, 3 July 2008

2008 Wales Spatial Plan Update, GEN-LD7119, 1 July 2008

The Dee Estuary Cockle Fishery Order 2008 – Explanatory Memorandum, SUB-LD7079-EM, 9 June 2008

The Dee Estuary Cockle Fishery Order 2008, SUB-LD7079, 9 June 2008

The Tope (Prohibition of Fishing) (Wales) Order 2008 – Explanatory Memorandum, SUB LD 7077/07-11, 6 June 2008

The Tope (Prohibition of Fishing) (Wales) Order 2008, SUB-LD7077, 6 June 2008

4. Cabinet Statements

Welsh Assembly Government, Jane Davidson (Minister for the Environment, Sustainability and Housing), *Greenhouse gas emissions in Wales in 2006 and update on action to tackle climate change*, Cabinet Written Statement, 23 September 2008

Welsh Assembly Government, Elin Jones (Minister for the Rural Affairs), *The Future Management and Enforcement of Sea Fisheries in Welsh Waters*, Cabinet Written Statement, 12 September 2008

5. Legislation

5.1 *Progress of the Climate Change Bill*

The Climate Change Bill will create a long-term legal framework to enable the UK to meet its commitment to reduce CO² emissions by at least 60% by 2050.

Introduced by Lord Rooker, the Bill has been through the Committee stage in the House of Commons but no date has yet been set for the report stage.

The Climate Change Bill was most recently amended on 10 July 2008 by the Commons Public Bill Committee. The amended version can be accessed [here](#).

Further information about the progress of the Bill can be accessed via:

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2007-08/climatechange.html>

6. Reports, research and statistics

6.1 *Welsh Assembly Government*

Welsh Assembly Government, (2008) *Green dragon standard environmental report 2007-2008*, Cardiff: Welsh Assembly Government

6.2 *Department for Communities and Local Government*

Department for Communities and Local Government, (2008) *Notice of Approval of the methodology of calculation of the energy performance of buildings in England and Wales*, London: Department for Communities and Local Government

Department for Communities and Local Government, (2008) *Planning, building and the environment: Research to Assess the Cost and Benefits of the Government's Proposals to Reduce the Carbon Footprint of New Housing Development*, London: Department for Communities and Local Government

Department for Communities and Local Government, (2008) *Code for Sustainable Homes: Technical guide - October 2008*, London: Department for Communities and Local Government

Department for Communities and Local Government, (2008) *Evaluation of the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) pilot for social housing: Final Summary Report*, London: Department for Communities and Local Government

6.3 *Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)*

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), (2008) *Sustainable development indicators in your pocket 2008*, London: Defra

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), (2008) *The UK fuel poverty strategy: 6th annual progress report 2008*, London: Defra

6.4 Commission for Rural Communities

Commission for Rural Communities, (2008) *Rural life without carbon: a 'think-piece' in collaboration with MVA consultancy*, London: Commission for Rural Communities

Commission for Rural Communities, (2008) *The big picture: planning for sustainable rural communities*, London: Commission for Rural Communities

Commission for Rural Communities, (2008) *The contribution of transport to sustainable rural communities: a 'think-piece' in collaboration with transport research laboratory*, London: Commission for Rural Communities

6.5 Further Publications

Carbon Trust, (2008), *Carbon Trust 2007/2008 Annual Report*, London: Carbon Trust

Carbon Trust, (2008) *Small-scale wind energy: policy insights and practical guidance*, London: Carbon Trust

Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) and BioRegional Development Group, (2008) *What makes an eco-town?* London: CABE

Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform; Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, (2008) *UK environmental transformation fund: strategy*, London: Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform

Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), (2008) *DCMS sustainable development action plan 2008-2011*, London: DCMS

Department for Health, (2008) *Taking the long term view: the Department for Health's strategy for delivering sustainable development 2008-2011*, London: Department for Health

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, (2008) *The state of food and agriculture 2008: Biofuels: prospects, risks and opportunities*, Rome: United Nations

Green Alliance, (2008) *Fit for the future? The green standard 2007-2008 review of the parties*, London: Green Alliance

Haq, G., Whitelegg, J. and Kohler, M., (2008) *Growing old in a changing climate: meeting the challenges of an ageing population and climate change*, Stockholm: Stockholm Environment Institute

Holland, Dr M. R., (2008) *The co-benefits to health of a strong EU climate change policy*, London: Climate Action Network Europe

Kirby, A., (2008) *Kick the habit: a UN guide to climate neutrality*, Malta: Progress Press Ltd

Letter to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Ed Miliband, Committee on Climate Change, 7 October 2008

McKinsey & Company, (2008) *Carbon Capture and Storage: assessing the economics*, London: McKinsey & Company

Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted), (2008) *Ofsted's Sustainable Development Action Plan 2008-09*, London: Ofsted

Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology, (2008) *Renewable energy in a changing climate*, POSTnote 315 October 2008

Policy Exchange, (2008) *The root of the matter: carbon sequestration in forests and peatlands*, London: Policy Exchange

Royal Society, (2008) *Ground-level ozone in the 21st century: future trends, impacts and policy implications*, London: Royal Society

Singer, S. F. (2008) *Not so simple?: a scientific response to the royal society's paper 'Climate change controversies: a simple guide'*, London: Centre for Policy Studies

South West Regional Assembly, (2008) *Climate change action plan for the South West 2008-2010*, Somerset: South West Regional Assembly

Sustainable Development Commission, (2008) *Annual Review 2007-2008*, London: Sustainable Development Commission

The Climate Group, (2008) *China's clean revolution*, London: The Climate Group

United Nations Environment Programme, (2008) *Green jobs: towards decent, sustainable work in a low-carbon world*, Washington: Worldwatch Institute

World Business Council for Sustainable Development, (2008) *Energy efficiency in buildings: business realities and opportunities*, Switzerland: Atar Roto Presse SA

6.6 Members' Research Service Publications

Members' Research Service Research Paper 08/041, *UK renewable energy strategy consultation*, September 2008

Members' Research Service Research Paper 08/041, *The draft Marine Bill*, July 2008

7. Official Publications

7.1 House of Commons Papers

Environmental Audit Select Committee, [Vehicle Excise Duty as an environmental tax](#), 4 August, HC 907 2007-2008

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee, [Draft Marine Bill: Coastal Access Provisions](#), 22 July 2008, HC 656-I 2007-2008

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee, [Draft Marine Bill: Coastal Access Provisions](#), 22 July 2008, HC 656-II 2007-2008

Environmental Audit Select Committee, [Climate change and local, regional and devolved Government](#), 22 July, HC 225 2007-2008

Environmental Audit Select Committee, [Carbon capture and storage](#), 22 July, HC 654 2007-2008

Environment Agency, [Annual report and accounts 2007/2008](#), 21 July 2008, HC 843 2007-08

7.2 House of Lords Papers

Science and Innovation Committee, [Waste reduction](#), 20 August 2008, 163-I 2007-2008

Science and Innovation Committee, [Waste reduction](#), 20 August 2008, 163-II 2007-2008

7.3 Command Papers

[Government response to the House of Commons Communities and Local Government Select Committee report on existing housing and climate change](#), Cm 7428

7.4 Scottish Government Publications

Scottish Government and Forum for Renewable Energy Development in Scotland (FREDS), (2008) [Framework for the Development and Deployment of Renewables in Scotland](#), Scotland: Scottish Government

8. Journal articles and news items

[Agency calls for coal limit](#), *PlanningResource*, 3 October 2008

[Severn Trent studying wind power site](#), *Low Carbon Economy*, 6 October 2008

[Met Office's bleak forecast on climate change](#), *The Guardian*, 1 October 2008



[Meat must be rationed to four portions a week, says report on climate change](#), *The Guardian*, 30 September 2008

[The world's largest tidal energy farm could be built in British waters](#), *PlanningResource*, 29 September 2008

[UK Energy Demand](#), *Carbon Commentary*, 18 July 2008

[Words of Warming](#): As the world hots up, so does the market for books about climate change. Tim Flannery, author of *The Weather Makers*, looks at the latest works on the crisis, and sizes up their solutions, from nuclear energy to genetically engineered trees, *Guardian Review*, 9 August 2008