



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.

Consultations, Press Releases, Laid Documents, Cabinet Statements and news items are listed by date.

Where documents have a bi-lingual title with a hyperlink, click on the English title to view the English language version or the Welsh title to view the Welsh language version of the publication.

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Climate Change and Sustainability Current Awareness

1. Consultations

1.1 *Welsh Assembly Government*

[Consultation on proposed amendments to the Hazardous Waste \(Wales\) Regulations 2005](#)

The Welsh Assembly Government has published a consultation on proposed amendments to the *Hazardous Waste (Wales) Regulations 2005*. The consultation consists of a consultation document, a partial impact assessment and a draft set of amending regulations. The closing date for applications is 08 May 2009.

[Consultation on a Bio-energy Action Plan for Wales](#)

Responses are sought to the *Bio-energy Action Plan for Wales*, which proposes to use bio-energy to significantly reduce greenhouse gases emissions, contribute to long-term fuel security, encourage the development of sustainable forestry and agriculture; and support business development and job creation in all parts of the biomass energy supply chain. The consultation closes on 22 May 2009.

[Carbon Reduction Commitment Scheme consultation](#)

A joint public consultation on the draft *UK Regulations for the Carbon Reduction Commitment* has opened, running from 12 March for 12 weeks. There will also be seminars and workshops for those who might be included in the scheme. The closing date for responses is 04 June 2009.

[National Energy Efficiency and Savings Plan consultation](#)

Responses are invited on the *National Energy Efficiency and Savings Plan*. The consultation closes on 05 June 2009.

[Private water supplies regulation consultation](#)

The European Directive 98/83/EC covers the quality of private water supplies in Wales for human consumption. Comments are particularly sought on the questions on pages 13-15 of the consultation document. The closing date for responses is 08 June 2009.

1.2 *The Department of Energy and Climate Change*

[Consultation on the Proposed Offshore Gas Storage and Gas Unloading Licensing Scheme](#)

The consultation on offshore gas storage and unloading asks for views on the Government's proposals for a gas storage and unloading licensing scheme. The *Energy Act 2008* introduces a new regulatory framework for the offshore storage of natural gas and the unloading offshore of natural gas including in the form of liquefied natural gas (LNG). The consultation closes on 23 April 2009.

[Consultation on the term 'carbon neutral': its definition and recommendations for good practice](#)

The purpose of the consultation is to seek views on a draft definition for the term "carbon neutral" that can be used by individuals and organisations and in relation to the products (goods and services) they provide. The consultation also provides practical guidance on applying the definition and sets out recommendations on what constitutes good practice. The consultation closes on 23 May 2009.

[Consultation on Transposition of EU Directive \(EC/2008/101\) to include Aviation in the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme \(ETS\)](#)

The purpose of this consultation is to seek views on a draft Statutory Instrument to transpose the first stage of EU Directive EC 2008/101 to include aviation in to the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS). Views of interested parties are sought in order to inform transposition of the legislation later this year. The Government is planning to run a second consultation exercise on the transposition of the second set of Regulations towards the end of this year. The consultation closes on 14 May 2009.

[Consultation on the Draft Order to Implement the Carbon Reduction Commitment](#)

This is the third consultation on the development of the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) scheme. Views are invited on the Draft CRC Order and on a few detailed elements of the policy developed since the previous consultation. The consultation closes on 04 June 2009.

[Consultation on the Form and Content of New Climate Change Agreements](#)

Current Climate Change Agreements expire in March 2013. The Government has reviewed the current Climate Change Agreements with a view to simplifying them for the benefit of business and government and to achieve greater coherence with other relevant climate change policy. It makes a number of proposals for changes to the form and content of existing Climate Change Agreements, on which the views of interested parties are sought. The consultation closes on 04 June 2009.

1.3 The Department for Communities and Local Government

[Definition of zero-carbon homes and non-domestic buildings: consultation](#)

Budget 2008 announced the Government's ambition that all new non-domestic buildings should be zero carbon from 2019. This consultation proposes a definition of zero carbon homes, based on high energy efficiency, on- or near-site carbon reduction, and allowable solutions for dealing with the remaining emissions. The paper also sets out current Government thinking on zero carbon new non-domestic buildings. The consultation closes on 18 March 2009.

[Planning Act 2008: Consultation on list of statutory consultees for National Policy Statements](#)

This consultation document seeks views on who should be statutory consultees before designating a document as a National Policy Statement (NPS) under the *Planning Act 2008*. The closing date for responses is 20 April 2009.

[Community Energy Saving Programme \(CESP\) consultation](#)

This consultation seeks views on increasing energy efficiency in the homes of the most vulnerable, to help people to reduce their fuel bills in winter. The closing date for responses is 8 May 2009.

[Heat and Energy Saving Strategy consultation](#)

This consultation seeks views on the Government's longer-term ambitions regarding transforming the way people use heat and energy in their homes and businesses. The closing date for responses is 8 May 2009.

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

[Consultation on inshore fisheries and conservation authority district boundaries](#)

Inshore fisheries management in England and Wales is currently the responsibility of Sea Fisheries Committees (SFCs). The *Marine and Coastal Access Bill* (the Bill) includes measures to reform inshore fisheries management and the protection of the marine environment. The Bill, which is currently going through Parliament for approval, proposes replacing SFCs in England with newly created Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFC authorities). In Wales the management of inshore fisheries will become the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly Government. The consultation closes on 22 April 2009.

[Consultation on the second phase of Environmental Permitting Programme \(EPP2\)](#)

This joint Defra, Department of Energy and Climate Change, Environment Agency and Welsh Assembly Government consultation invites comments on the second phase of the

Environmental Permitting Programme (EPP2). EPP2 is a Better Regulation initiative designed to reduce costs for operators and the regulator by cutting unnecessary red tape, while continuing to protect the environment and human health. The consultation closes on 11 May 2009.

1.5 The Scottish Government

[Consultation on science in support of marine, environment, rural Affairs and related policies of the Scottish Government: a coordinated agenda for marine, environment and rural affairs science \(CAMERAS\) \(2011-2016\)](#)

This consultation proposes that each public body supporting science relevant to the Scottish Government's policies related to Marine, Environment and Rural Affairs will use this Coordinated Agenda (CAMERAS) to help align their scientific activities to avoid duplication and promote collaboration between the organisations. The closing date for responses is 20 March 2009.

[Consultation on regulation of energy efficiency under the *Pollution Prevention and Control \(Scotland\) Regulations 2000*](#)

Consultation paper about Scottish Government's plans to provide additional powers to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) to regulate energy efficiency at industrial installations under *Pollution prevention and control (Scotland) regulations 2000 (PPC)*. The consultation closes on 22 May 2009.

[Consultation on the implementation in Scotland of Directive 2007/33/EC](#)

Stakeholder views are sought on control of potato cyst nematodes with regard to the implementation in Scotland of Directive 2007/33/EC. The closing date for responses is 29 May 2009.

1.6 Northern Ireland Government

[Draft Planning Policy Statement \(PPS\) 21: Sustainable Development in the Countryside](#)

The Northern Ireland Department of Environment has published draft *Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 21: Sustainable Development in the Countryside*. In tandem with this consultation, an equality impact screening exercise is also being issued for public consultation as an Annex to the document. The consultation closes on 31 March 2009.

1.7 The Department for Transport

[Consultation on replacement pollution control devices for motor vehicles](#)

Comments are invited on two sets of draft regulations which will introduce mandatory standards for sale and installation of replacement catalytic converters and diesel particulate filters for cars and vans and replacement catalytic converters for motorcycles and other 2/3 wheeled vehicles. The consultation closes on 25 March 2009.

[Consultation on transposition of EU Directive to include aviation in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme](#)

This consultation seeks stakeholder's views on the first stage of transposing the aviation emissions trading scheme directive into UK law. The consultation runs from Wednesday 04 March until Thursday 14 May.

2. Press Releases, initiatives and announcements

2.1 Welsh Assembly Government

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [New zero carbon hub set up to make Welsh buildings greener](#), 09 March 2009

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [Home improvement stores to get green guide for Welsh homes](#), 05 March 2009

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [Appointments to Brecon Beacons and Snowdonia National Park Authorities](#), 04 March 2009

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [£1.9m Anglesey coastal defences officially opened](#), 26 February 2009

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [£5.75 million to prevent flooding in Conwy Valley](#), 26 February 2009

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [New bioenergy plan to lessen Wales' reliance on fossil fuels](#), 24 February 2009

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [Tight regulation of GM crops in Wales proposed](#), 24 February 2009

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [Fair Trade farmers tour Wales](#), 25 February 2009

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [Assembly Government plan to get Wales walking and cycling](#), 23 February 2009

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [Wales leads on sustainable development research with new bursar](#), 17 February 2009

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [Smart idea saves money and energy](#), 16 February 2009

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [Minister presents 'Basic Skills Quality Award' to eco friendly school](#), 13 February 2009

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [Plant! A tree for every child: second woodland announced](#), 13 February 2009

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [£26 million to turn waste into bio-gas in Wales](#), 12 February 2009

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [Minister warns Assembly Government will use legislation to end use of one trip plastic bags](#), 11 February 2009

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [Minister calls for review of scallop fishing](#), 10 February 2009

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [Funding will help to flush out polluters](#), 02 February 2009

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [Professor to serve extra three years as chair of key environment committee](#), 30 January 2009

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [£270 million available to tackle fuel poverty in Wales, but challenges still lay ahead, says Minister](#), 28 January 2009

2.2 The Scottish Government

Scottish Government Press Release, [Survey on environmental attitudes](#), 09 March 2009

Scottish Government Press Release, [Supermarket recycling](#), 04 March 2009

Scottish Government Press Release, [Sprucing up the urban forests](#), 24 February 2009

Scottish Government Press Release, [Funding for community projects](#), 23 February 2009

Scottish Government Press Release, [Scottish Environment Week](#), 23 February 2009

Scottish Government Press Release, [Marine energy potential](#), 20 February 2009

Scottish Government Press Release, [Fee waivers save companies cash](#), 19 February 2009

Scottish Government Press Release, [Perthshire powers ahead](#), 17 February 2009

Scottish Government Press Release, [New wave of offshore development](#), 16 February 2009

Scottish Government Press Release, [Scotland's recycling performance](#), 13 February 2009

Scottish Government Press Release, [Cunningham relishing new challenge](#), 12 February 2009

Scottish Government Press Release, [Domestic microgeneration](#), 09 February 2009

Scottish Government Press Release, [Marine Scotland to manage sustainable areas](#), 09 February 2009

Scottish Government Press Release, [Reducing food waste](#), 09 February 2009

Scottish Government Press Release, [Plea for fuel poverty investment](#), 08 February 2009

Scottish Government Press Release, [Green jobs blueprint](#), 02 February 2009

Scottish Government Press Release, [Renewables development in Western Isles](#), 30 January 2009

Scottish Government Press Release, [Scottish Rural Development Programme](#), 29 January 2009

Scottish Government Press Release, [Construction of bio-energy plant](#), 28 January 2009

Scottish Government Press Release, [Marine renewables masterplan](#), 28 January 2009

Scottish Government Press Release, [North Sea supergrid](#), 27 January 2009

Scottish Government Press Release, [Work gets underway on new environment HQ](#), 26 January 2009

Scottish Government Press Release, [Study into health and the environment](#), 23 January 2009

2.3 Northern Ireland Executive

Northern Ireland Executive Press Release, [Carrier bag numbers are coming down says Wilson](#), 26 February 2009

Northern Ireland Executive Press Release, [Minister takes part in celebration of innovative environmental design](#), 19 February 2009

Northern Ireland Executive Press Release, [Wilson commends significant improvement in sewage discharges](#), 16 February 2009

Northern Ireland Executive Press Release, [Northern Ireland Water Ltd fined £2,500 for polluting discharge to a waterway](#), 13 February 2009

Northern Ireland Executive Press Release, [Environment Minister stresses need for innovation in tackling waste](#), 06 February 2009

Northern Ireland Executive Press Release, [Minister takes a gander at brent geese](#), 30 January 2009

Northern Ireland Executive Press Release, [Environment Minister salutes community recycling project](#), 29 January 2009

Northern Ireland Executive Press Release, [Ministers ride to the rescue of the horse mussel](#), 23 January 2009

Northern Ireland Executive Press Release, [Northern Ireland Water fined £5,000 for polluting discharge to a waterway](#), 22 January 2009

Northern Ireland Executive Press Release, [Minister urges public to keep recycling despite market downturn](#), 12 January 2009

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

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Press release, [Jane Kennedy launches plan to halt declining bee numbers](#), 09 March 2009

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Press release, [Surface water management plans guidance published](#), 04 March 2009

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Press release, [Defra seeks views on re-establishing environmental benefits of set-aside](#), 04 March 2009

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Press release, [INSPIRE Directive consultation launched](#), 03 March 2009

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Press release, [Defra publishes report on Environmental Action Fund](#), 03 March 2009

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Press release, [£25m to protect precious woodland and landscapes from disease](#), 03 March 2009

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Press release, [Sustainable Clothing Action Plan launched at London Fashion Week](#), 20 February 2009

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Press release, [New wildlife projects to help the world's poorest communities](#), 19 February 2009

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Press release, [Defra updates Green Claims Code to help industry and protect consumers](#), 18 February 2009

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Press release, [Greener Living Fund – first shortlist announced](#), 16 February 2009

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Press release, [Farmers asked to lead the way to protect environment](#), 16 February 2009

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Press release, [UK emissions of air pollutants - 2007 additional results](#), 13 February 2009

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Press release, [Minister celebrates Eco-Schools success](#), 09 February 2009

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Press release, [Sustainable development commission becomes executive non-departmental public body](#), 02 February 2009

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Press release, [*Air quality indicator for sustainable development 2008 provisional results*](#), 29 January 2009

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Press release, [*Joint waste authorities: guidance published*](#), 28 January 2009

2.5 Department of Energy and Climate Change

Department of Energy and Climate Change Press Release, [*Building low carbon Britain*](#), 06 March 2009

Department of Energy and Climate Change Press Release, [*Appointment of non-executive directors to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority board*](#), 06 March 2009

Department of Energy and Climate Change Press Release, [*Report sets out 2020 vision of electricity grid*](#), 04 March 2009

Department of Energy and Climate Change Press Release, [*Hoon and Miliband appoint Environment Agency to police aviation emissions trading scheme*](#), 04 March 2009

Department of Energy and Climate Change Press Release, [*Householders in Wales help in the 'big energy shift'*](#), 21 February 2009

Department of Energy and Climate Change Press Release, [*Green light for three new power stations to power 4 million homes*](#), 05 February 2009

Department of Energy and Climate Change Press Release, [*Five projects make Severn tidal power shortlist*](#), 26 January 2009

Department of Energy and Climate Change Press Release, [*Environmental study to inform location of future offshore energy developments*](#), 26 January 2009

2.6 The Countryside Council for Wales

Countryside Council for Wales Press Release, [*Insulating the Valleys*](#), 10 March 2009

Countryside Council for Wales Press Release, [*Mountain ponies welcome new national nature reserve*](#), 26 February 2009

Countryside Council for Wales Press Release, [*Irish Sea Risso's dolphin sightings – highest in UK*](#), 10 February 2009

Countryside Council for Wales Press Release, [*The Countryside Council for Wales' response to the launch of the Severn Tidal Power consultation*](#), 26 January 2009

2.7 Environment Agency

- Environment Agency Press Release, [Environment Agency to replace estuary's endangered environment](#), 10 March 2009
- Environment Agency Press Release, [Environment Agency surveys Dove flood defences](#), 06 March 2009
- Environment Agency Press Release, [Comments invited on Aston Chase Brook flood scheme](#), 05 March 2009
- Environment Agency Press Release, [United Utilities fined £10,000 for pollution](#), 05 March 2009
- Environment Agency Press Release, [Environment Agency unveils £11 million flood defence scheme](#), 05 March 2009
- Environment Agency Press Release, [Upgrade for village flood defences](#), 03 March 2009
- Environment Agency Press Release, [Latest plans on water in our environment now at your local library](#), 27 February 2009
- Environment Agency Press Release, [140 year old rod licence gets 21st century makeover](#), 26 February 2009
- Environment Agency Press Release, [Flood roadshow comes to Dolgellau](#), 26 February 2009
- Environment Agency Press Release, [Go ahead for Conwy Valley Flood Scheme](#), 25 February 2009
- Environment Agency Press Release, [Morpeth and Rothbury residents encouraged to sign up to free flood warnings](#), 24 February 2009
- Environment Agency Press Release, [Baby salmon on show at Clywedog Hatchery](#), 24 February 2009
- Environment Agency Press Release, [Diversity Champions Cymru seminar: "Effective Community Engagement"](#), 23 February 2009
- Environment Agency Press Release, [Driving ban, fine and community service for illegal landfill](#), 23 February 2009
- Environment Agency Press Release, [Major increase in funding to reduce flood risk](#), 23 February 2009
- Environment Agency Press Release, [Power boost as Devon landfill sites invest in energy from waste](#), 23 February 2009
- Environment Agency Press Release, [Have your say on the nation's plans for water](#), 18 February 2009
- Environment Agency Press Release, [Magnox to pay £400,000 for 14 year radioactive leak](#), 17 February 2009
- Environment Agency Press Release, [10-point plan finds millions of pounds in a rubbish dump](#), 16 February 2009

- Environment Agency Press Release, [*The Environment Agency's guide to living on the edge*](#), 16 February 2009
- Environment Agency Press Release, [*Out of the red and into the green. After the credit crunch: a more sustainable future?*](#), 13 February 2009
- Environment Agency Press Release, [*Successful start to sustainable cockling*](#), 13 February 2009
- Environment Agency Press Release, [*Illegal fishermen net £3,345 fine*](#), 13 February 2009
- Environment Agency Press Release, [*Dying trees cleared at Llandovery to avoid flood risk*](#), 11 February 2009
- Environment Agency Press Release, [*Environment Agency objects to over 6,200 planning applications on grounds of flood risk in 2007/2008*](#), 09 February 2009
- Environment Agency Press Release, [*Launch of Living Waters for North Wales*](#) 06 February 2009
- Environment Agency Press Release, [*Protecting redds on the beds: Environment Agency Wales improves fish spawning in Powys*](#), 04 February 2009
- Environment Agency Press Release, [*Fly-tipping costs Swansea man £7,000*](#), 02 February 2009
- Environment Agency Press Release, [*Salmon's coming home – with the cup?*](#), 02 February 2009
- Environment Agency Press Release, [*Glynneath flood scheme opens to protect 600 homes and businesses*](#), 02 February 2009
- Environment Agency Press Release, [*Launch of Living Waters for Wales - Welsh Wildlife Centre, Cilgerran*](#), 02 February 2009
- Environment Agency Press Release, [*Wentlooge flytipper fined £1,915*](#), 30 January 2009
- Environment Agency Press Release, [*Slurry spreading caution following cold weather*](#), 29 January 2009
- Environment Agency Press Release, [*Defendants get driving ban for burning tyres*](#), 29 January 2009
- Environment Agency Press Release, [*Floods can strike at any time – Don't delay, prepare today!*](#), 29 January 2009
- Environment Agency Press Release, [*New Chief is a breath of fresh air*](#), 29 January 2009
- Environment Agency Press Release, [*Welsh firms still need to invest in water efficiency*](#), 29 January 2009
- Environment Agency Press Release, [*Environment Agency statement on launch of Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study shortlist*](#), 26 January 2009

2.9 Friends of the Earth

Friends of the Earth Press Release, [Government must fast-track production of greener cars](#), 11 March 2009

Friends of the Earth Press Release, [Low Carbon Summit - Urgent green investment programme needed](#), 06 March 2009

Friends of the Earth Press Release, [Major investment in National Grid is urgently needed to fight climate change](#), 04 March 2009

Friends of the Earth Press Release, [National bans on GM to remain in Europe despite UK pro-GM stance](#), 02 March 2009

Friends of the Earth Press Release, [Tougher targets for recyclable packaging](#), 17 February 2009

Friends of the Earth Press Release, [Government's plans for green homes can't wait four years](#), 09 February 2009

Friends of the Earth Cymru Press Release, [New report shows Wales needs action not rhetoric on climate change](#), 09 February 2009

Friends of the Earth Press Release, [Northern Ireland Environment Minister blocks climate ad](#), 09 February 2009

Friends of the Earth Cymru Press Release, [Go-ahead for "wasteful" power station a missed opportunity](#), 06 February 2009

Friends of the Earth Press Release, [UK carbon emissions still higher than when labour came to power](#), 03 February 2009

Friends of the Earth Press Release, [Government must drive car industry to greener future](#), 27 January 2009

Friends of the Earth Cymru Press Release, [Incineration is not green](#), 27 January 2009

Friends of the Earth Cymru Press Release, [UK Government ignores most promising option for Severn tidal power](#), 26 January 2009

Friends of the Earth Press Release, [Government study confirms offshore wind potential](#), 26 January 2009

Friends of the Earth Press Release, [Obama must keep pledge on climate change leadership](#), 19 January 2009

Friends of the Earth Press Release, [UK Bill of Rights must include right to a healthy environment](#), 19 January 2009

Friends of the Earth Cymru Press Release, [Incineration would increase pollution in Wales](#), 16 January 2009

Friends of the Earth Press Release, [Conservatives launch low-carbon plan](#), 16 January 2009

Friends of the Earth Cymru Press Release, [Councillors urged not to challenge wind farm decision](#), 05 January 2009

2.10 Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [Old breeds set for comeback on RSPB heathland restoration](#), 13 March 2009

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [North Kent provides refuge for the UK's fastest declining mammal](#), 12 March 2009

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [Call for UK to create world-class marine park](#), 10 March 2009

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [RSPB applauds Medway Council's unanimous no to Boris Island](#), 09 March 2009

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [Make your nature count... everyone else will be!](#), 09 March 2009

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [Woodbrook runs away with green prize](#), 06 March 2009

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [Red kites not a threat say Ulster and Welsh Farmers Union](#), 06 March 2009

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [007 technology gives a view to a thrill](#), 06 March 2009

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [Climate change affecting Wales' birds now](#), 04 March 2009

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [UN sets standard for reducing seabird bycatch](#), 03 March 2009

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [Greener working is the future - RSPB Cymru's response to the consultation on a Green Jobs strategy for Wales](#), 24 February 2009

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [RSPB says we must make space for nature as climate change grips Northern Ireland](#), 24 February 2009

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [Young people across Wales keeping the roar of the rainforest alive](#), 23 February 2009

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [Prince of Wales hears about albatross success](#), 23 February 2009

- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [*A taste of fine Welsh food available at Lake Vyrnwy*](#), 20 February 2009
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [*Farmers could harvest wild award*](#), 19 February 2009
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [*Wildlife could benefit from change to farming*](#), 16 February 2009
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [*Life after death for fallen trees and branches*](#), 16 February 2009
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [*Bright future for offshore wind - but in the right place*](#), 16 February 2009
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [*Come and join in the fun at Newport Wetlands and celebrate the centre's first anniversary in style*](#), 16 February 2009
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [*Back to the future*](#), 13 February 2009
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [*The good life: Northern Ireland's first eco-village up for green building award*](#), 13 February 2009
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [*Vote now for Nature of Farming Awards*](#), 13 February 2009
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [*MPs show support for region's birds of prey*](#), 12 February 2009
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [*New marine agency good news for Scotland*](#), 09 February 2009
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [*Nestboxes – the good, the bad and the ugly*](#), 09 February 2009
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [*Green Acres: Nature of Farming Awards opens in Northern Ireland*](#), 09 February 2009
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [*Seeing the trees from the forests*](#), 05 February 2009
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [*Anglesey awards the very best in tourism*](#), 03 February 2009
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [*Welcome for Western Isles renewables report*](#), 30 January 2009
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [*Forestry plans could detract from landmark climate law*](#), 29 January 2009
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [*New technologies must be at heart of the search for a solution on the Severn*](#), 26 January 2009

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [Too short a shortlist](#), 26 January 2009

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [Pitiful cash for wildlife of UK territories](#), 23 January 2009

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [Welcome wave power for Lewis](#), 22 January 2009

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [Flood bill needs more work to meet sustainability goals](#), 22 January 2009

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [World's biggest wildlife survey celebrates 30th birthday!](#), 22 January 2009

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [RSPB Agri-environment heroes - Celebrating ten of the best wildlife farmers in Wales](#), 21 January 2009

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Press Release, [Declines in Welsh bird populations continue unabated](#), 21 January 2009

2.11 The Sustainable Development Commission

Sustainable Development Commission Wales Press Release, [SDC welcomes government plans for home energy efficiency](#), 12 February 2009

Sustainable Development Commission Wales Press Release, [Sustainable Development Commission becomes executive non-departmental public body](#), 02 February 2009

Sustainable Development Commission Wales Press Release, [Public debate crucial to making best long-term decision on Severn Tidal Power](#), 26 January 2009

Sustainable Development Commission Wales Press Release, [Heathrow expansion without independent review of UK aviation is irresponsible](#), 15 January 2009

2.12 World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Press Release, [Earth Hour count down](#), 01 March 2009

World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Wales Press Release, [Support continues to grow for WWF's Earth Hour](#), 06 March 2009

World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Wales Press Release, [Nearly 60% of Welsh Councils support WWF's Earth Hour](#), 06 March 2009

World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Press Release, [New location but no direction for Marine Management Organisation](#), 12 February 2009

World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Press Release, [Green home makeovers essential for meeting climate change targets](#), 12 February 2009

World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Wales Press Release, [Welsh animation studio secures European contract](#), 11 February 2009

World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Wales Press Release, [Wales' most iconic landmark switches off for WWF's Earth Hour](#), 06 February 2009

World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Wales Press Release, [Newport City Council is the first Council in Wales to switch off for WWF's Earth Hour](#), 03 February 2009

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5. Legislation

5.1 Proposed Shipment of Waste for Recovery (Community Involvement Arrangements) (Wales) Measure

Nerys Evans AM introduced the Proposed Shipment of Waste for Recovery (Community Involvement Arrangements) (Wales) Measure on 05 November 2008. The Measure (sometimes referred to as the Recycling Measure) proposes that local authorities consider and report on inter alia, the environmental and social impact of the end use and final destination of the recyclable material they collect.

The Measure and Explanatory Memorandum, as well as information about the progress of the Measure, can be accessed [here](#).

5.2 Progress of the Marine and Coastal Access Bill [HL]

The *Marine and Coastal Access Bill* was introduced by Lord Hunt, and makes provision for marine functions and activities including; setting up a new Marine Management Organisation under which many of the existing, diverse areas of marine regulation would

be centralised; streamlining the existing marine licensing system and providing powers to create a joined-up marine planning policy; introducing new measures to reform fisheries management; providing a framework for establishing marine conservation zones and enabling the creation of a walkable route around the English coast.

The Bill includes frameworks powers for Wales which would allow the National Assembly for Wales to make Measures in relation to Welsh coastal routes for recreational journeys and rights of access to land near the Welsh coast. The Bill is currently at the House of Lords Committee stage. Further information about the *Marine and Coastal Access Bill* can be accessed [here](#).

5.3 *Climate Change (Scotland) Bill (SP Bill 17)*

On December 5, 2008 the Scottish Government published the *Climate Change (Scotland) Bill*. The Bill will create a long-term framework which will:

- introduce a statutory target to reduce Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions by 80 per cent by 2050;
- establish an interim target of 50 per cent emissions reductions by 2030;
- establish a framework of annual targets; and
- include emissions from international aviation and international shipping.

The framework will help build a sustainable future for Scotland. It will contribute to the country's sustainable economic growth by moving the public and private sectors towards a low carbon economy. The Bill was developed following a public consultation which received over 21,000 responses. The Bill is currently being considered at Stage 1, and has been referred to the Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee as lead committee, and to the Rural Affairs and Environment Committee as secondary committee. Further information about the Bill and its progress can be viewed [here](#).

6. Developments in Europe

6.1 *Integrated Climate Change and Energy Package*

In March 2007 the European Council adopted conclusions on an *Integrated Climate Change and Energy Package*, aimed at addressing the joint challenges of global warming and security of EU energy supply. These conclusions committed EU leaders to a series of headline targets to be achieved by 2020, with the aim of moving towards a sustainable future with a low-carbon, energy-efficient economy:

- cutting greenhouse gases by 20% (30% if international agreement is reached)
- saving 20% of energy consumption through increased energy efficiency
- meeting 20% of our energy needs from renewable sources.

From March 2007 through to December 2008 the various elements of legislation which form the basis of delivering these headline commitments were negotiated through the EU decision making process, which required agreement to be reached by the EU Leaders in Council and the European Parliament on the finer detail of how the headline goals would be achieved.

At the European Council in Brussels on 12 December 2008, the EU's Heads of State and Government reached political agreement on the package, following a series of intense negotiations.

The agreement was discussed with the European Parliament on 13 December, and led to adoption in Plenary on 18 December of the package, and commitments from the European Parliament to ensure the legislation would be adopted.

All of the key documents are available on the Commission website¹, from the *Green Paper on Energy* published in March 2006 through to the final texts adopted by the European Parliament on 17 December.

6.2 Details of the Integrated Climate Change and Energy Package

The elements forming the *Integrated Climate Change and Energy Package* are:

- Renewable Energy Directive
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions Allowance Trading System
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions Shared Reductions commitments
- Geological Storage of Carbon Dioxide
- Monitoring and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from fuels (road transport and inland waterways vessels)
- Emissions performance standards for new passenger cars

A summary of the main elements of each of these is given in the rest of this section.

Renewable Energy Directive

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/climateaction/key_documents/index_en.htm

The Directive sets legally binding targets for each Member State, in order to reach our EU target of a 20% share of renewable energy in 2020. It creates cooperation mechanisms between Member States to enable the targets to be achieved in a cost effective way. It also sets a 10% target for renewables in the transport sector, and sets biofuels sustainability criteria to ensure that only biofuels that have no negative environmental impact are supported.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Allowance Trading System

The extended EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) is the world's largest greenhouse gas emissions trading system. The changes introduced mean that from 2013 an emissions cap will be set at EU level and cut each year to reach a 21% cut in 2020.

The agreement will increase the level of auctioning in the system. Whereas there is an option for transitional free allowances that most new Member States could apply for, the rule for power companies will be that they have to buy allowances. Industry installations not subject to carbon leakage will be required to buy 20% of allowances in 2013 rising to 70% in 2020 and 100% in 2027. Operators at risk of carbon leakage that invest in the most efficient technologies will receive allowances for free in accordance with a benchmark based on best available technology. Overall, more than 50% of allowances will be auctioned from 2013, and the proportion will rise each year.

The revised EU ETS allows the use of offset credits from outside the EU, but this must remain below half of the reduction effort, which is aimed at ensuring a sufficient level of emission reductions inside the EU.

Member States are required to use at least half of their auctioning revenues on measures to combat climate change.

The calculation for the allocation of quotas will be based on 2005's emission values or on the average of emissions during the 2005-2007 period.

However, member states will be allowed to exceed their annual cap of 5% maximum, or even more, on authorisation from the European Commission, in the event of extreme weather conditions.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Shared Reductions commitments

A target reduction of 10% by 2020, compared to 2005 levels, is set on emissions from small-scale emitters in sectors including transport, buildings, agriculture and waste, which represent some 60% of total GHG emissions in the EU. This is shared out between Member States based on differences in GDP per capita. The agreement maintains the national targets for Member States, together with a linear legally binding trajectory for the period 2013-2020 with annual monitoring and compliance checks. Additional flexibility has been added to the trajectory.

Geological Storage of Carbon Dioxide

A Directive on geological storage of CO₂ provides a legal framework to manage possible environmental risks and liability issues. The reinforced carbon market will provide a long-term incentive for investment. Up to 300 million allowances in the new entrants reserve under the EU ETS will be made available to stimulate the construction and operation of up to 12 commercial demonstration projects to capture and store CO₂, and for innovative renewable energy demonstration technologies in the EU.

Monitoring and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from fuels

The agreement on the fuel quality Directive will place an obligation on suppliers to reduce greenhouse gases from the entire fuel production chain by 6% by 2020. A review in 2012 will consider increasing the ambition level to 10% greenhouse gas reduction by 2020 through the inclusion of international projects, carbon capture and storage as well as electricity for cars.

Emissions performance standards for new passenger cars

The new legislation (along with complementary measures such as the fuel quality directive) will set binding emissions targets to ensure that emissions from the new car fleet are reduced to an average of 120g CO₂/km. There is a phasing-in period for the targets from 2012 to 2015, with a long-term target of 95g CO₂/km to be achieved by 2020. The Commission estimates that this will on average contribute about one third of the reductions required from the non-ETS sectors.

6.3 Global agreement: Copenhagen December 2009

The EU is looking to use the deal struck on the Climate Change package as a basis for a strong hand in the negotiations that will take place at the **Copenhagen conference** in December 2009, where world leaders will seek to secure a new global deal on climate change as a follow up to the Kyoto agreement.

On 28 January Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas published a paper² setting out how the EU should prepare for the Copenhagen conference in December 2009, which calls on rich countries to develop a global carbon market by 2015 and to make available up to €30 billion to help poor countries by 2020.

² European Commission, (2009) [Towards a comprehensive climate change agreement in Copenhagen](#), COM(2009) 39 Final, Brussels: European Commission

The Dimas paper comes just days after a new report by the McKinsey Consultancy³, which warns that the “highly challenging” task of addressing climate change could become “virtually impossible” without immediate global effort, citing 2020 as the climate’s tipping point.

The 192 members of the United Nations Climate Change Convention met in Poznan in December 2008, as a preliminary step to setting out a vision of the agreement they aim to conclude in Copenhagen. At the Poznan Conference the member governments gave a commitment to move to the next level of negotiations on an outcome document for the 2009 Copenhagen summit.

Further information including a timeline of events and publications can be accessed through the EurActiv website [here](#).

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10. Further sources of useful information

Flood Plan UK

Flood Plan UK was launched on 05 February 2009 by insurance company Norwich Union. The website aims to provide information and practical advice to individuals and communities and includes a forum for flood victims and experts to share experiences as well as a *Community Flood Planning Guide* which sets out how to create a community flood plan. It can be accessed here:

<http://www.floodplanuk.org/>

Planning portal



The Planning Portal is the UK Government's online planning and building regulations resource for England and Wales. The site can be used to research planning and building regulations or apply for planning permission. The Government Users webpages include information on policy updates and guidance for local authorities implementing e-planning solutions. For further information please see:

<http://www.planningportal.gov.uk>

Sustain Wales Cynnal Cymru

Sustain Wales publishes a monthly e-magazine called *GloballySuSDCymru* which includes the latest views, articles, events and news across a broad range of sustainability issues. The March 2009 issue can be accessed [here](#).