

## Welcome to the June 2009 issue of Climate NE

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- **Free sustainable book.** A book on sustainable energy is available online to download for free. [More...](#)

## European and international news

- **Climate change kills 300,000 people a year.** A new report documenting the global impact of climate change on human society has been launched. Estimations of suffering due to climate change today include over 300,000 deaths per year and economic losses of over 100 billion US dollars. [More...](#)

○ **Solving the climate puzzle.** A new report describes how signs of a changing climate have been found in nearly every corner of the globe over the past 60 years. [More...](#)

## Events

○ **Small Change, Big Difference Week.** Taking place from 13 to 17 July, the Small Change, Big Difference Week will put the spotlight on local authority's efforts to help residents reduce their carbon footprint. [More...](#)

○ **Climate Change Short Course 2009.** A two-week interactive course, taking place in September at the University of East Anglia, to equip non-specialists with a broad understanding of climate change. [More...](#)

○ **Earthwatch SustainaBall.** This charity ball will be held on 5 September 2009 at Henley Business School, Greenlands in Henley-on-Thames. [More...](#)

○ **Government ICT Goes Green 09.** Taking place on 15 September in London, this conference is aimed at those involved in greening public sector ICT. [More...](#)

○ **North East Sustainable Waste Conference.** This free conference will take place on 13 October 2009 in Cleveland and is organised by the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (RIEP) Waste & Environment Programme team. [More...](#)

○ **International Day of Climate Change Action.** Organised by international campaign 350.org, this world-wide day calls on people around the globe to organise activities and events in their communities on 24 October. [More...](#)

○ **Environmental Futures '09.** Taking place on 9 and 10 November in London, The Environment Agency annual conference will include a speech by the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson and Secretary of State at the new Department of Energy and Climate Change, Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP. [More...](#)

**Do you have any events, news, stories or case studies about Climate Change? Let us know your news by emailing [jennifer.robson@northeastcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:jennifer.robson@northeastcouncils.gov.uk)**

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## Regional round-up

### ◉ Climate Projections launched

Scientific projections, launched by Environment Secretary Hilary Benn, provide the most detailed picture to date of the threat facing Britain from soaring summer temperatures, more extreme weather and rising sea levels.

The UK Climate Projections 2009, based on Met Office science, illustrate the extent of the changes the country might face in the absence of global action to cut emissions. This includes warmer and wetter winters, hotter and drier summers, increased risk of coastal erosion, and more severe weather.

Adrian Hilton, Regional Climate Change Coordinator, said: "It's fantastic that the government has pulled together such a scientifically robust analysis of the potential impacts of climate change in the UK. The projections uses cutting-edge science and methodology to help us plan and prepare for climate change.

"The Projections provide a useful selection of findings for North East England that are probabilistic in nature. They report the estimated likely range of future changes based on low, medium and high emissions scenarios.

"However, they do confirm that climate change is already affecting the region and that we will be subject to significant impacts unless we act now to tackle the problem. It is critical that we work to avoid and manage these impacts by planning and adapting now.

"North East England is already in a strong position, with hundreds of innovative and inspirational projects taking place across the region. ClimateNE, The Climate Change Partnership, has developed a sound understanding of the scale of the challenge we face. This work includes the award-winning Climate Change Adaptation Study – looking at what the future climate is likely to be for our region and how we will need to adapt; an analysis of Greenhouse Gas Emissions; and, crucially, the economic implications and opportunities for the region."

[Read more.](#)

### ◉ Climate change book exhibition

The launch of a Climate Change exhibition, based on a book authored by the young people of North East England, took place on 9 June.

Located in the Book Den at Seven Stories in Newcastle, the exhibition features 70 illustrations that comprise a book called *Climate Change Schools Project*. All artwork in the book was designed by pupils aged seven to 14, from a total of 11 schools across the region. The book also includes the pupil's thoughts on climate change as well as a foreword by international author and environmental campaigner Bill Bryson. The exhibition also displays the winning entry (see picture right), which features on the book cover.



Exhibition of illustrations from the *Climate Change Schools Project* book

The Climate Change Schools Project exhibition will be on display in the Book Den at Seven Stories until the end of August.

The accompanying book is available in the Seven Stories Bookshop and is priced £5.  
[Read more.](#)

## 🕒 Level of flood water marked in Morpeth

Blue tape was used throughout Morpeth to signify the levels that floodwaters reached in September last year.

Blue tape was fixed to flood-hit buildings including the historic town centre Chantry, the local church, the leisure centre, library, the Red Bull pub, and trees along the riverbanks. The exercise, which also involved information leaflets being handed out to visitors, was carried out on 14 June, the annual Morpeth Fair Day, which sees thousands of people flock to the town for hours of entertainment. The Blue Line Project was organised by the Morpeth Flood Action Group, which was set up in the wake of September's flooding which affected 1,000 homes and businesses in the town.

Morpeth Flood Action Group chairman Alan Bell said it was aimed at raising awareness of the continued flood risk facing the town, and the misery still being suffered by victims. He said: "We will be meeting representatives of the Agency later this month to find out more about progress with the flood alleviation scheme. Most people have been very supportive of what we are doing, and we have created the blue line on major routes into the town so that as many people as possible see it."

[Read the full article.](#)

## 🕒 Glendale Children's Show a success



*The Glendale Children's Show took place on Thursday 4 June in Wooler*

Cheviot Futures sponsored and attended the Glendale Children's Show on Thursday 4 June in Wooler. The theme for the day was climate change and the event was a huge success with over 1,400 children from schools across the region attending the event.

Cheviot Futures was represented on the day by the Environment Agency, the Fenton Centre and Northumberland National Park Authority and the activities organised focussed on climate change adaptation and flood risk.

The National Park used a giant jigsaw to teach children about the causes, impacts and solutions of climate change. The Fenton Centre covered the impact of the floods on Milfield Plains in the Till Valley, and the Environment Agency discussed flood kits and what items would be essential during a flood. All activities were interactive and encouraged the children to think for themselves and work through problems to find the answer.

The event was a great way of communicating with young people from all over North East England about climate change and the simple things they can do to reduce the impacts and encourage other people to think about the environment more. Many of the children remembered or were affected by the flooding in September 2008 so the event was used to increase flood awareness and teach children about the steps they can take to make their homes more resilient to flooding.

[Visit the Cheviot Futures website.](#)

## 🕒 Climate change focus for World Environment Day 2009

This year's international Environment Day focused on reaching a deal at the climate convention meeting in Copenhagen later this year. With its slogan "Your Planet Needs You! Unite to Combat Climate Change", it also aimed to encourage more people to rethink their actions – reducing waste, greenhouse gas emissions – and generally change their lifestyles for the good of the environment.

Adrian Hilton, Regional Climate Change Coordinator, said: "World Environment Day is an excellent way to highlight climate change, which is the greatest environmental challenge facing the world today. Its effect will be felt in North East England, the rest of the country, and globally.

"All councils in the North East are committed to tackling climate change and have demonstrated a long-term commitment by working together to ensure that sustainability and the environment are at the heart of policy and decision-making."

Councillor Mick Henry, Chair of the Association of North East Councils, said: "All local authorities have, at the heart of their activities, a responsibility to protect communities from risk. That's why significant progress and achievements have already been made in the region, in response to climate change, and why many local councils are actively marking World Environment Day. The Association of North East Councils has launched a Green Manifesto, informed by local authorities, which makes a number of pledges aimed at improving the wellbeing, health and environment of citizens and communities.

"All 12 of the region's councils have also demonstrated the importance of tackling climate change by signing up to the European Union's Covenant of Mayors, which is committed to reducing carbon emission by 20 per cent by 2020. The North East was the first region in the UK and Europe to sign up to the initiative."

Rob Aubrook, Natural England North East regional director, said: "The natural environment of North East England is one of this region's finest assets, but climate change represents a long term threat to our wildlife and to the landscapes we value. Natural England is involved in innovative regional initiatives such as Cheviot Futures, using our agri-environment schemes to increase the resilience of the countryside and helping farmers respond to the impacts of climate change. As an active partner of the North East Climate Change Partnership we will continue to take action in this region to make sure the natural environment can cope with the challenge of climate change."

[Read more.](#)

## 🕒 Carbon Trading Scheme for North East England

Renew is currently investigating the potential for a Carbon Exchange in North East England and is looking for views, via a questionnaire, on how to make this work. Currently, the only market to trade carbon is through the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme for qualifying companies.

Renew is investigating setting up a forum where local companies can voluntarily purchase carbon credits to offset their carbon emissions. The money from this would then be used for local projects which would have validated carbon savings. This would help reduce the overall carbon footprint of North East England and create projects which could lead to job creation with an associated financial benefit to the community.

To participate in the questionnaire email [Rachel Ward](mailto:Rachel.Ward@north-east-climate-change.org.uk).

## National news

### ○ Five point plan guides UK climate action

This summer, Ministers will set out the building blocks of a 'five point plan' designed to reduce emissions at home and abroad and to protect and prepare for the changes that are already inevitable.

Building on its extensive programme developed over recent years, the UK Government is taking action on five fronts: protecting the public from immediate risk; preparing for the future; limiting the severity of future climate change through a new international climate agreement; building a low carbon UK; and supporting individuals, communities and businesses to play their part.

[Read more.](#)

### ○ UK on track to double Kyoto target

The UK remains on track to almost double its greenhouse gas reduction obligations under the Kyoto Protocol on climate change, a new report to the United Nations has revealed.

The report, released by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), shows that UK greenhouse gas emissions are expected to be about 23% below 1990 levels by 2010 – well in excess of the target of 12.5% set out under the Kyoto agreement. The report also highlights the importance of international agreements in reducing carbon emissions, and comes as the world prepares to gather in Copenhagen at the end of this year to reach an historic deal on climate change action.

Minister for Climate Change, Joan Ruddock, said: "Our latest report to the UN shows what can be achieved when Government, communities and business work together to reduce emissions. We already have significant achievements under our belt, but we know there is more to be done – we must continue to work urgently to reduce our emissions further and faster."

[Read more.](#)

### ○ Consultation on measuring and reporting emissions launched

A public consultation on guidance aimed at helping organisations manage and reduce greenhouse gas (GHGs) emissions has been launched.

The guidance, published under the requirements of the Climate Change Act 2008, outlines a simple and clear step-by-step process on how an organisation should calculate its own corporate 'carbon footprint.' The closing date for responses to the public consultation is 7 August 2009 and the guidance will be published by 1 October 2009.

Environment Secretary, Hilary Benn, said: "I hope this guidance will make the measuring and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions easier for all organisations as a first step in helping them to manage and reduce their emissions. It is not just aimed at large, listed companies; smaller enterprises also have a part to play in tackling GHG emissions."

Minister for Climate Change, Joan Ruddock, said: "Climate change is one of the biggest threats facing our planet and as a Government we know we can only fight it if we have popular support and people are willing to act. If we are going to tackle climate change effectively then we need to help organisations calculate their own carbon footprint. That's why it's important we make this guidance as clear and straight-forward as possible so that those organisations taking action to reduce emissions – by rethinking their business, taking

energy efficiency measures and investing in renewables – can clearly and credibly demonstrate this.”

[Download the consultation document and guidance.](#)

## 🕒 **Climate change at heart of Government agenda**

Action on climate change must be at the heart of Government's efforts to shape a positive agenda for the future Business Secretary, Lord Mandelson, has said.

Mandelson called on ministers to show a clear strategic direction and be ready to intervene forcefully to encourage a national shift towards greener lifestyles.

He warned that market mechanisms alone will not deliver the necessary reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and conceded that action to tackle global warming is going to cost in the short term. But he also argued that ministers need to raise public awareness of the economic opportunities offered by the global market for low-carbon goods and services, which is already worth £3 trillion a year and could grow by half again by 2015.

[Read the full speech.](#)

## 🕒 **Extra support to cut public sector carbon footprint**

Public sector organisations will be able to save money and reduce carbon emissions thanks to a new energy efficiency loans. Government, in partnership with Salix Finance and the Carbon Trust, will provide £51.5 million in interest-free loans to help public sector organisations take advantage of energy efficiency technology.

Minister for Climate Change, Joan Ruddock said: “This fund could help public sector bodies save around £14 million per year in fuel bills. Following the announcement of our ambitious carbon budgets, all public sector organisations should lead by example by pioneering ways to reduce carbon emissions. I hope that local authorities, schools, hospitals, and fire stations will look into projects they can undertake, and use this funding opportunity.”

Loans will be available for around 80 different energy efficiency technologies, including building insulation, boiler and lighting upgrades, improved cooling systems and IT energy efficiency improvements.

[Read more.](#)

## 🕒 **Learning to live with climate change will not be enough**

A leading environmentalist explains why drastically reducing carbon dioxide emissions now will be easier, cheaper, and more ethical than dealing with climate destabilisation later in a report for the Guardian Environment Network.

[Read the full article.](#)

## 🕒 **Changing work in a changing environment**

The Trades Union Congress (TUC) has released a report urging employers to start planning ahead to protect staff from predicted future climate extremes.

*Changing Work in a Changing Climate* recommends that Government produce guidance on how employers can adapt workplaces to deal with the impacts of climate change, a new minimum temperature should be introduced above which employees should not be expected to work, and employers should work with their staff to create sustainable adaptation policies.

[Download the report.](#)

## 🕒 **Building business resilience to inevitable climate change**

A new report issued by Acclimatise, a specialist risk management company providing expertise in dealing with climate risks, focuses on the actions being taken by the UK FTSE 350 companies to adapt to a changing climate and build business resilience. It sets out the drivers for action and includes questions that company directors should ask in order to assess their climate change risks.

[Download the report.](#)

## 🕒 **Climate change adaptation for insurance industry**

The Association of British Insurers (ABI) and the Chartered Institute of Insurers (CII) have released its latest Think Piece paper which provides an overview of the insurance industry's recent work promoting climate change adaptation. Swenja Surminski of the ABI explores efforts to improve understanding of current and future risks, protect homes, businesses and communities, and develop risk management solutions for climate risks and making the market work for adaptation.

[Download the report.](#)

## 🕒 **HSBC releases 2008 sustainability report**

HSBC bank has published its 2008 sustainability report. It looks at what the company has accomplished in the past year, and includes issues like climate change, sustainable finance and forestry than in the past. The report also outlined its commitments for 2009; reviewing its policy on lending to the energy sector; performing more research on climate policy; and putting in place improvement plans for key suppliers.

A comment from Lord Stern, who stated that HSBC is playing an important role in identifying and shaping key drivers for low-carbon economies, is also included.

[Download the report.](#)

## 🕒 **Packaging strategy launched**

Defra has launched its Packaging Strategy – *Making the most of packaging: A strategy for a low-carbon economy*. It aims to contribute to greater resource efficiency and the fight against climate change. Key themes from the strategy include optimising packaging and maximising the recycling of packaging. Defra is urging businesses and local authorities to treat recycling as 'a source of potential revenue' and will work with WRAP and local authority partners to advise on the use of income-sharing contracts.

[Download the strategy.](#)

## 🕒 **White van man can go green**

Van buyers will find it easier to cut emissions and save money thanks to a new online database launched by Transport Secretary Andrew Adonis. The database allows users to search for new van models on the UK market and compare CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and the fuel consumption. Vans make up around 15% of road transport emissions in the UK and their emissions are rising at the highest rate of any road vehicle. If everybody buying a new van bought the most fuel efficient model in its class the average buyer could save up to 17% on both CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and fuel costs.

Andrew Adonis said: "This database is good news for van buyers - it gives them access to emissions and fuel consumption information that could influence the van they choose, as well as enable them to cut emissions and save money. At a time when Government is working hard to create a stable financial environment to encourage long-term investment in the motoring industry this tool is also good news for van producers by stimulating interest and demand in the models they make."

[Visit the database.](#)

## 🕒 Environment Agency publishes flooding reports

*Flooding in England* is the national flood risk assessment and provides information to inform the Environment Agency's plans for investment in flood management. It brings together the latest scientific and engineering knowledge to clearly describe the risks of flooding from rivers and the sea. *Investing for the Future* is a 25-year strategy for England looking at how we rise to the challenge to invest in managing flood and coastal erosion risk.

For further information email [Toby Willison](mailto:Toby.Willison)

## 🕒 Flood degree launched

Environment Secretary Hilary Benn has announced that Government will invest in improving flood risk capacity with the funding of up to 27 places on a foundation degree starting in the autumn. The course is aimed at local authority staff and Defra expects the sponsoring local authority to meet half of the training allowance and help facilitate appropriate practical experience, coaching and mentoring.

For more information email [Ron Eckersley](mailto:Ron.Eckersley)

## 🕒 Free sustainable book

A book on sustainable energy is available online to download for free. *Sustainable Energy without the hot air* was written by David J.C. MacKay, who is a member of the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council on Climate Change. The book is also available to buy for £19.99.

[Downloaded individual chapters or the whole book.](#)

## European and international news

### 🕒 Climate change kills 300,000 people a year

A new report documenting the global impact of climate change on human society has been launched. *The Anatomy of a Silent Crisis* focuses on the adverse impacts of the climate change on human society across the world and includes estimates on the numbers of deaths and casualties as a result of climate change, the economic costs of climate change, as well as making projections 20 years into the future.

Estimations of suffering due to climate change today are: over 300,000 deaths per year; over 300 million people severely affected; 500 million people living at extreme risk; over 20 million climate displaced people; and economic losses of over 100 US billion dollars.

[Download the report.](#)

### 🕒 Solving the climate puzzle

A new report, *Solving the Puzzle: Researching the Impacts of Climate Change Around the World*, describes how signs of a changing climate have been found in nearly every corner of the globe – from the icy expanses of Earth's polar regions to its equatorial ecosystems – over 60 years.

[Download the report.](#)

## Events

### 🕒 Small Change, Big Difference week

The first Small Change, Big Difference climate change week will take place from 13 to 17 July. The Week will put the spotlight on Local Authority's efforts to help their residents reduce their carbon footprint.

The Local Government Association (LGA) is urging local authorities to demonstrate their commitment to helping their residents by signing up to support the week; telling them how they are engaging residents; and, during the week, seek additional opportunities to promote the advice and support available to residents.

For further information email [scbdweek@lga.gov.uk](mailto:scbdweek@lga.gov.uk)

### ◉ **Climate Change Short Course 2009**

This two-week interactive course will take place from 2 to 15 September at the University of East Anglia. The purpose of the course is to equip non-specialists with a broad understanding of what climate change may mean for low-income populations and what the scope and prospects are for adapting to change in the context of development issues and poverty reduction.

[Read more.](#)

### ◉ **Earthwatch SustainaBall**

This charity ball will be held on 5 September at Henley Business School, Greenlands, Henley-on-Thames. The evening will start at 5.30pm with a drinks reception followed by dinner at 7pm. Music and Dancing will take place from 10pm to 1am.

For more details email [lhowells@earthwatch.org.uk](mailto:lhowells@earthwatch.org.uk)

### ◉ **Government ICT Goes Green 09**

Taking place on 15 September at the QEII Conference Centre in London, this event is aimed at those involved in greening public sector ICT. Over 400 key decision makers from across the UK will be present at this high-profile conference, along with over 20 speakers and more than 20 exhibitors. The event will act as a centre for discussion and networking, exposing delegates to key presentations directly relevant to the Greening Government ICT agenda while also analysing the key issues, technologies and industry best practice.

[Read more.](#)

### ◉ **North East Sustainable Waste Conference**

This free conference will take place on 13 October 2009 at Guisborough Hall Hotel. Organised by the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (RIEP) Waste & Environment team this conference will have a focus on sustainable waste in the region and aims to broaden delegates' understanding of a range of current issues in the sector.

[Register your interest.](#)

### ◉ **International Day of Climate Change Action**

Organised by international campaign 350.org, this world-wide event calls on people around the world to organise an event in their communities on 24 October.

[Find out more.](#)

### ◉ **Environmental Futures '09**

Taking place on 9 and 10 November in London, The Environment Agency annual conference will include a speech by the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson and Secretary of State at the Department of Energy and Climate Change, Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP. The conference is particularly suitable for senior management in Government departments and offices, regional development agencies and regional assemblies.

[Find out more.](#)