



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.

November 2008

Members' Research Service / Gwasanaeth Ymchwil yr Aelodau

Climate Change and Sustainability Current Awareness

Alison Castree

November 2008

Paper number: 08/3714

© National Assembly for Wales Commission 2008

© Comisiwn Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru 2008

Climate Change and Sustainability Current Awareness

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.

1.	Consultations	1
1.1	Department for Transport	1
1.2	The Department of Energy and Climate Change	1
2.	Press Releases, initiatives and announcements	1
2.1	Welsh Assembly Government	1
2.2	The Scottish Government.....	2
2.4	Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)	2
2.4	Department of Energy and Climate Change	2
2.5	Department for Transport.....	3
2.6	Further Press Releases	3
3.	Laid documents	4
4.	Cabinet Statements	4
5.	Legislation	4
5.1	Proposed Shipment of Waste for Recovery (Community Involvement Arrangements) (Wales) Measure.....	5
5.2	Progress of the Climate Change Bill	5
5.3	Progress of the Energy Bill	5
5.4	Progress of the Planning Bill.....	5
6.	Reports, research and statistics	6
6.1	Welsh Assembly Government.....	6
6.2	Department for Communities and Local Government	6
6.3	Further Publications	6
7.	Official Publications	7
7.1	House of Commons Papers	7
7.2	House of Lords Papers	8
7.3	Scottish Government Publications	8
8.	Journal articles and news items	8

Climate Change and Sustainability Current Awareness

1. Consultations

1.1 *Department for Transport*

[Consultation on Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation \(Amendment\) Order 2009](#)

This consultation seeks views on the Government's proposals for the rate of increase of the UK's renewable transport fuel obligation. It also seeks views on the addition of new eligible fuels and longer term issues with regard to the implementation of the Renewable Energy Directive and the Fuel Quality Directive. The closing date for responses is 12 December 2008.

1.2 *The Department of Energy and Climate Change*

[Consultation on carbon units, the net UK carbon account and carbon accounting](#)

The Department of Energy and Climate Change has launched a consultation on proposals for carbon accounting set out in the Climate Change Bill. The Bill requires the secretary of state to make provision for a carbon accounting scheme in the United Kingdom through the introduction of new carbon accounting regulations. The consultation is inviting views on the types of carbon units to be used in calculating the net UK carbon account; the circumstances in which carbon units can be credited to and debited from the net UK carbon account. The consultation closes on 19 January 2009.

2. Press Releases, initiatives and announcements

2.1 *Welsh Assembly Government*

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [Key appointment made to fuel poverty advisory group](#), 29 October 2008

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [Welsh Minister re-elected vice chair of European Environment Committee](#), 29 October 2008

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [World beating green technologies from Wales take centre stage](#), 27 October 2008

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [A Centre of Regeneration Excellence for Wales - results of study published](#), 23 October 2008

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [Minister outlines zero landfill, zero waste future for Wales](#), 21 October 2008

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [Action to deliver on the environment in Wales for all](#), 17 October 2008

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [Wales plays key role in new UK target for climate change](#), 16 October 2008

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [Wales is hub for green industrial revolution](#), 13 October 2008

Welsh Assembly Government Press Release, [First Minister opens pioneering hydrogen demonstration centre](#), 10 October 2008

2.2 The Scottish Government

Scottish Government Press Release, [Reducing Scotland's carbon footprint](#), 04 November 2009

Scottish Government Press Release, [Potential of offshore wind energy](#), 29 October 2009

Scottish Government Press Release, [Green Energy Day](#), 28 October 2008

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

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Press release, [Defra launches £6 million greener living fund](#), 03 November 2008

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Press release, [What's the carbon footprint of your product?](#) 29 October 2008

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Press release, [Hilary Benn Reappoints Rural Climate Change Forum](#), 17 October 2008

2.4 Department of Energy and Climate Change

Department of Energy and Climate Change Press Release, [Britain signs new Gulf green deal](#), 3 November 2008

Department of Energy and Climate Change Press Release, [New nuclear funding watchdog appointed](#), 3 November 2008

Department of Energy and Climate Change Press Release, [Chinese food production is vulnerable to climate change, report says](#), 31 October 2008

Department of Energy and Climate Change Press Release, [Army of Fuel Bill Advisors goes National during Energy Saving Week](#), 23 October 2008

Department of Energy and Climate Change Press Release, [UK is world leader in offshore wind](#), 21 October 2008

Department of Energy and Climate Change Press Release, [UK leads world with commitment to cut emissions by 80% by 2050](#), 16 October 2008

A video link to Ed Miliband, Secretary of State for Department of Energy and Climate Change, explaining the decision to set a tougher target for the reduction of the UK's carbon dioxide emissions can be accessed [here](#).

Department of Energy and Climate Change Press Release, [Ministerial responsibilities at the Department of Energy and Climate Change](#), 14 October 2008

Department of Energy and Climate Change Press Release, [Eliasch Review on International deforestation published](#), 14 October 2008

2.5 Department for Transport

Department for Transport Press Release, [Adonis sets out more cautious approach to Biofuels](#), 15 October 2008

Department for Transport Press Release, [Pioneering 'green' Government transport agency wins National Environmental Award](#), 16 October 2008

2.6 Further Press Releases

Department for Communities and Local Government Press Release, [Public consultation opens on toughest ever green standards for eco-towns](#), 04 November 2008

Department for Communities and Local Government Press Release, [New climate change duty and parliamentary scrutiny to strengthen Planning Bill](#), 04 November 2008

Friends of the Earth Press Release, [Parliament to vote on new climate change law](#), 28 October 2008

Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) Press Release, [New jobs on the horizon as Britain leads green motoring revolution](#), 27 October 2007

Environment Agency Press Release, [Water companies urged to improve infrastructure and reduce water use to protect the environment](#), 24 October 2008

Food Standards Agency Press Release, [Agency signs up to sustainable policies](#), 10 October 2008

3. Laid documents

Proposed Shipment of Waste for Recovery (Community Involvement in Arrangements) (Wales) Measure 200-, CR-LD7286, 05 November 2008

Proposed Shipment of Waste for Recovery (Community Involvement in Arrangements) (Wales) Measure 200-, MS-LD7287, 05 November 2008

Proposed Shipment of Waste for Recovery (Community Involvement in Arrangements) (Wales) Measure 200- - Explanatory Memorandum, MS-LD7287-EM, 05 November 2008

Presiding Officer's Statement on Proposed Shipment of Waste for Recovery (Community Involvement in Arrangements) (Wales) Measure, MS-LD7288-POS, 05 November 2008

Response to the report of the National Assembly Audit Committee's report on Tir Gofal: Committee Report AC (3) 08-08 (September 2008), GEN-LD7276, 22 October 2008

Welsh Assembly Government Response to the report of the National Assembly Audit Committee's report on Delivering the Home Energy Conservation Act in Wales, GEN-LD7271, 20 October 2008

4. Cabinet Statements

Welsh Assembly Government, Jane Davidson (Minister for the Environment, Sustainability and Housing), *World Summit of Regions on Climate Change, nrg4SD, and joining the UNDP Partnership Programme (St Malo, France: 29-30 October 2008)*, Cabinet Oral Statement, 07 November 2008

Welsh Assembly Government, Jane Davidson (Minister for the Environment, Sustainability and Housing), *Climate Change Commission*, Cabinet Oral Statement, 04 November 2008

Welsh Assembly Government, Jane Davidson (Minister for the Environment, Sustainability and Housing), *Launch of the Second Environment Strategy Action Plan 2008 – 2011*, Cabinet Written Statement, 16 October 2008

Welsh Assembly Government, Jane Davidson (Minister for the Environment, Sustainability and Housing), *Publication of the Committee on Climate Change's interim advice on recommendations for the UK's 2050 target*, Cabinet Written Statement, 16 October 2008

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 via:

http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-legislation/bus-leg-measures/bus-legislation-measures-proposed_recycling.htm

5.2 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 28 October 2008. Further information about the progress of the Bill and recent amendments can be accessed via:

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

5.3 Progress of the Energy Bill

The Energy Bill contains the legislative provisions required to implement UK energy policy following the publication of the Energy Review 2006 and the Energy White Paper 2007.

This policy is driven by the two long-term energy challenges faced by the UK: tackling climate change by reducing carbon dioxide emissions, and ensuring secure, clean and affordable energy.

The Bill had its third reading in the House of Lords on 05 November 2008. Further information and amendments can be viewed via:

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

5.4 Progress of the Planning Bill

The Planning Bill was introduced by Hazel Blears and puts forward a new system for approving major infrastructure of national importance, such as harbours and waste facilities, and replaces current regimes under several pieces of legislation. The objective is to streamline these decisions and avoid long public inquiries.

The Planning Bill contains 'framework powers' relating to local development plans and the Wales Spatial Plan, which would allow the National Assembly to make Measures in the areas specified if it is passed (see [Clause 195](#) of the latest amended version of the Bill).

The Bill is currently at the Report Stage at the House of Lords, with the third House of Lords reading scheduled for 18 November 2008. Planning Bill 3rd reading scheduled for 18 Nov. To view further information and amendments please see:

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

6. Reports, research and statistics

6.1 Welsh Assembly Government

Welsh Assembly Government, (2008) *Education for sustainable development and global citizenship: in the further education sector in Wales: September 2008*, Cardiff: Welsh Assembly Government

Welsh Assembly Government, (2008) *Education for sustainable development and global citizenship: a common understanding for schools: information: July 2008*, Cardiff: Welsh Assembly Government

Welsh Assembly Government, (2008) *Environmental strategy action plan: 2008-2011 Cynllun gweithredu'r strategaeth amgylcheddol: 2008-2011*, Cardiff: Welsh Assembly Government

Welsh Assembly Government, (2008) *Sustainable development indicators for Wales 2008 Dangosyddion datblygu cynaliadwy ar gyfer Cymru 2008*, Cardiff: Welsh Assembly Government

Welsh Assembly Government, (2008) *Help Wales reduce its carbon footprint: community action pack Helpu Cymru i leihau ei hól troed carbon: pecyn gweithredu cymunedol*, Cardiff: Welsh Assembly Government

6.2 Department for Communities and Local Government

Department for Communities and Local Government, (2008) *Secretary of State's formal invitation to Local Authorities to submit proposals under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007*, London: Department for Communities and Local Government

6.3 Further Publications

AEA Energy and Environment and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, (2008) *Policy options development & appraisal for reducing GHG emissions in Wales: report to the Welsh Assembly Government*, Didcot: AEA Energy and Environment

Area, Elena. (2008) *House of Commons Library Research Paper: The Climate Change Bill [HL]: Committee Stage report*, London: House of Commons

Brand, Anthony. (2008) *Sustainable communities act: the key that finally unlocks real local potential*, London: New Local Government Network (NLGN)

British Electrotechnical and Allied Manufacturers' Association (BEAMA), (2008) *The BEAMA White Paper: Climate Change: An industry response: October 2008*, London: BEAMA

Eliasch, Johan. (2008) *Climate change: financing global forests [The Eliasch review]*, London: The Stationery Office

OfGEM (2008) *Energy supply probe: summary of initial findings and remedies*, London: OfGEM

Organisation for Economic Development and Co-operation (OECD), (2008) *OECD Key environmental indicators*, France: The OECD Environment Directorate

Scottish Government, (2008) *Climate Change Consultation on Proposals for a Scottish Climate Change - Scottish Government Response*, Edinburgh: Scottish Government

Tin, Tina. (2008) *Climate change: faster, stronger, sooner: a European update of climate science*, Belgium: World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

World Wildlife Fund (WWF) (2008) *Living Planet Report 2008*, Switzerland: World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

7. Official Publications

7.1 House of Commons Papers

Environmental Audit Select Committee, *Halting biodiversity loss*, 10 November 2008, HC 743 2007-2008

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee, *Energy efficiency and fuel poverty*, 6 November 2008, HC 1099 2007-2008

Environmental Audit Select Committee, *Personal carbon trading: Government Response to the Committee's Fifth Report of Session 2007-08*, 05 November 2008, HC 1125 2007-2008

Environmental Audit Select Committee, *Greener homes for the future? An environmental analysis of the Government's house-building plans*, 03 November 2008, HC 566 2007-2008

Environmental Audit Select Committee, *Reaching an international agreement on climate change: Government Response to the Committee's Sixth Report of Session 2007-08*, 23 October 2008, HC 1055 2007-2008

Liaison Committee, [Planning Bill: Parliamentary scrutiny of national policy statements](#), 23 October 2008, HC 1109 2007-2008

Environmental Audit Select Committee, [The Export Credits Guarantee Department and Sustainable Development](#), 20 October 2008, HC 929 2007-2008

Transport Select Committee, [Draft marine navigation bill: Government response to the committee's ninth report of session 2007-08](#), 20 October 2008, HC 1104 2007-2008

Transport Select Committee, [Delivering a sustainable railway: a 30-year strategy for the railways?: Government response to the committee's tenth report of session 2007-08](#), 20 October 2008, HC 1105 2007-2008

Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Select Committee, [Renewable electricity-generation technologies: Government Response to the Committee's Fifth Report of Session 2007-08](#), 16 October 2008, HC 1063 2007-2008

Business and Enterprise Select Committee, [Energy prices, fuel poverty and Ofgem: Government Response to the Committee's Eleventh Report of Session 2007-08](#), 10 October 2008, HC 1069 2007-2008

7.2 House of Lords Papers

European Union Select Committee, [The EU's Target for Renewable Energy: 20% by 2020: Report](#), 24 October 2008, HL 175-I 2007-2008

European Union Select Committee, [The EU's Target for Renewable Energy: 20% by 2020: Evidence](#), 24 October 2008, HL 175-II 2007-2008

7.3 Scottish Government Publications

Scottish Fuel Poverty Forum, (2008) [Towards 2016 - The Future of Fuel Poverty Policy in Scotland](#), Scotland: Scottish Government

8. Journal articles and news items

Cost of Inaction (2008) *Holyrood*, 199, p2-3.

[Blow to Brown as BP scraps British renewables plan to focus on US](#), *The Guardian*, 07 November 2008

[Obama victory signals rebirth of US environmental policy](#), *The Guardian*, 05 November 2008

[Royal Society to research potential of geo-engineering to limit global warming](#), *The Guardian*, 30 October 2008

[Time to bury the 'clean coal' myth](#), *The Guardian*, 30 October 2008



[People power can beat climate change](#), *BBC News Online*, 28 October 2008

[Former BP chief Lord Browne speaks against alarmism on biofuels](#), *The Times Online*, 20 October 2008

[Miliband's blueprint for greener homes](#), *Independent Online*, 19 October 2008

[Loophole in minister's new emissions target](#), *Independent Online*, 17 October 2008

[Policy Review: Energy: An in-depth focus on the key areas of debate in energy policy, including ministerial and front bench comment \(2008\)](#) *The Parliamentary Monitor*, 16 October 2008, p 37-61.

[Emissions will shrink in downturn](#), *Low Carbon Economy*, 16 October 2008

[EU set to backtrack on emissions](#), *BBC News Online*, 16 October 2008

[Barrage 'could benefit wildlife'](#), *BBC News Online*, 14 October 2008

[The Independent on Sunday Green List: Britain's top 100 environmentalists](#) [Jane Davidson, Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing is number 3], *The Independent on Sunday*, 12 October 2008

[Halt sought in Welsh wind](#), *PlanningResource*, 10 October 2008