



SNIFFER PROJECT UKCC23: Measurement of Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas and Carbon Dioxide Emissions – Dissemination Event

In early May, SNIFFER is holding a dissemination event to present the findings of this project which aims to “Establish a Baseline Projection and Assess Policy Impacts to 2025”

This study commissioned by NI DoE and SNIFFER has researched the key sources of GHG emissions in Northern Ireland and uses available UK and NI-specific activity forecasts and policy appraisals to develop emission projections to 2025.

The seminar will outline the current understanding from available data, indicate key data gaps and risks to the accuracy of the projections and present the development of a spreadsheet tool to enable NI Government to:

- review the emission forecasts for NI as a whole and for specific policy areas (including power generation, domestic sector, industry, transport agriculture, waste, land use change) to assess likely progress towards 2025 emission reduction targets;



- identify where new reporting mechanisms and policy appraisal work may be needed to address key gaps in source data;
- focus future resources to the appraisal of key areas of devolved policy development;
- create a basis for discussion and to help promote a consistent approach to the integration of Climate Change considerations across Government Departments.

There will be opportunities throughout the afternoon to ask questions of the study team from AEA.

For more information please contact marion@sniffer.org.uk

New job opportunity at SNIFFER

European Urban Research Project Manager (URBAN-NET): fixed term contract to August 2010: to manage and coordinate a large multi-partner European Research Area on urban sustainability. Applicants should have excellent project management, facilitation and communications skills and a working knowledge of urban/sustainable places in UK and Europe.

Salary up to £35k. Secondments will be considered.

Please send your CV and completed [job application form](#) to info@sniffer.org.uk by **12 noon on Wednesday, 15 May 2008**.

Useful links

- [Research Information Service for Flood Risk Management \(RISE\)](#)
- [Water Framework Directive UK TAG](#)
- [WFD Visual](#)
- [WFD Research Database](#)
- [URBAN-NET project](#)
- [Integrated Water Resource Management](#)
- [Scottish Climate Change Impacts Partnership](#)

SNIFFER launches its methodology for assessing the benefits of flood warning

A new Flood Warning system benefit assessment methodology that takes into account both tangible and intangible benefits has been developed for SNIFFER research project UKCC10A.

The research has been undertaken in two phases with the key aim to develop a simple, transparent and robust methodology that will assess and measure the benefits of developing new flood warning schemes for Scotland and England & Wales.

It is recognised that a variety of techniques exist to assess the effectiveness of flood warning schemes. However, these are predominantly based on an economic approach, by assessing the potential tangible economic damage avoidance provided by flood warnings, and a public survey approach. They do not consider the intangible losses (e.g. impact on health) of flooding.

A new assessment method in the form of a Multi Criteria Analysis (MCA) 'tool' supported by Geographical Information System (GIS) procedures has been developed to assess the benefits of flood warning. This has been developed and validated using nine pilot studies in Scotland, England and Wales. The spreadsheet based tool is supported by GIS pre-processing and provides a clear audit trail which can support decision making and sensitivity analysis. The tool is capable of being used to assess a range of return periods (5 year to 1000 year).

Copies of the reports for both phases of the research are available from SNIFFER's website (www.sniffer.org.uk, search code UKCC10). Further information and copies of the tool are available by contacting SNIFFER directly, email gina@sniffer.org.uk

Staff updates

There have been a number of recent staff changes at SNIFFER:

Elliot Robertson has moved onto Flood Management with the Environment Agency. **Paul Sizeland** (presently manager of URBAN-NET for SNIFFER) will be moving into the role of Research Manager (sustainable places).

Marion Mulholland will be returning to SNH in May following secondment to manage SCCIP. **Vanessa Kind** will be returning to her role as Research Manager (Climate Change) in May following her maternity leave.

Trevor Elliott has left SNIFFER to pursue other interests.

We have a new start – **Helen Simcox**, who joins us from the Environment Agency, as Research Coordinator, to replace **Rebecca Kelly** who has left SNIFFER to spend a year traveling.



URBAN-NET Summary of Activity

URBAN-NET, the European research Area Network coordinated by SNIFFER has recently reached its 18 month stage.

The project began in August 2006 and is set to run until August 2010, with five Work Packages designed to break new ground in collaborating on transnational urban research activities. Its objectives are to:

- plan and implement trans-national and trans-regional activities to identify and address shared requirements for research into sustainable urban development;
- champion coordinated urban research in Europe through the mutual opening of research programmes and the joint planning of associated activities (e.g. workshops); and
- coordinate action to disseminate existing knowledge, practical experience (e.g. good practice) and applications of research.

A substantial area of work has been aimed at mapping and understanding the current level of coverage and modes of working of the research programmes operating in partners' countries. Several key deliverables have come from this, including a conceptual framework for classifying urban research programmes. Click [here](#) for full report (page 8.)

Over the last 18 months URBAN-Net has successfully widened its sphere of influence beyond the initial 16 project partners and has subsequently broadened the discussions about urban sustainability issues and begun the process of understanding the barriers to transnational collaboration and how to address and overcome these.



Towards the end of 2007 URBAN-NET began work towards determining partner countries' priority urban research areas. This resulted in a major discussion paper summarizing 15 themes for discussing and ranking to determine themes of common interest. The discussion paper "Future research Areas in the Field of Urban Sustainability" can be found [here](#).

A project website has been established at <http://www.urban-net.org/>. Details of events, relevant documents and presentations can be found here. This website will also serve as the portal for the searchable database of European urban research programmes which is due to be online in July 2008.

If you would like to receive the URBAN-NET bi-monthly mailing, by email, please send your email address to info@urban-net.org.

Established in 1994, SNIFFER is a private company and registered charity dedicated to increasing knowledge to protect the environment and improve quality of life.

Scottish Charity No SC02375



For more information visit our website www.sniffer.org.uk or click contact us

Scotland & Northern Ireland Forum for Environmental Research
First Floor, Greenside House
25 Greenside Place Edinburgh EH1 3AA
Tel: +44 (0) 131 557 2140 Fax: +44 (0) 131 652 3670
General Email: info@sniffer.org.uk
Web Site: www.sniffer.org.uk

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