

**Welcome** to the first edition of NICCIP News, the climate change newsletter for Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland Climate Change Impacts Partnership (NICCIP) is a partnership consisting of representatives from central and local government, the business community, the voluntary sector and professional organisations.

The aim of the newsletter is to **share** information about **climate change** and activities to adapt to the impacts and consequences. Through this, the profile of climate change and its implications for Northern Ireland will be raised. Climate change is happening, there are impacts and opportunities.

The contents do not represent the views of NICCIP nor of its members.

The newsletter will be issued **quarterly** and provide up-to-date **information** about what is going on both in Northern Ireland, the UK and abroad. Major policy initiatives as well as examples of action and links to key reports and other news items will be highlighted.

The future success of the newsletter depends on making sure it is circulated widely and that news information is sent in to the NICCIP secretariat for inclusion in future editions. So please feel free to **forward this newsletter to others**.

I hope you find the newsletter informative and useful. As this is the first edition, there may be improvements and you may have suggestions. I welcome any news or comments etc - please send items to me at [irene@sniffer.org.uk](mailto:irene@sniffer.org.uk)

Irene McGee, **NICCIP Secretariat**, [irene@sniffer.org.uk](mailto:irene@sniffer.org.uk)

## NICCIP NEWS:

**Register to get future NICCIP news** - If you would like to receive future editions of NICCIP news, then please send your name and e-mail contact details to [irene@sniffer.org.uk](mailto:irene@sniffer.org.uk)

### **Introduction to NICCIP**

NICCIP provides a key forum for public, private and voluntary sectors to engage in and take action on climate change. Find out more via the NICCIP webpage. <http://www.sniffer.org.uk/our-work/climate-change/niccip.aspx>

### **NICCIP introduces its new Chairperson**

NICCIP welcomes its new Chairman, John McMullan, Chief Executive of the Bryson Group. John replaces former chairperson Douglas McIlldoon. The group would like to thank Douglas for all his efforts over the last year in guiding the direction of the group.

### **PIP – Projections in Practice**

The Department of the Environment (DOE) in partnership with the NI Climate Change Impacts Partnership (NICCIP) and the UK Climates Impacts Programme (UKCIP) will be holding a UK Climate Projections in practice event on Thursday 3rd December in the Park Avenue Hotel Belfast. The event will examine what the recently launched UK Climate Projections 09 (UKCP09) tells us about how the climate will change in Northern Ireland, emphasising the need for Northern Ireland to adapt to the climate changes that will incur in the upcoming years. The free event will be a general session, open to all. It will provide delegates with the information they need to assess the risks climate change poses to their organisations using the latest climate projections UKCP09. For more information refer to the *'Calendar of Events'* at the end of this newsletter. To register for this event email [climate.change@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:climate.change@doeni.gov.uk).

## OTHER NORTHERN IRELAND CLIMATE CHANGE NEWS:

### **Environment Minister Mr. Poots comments on how generating renewable energy is the way forward (October 2009)**

Environment Minister Edwin Poots visited Marine Current Turbine Ltd's SeaGen project in Strangford Lough. SeaGen is the first commercial-scale tidal energy project in the world and is also the world's only tidal energy device supplying electricity to the national grid. The turbine generates up to 1.2MW, enough electricity for about 1,000 households. Speaking after the visit the Minister said: "The project will signify a significant step forward towards supporting government policy by reducing carbon emissions through renewable energy production...I believe this project is a major step forward in renewables technology and is an excellent example of commercial development working hand in hand with our much valued and precious environment."

To read more visit <http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/news/news-doe/news-doe-011009-generating-renewable-energy.htm>

**Renewable electricity plant to power 6,000 homes (October 2009)**

Energy Minister Arlene Foster officially opened Belfast City Council's first landfill gas electricity generating plant in October. The installation is situated on the former landfill site at the North Foreshore, now known as Giant's Park, and will provide enough renewable electricity to supply around 6,000 households.

Speaking at the event, the Minister said: "This is a very important milestone for our renewables development. The Giant's Park installation is the largest non-wind renewable generating station to come into operation in Northern Ireland and only the second to produce electricity from landfill gas. To read more visit <http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/news-deti-011009>

**Local Challenge Europe Advocate selected as 'International Climate Change Champion' (October 2009)**

Rosie Barnett, a 2008 British Council Challenge Europe Advocate has been selected as an International Climate Change Champion. *Climate Champions* is a youth oriented programme that aims to inspire young people and work with them towards spreading the word on Climate Change and its effects.

Rosie's project will be 'Transition Belfast'. The project aims to prepare for a formal launch of Transition Belfast. Transition Towns is a grassroots movement of communities working together to tackle the twin challenge of climate change and peak oil, and it is intended Transition Belfast will join the now global network of formally accredited Transition Towns.

**Northern Ireland Assembly Environment Committee inquiry into climate change (October 2009)**

The Environment Committee has received all its written and oral evidence from all parties in relation to its enquiry into Climate Change. According to the Assembly website, the current status of the enquiry is at 'Further Discussion' stages.

All written responses to the Committees inquiry into climate change can be viewed here: [http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/environment/2007mandate/envir\\_climateChangeSubmissions.htm](http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/environment/2007mandate/envir_climateChangeSubmissions.htm).

NICCIP's response can be viewed here *'The Northern Ireland Climate Change Impacts Partnership (NICCIP) - Evidence to the Environment Committee'* <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/environment/2007mandate/submissions/NICCIP.htm>

**Environment Minister Mr. Poots comments on findings from public climate change survey (September 2009)**

The Minister said: "The findings contained in the survey results are in line with my Department's view that climate change is caused by human activity and natural processes together. I am encouraged that the public recognise that they have an important role to play in combating climate change. It is only by a combination of public action and government initiatives, that progress against climate change can be made." To read more visit: <http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/news/news-doe/news-doe-100909-poots-welcomes-climate.htm>

**Environment Minister, Mr. Edwin Poots welcomes fall in Greenhouse Gas Emissions (September 2009)**

A report has revealed that Greenhouse gas emissions in Northern Ireland have fallen by 13% since 1990. Environment Minister, Edwin Poots welcomed the positive trends and said: "These falling figures are evidence that we are all becoming more environmentally aware and I wish to commend everyone who has played their part in helping to continue the downward trend in these harmful

emissions. To read more on this story visit: <http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/news/news-doe/news-doe-poots-welcomes-fall.htm>

**Industry Leaders call for more action on climate change (September 2009)**

The first Communiqué from the Corporate Leaders group, presented to the Taoiseach Brian Cowen on the 21st of September 2009, calls on the Irish Government to implement science- based targets and a tough climate change law. They have called upon issues such as; acknowledging the seriousness of the challenge and the enormity of the opportunity, and positioning Ireland as a world leader in smart green enterprise. To read more visit: <http://www.foe.ie/documents/corporate-leaders-group>

**NI Sustainable Development Commission host lecture by Professor Tim Jackson, (September 2009)**

The Sustainable Development Commission hosted a discussion on moving Northern Ireland's economy towards a sustainable future, in Queen's University. The discussion was inspired by Tim Jackson's publication, "Prosperity without Growth". The event had a massive turnout, and some great discussions followed. For more, visit <http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/news.php/272/ireland/northern-ireland-and-the-transition-to-a-sustainable-economy>

**CONGA-4-CLIMATE at Electric Picnic – 6 month Countdown to Copenhagen (August 2009)**

Building on the success of the Human Hourglass on Sandymount beach this year where 1000 people joined together to mark the six month countdown to Copenhagen Friends of the Earth and Stop Climate Chaos organised a flash mob at this years Electric Picnic! Hundreds of picnickers joined the Conga 4 Climate through the festival. To see the video and read more visit <http://www.stopclimatechaos.ie/>

**British Council Challenge Europe – a new group of energetic Year 2 Climate Advocates selected (June 2009)**

Challenge Europe is a three year campaign that aspires to make a definite and lasting impact on the climate change debate and is ambitious in it aim to accelerate change to a Low Carbon Future. In each of the 13 participating European countries Climate Advocates, aged 18-35, are working together on climate challenges and local projects to reduce carbon use. The 15 advocates selected from North and South of Ireland can be viewed here <http://challengeeurope.britishcouncil.org/index.php/the-advocates-20092010>

**Preparing for a changing climate in Northern Ireland – 2007 Report**

'Northern Ireland's climate is already changing and we should expect these changes to accelerate over the coming century'. Though published by SNIFFER in 2007, this report is a key source document examining the ways in which Northern Ireland must prepare to meet both the opportunities and threats presented by the impacts of a changing climate. [http://www.sniffer.org.uk/Resources/UKCC13/Layout\\_ClimateChange/12.aspx?backurl=http%3a%2f%2fwww.sniffer.org.uk%3a80%2four-work%2fclimate-change.aspx&selectedtab=completed](http://www.sniffer.org.uk/Resources/UKCC13/Layout_ClimateChange/12.aspx?backurl=http%3a%2f%2fwww.sniffer.org.uk%3a80%2four-work%2fclimate-change.aspx&selectedtab=completed)

## UK CLIMATE CHANGE NEWS

**Pre-Copenhagen public rally event (October 2009)**

Ed Miliband hosted a public rally on Thursday 22 October in East London, to give an update, and take questions, on the current state of negotiations in the lead to Copenhagen.

The rally comes in the midst of a number of important meetings - such as the UK hosted Major Economies Forum, the EU Council meeting on 21 October, and the 350.org Global Day of Action planned for 24 October - where Copenhagen and climate change are a major focus.

For more information visit: <http://www.decc.gov.uk/>

**UK Government White Paper 'The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan (July 2009)**

The UK Government White Paper 'The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan' was published In July 2009 and is available at <http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/publications/publications.aspx>

The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan plots out how the **UK** will meet the cut in emissions set out in the **UK's** carbon budget of 34% on 1990 levels by 2020. Chapter 9 relates specifically to the devolved administrations.

**Projections in Practice (PiP)**

The Projections in Practice programme is a series of free events aimed at equipping organisations with the right training and guidance to be able to adapt to our changing climate - helping you make the most of the UK Climate Projections in your planning and risk management strategies.

<http://bookwhen.com/pip>

**10:10 Campaign Launched (September 2009)**

The 10:10 campaign, launched on September 1, is designed both to answer the call for immediate action, and to offer individuals and organisations a meaningful way of taking it. It is the brainchild of Franny Armstrong, the film-maker behind The Age of Stupid. By signing up, individuals and organisations from multinational companies to schools and hospitals commit to doing their best to cut their emissions by 10% by the end of 2010, precisely the sort of deep, quick cut the scientists say is needed. To read more or sign up to 10:10, visit [www.1010uk.org/](http://www.1010uk.org/)

**Report Highlights Government's Poor Progress on Cutting Carbon (August 2009):**

An Environmental Audit Committee report published today warns that the Government is not on track to meet targets for cutting its own emissions and could have to pay money to large private sector firms – who may have done more to reduce their emissions – in a new carbon trading scheme due to begin in April 2010. The Committee's latest report on Greening Government also shows that the proportion of renewable energy used by Government departments has dropped in the last year.

<http://news.parliament.uk/2009/08/report-highlights-governments-poor-progress-on-cutting-carbon/>

**Beneficial Biofuels—The Food, Energy and Environment Trilemma (July 2009):**

“Done right,” Biofuels can be produced in large quantities and have multiple benefits, but only if they come from feedstocks produced with low life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions, as well as minimal competition with food production. This consensus emerges in a new journal article by researchers from the University of Minnesota, Princeton, MIT and the University of California, Berkeley.

<http://environment.umn.edu/newsroom/newspages2009/biofuels07162009.html>

**Scottish Climate Change Act 2009 passed (June 2009)**

The Scottish Government's world-leading legislation to tackle climate change sets a target of reducing emissions by 80 per cent by 2050, including emissions from international aviation and shipping. It also sets an interim target for a 42 per cent cut in emissions by 2020.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/climatechange/scotlands-action/climatechangeact>

In August 2009, the bill was granted by Royal Assent and has now become an Act of Parliament.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/08/05131424>

**The Scottish Government's Climate Change Delivery Plan published (June 2009)**

This sets out a vision to meet the world leading Climate Change (Scotland) Act target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 per cent by 2050.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/06/17112350>

**AVOID - a research programme to advise the UK on "Avoiding dangerous climate change"**

Launched by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the initiative aims to further improve the Government's evidence base on the science of climate change and to contribute to securing decisive global action that will reduce and respond to it.

**Climate futures – responses to climate change in 2030.**

Climate Futures analyses the social, political, economic and psychological consequences of climate change and describes how different global responses to the problem could lead to five very different worlds by 2030. To access the report visit <http://www.forumforthefuture.org/projects/climate-futures>

**Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution Study - Adapting the UK to climate change**

The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution's current study is investigating how to adapt the UK to climate change. The Commission is focusing on the institutional arrangements necessary for the UK to adapt to the changes in the natural environment brought about by climate change.

<http://www.rcep.org.uk/reports/28-adaptation/28-adaptation.htm>

***Climate change: adapting to the inevitable?***

The Institution of Mechanical Engineers' latest environment theme report considers the possible climate changes which we may expect over the next 1,000 years due to continuing CO2 emissions, and recommends what engineers need to do to adapt to our future world so that we can cope with these changes.

<http://www.imeche.org/about/keythemes/environment/Climate+Change/Adaptation/Adaptation+Report>

**Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership**

The United Kingdom Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership (MCCIP) brings together scientists, government, its agencies and NGOs to provide co-ordinated advice on climate change impacts

around our coast and in our seas. A new report card with the latest marine and coastal was published in spring 2009. <http://www.mccip.org.uk/>

#### **Climate change training - Met Office – news courses**

To plan effectively for the future, influencers and decision-makers in Government and the public sector need to understand how the climate will change and how this may impact their organisation. The new Met Office climate change seminars designed for professionals in Government and the public sector. <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/training/climatechange/>

## **THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE**

#### **Obama warns of "irreversible catastrophe" for climate (October 2009)**

WORLD LEADERS have attempted to inject a sense of urgency into negotiations for a global climate change agreement. "We risk consigning future generations to an irreversible catastrophe," President Barack Obama told 190 heads of state and government who convened at the United Nations on the eve of the opening of the General Assembly. UN secretary general Ban Ki-moon said: "This is the largest-ever meeting of world leaders on climate change. Now is the moment to act. We will soon reach the critical threshold, the consequences of which cannot be reversed. We have less than 10 years to avoid the worst-case scenario . . . The Arctic will be nearly ice-free by late 2030."

To read more on this story visit <http://www.foe.ie/news/2009/09/23/obama-warns-of-irreversible-catastrophe-for-climate/>

#### **Japan Vows Big Climate Change Cut (September 2009)**

Japan's next leader has promised a big cut in greenhouse gas emissions, saying he will aim for a 25% reduction by 2020 compared with 1990 levels. Yukio Hatoyama is due to take over as prime minister on 16 September, after a resounding election victory in August. His predecessor, Taro Aso, had pledged cuts of only 8%. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/8241016.stm>

#### **New Estimates Confirm the Declining Trend in EU Greenhouse Gas Emissions (August 2009)**

New European Environment Agency (EEA) estimates indicate that EU greenhouse gas emissions decreased in 2008 for the fourth consecutive year. The vast majority of the decline in emissions in 2008 was due to lower CO2 emissions from fossil fuel combustion in the energy, industry and transport sectors. The 2008 emission reductions reflect the effects of the global economic recession which began in 2008, which resulted in reduced industrial output and reduced energy consumption by industry, and correspondingly reduced freight transport.

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/new-estimates-confirm-the-declining-trend-in-eu-greenhouse-gas-emissions>

#### **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**

2009, the year of climate change, is also the year of opportunity. In an address to UK Parliamentarians, Yvo de Boer stressed that a political solution to the world's most pressing problem of climate change was critical for humanity's further development as a whole, and especially critical for the world's poorest and most vulnerable people.

### **Countdown to Copenhagen 2009**

Visit <http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

### **Word Wide Views on Global Warming: A global citizen consultation on climate policy**

On September 26, 2009, World Wide Views on Global Warming (WWViews) gave citizens all over the world a possibility to define and communicate their positions on issues and questions central to the negotiations at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP15) in Copenhagen. Decisions made at COP15 will shape the global climate policy for years to come. Furthermore, citizens of the world have to live with global warming and this future climate policy, which is why they should be consulted before political decision-makers negotiate at the COP15. <http://www.wwviews.org/>

### **Cities of the future — how will European cities adapt to new climate conditions?**

Cities and towns are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and will need to find innovative ways to adapt. Now is the time to start rethinking urban design and management — yet few have taken concrete action. To read more visit <http://www.eea.europa.eu/articles/cities-of-the-future-2013-how-will-european-cities-adapt-to-new-climate-conditions>

### **EEA Briefing 3/2008 - Impacts of Europe's changing climate**

Global climate change is a reality. In Europe the most vulnerable regions are the Arctic, mountain areas, coastal zones and the Mediterranean. Key economic sectors, which will need to adapt include energy supply, health, water management, agriculture, forestry, tourism and transport. [http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/briefing\\_2008\\_3](http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/briefing_2008_3)

### **An ambitious collaboration between eight European Union member states is aiming to help cities adapt to the effects of climate change.**

Managed by the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA), the project will raise awareness among local and regional authorities about which neighbourhoods are most vulnerable to the impact of climate change and devise approaches to help them respond.

<http://www.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/news/display/?id=4285>

### **Suffering the Science: Climate Change, People, and Poverty**

This report outlines evidence of how climate change is affecting every issue linked to poverty and development from access to food and water to health and security. It warns that without immediate action 50 years of development gains in poor countries will be permanently lost. One of the most worrying trends highlighted in the report is the impact of erratic weather on agriculture. Poor farmers, who can no longer rely on seasons, are losing crop after crop because of sudden heat waves or heavy rains. Read this report online at:

[www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/climate\\_change/suffering-science-climate-change.html](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/climate_change/suffering-science-climate-change.html)

If you have any news, events or information for inclusion on the next NICCIP news please send to

[Irene@sniffer.org.uk](mailto:Irene@sniffer.org.uk)

## **CALENDER OF FUTURE EVENTS THIS SEASON**

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION	Notes
Autumn Bounty	Saturday 24th <b>October</b> 2009 10am - 4pm	Castle Archdale Country Park	Enjoy the colours, tastes and aromas of autumn at Castle Archdale Country Park. Activities and entertainment for the whole family including live music, workshops and fun games. For more visit <a href="http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/events/upcoming_events.htm">http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/events/upcoming_events.htm</a>
Apple Day	Sunday, 25 <b>October</b> 2009 11am - 5pm	Peatlands Park	Celebrate Armagh's apple heritage and see the wonderful diversity of apple varieties from all around the world. For more visit <a href="http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/events/upcoming_events.htm">http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/events/upcoming_events.htm</a>
EPA Climate Change Lecture Series – Lecture 9 “For Peat’s Sake: Bogs and Climate Change will take Place”	27 <sup>th</sup> <b>October</b> 2009, 6.30pm	The Round Room, The Mansion House, Dawson Street, Dublin 2	
BBC Lifeline, A story about Transition Belfast	Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> <b>October</b> 1630 and Monday 26th 2335 BBC1 and Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> 1400 BBC2		Starring International Climate Change Champion Rosie Barnett, Action Renewables and the British Council.
The Climate Change and Health Group	2 <sup>nd</sup> <b>November</b> 2009, 10.00 – 12.15	NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast, BT15 2GB	For more information please contact Ruth at Belfast Healthy Cities, Email <a href="mailto:ruth@belfasthealthycities.com">ruth@belfasthealthycities.com</a>
NICCIP Quarterly Meeting	6 <sup>th</sup> <b>November</b> 2009, 10.00am.	Bryson House, Belfast	NICCIP Members Only. For more information please contact <a href="mailto:irene@sniffer.org.uk">irene@sniffer.org.uk</a>
PIP - Climate Change Projections in Practice (held by DOE, NICCIP and UKCIP)	3 <sup>rd</sup> <b>December</b> 2009	Park Avenue Hotel Belfast	This event will examine what the recently launched UK Climate Change Projections 09 tells us about how the climate will change in Northern Ireland, emphasizing the need for Northern Ireland to adapt to the climate changes that will incur in the upcoming years. To register for this event email <a href="mailto:climate.change@doeni.gov.uk">climate.change@doeni.gov.uk</a>

Enchanted Forest	Friday 20 <b>November</b> 2009 6pm - 10pm	Crawfordsburn Country Park	A magical night at Crawfordsburn - come and enjoy the magical illuminated forest, sweet music, storytelling and fairytale creatures. For more visit <a href="http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/events/upcoming_events.htm">http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/events/upcoming_events.htm</a>
RSPB Northern Ireland Futurescapes Seminar <i>"Rebuilding the country-side, Landscape Habitat Restoration in Northern Ireland"</i>	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> <b>December</b> 2009, 9.30am – 1.30pm	Ulster Museum, Belfast	RSPB NI Futurescapes programme is focused primarily on large-scale wetland restoration, helping wildlife to build resilience to climate change. We will be showcasing examples of our restoration work in Scotland, England and Northern Ireland, including wet grassland restoration at Lough Beg (Lough Neagh basin) and blanket bog restoration at Slieve Beagh (Lough Erne basin). Those who wish to attend should contact Joanne Cathcart, RSPB NI, Belvoir Park Forest, Belfast, BT8 7QT, Email: <a href="mailto:Joanne.Cathcart@rspb.org.uk">Joanne.Cathcart@rspb.org.uk</a> <b>RSVP by Friday 30th October 2009.</b>
NIEA 2010 Research Strategy Workshop	21 <sup>st</sup> <b>January</b> 2010		Invitation Only
NIEA Events – Wonderful NI Such as <i>"Medieval music and Storyteller"</i> at Carrickfergus Castle <i>"Halloween Extravaganza"</i> at Enniskillen Castle	<b>A Variety of Dates</b> Throughout this Autumn/ Winter	Fantastic locations throughout Northern Ireland.	For more information on these events visit: <a href="http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/events/events-cal.htm">http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/events/events-cal.htm</a>