

### NICCIP News

#### UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (UKCCRA) Update



Work is progressing on the various reports and material which will be produced from the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment. The Adaptation Sub Committee, which is a sub committee of the Climate Change Committee, will be reviewing the eleven sector reports during July and August and providing their advice on the draft sector reports. It is anticipated that the sector reports will be published as stand alone sector reports.

A first draft of the Synthesis report has been produced for government comment. This report will fulfil the requirements of the Climate Change Act 2008, providing an assessment of the risks and opportunities to the UK from climate change and current climate. The report will review and present the best current information available on UK vulnerability and risks from climate change, consider the consequences for the UK and identify priority risks and current evidence gaps.

The Northern Ireland report will provide the underpinning evidence which will be used when developing the Northern Ireland adaptation programme, as required by the Climate Change Act 2008. Analysis and assessment of climate change risks to Northern Ireland is being taken forward by the contractor HR Wallingford. They are continuing to engage with Northern Ireland stakeholders in order to ensure the report contains our most relevant risks and opportunities.



#### Staff changes

Irene McGee, NICCIP Secretariat, has recently moved on from NICCIP to undertake an exciting new role in developing the Electric Car industry in NI. Annika Clements now has the difficult task of stepping into Irene's shoes as the new NICCIP Coordinator. Irene's work for NICCIP and dedication to this has been very much appreciated, and we wish her all the best for the future. Annika can be contacted by email at: [Annika@sniffer.org.uk](mailto:Annika@sniffer.org.uk)



#### Success of Climate Week

Nine events took place across Northern Ireland as part of the UK-wide Climate Week. The events were most successful and well attended, and ranged from Eco-Schools demonstration, renewable energy at work tours to reducing food waste demonstrations.

### Other Northern Ireland Climate Change News



#### The latest Northern Ireland emissions and removals of greenhouse gases from land use, land use change and forestry are now available.

The key Northern Ireland figures from the "Emissions and Removals of Greenhouse Gases from Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland: 1990-2009." Include emissions of greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide) by sources and removals of carbon dioxide by sinks from land use, land use change and forestry activities. There are

six main land use types included in this sector; forestland, cropland, grassland, wetlands, settlements, and other (harvested wood products).

The key findings for Northern Ireland are:

- In 1990, Northern Ireland was a small net source of greenhouse gases from LULUCF activities of 91 kilotonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (kt CO<sub>2</sub>).
- During the period, 1993 – 2006, Northern Ireland was a small net sink of greenhouse gases from LULUCF activities, reaching a low of -140kt CO<sub>2</sub> in 1999.
- From 2007 until 2009, Northern Ireland was again a small net source of greenhouse gas emissions from LULUCF activities, supplying 100 kt CO<sub>2</sub> in 2009.
- In 2008, net emissions from LULUCF activities were 60 kt CO<sub>2</sub>. This accounts for less than 1% of Northern Ireland's total greenhouse gas emissions in 2008.

The full UK report can be accessed through the National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory [website](#)



### **Transport Minister Danny Kennedy says cycling will play a major part in the future Active Travel Strategy.**

The Minister was addressing an audience of cycling enthusiasts and organisations promoting cycling, at the Belfast Cycle City 2015/2020 Vision Conference, organised by Friends of the Earth. During his opening address at the conference, the Minister said: "I want to see a city centre where the street environment is tailored to meet the needs of cyclists and pedestrians rather than the private car and where access by public transport is continually improving and developing. I am committed to giving this a high priority. My Department has set up the Active Travel Forum to research innovative walking and cycling programmes and to make recommendations for an Active Travel Strategy for consultation later this year. The challenge is to create streets that are attractive to investors, employees, residents, shoppers and tourists. To enable the city centre to thrive, people need to be able to access goods and services quickly and efficiently."

The Conference took place immediately after this year's DRD Travelwise Bike Week, 18 to 26 June 2011.



### **Public Perceptions on Car Emissions 2011**

Respondents were surveyed using the Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey carried out in February 2011. The publication is produced by the Central Statistics and Research Branch (CSRB) of the Department for Regional Development and is available on the [CSRB website](#)

Key points from the report:

- In total, 94% of the respondents had used a car or van as either a driver or passenger.
- Travelling by bus (48%) or taxi (45%) were the next most popular methods of travel.
- Just over half of the respondents (53%) believed that individuals should try to limit their car use for the sake of the environment, with most of the remaining respondents (46%) believing there was no point, as not enough individuals would participate in order for it to make a difference.
- All respondents were asked what local actions or policies taken by the government would encourage people to reduce their emissions. The dominant responses included reducing the cost of public transport (65%), spending more on bus services (57%) and establishing more safe routes for children to walk to school (44%).



### **Agriculture and Rural Development Minister Michelle O'Neill has said the local renewable energy sector is an instrumental component to help grow the economy.**

The Minister was speaking after a tour of the Environment and Renewable Centre at the Agri Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI), Hillsborough.

## Northern Ireland Climate Change Impacts Partnership

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The Minister said: "My first visit to AFBI has proved very educational and I am very impressed by the facilities which I have seen today. The research undertaken at this Centre provides a unique opportunity for the agriculture and forestry sectors to generate renewable energy from indigenous resources such as animal manures, biomass crops and forest residues.

"The land based sector has a key role to play in the development of the renewable energy market and in turn is an instrumental component as we work to grow our economy. I believe that the sector is well placed to take advantage of the opportunities stemming from the production of renewable energy, from providing the primary feedstock



### NIEL June Conference Climate Change Discussion

A comprehensive discussion of climate change issues in Northern Ireland was undertaken as part of the NIEL June Conference (chaired by Gary McFarlane, Government Representative: Brendan Forde), encompassing legislation, built heritage, agriculture, targets, economy, actions and priorities. The notes from the conference are available from: [Annual Conference 2011 report](#)



### Increasing energy efficiency in rural communities

Experts from the University of Ulster's Ulster Business School have teamed up with the Causeway Rural and Urban Network (CRUN) to highlight the potential benefits of increased energy efficiency to rural communities – and offer them a chance to experience how they can improve their carbon footprint and reduce energy costs.

This initiative forms part of the SMALLEST (Solutions of Microgeneration to ALLow Energy Saving Technology) project, which is designed to stimulate interest in converting from traditional to renewable energy generation.



### Encouraging small and medium sized businesses to use renewable energy

In a week when Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change research concluded that close to 80 % of the world's energy supply could be met by renewables by 2050, the University of Ulster hosted a conference to encourage the increased usage of renewable energy in Northern Ireland, under the MicrE Interreg funded European project.

Experts from across the province convened to alert the organisations in attendance to the options available, for both selecting an appropriate technology and how to finance it. Presenters included representatives from Action Renewables, Carbon Zero, Colum McAuley Builders, Northern Bank Ltd, Invest NI and Davis Langdon.

The presenters covered a range of technologies such as ground source heat pumps, anaerobic digestion, biomass boilers, wind turbines and solar panels, giving ample information for the organisations in attendance to learn more

about each. For those that were interested in installation, the panel provided information on funding, tax incentives and advice on how to apply and benefit from the options available.

Dr Norry McBride from the Ulster Business School explained that “organisations typically think that renewable energy requires grants to be economically viable. This conference highlighted that renewable energy can be funded using different financial models in order to gain considerable savings and a return on capital employed in the early years of investment”.

## UK Climate Change News

### Departmental Action Plan Updates

In light of the continuing commitment across Government to put in place measures to adapt to climate change, each central Government Department has produced a short update on their DAPs as set out below. There is also an [update from the cross-Government Adapting to Climate Change programme](#). These updates explain the importance of climate change adaptation to the Government’s policy programme and the Green Economy; highlight the work on adaptation that has been done since the publication of the DAPs; and set out future adaptation priorities. Updated plans can be accessed [here](#).

### Delivering future UK adaptation programme

Following our announcement in March that the Environment Agency (EA) will take on a new delivery role helping other organisations adapt to climate change, work is underway to develop the programme. Our shared goal is to embed adaptation knowledge and expertise in key sectors by working in partnership to increase capacity whilst also joining up policy development work more closely with the provision of practical adaptation advice, guidance and support in England. The EA will work together with customers and partners to help key sectors such as local authorities, the built environment and infrastructure build resilience to climate risks. Over the coming months the Environment Agency will be asking for your views to help shape the direction of the programme until 2015. Your involvement will be invaluable in ensuring that the support which the programme provides is matched to organisational needs and supports business decision making. The Environment Agency takes on responsibility for the programme in September. They are working alongside the UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP) who manage the current contract to ensure that there is continuity of service and to build upon the excellent work they have undertaken.

For further information please contact Teige Cahill via [acc.mailbox@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:acc.mailbox@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

### UK Climate Resilient Infrastructure

On 9 May 2011, Defra’s Secretary of State launched *Climate Resilient Infrastructure*, a cross-Government report which outlines the challenges to the transport, energy, water and ICT infrastructure sectors to adapting to climate change. The report sets out what action needs to be taken by infrastructure owners and operators, regulators, insurers and Government. The report has been produced as a commitment from the Government’s National Infrastructure Plan. The report, and the other independent studies, can be accessed [here](#)

### UK National Ecosystem Assessment

The true value of nature can be shown for the very first time thanks to groundbreaking research by hundreds of UK scientists. The research forms the basis of a major new independent report – the UK National Ecosystem Assessment (UK NEA) – which reveals that nature is worth billions of pounds to the UK economy. The report strengthens the arguments for protecting and enhancing the environment and will be used by the government to direct policy in future. The UK NEA has used new approaches to estimate the value of the natural world by taking account of the economic, health and social benefits we get from nature. Examples include:

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- The benefits that inland wetlands bring to water quality are worth up to £1.5billion per year to the UK;
- Pollinators are worth £430million per year to British agriculture;
- The amenity benefits of living close to rivers, coasts and other wetlands is worth up to £1.3billion per year to the UK; and
- The health benefits of living with a view of a green space are worth up to £300 per person per year.

Report available [here](#).



## Report published on the International Dimensions of Climate Change and impact on UK

The overseas effects of climate change in coming years will be as significant for UK interests as any domestic impact, a report has warned. The Foresight report says UK authorities must look beyond the effects on these shores. Rising temperatures could bring poverty, disease, food and water shortages that damage international business and finance, the report warns. But there could be opportunities for UK expertise in low-carbon technologies. Full report available [here](#).



## Second Progress Report 2011 from the UK Committee on Climate Change, Adaptation Sub Committee

The ASC's second assessment of how well the UK is prepared for climate change impacts and risks has been published. It sets out a range of indicators against which the UK's progress will be measured, and focuses on the three priority areas of land-use planning, managing water resources, and the design and renovation of buildings as adaptation measures. Find the full report and summaries [here](#).



## CCC Report to Parliament Highlights lack of progress made in reducing emissions

The CCC's progress report finds that emissions increased by 3% in 2010, mainly as a result of the colder winter months. After adjusting for weather impacts, emissions were broadly flat. This is incompatible with the 3% annual average emissions reduction required to meet the first four carbon budgets. A significant acceleration in the pace of emissions reductions is therefore required.



## Role of renewables

The Committee on Climate Change said this week that renewable energy should make a major contribution to decarbonising the UK economy over the next decades. The conclusions were set out in the Committee's Renewable Energy Review which was requested under the Coalition Agreement. The review concludes that a renewable energy share of around 30% by 2030 would be appropriate, with scope for a higher share (e.g. up to 45%) depending on the extent to which renewable technology costs fall and possible constraints on deployment of low-carbon alternatives.



## UKCIP Training Courses

UKCIP is offering some new training courses in the forthcoming months:

- UKCP09 – getting to grips with the basics of using the UK Climate Projections and the User Interface. A number of courses will run over the summer with a small charge to cover admin, catering etc. of £50 per person.

- Climate Bootcamp – are you struggling to really understand climate change? Based at Oxford University, this course will take place over a week and will explore the climate science with world-renowned experts. The course will cover both mitigation and adaptation. Prices are yet to be confirmed, but the course is scheduled for the start of October.

If you would be interested in receiving more information on either of these opportunities please email: [training@ukcip.org.uk](mailto:training@ukcip.org.uk)



### Contributions and Challenges to Adaptation in the Built Environment

The Adaptation and Resilience to a Changing Climate Co-ordination Network, run by the UKCIP, recently hosted a stimulating conference in Oxford focusing on “Contributions and Challenges” to adaptation in the built environment. The conference materials are available to download [here](#). The project team also ran a stakeholder workshop on Adaptation Skills in the Built Environment, hosted by CIRIA. The report of the workshop is currently being finalised and will give rise to an Action Plan for boosting adaptation skills. For further information, please contact Dominic Rowland via [acc.mailbox@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:acc.mailbox@defra.gsi.gov.uk).



### UKCIP Managing Adaptation Summary

The “Managing adaptation” report looks at the key issues that should be considered when making the transition from awareness of climate change to taking adaptation action. It is aimed at anyone undertaking a climate change risk based assessment as part of an adaptation work programme and emphasises the importance of the scoping phase. Go to the [Managing adaptation](#) page.



### European Heat waves

Research undertaken by Barriopedro *et al* (2011) shows that the probability of a European summer experiencing mega-heatwaves will increase by a factor of five to ten within the next 40 years. The heatwave experienced across Eastern Europe and parts of Russia in the summer of 2010 exhibited temperatures some 10°C higher than the 1970-1999 average, resulting in an estimated 55,000 excess deaths, annual crop failures of around 25% and economic losses of US\$15 billion.



### MCCIP Annual Report 2010-2011 highlights marine observations of the impact of climate change.

The MCCIP annual report has been published for 2010-2011, with key findings related to changing climate:

- Squid are becoming more abundant off north-east Scotland creating new opportunities for fisheries.
- Since 2000 breeding success of seabirds such as Arctic skua, black-legged kittiwake, and shag have declined due to decreased food availability linked to climate change in the Northern North Sea and Scottish Continental Shelf.
- The largest rate of warming in UK sea-surface temperature (1984–2008, ~0.7 °C/decade) was observed in the Southern North Sea.
- Increased incidences of disease outbreaks in the pink sea fan *Eunicella verrucosa* (a species listed in the EU Habitats Directive) linked to increased temperatures in the Western English Channel, Celtic Sea and South-West Approaches.
- New fisheries have developed for warm water species. Observed seabass stock biomass has quadrupled since 1985 in the Western English Channel, Celtic Sea and South-West Approaches.
- Net erosion of saltmarshes in recent decades was observed in the Western English Channel, Celtic Sea and South-West Approaches.
- Northern limit of honeycomb worm *Sabellaria alveolata* (a species listed in the EU Habitats Directive) extending in the Irish Sea and North Channel.
- Since 1970 waters between 0–600m have warmed and waters between 0–800m have become more saline in the Atlantic North-West Approaches, Rockall Trough and Faroe–Shetland Channel.



### Impacts of Climate Change on Commercial Fishing in North East England- leaflet published.

The main impacts of climate change and possible new opportunities are addressed in a leaflet published by the IMCORE (Innovative Management for Europe’s Changing Coastal Resource) Project and ForeSea (a coastal research and local authority partnership for North East England). IMCORE will be disseminating guidelines for coastal

adaptation in November 2011. DEFRA are also developing a project called ACME that will also focus on adaptation in the marine environment.



### UK Wave Power given the go-ahead

Funding to take marine power devices to the next level of development has been announced by Climate Change Minister Greg Barker on a visit to Pelamis Wave Power at Leith Docks in Edinburgh. Generating energy from the power of waves or tides has the potential to meet 15-20% of the UK's current electricity demand by 2050 as well as helping to reduce emissions to fight climate change.



### SCCIP Successful Adaptation Scotland Conference

Adaptation Scotland, the first conference of its kind in Scotland, was held on Thursday 23 June 2011 at Our Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh. The conference was attended by approximately 200 people and provided an overview of the key drivers for climate change adaptation, the progress being made across various sectors and the priorities for the next few years. Presentations can be

downloaded [here](#).



### PACT Case Studies- Climate South East

Climate South East's Resilient Organisations project took ten organisations through the PACT framework for assessing adaptive capacity, developing a detailed understanding of the process within those organisations and identifying good practice in a number of areas. A new report on the project contains case studies from Hastings Borough Council, Kent County Council and Natural England, each of which was shown to have relevant experience and expertise to share in the particularly challenging areas of 'Working Together', 'Learning' and 'Agents of Change'.



### Green and Blue Space Adaptation for Urban Areas and Eco Towns: New website launched.

The GRaBS project is a network of leading pan-European organisations involved in integrating climate change adaptation into regional planning and development. The new project website <http://www.grabs-eu.org/> incorporates an interactive map of case study locations and information.



### Energy market reform

Climate secretary Chris Huhne unveils a package of far-reaching reforms in the biggest shake-up of the electricity market since privatisation. The reforms – to come into effect from 2013 – include new long-term contracts for renewable energy generation, a minimum price for carbon emissions from fossil fuel plants, and contracts that encourage companies to help their customers become more energy efficient.



### Force energy companies to insulate UK homes

Energy companies should be forced to insulate every empty loft and cavity wall in the UK within four years, say the government's climate change advisers. The Independent Committee

on Climate Change (CCC) says the measure would boost efforts to cut national carbon emissions; in 2010 the number of loft insulations fell by 30% on the previous year. In the UK, 10m (43%) of all lofts remain unlagged and 8m houses with cavity walls (42%) have yet to be insulated.

### **Nearly half UK's biggest companies failing to act on carbon emissions law**

Nearly half of the UK's top companies do not have targets on greenhouse gas emissions, despite years of legislation and campaigning on the issue, a study by the Carbon Trust has found. 40 of the FTSE 100 either lack numerical targets on carbon dioxide, or their targets are for previous years and have now expired, without being renewed. This contrasts strongly with the UK's legislation on carbon dioxide, under which the government has set some of the world's most stringent targets on emissions reductions stretching to the 2020s and beyond.

### **Fog and the Isle of Man**

The research shows that, with climate change, both air and sea temperatures have been increasing all year round since the 1970s. In the summer, the air-sea temperature difference has also been increasing, and with it the occurrence of sea fog, driven inland by the prevailing wind. In the winter the reverse has been true: the air sea temperature difference has reduced and so have the number of fogs.

The Met Office says that increase in summer fog is a danger to shipping, air transport and may affect the island's tourism and ecology. Although the researcher, Dr Alan Hisscott, accepts the study is for one place, he says similar changes in air and sea temperatures are occurring all round Britain, and with them the chances of coastal fog.

### **THE IRISH TIMES**

#### **Ireland: Robison highlights climate change**

Climate Change is one of the greatest human rights challenges of this century, former president Mary Robison said in Dublin during an annual lecture sponsored by the independent think-tank Tasc. Robison stated that climate developments were undermining the livelihoods of people in poor developing countries, which prompted the establishment of the Mary Robison Foundation – Climate Justice (mrfcj.org). “We may be going through tough times in Ireland, but some of the world's poorest will suffer even greater deprivation because of the carbon-based development we benefit from.”



#### **Free access to academic climate change papers**

Routledge Academic Publishers has put together a collection of over 100 leading articles covering the subject of Climate Change, the Carbon Footprint, Global Warming and Global Sustainability, known as the “Climate Collection 2011”. Access to the articles is free from a downloadable pdf of web-links, available [here](#).



#### **Woodland Trust: Free Trees (Jubilee Project)**

The Woodland Trust are encouraging communities to celebrate the Jubilee by planting free trees. Thousands of community groups and schools have already received a free tree packs. The packs are available in two sizes - either 105 trees or 420 trees - and are themed to help you choose the best mix for your local area. Special school packs will also be available soon.

For further information and to apply for a free tree pack visit [Woodland Trust website](#).



#### **A new centre at the University of Leicester is hoping to provide people with practical ways to adapt to climate change.**

The centre, Adapting to Changing Environments, will devise ways for people to change their lives in response to environmental change and natural catastrophes.

Researchers from a range of disciplines will investigate, monitor and model complex systems and issues relating to environmental change. They will then generate innovative, practical solutions to assist people to adapt to a world of changing environments and climates, increasing population, and resource competition. Other research focuses upon 'greening cities' in the UK in an effort to adapt to warming temperatures and increasing droughts.

### International Climate Change News



#### **Bonn climate talks end with no agreement on key areas**

The latest round of international climate change negotiations closed on 17<sup>th</sup> June with diplomats insisting that meaningful progress is continuing to be made on a number of fronts, despite the continued deadlock over the future of the Kyoto Protocol. For analysis see Business Green's [Bonn article](#)



#### **Commission welcomes the International Maritime Organization agreement to tackle CO2 emissions**

The European Commission congratulates the International Maritime Organization and its Member States on this first and major achievement on a technical measure to limit CO2 emissions from international maritime transport - the adoption of the Energy Efficiency Design Index. It is the first globally binding measure to improve energy efficiency of new ships and limit CO2 emissions from international maritime transport.



#### **European Emissions Trading System Delivering Real Emission Reductions**

During a speech at the European Parliament on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2011, Connie Hedegaard thanked Sandbag for its "interesting report on the environmental outlook for the European Emissions Trading System" that "strikes a balance between underlining the merits of the EU ETS and criticising the weaknesses."

The Commissioner for Climate Action stressed the importance of the EU ETS, "the central element of Europe's strategy for achieving a 20% emission cut by 2020" and "for meeting our long-term goal of an 80% reduction of domestic emissions by the middle of this century." In her speech, Connie Hedegaard pointed out that "average annual emissions per installation in 2010 were around 8% lower than when the ETS was launched in 2005" and gave a quick overview of the main changes of the system during the third phase (2013-2020).



#### **Energy-efficient buildings report**

A new report from the International Energy Agency shows how heating and cooling technologies that are energy-efficient and that emit little or no carbon dioxide can dramatically reduce energy consumption and CO2 emissions within residential, commercial and public buildings, a sector that currently accounts for around one-third of total final energy consumption.

The IEA Technology Roadmap [Energy-efficient Buildings: Heating and Cooling Equipment](#) shows how technologies such as solar thermal, heat pumps, thermal energy storage, and combined heat and power for buildings have the potential to reduce CO2 emissions by up to 2 gigatonnes (Gt) by 2050 – around a quarter of today's emissions from buildings – and save 710 million tonnes oil equivalent (Mtoe) of energy by 2050.



#### **Clim-ATIC Project launch new Adaptation website**

[www.climatechangeadaptation.info](http://www.climatechangeadaptation.info) brings together a wide collection of knowledge, lessons and experience from five countries across the Northern Periphery, who participated in the NPP [Clim-ATIC](#) project from 2008 to 2011. Twelve communities worked in partnership with researchers and local

authorities, to develop their capacity to adapt to the impacts of current and future climate changes, under the themes of transport, energy, risk management and tourism.

**the guardian**

### **Arctic to be ice free within 30 years**

Sea ice in the Arctic is melting at a record pace this year, suggesting warming at the north pole is speeding up and a largely ice-free Arctic can be expected in summer months within 30 years. Sea ice has an important effect on the heat balance of the polar oceans, since it insulates the (relatively) warm ocean from the much colder air above, thus reducing heat loss from the oceans. Sea ice also has a high albedo – about 0.6 when bare, and about 0.8 when covered with snow – compared to the sea – about 0.15 – and thus the loss of sea ice increased the absorption of the sun's warmth by the sea.

**the guardian**

### **Global “weirding” – extreme weather**

Tornados, wildfires, droughts and floods were once seen as freak conditions. But the environmental disasters now striking the world are shocking signs of 'global weirding'. Wherever you look, the climate appears to be in overdrive, with stronger weather patterns gripping large areas for longer and events veering between extremes. Last year, according to US meteorologist Jeff Masters, who co-founded leading climate tracker website Weather Underground, 17 countries experienced record temperatures. Colombia, the Amazon basin, Peru, Cuba, Kenya, Somalia and many other countries have all registered far more or less rainfall or major heatwaves in the past few years, he says. Temperatures in Bangladesh have been near record highs, leaving at least 26 people dead in the past week; Kuwait has seen temperatures in excess of 50°C and Rajasthan in India 49.6°C, while parts of Canada, including Toronto, have been sizzling at a record 33°C.

"We have to get accustomed to such extreme weather conditions, as climate change intensifies," says Friedrich-Wilhelm Gerstengarbe, assistant director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany. "Heavy storms and inundations will happen in northern Germany twice or three times as frequently as in the past."

**the guardian**

### **Australia unveils radical carbon tax plans**

Australia has unveiled its most sweeping economic reform in decades, including a plan to tax carbon emissions from the country's worst polluters. As the largest emissions trading scheme outside Europe, it revives hopes of stronger global climate action.

**the guardian**

### **Geo-engineering: green versus greed in the race to cool the planet**

Critics fear that manipulating weather patterns could have a calamitous effect on poorer countries. A discussion of rapidly increasing techno-fix ideas is provided [here](#).

**the guardian**

### **Melting ice caps open up Arctic for 'white gold rush'**

As rising temperatures expose more land for exploration, prospectors are rushing to the far north in the hope of carving out a new mineral frontier

**the guardian**

### **UK climate secretary Chris Huhne warns of increased war and violence from climate change.**

Addressing defense experts, Huhne reportedly made clear that climate change will increase the risk of war and violence (in particular, against the UK, but this statement applies to countries all over the world).

"Climate change is a threat multiplier. It will make unstable states more unstable, poor nations poorer, inequality more pronounced, and conflict more likely," according to Huhne. "And the areas of most geopolitical risk are also most at risk of climate change."



### **Oceans in Decline**

oceans are in a worse state than previously suspected, according to an expert panel of scientists. In a new report, they warn that ocean life is "at high risk of entering a phase of extinction of marine species unprecedented in human history". Report summary available [here](#).

### Climate Change, Agricultural Adaptation and Fairtrade: Identifying the Challenges and Opportunities

Natural Resources Institute (NRI) has recently completed study on the implications of climate change for Fairtrade in agricultural products. The study indicates that climate change is projected, with high degrees of certainty, to have mainly negative impacts upon agricultural production, food security and economic development, especially in developing countries. It thus poses significant challenges for the Fairtrade movement.

For more information see [NRI website](#)

### Resilient Cities 2011

Resilient Cities 2011, the second world congress on cities and adaptation to climate change, took place in Bonn, Germany early in June. The congress, organised by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, was attended by about 600 delegates, including Mayors, governors, top UN officials and major stakeholders from around the world. Presentations, videos, reports and summaries are now available from the congress [website](#).

## Timeline for Future Events

### IMCORE Project (INTERREG 4B NWE) Conference and Field Meeting- Adapting to Coastal Change: local perspectives

13<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> September 2011, The Hague

This conference and field meeting is organised under the auspices of the IMCORE Project <http://www.imcore.eu/> (Innovative Management for Europe's Changing Coastal Resource). The meeting aims to address the issues of adapting to coastal change with a focus on local level challenges and approaches and is aimed at both practitioners and researchers. It will highlight how transnational working, as underpinned by the EU INTERREG 4B programme, can be employed to meet future challenges and therefore realise the full potential of the coastal resources across Europe. The conference will be global in its geographical scope and will include a number of keynote speakers with an international profile in coastal change adaptation.

### CoastAdapt Project (Interreg IIIB) Shetland Workshop: Adaptation of coastal communities to Climate Change (Aquaculture) (see: [www.coastadapt.org](http://www.coastadapt.org))

14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> September 2011, Shetland Hotel, Lerwick, Shetland Isles

The Shetland workshop will feature discussions on how the community of the Shetland Isles is planning to adapt to climatic change with a focus on the problems and opportunities faced by the Aquaculture industry of Shetland and also the Outer Hebrides.

## **8<sup>th</sup> European Climate Data Management Workshop**

12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> October 2011, Our Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh

This climate data management workshop is being organised by the Met Office on behalf of the European Climate Support Network (ECSN), a EUMETNET programme. This is the eighth in a series of biennial workshops looking at the collection, management and analysis of climate observations. The theme is 10 years of progress - 2001 to 2010.

## **Institute of Chartered Engineers (ICE) Coastal Management Conference**

15<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> November 2011, Europa Hotel, Belfast

Innovative Coastal Zone Management: Sustainable Engineering for a Dynamic Coast. The Conference will cover policy, engineering, management and social and environmental implications of dynamic coastlines.

## **ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES (SEES 2012)**

13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> February 2012, Hotel Fort Canning, Singapore

<http://www.env-energy.org/>

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