



Environmental
Protection
Scotland



Newsletter

February 2018

Welcome to the first of our monthly newsletters. We plan to deliver the latest news, analysis and details of consultations and reports from events in Scotland and across the rest of the UK straight to your Inbox.

This month we feature the work of a Glasgow University student who is carrying out soil analysis to establish the impact of Black Carbon in the city. Melissa Nikkhah-Eshghi hopes her research will help guide future legislation on reducing pollution and comes against the backdrop of Glasgow's planned Low Emission Zone.

Elsewhere, we have details of the Scottish Government's latest planning update which puts on the onus on home builders to ensure new-build properties are adequately soundproofed from the noise of neighbouring live music venues. It follows a campaign by music venue owners who have been left with huge bills for the work.

There is also news on two current consultations and the latest on our exciting plans to coordinate Clean Air Day in Scotland, on behalf of the Scottish Government.

Remember, this is your space for ideas, suggestions for stories highlighting the issues Scotland faces. We will endeavour to publish your suggestions which can be emailed to us.

We hope you enjoy reading this month's newsletter.

MELISSA ZONES IN ON BLACK CARBON IN GLASGOW

A University of Glasgow post-graduate student has been carrying out air and soil studies across Scotland in a project which aims to shine a light on Black Carbon.

Melissa Nikkhah-Eshghi, 24, who graduated in chemistry from the University of Surrey, is currently in the early stages of an air and soil study in and around Glasgow which aims to gauge the impact of BC over the decades in a city which will be the first in Scotland to launch a Low Emission Zone later this year.

With two of its streets in the top six for measurements of Particulate Matter in 2017, and a further two in the leading three for Nitrogen Dioxide, Melissa has found the perfect location to carry out her work after winning a place on a PhD course through the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC).

Read the whole article/interview [here](#)



CLEAN AIR DAY – 21st June 2018

Cyclist Mark Beaumont, TV presenter Gail Porter and author Irvine Welsh are to take images of themselves in Clean Air Day t-shirts and post them on Twitter with the #cleanairday. A countdown clock has been installed on the EPS website. UK coordinators Global Action Plan (GAP) are updating Scotland-specific health/community/workers/schools toolkits which will soon be available for download via the EPS website. Representatives from Scottish Government departments and agencies have all been invited to a planning meeting with EPS staff and GAP's Head of Health Larissa Lockwood in our offices on Wednesday February 28, starting at 2pm.

MUSIC VENUES' BOOST AFTER NEW RULING ON NOISE

Live music venues will benefit from a significant ruling by the Scottish Government.

Last Friday, the Chief Planner John McNairney, announced expert policy guidance that will place the onus on developers and contractors building residential properties near to existing bars, clubs and other live music centres, to ensure they are adequately sound-proofed. The guidance will be incorporated into the forthcoming National Planning Framework and the Scottish Planning Policy.

Mr McNairney said the developers, who are known as an 'agent of change,' will now be responsible for 'mitigating' any 'detrimental impact of noise on residents from existing live music venues.'

It should mean the owners and operators of live music venues will not need to spend thousands of pounds sound-proofing their existing premises close to newly built homes or flats. However, under the new rules if a new music venue is proposed, or an existing venue is to be extended, that responsibility would still lie with the operator.

Mr McNairney said the plans are consistent with the 'statutory requirement that planning decisions be made in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.' Live music organisers, who had been campaigning for the move after some venues have been forced to close due to the cost of sound-proofing and local opposition, said the plans are a sign of government support for local grassroots music in Scotland's towns and cities.

In November 2017, it was reported that South Ayrshire had been ordered by the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman to pay £50,000 in compensation to an Ayr nightclub which has installed sound-proofing after noise complaints following the building of flats close to the venue in 2001.

Read Mr McNairney's letter in full [here](#)

EVENTS

The Board of Trustees and the Expert Advisory Groups (EAGs) have suggested the following events for 2018/19:

Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delivery of Clean Air Day in Scotland
Land Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Land Development Planning Consultation Launch
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Modernisation of Flight Paths at Glasgow Airport• General Noise Update
Emerging Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Empowerment<ul style="list-style-type: none">↳ Growing strategy↳ Energy crops

EPS endeavours to provide training and knowledge transfer which is pertinent to our membership. Suggestions for future events are always welcomed by the Board and the EAGs



1st Annual Air Quality Forum on Thursday 1st March 2018, in London, are offering a 15% discount on places for all EPS members. Ensure you use the code 342EPS when booking your place.

<https://www.waterfrontconferencecompany.com/conferences/air-quality-forum/1st-annual-2018>

CONSULTATIONS

- Defra has launched a call for evidence on the rising use of solid fuels by residents of house coal and wood burning stoves for domestic heating. It follows rising concern about their impact on air quality. It closes at 11.45pm on Tuesday January 27. It is vital we have as many responses as possible from the air group to enable a strong response on behalf of EPS. Please send them to john.bynorth@ep-scotland.org.uk

- Glasgow Airport Aircraft has two separate consultations, both of which close on Friday April 13. The statutory five yearly Noise Action Plan is being updated. The full document can be found at www.glasgowairport.com/media/2068/glasgowairport_noiseactionplan_2018-2023.pdf

The airport is also seeking feedback on the modernisation of its flightpaths, the first significant change to the routes in decades. Arguably this is the more significant consultation and the airport has arranged number of public drop in events, with the next in Johnstone Town Hall on Tuesday. Details of how to submit a response can be found at www.glasgowairport.com/airspace/

NEXT MONTH – BREXIT SPECIAL

Next month's newsletter will be published exactly one year before Brexit (March 29 2019). The newsletter has secured an interview with the former Environment Secretary Lord Deben (John Gummer) who introduced the Environment Act in 1995 and the Landfill Tax. What questions would members like to ask him about Brexit and its possible impact on environmental issues/policy? Please send them to john.bynorth@ep-scotland.org.uk by March 1.

EPS is the continuation of an eminent line of charities going back to the days of the National Society for Clean Air and more recently Environmental Protection UK. Our objectives include the support and development of the work of Scotland's environmental regulators and scientists based on sound science, objectivity and best practice. We seek to work towards a cleaner, quieter, healthier sustainable Scotland.

WE HAVE MOVED

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If you do not wish to receive details of our forthcoming events, please reply to this email with the word STOP in the subject title.