



Environmental
Protection
Scotland

Newsletter

July 2018

Welcome

This month we feature the work of a Greek-born hydromorphologist who has developed two small devices in the shape of a sphere and a pebble to track sediment changes in rivers.

George Maniatis, who works for SEPA, has tested the devices which are placed on the riverbed with the information obtained later downloaded to provide potentially valuable information.

George's work is still in the initial stages, but it provides an excellent example of the kind of innovative work being carried out in Scotland to protect our natural environment.

His interview also offers a fascinating insight into the work of river restoration that is being undertaken across the country by SEPA and local authorities with support from the Scottish Government's Water Environment Fund.

Anyone interested in providing stories or feedback about this field of work can email admin@ep-scotland.org.uk marking NEWSLETTER in the subject box.

We also pleased to offer analysis of the Government's draft Transport Bill that was laid before the Scottish Parliament at the start of June and there's news of the first tranche of Transport Scotland's funding to encourage public and private sector organisations to obtain eBikes for employees to use.

There's a Q&A with EPS's External Communications and Media officer Elina Dagdeleni, who has done so much to raise our social media profile.

The date of next year's Clean Air Day has been set by UK organisers Global Action Plan. There's also a reminder that we have a feedback form from this year's event we would love people to fill in (if they haven't already) here www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3WCQKRV

We hope you enjoy reading this month's Newsletter.

GREEK ODYSSEY TO DISCOVER SECRETS OF SCOTLAND'S RIVERS

A GREEK-born environmental scientist has designed two small technological devices shaped like a pebble and a sphere that he hopes will unlock the nature of sediment changes in the rivers of Scotland and other countries.

George Maniatis, 29, who was born and raised in Athens, developed the silver multi-sensors which are placed on the bed and electronically provides data to his laptop computer to track the flows and currents providing information about the changing environment.

George, who began work earlier this year as a senior hydromorphologist at SEPA, developed the devices as part of his PhD dissertation about river sediment flows. He also has a Master's degree in fresh water science, with both of the studies completed at the University of Glasgow.

George places the devices on the river-bed and in a fast-flowing river they travel downstream. He is hoping the technique can be developed to help other hydromorphologists with their work in the field.

He told the EPS Newsletter: “Scotland is one of the best natural environments for rivers, although rivers in other parts of the country do carry much more sediment and are on a bigger scale.

“When I first came to Scotland, I began working with surface water and rivers. I am specifically interested in riverbed and bank erosion and sediment flows. I have tried to do something a little bit special by building a sensor.

“I became interested in putting an artificial ‘smart stone’ in between real stones to try and see how they move. The idea is to embed this technology in the natural riverbed. [Click here to read more](#)



George Maniatis at a tributary of the River Dee in Aberdeen

ANALYSIS: TRANSPORT BILL SUPPORTS ACTIVE TRAVEL AND DECRIMINALISES LEZ ENFORCEMENT

WHAT kind of legacy has Humza Yousaf left his successor Michael Matheson, who will now be responsible for steering the Transport Bill through the Scottish Parliament in early 2019?



Mr Yousaf laid the draft of the SNP Government’s flagship planned legislation before MSPs on June 11, shortly before he departed as Transport Secretary to run the justice department following the Scottish Government reshuffle.

Mr Yousaf described the draft Bill as one that would transform towns and cities into ‘cleaner, more accessible and more pleasant places’ by encouraging people back onto buses via better integrated services and electronic ‘smart ticketing’ would make it easier to cross-over their journeys between buses, trains and ferry services.

The Newsletter looks at the main parts of the Bill that we think are relevant to our members [Click here to read more](#)

COUNCILS AND COLLEGES IN CASH BOOST FOR eBIKE PROVISION

LOCAL authorities and education institutions will be at the forefront of provision for e-bikes – a key plank of the Scottish Government’s strategy to encourage employees to commit to active travel.

It follows the announcement of £700,000 worth of grant funding for councils, public sector agencies, colleges and universities to implement the widespread use of pedal-powered ebikes.

The first round will see applications invited from those organisations seeking to build an ‘eBike pool’ as an alternative to people using cars for work purposes. **The deadline for applications is 4pm on August 17 2018.**

The organisers of the fund hope the grants will encourage the bodies and authorities to cut their business travel costs by reducing mileage bills run up by staff for traditional fuel or diesel powered vehicles.

Transport Scotland’s eBike fund will also see the agency provide £100,000 of grant funding to support trials of eBikes through Home Energy Scotland (HES).

HES is working with the public and organisations to encourage take-up of eBikes through its active travel hubs, local bike ‘libraries’ – where people can borrow an eBike – and community organisations to promote their use. They also offer short-term trials of the eBikes which can be arranged by calling them on 0808 808 2282.

The grant funding doesn’t cover ‘throttle assisted’ eBikes but does apply to ‘pedal assisted’ eBikes and those designed to carry cargo and additional safety equipment.

The Energy Saving Trust will work with grant recipients to create and showcase excellent examples of eBike projects and demonstrate the benefits of the machines which are increasingly in popularity. The fund could have the benefit of making them more affordable for the wider public. As more are sold, you would expect dealers to bring down prices. Currently the cheapest eBikes advertised by Halfords website sell for around £750.

For more details about The Transport Scotland eBike Grant Found please phone 0131 555 8642.

Full details of the application criteria and how to submit a bid for funding can be found here <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/sites/default/files/eBike%20Grant%20Fund%20%20-%20Guidance%20and%20Information%20for%20Applicants.pdf>

IN THE PRESS

THE RETURN OF CLEAN AIR DAY

The last of the brightly coloured t-shirts and pin-badges have been given away, but the question on everyone's lips since June 21 has been 'when will the next Clean Air Day take place?'



EFCA President Andrzej Jagusiewicz wore a Clean Air Day t-shirt outside his Warsaw home

The event's UK organisers Global Action Plan (GAP) have set a date of Thursday June 20 2019 for the third annual event which aims to encourage people to ditch their car and participate in active travel.

On June 21, thousands of people took part in events from Edinburgh to Glasgow, Dundee, Aberdeen and Inverness, along with other local authority areas.

Across the UK, it is estimated that 1.2 million people participated with many making pledges on such things as active travel and vehicle engine idling.

In Scotland, EPS co-ordinated events on behalf of the Scottish Government's Cleaner Air For Scotland (CAFS) strategy and the event

certainly gave the initiative plenty of media coverage with news reports in the national and regional Press, on TV and radio, on news websites and social media – with many councils using Twitter and Facebook to promote their efforts to improve public awareness surrounding air quality.

Further details of the plans for Clean Air Day 2019 will be revealed later this year by GAP.

EPS is currently compiling a post-evaluation report on this year's event which will be sent to the Scottish Government in the early autumn.

Meanwhile, the latest edition of the European Federation of Clean Air and Environmental Associations (EFCA) newsletter features an article by EPS on Clean Air Day 2018 in Scotland.

CAN YOU HELP IMPROVE SCOTLAND'S LAND QUALITY?

Do you have the drive and enthusiasm for land quality to contribute to shaping the future of central and local policy in this important area?

The importance of good quality land with Scotland's changing demography and new housing settlements is more important than ever before.

EPS aims to bring together individuals and organisations across the public, private and voluntary sectors to discuss and promote ideas, knowledge and solutions at its regular meetings of the Expert Advisory Groups (EAG's).



The former site of the Ravenscraig steelworks in North Lanarkshire, seen here in the 1990s, has been transformed in recent years.

The work of the groups – there are others organised by EPS in the field of noise and air quality – is geared towards achieving a cleaner, quieter, healthier and sustainable Scotland.

Land Quality EAG Chair Roslyn McIntosh is keen to speak to experts in the public or private sector who feel they can contribute to the group's on-going work in this field.

Roslyn, a contaminated land officer at Inverclyde Council who sits on EPS's Board of Trustees, said: "Plans are under-way to hold a meeting of the Land Quality EAG in the coming weeks and this is an ideal opportunity to look at recruiting new members.

"We are looking for people with energy, enthusiasm and passion for land quality who would like to contribute to taking our research and advice forward.

"It is hugely rewarding to be part of our group, especially when our advice is incorporated into policy, and our meetings provide an opportunity to broaden knowledge of land quality through discussions with others experts across different sectors.

"It is also an opportunity to contribute to the design of essential training for contaminated land offices need, taking into account the latest updates in legislation and advances in technology, such as Ground Gas Risk Assessments and Risk Management Strategy.

"I'm particularly keen to hear from people who have worked in industry as well, so the Land Quality EAG fully reflects both the private and public sector."

The strength of EPS is the work carried out by our EAG's which meet on a regular basis and their membership is comprised of local authority officers, representatives of the private sector, academics, legal professionals as well as SEPA and the Scottish Government.

In addition to discussing policies and advice, they look at topical issues and frequently feature expert guest speakers.

Four meetings of the LQ EAG take place each year, lasting for around two hours per session. They are usually held at the EPS offices in West Regent Street, a short walk from both Glasgow Central and Queen Street railway stations and there is plenty of nearby parking available.

To find out more details about how to participate, or if you have any questions about the work of the EAG, email john.bynorth@ep-scotland.org.uk or phone 0141 333 6655.

NOISE AND AQ EAGs

SCOTTISH NOISE ACTION GROUP

It was excellent to see a good attendance at the meeting of Scottish Noise Action Group (SNAG), held on June 27 at the EPS offices. A further meeting is provisionally proposed for September 26. If anyone has an interest in joining the group or wish to give a short presentation at a future meeting about their work in this field, please contact admin@ep-scotland.org.uk or call EPS on 0141 333 6655.

AIR QUALITY MEETING – AUGUST 8

A meeting of the Air Quality EAG is due to take place in Glasgow on Wednesday August 8 from 10am to 12.30pm. A guest speaker has been lined up and there are a number of items on the agenda. Chair Stuart Sneddon is anticipating a good turnout. If you have not received the agenda, please contact EPS Policy and Communications Officer John Bynorth.

**MEET ELINA DAGDELENI –
EPS EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING OFFICER**

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

Thebes, a small town near Athens of around 35,000 people.

WHEN AND WHY DID YOU COME TO SCOTLAND?

In 2011, I started my degree in Media and Communications at Caledonian University in Glasgow. It was one of the best courses around and encouraged us to experiment with different media, such as public relations, how to make the most of advertising and film-making. I could only speak a little English at first, so it was a big challenge for me. I directed a short-film about a girl who was microphobic. It was short-listed for the 48 Hour Film Project festival in Edinburgh in 2015.

WHEN DID YOU GET INVOLVED IN SOCIAL MEDIA?

After graduating, I taught myself at home about social media and marketing via online courses. I found myself learning every day something different about social media.

IS THIS YOUR FIRST SOCIAL MEDIA JOB?

No. I worked for Eco-runners, a cycle courier firm that delivers food and drinks in Glasgow. I helped build up their client base utilising marketing through social media. I learned a bit of everything from interviewing people to advertising (in both traditional and new media formats) and also did some business development. [Click here to read more](#)



Elina Dagdeleni, EPS External Communications and Marketing Officer

EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

We have several events in the pipeline for this autumn and members and details will be circulated in due course. Keep an eye on the EPS website www.ep-scotland.org.uk

VICTORIA QUAY WORKSHOP ON CONSULTATION PAPER ON RADIOACTIVE

A free workshop to discuss the Scottish Government's consultation paper on protecting the public from radioactive contamination in land takes place on August 10. The event is being hosted at the offices in Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, with the workshops getting under-way from 10.30am. The event lasts until 2.30pm and includes a sandwich lunch. Anyone interested in taking part should fill in the details on this link <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FP3HHRW> to register. Details of the consultation can be found elsewhere in the Newsletter.

EPUK, BIRMINGHAM

The EPUK conference takes place on Thursday November 15 at Aston University in Birmingham. Celebrating 120 years of environmental protection, organisers are finalising a line-up of speakers and the Newsletter will keep members updated as and when they are made available. For more details visit www.environmental-protection.org.uk/events/epuk-events/annual-conference-2018

LOW EMISSIONS ZONES IN SCOTLAND, EDINBURGH

HOLYROOD Magazine has organised an event aimed at discussing the priorities behind Low Emission Zones. Held in Edinburgh on October 31, it will update on the progress of the Transport Bill and LEZ's, and their impact on improving air quality among other topics. Delegates wanting to pick up a discounted 'early bird' rate have, however, only until the end of today (July 27) to do so, otherwise they will have to pay a full rate. Details are here <https://www.holyrood.com/event/key-issues-delivering-low-emission-zones-scotland>

THE AIR QUALITY AND EMISSIONS SHOW - TELFORD

The Air Quality and Emissions Show takes place at the Telford International Centre on November 21-22. The first day features a day-long seminar on the subject of Clean Air Zones and efforts to improve air quality air in cities. Details can be found here www.ilmexhibitions.com/aqeshow/

CONSULTATIONS

DEADLINE LOOMS FOR POTENTIALLY VULNERABLE FLOOD-RISK AREAS CONSULTATION

There's only a few days to go until the close of SEPA's latest consultation on Flood Risk Management in Scotland, and Potentially Vulnerable Areas (PVAS). It closes on Tuesday July 31, and details can be found here https://consultation.sepa.org.uk/evidence-and-flooding/pvas2018/consult_view/

OPINIONS SOUGHT ON SEPA'S 'ROUTE MAP' PLANS FOR ALL OF SCOTLAND'S RIVER BODIES

SEPA'S consultation on its six yearly update which provides the agency's 'route map' for its environmental objectives relating to all of Scotland's river, loch, groundwater, estuary and coastal water bodies has been launched. It closes on December 22 and can be found here https://consultation.sepa.org.uk/communications/river-basin-management-planning-in-scotland-statem/consult_view/

VIEWS NEEDED ON LATEST MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR FLOOD-AFFECTED SOLWAY TWEED RIVER

In 2015, the River Tweed was severely affected by flooding following the storms, named Desmond and Frank. SEPA's launched its latest six yearly statement on the environmental objectives for the Solway Tweed River Basin with the consultation on it open until December 22. It can be found here https://consultation.sepa.org.uk/communications/working-together-statement-of-consultation-steps-f/consult_view/

VIEWS SOUGHT ON SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT'S ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY

The Scottish Government has launched a consultation on its environmental strategy for Scotland, which aims to ensure the country's air, freshwater, seas and soils are of excellent quality, and air quality is the best in Europe. The section on air quality discusses latest developments in the National Low Emission Framework; LEZs and plans to phase out new petrol and diesel cars/vans by 2032. It also raises concern about Particulate Matter from biomass, particularly in urban areas. Responses must be completed by August 24, and will form the development of the document which is due out later in the year. To view and respond link here <https://consult.gov.scot/environment-forestry/environment-strategy/> More details of the strategy can be found here <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2018/06/4147>

CALL FOR EVIDENCE ON EMISSIONS IMPACT OF VEHICLE BRAKE DUST AND TYRE, ROAD WEAR

DEFRA has just announced a call for evidence to enable a better understanding of the emissions impact of vehicle brakes, tyre and road wear and how these can be addressed as they are not solved simply by phasing out petrol and diesel vehicles. Environment Minister Thérèse Coffey said: "While we are all now well aware that fumes from the exhaust pipes on our cars can have a detrimental impact on human health, it is less well known that tiny particles that are released from our brakes and tyres also contribute to air pollution and can harm our precious marine life." The Call for Evidence, which runs until September 28, can be found here <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/airquality/brake-tyre-and-road-surface-wear/>

GROW YOUR OWN LATEST ADVICE ON ALLOTMENTS LEGISLATION – VIEWS SOUGHT

There's a consultation until August 20 on the latest guidance for local authorities on allotments, which came after section nine of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, relating to their use, came into force in April. It can be found here <https://consult.gov.scot/food-and-drink/part-9-allotments/>

HOW TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC FROM RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION IN LAND?

The Scottish Government is also consulting until August 20 on how to improve the protection offered to the public from radiation contamination in land. It includes proposed changes to the current guidance for the regulations in Scotland surrounding contaminated land, with broader best practice guidance – alongside the existing statutory guidance to SEPA. Full details can be found here <https://consult.gov.scot/environment-forestry/radioactive-contamination/>

BETTER INTEGRATION BETWEEN NOISE AND AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT IN WALES?

Better integration between noise and air quality management activities by public bodies is one of the aims of the draft noise and soundscape action plan in Wales. The document, which covers the rest of this year through to 2023, aims to put the country's noise and soundscape policy on a par with the cross-cutting framework established by the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. It also contains proposed updates to national planning policy and guidance relating to noise and soundscape. The consultation on the draft 2018 plan runs until October 3 and can be found here

<https://beta.gov.wales/noise-and-soundscape-action-plan-2018-2023>

with

further

details

here <https://gov.wales/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2018/noiseandsoundscapeactionplanconsultation/?lang=en>

NEXT MONTH –INTERVIEW WITH JIM MILLS

Next month we will feature an interview with Jim Mills, the Managing Director of Air Monitors, and one of the air quality industry's best known and most respected figures.

We will also have the latest news, views and details of consultations and further details of EPS events.

If anyone has an article they wish to include in next month's Newsletter, or feedback, please email us at marking the document 'NEWSLETTER.'

The next issue will be emailed to members on **Friday, August 24.**

If you wish to become a member and receive the Newsletter every month please contact admin@ep-scotland.org.uk or phone 0141 333 6655.

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.

DON'T FORGET.....WE HAVE MOVED

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