



Environmental
Protection
Scotland

Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2018

Welcome

THIS month we interview Philip James, Director of Newcastle University's Urban Observatory, which provides live online mapping of air quality, noise, weather patterns, traffic flows and other 'Big Data' sets in an attempt to better understand Newcastle-upon-Tyne's urban infrastructure and how it is used; to empower citizens to monitor air quality and provide more nuanced data for policy-makers.

We also look at some of the work being carried out using social media and the internet by two local authorities, Fife and Aberdeen City Council, to raise awareness of how people can complain about nuisance noise and anti-social behaviour. We are keen to find out from other councils about their noise and anti-social behaviour initiatives.

There is also information about the Scottish Government's Cleaner Air For Scotland (CAFS) Progress Report. This updates the efforts being made at ministerial level, and by SEPA, Transport Scotland, EPS and local authorities to ensure Scotland's air quality is regarded as amongst the best in Europe.

We also have a report from our sister organisation, EPUK's 120th anniversary reception at The Guildhall in the City of London. Mary Creagh MP, Chair of the UK Parliament's Environment Committee, was a keynote speaker. There's news of EPS's events and activities, including a new BS 4142 noise event and details of how to attend our annual general meeting, both of which are on November 22.

“A CITY IS A LABORATORY – A LIVING BREATHING PLACE WHERE EXPERIMENTS CAN BE CARRIED OUT” PHILIP JAMES OF NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY'S URBAN OBSERVATORY ON MAPPING AIR QUALITY AND NOISE LEVELS

INTERVIEW: JOHN BYNORTH

Picture credit: Visit England

A MULTI-MILLION pound project has turned Newcastle-upon-Tyne into a “living, breathing” laboratory where data about everything from air quality to noise levels, traffic flows, river levels and water quality, and even whether urban beehives are healthy, is uploaded onto a website as live data.

The city's Urban Observatory has installed a network of sensors and utilises existing equipment to observe traffic flows, noise from vehicles and the numbers of people using specific city centre locations as part of the project which is being replicated in Sheffield.



The data laboratory also has partnerships with Bristol, Birmingham, Manchester and Milton Keynes – all ‘smart cities’ keen to learn from Newcastle and Sheffield as they plan urban hubs for the future.

The technology on Tyneside – more than half a billion data points have been collected already – is being used to help shape the future of a city which has some similarities to Glasgow. Both cities have shipbuilding traditions due to their rivers, the Tyne and the Clyde, have motorways running through the cities and lie near coastal areas.

Click [here](#) to read the full interview

HOW LOCAL AUTHORITIES ARE USING SOCIAL MEDIA TO TACKLE NOISE

Any local authority environmental health officer will tell you that the era of standing outside shopping centres handing out information leaflets about how to complain about intrusive noise and nuisance issues are long gone. Recent changes in local government, the internet and social media have driven change in the way people make complaints. In this first of a series of articles, we look at the innovative work of Fife Council and Aberdeen City Council to make the public aware of their environmental health services.

WITH a population of around 370,000, the Kingdom of Fife covers a vast and diverse area ranging from the golfing and student centre of St Andrews, with its famous Old Course and historic university to pretty seaside towns along the East Neuk coast to former coal-mining communities and residential, shopping and industrial hubs such as Glenrothes and Dunfermline.

The diverse nature of its communities breeds a variety of noise problems and Fife Council’s environmental health team are inundated with complaints ranging from barking dogs to noisy nightclubs, bars, takeaway shops and sometimes from holiday lets in the neighbouring seaside communities of Elie, right, neighbouring Earlsferry and Anstruther.

The local authority de-cluttered its website, making it easier for people to make a complaint about noise, and indeed other issues.

Click [here](#) to read the full article.



USE ENVIRONMENTAL DATA RESPONSIBLY EVENT

There are still places available for our ‘Use Environmental Data Responsibly’ event in the IET Teacher Building in Glasgow on Monday October 8.

We have gathered an exciting line-up of speakers to examine how big data sets and analytics are being used to protect Scotland’s environment, improving air quality, noise mapping, energy efficiency, promoting environmental justice, tracking climate change, monitoring water quality and evaluating land quality.

They include representatives from SEPA, Glasgow City Council, Jacobs, the universities of Glasgow and Salford with opportunities for further discussion at two Q&As. Click on the programme, right, for full details, registration costs and how to register.

Environmental Protection Scotland

IET Teacher Building,
15 Finch Square,
Glasgow, G2 1DB
Monday 8th October 2018

Use Environmental Data Responsibly Conference

Big data sets and analytics are being used to protect Scotland's environment, improving air quality, noise mapping, energy efficiency, promoting environmental justice, tracking climate change, monitoring water quality and evaluating land quality.

Advances in data gathering and sharing mean that we have more information available than ever before. How do those working in the public and private sector handle all this information?

Who should attend

- Environmental Health and Technical Officers
- Planners
- Planning and Environmental Consultants
- Policy Officers
- Policy Influencers
- Researchers
- Environmental Lawyers
- Anyone working with GIS databases

This event covers with **3.35hours CPD points**

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SCOTLAND – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given of the 6th Annual General Meeting of Environmental Protection Scotland, to be held:

Date: Thursday 22nd November 2018

Venue: The Teacher Building, 14 St Enoch Square, Glasgow, G1 4DB.

Time: 16.30-17.15

All members and organisation representatives are welcome to attend.

Following the AGM will be an informal networking session, to which members are cordially invited attend. Members can also invite potential new members to join us at this point.

HOW TO CONSTRUCT/ASSESS A COMPETENT BS4142 ACOUSTIC REPORT – WORKSHOP

EPS has organised a full-day event entitled 'How to construct/assess a competent BS 4142 acoustic report' to take place at the IET Teacher Building in St Enoch Square in Glasgow on Thursday 22nd November.

Speakers include Moira Cartwright from North Lanarkshire Council, Brian Carmichael of West Lothian Council, Scott Gemmell of Jacobs and James McIntyre of SEPA. The event includes workshops and a panel session/Q&A, where delegates will be given feedback from the workshops.

To find out more details and to register for this event, please click on the programme.

How to construct/assess a competent BS 4142 acoustic report - Workshop	
10.00	Registration/Tea & Coffee
10.30	Introduction & Welcome – The Chair <i>Dr Benedette McKel, Jacobs & Choi, EPS Noise Expert Advisory Group</i>
10.35	Revision of the Basic Principles of Acoustics <i>Moira Cartwright, North Lanarkshire Council</i>
10.55	Scope of Standard, On site monitoring – weather, operating conditions, and SLM, information to be reported <i>Brian Carmichael, West Lothian Council</i>
11.15	What constitutes a "representative" measurement - the influence of variance in weather and site operating conditions <i>Scott Gemmell, Jacobs</i>
11.35	Guidance on the application of character correction penalties <i>Jim McIntyre, SEPA</i>
11.55	Putting results in to "Context" as per BS 4142 <i>Speaker to be confirmed</i>
12.30	Lunch
13.15	BS 4142 Workshops Delegates will be sent two (anonymous) acoustic impact reports prior to the event. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Facilitator led groups will critically review each report - drawing on the lessons learned from the morning sessions.A summary of compliance with the requirements of BS 4142 will be presented.Discussions on aspects to consider when determining whether to accept or reject a report will be welcomed.
15.00	Panel session: Feedback from Workshops / Q & A
15.30	Summary and Close

CLEANER AIR FOR SCOTLAND (CAFS) PROGRESS REPORT

Local authority leaders and other organisations with an interest in Scotland's air quality should be aware the Scottish Government has published the latest CAFS Progress Report. The second annual report highlights the progress being made towards ministerial targets of achieving the country's targets. The full document can be read here <https://www.gov.scot/Publications/2018/08/9935>

EPUK 120TH ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION AND CONFERENCE

MARY Creagh, Chair of the UK Parliament's Environmental Audit Committee, spoke to the concerns of EPUK members at a reception earlier this month to celebrate 120 years of the organisation.

The Labour MP, pictured below, gave the address at The Guildhall, in the City of London, making it clear that members of the committee shared the concerns of EPUK's members.



Mrs Creagh also raised the issue of contaminated land in her speech, which EPUK's Land Quality Policy Committee feels is an important area of its work which is often lost in the national debate.

Other speakers included EPUK President Lord Whitty, Sarah Legge, Chair of EPUK Air Quality Committee, Professor Jim Longhurst, Vice-President University of the West of England, Professor Stephen Holgate, MRC Research Professor of Immunopharmacology at the University of Southampton, who is an expert in asthma, and Chair of the EPUK trustees, Christopher Fry.

Mrs Creagh has been invited to speak about the future direction of environmental policy at the EPUK national conference at Aston University in Birmingham on 15th November.

Entitled 'facing today's challenges and securing a healthy future environment,' this event aims to build on EPUK's achievements over the last 120 years, look at contemporary issues and the future of environmental protection in a rapidly changing physical and legislative world which includes Brexit. For ticket details visit the EPUK website or email events@environmental-protection.org.uk

'ROUTES TO CLEAN AIR' CONFERENCE - BIRMINGHAM

The Institute of Air Quality Management's (IAQM) 'Routes to Clean Air 2018' conference takes place on October 29/30, where air quality, public health and transport professionals, in both the private and public sectors, share their experiences of improving traffic emissions.

Eminent speakers will discuss the natural environment, wood burning, road transport emissions, policy developments, best practice within the sector and indoor air quality at the Birmingham Conference and Events Centre.

Delegates will gain valuable CPD, have networking opportunities and attend a conference dinner which is included in the ticket price. For full details of the programme and how to book tickets click this link www.the-ies.org/sites/default/files/documents/rtca2018_programme_0.pdf visit the [IAQM website](http://www.iaqm.org.uk) or phone 0207 601 1920.

EAG's

SCOTTISH NOISE ADVISORY GROUP (SNAG)

The group was given an excellent presentation by Dr Sarah Payne, Assistant Professor of Health in the Built Environment at Heriot-Watt University at a meeting on Wednesday September 26th in EPS's offices. Dr Payne talked about her on-going work on the DeStress Project which is examining the links between soundscapes, cognitive restoration and built environment design with fieldwork having taken place in Brighton and Hove, Sheffield and Edinburgh. The next meeting is due to take place in December, in either Glasgow or Edinburgh. The group is on the lookout for new members and anyone interested in joining can email admin@ep-scotland.org.uk marking 'SNAG' in the subject header.

AIR QUALITY (AQ) ADVISORY GROUP

Lawson Wight of the BurnRight campaign to improve air quality from domestic burning is to give a Skype presentation at the EAG's next meeting on Thursday, November 8th from 10am-12noon. The meeting will take place at Ricardo's offices at 18 Blythswood Square, Glasgow, G2 4AD. Policy and Communications Officer John Bynorth will update members about the outcomes of the 'Responding to Air Pollution' conference in London and 'IAQM Routes to Clean Air' event in Birmingham

LAND QUALITY (LQ) ADVISORY GROUP

The Land Quality group hopes to meet shortly.

CONSULTATIONS

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has opened its Outdoor Air Quality and Health Quality Standard Consultation, which runs until October 19. www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-qs10067/consultation/html-content-2

City of Edinburgh Council has launched its City Centre Transformation Plan consultation, which runs until November 12. <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/connecting-our-city-transforming-our-places/>

The city is also undertaking a consultation on plans for vehicle-free days on the first Sunday of each month. It ends on November 3. <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/open-streets-edinburgh/>

The following SEPA consultations are still active.

https://consultation.sepa.org.uk/communications/river-basin-management-planning-in-scotland-statem/consult_view/

https://consultation.sepa.org.uk/communications/working-together-statement-of-consultation-steps-f/consult_view/

The DEFRA/Department for Transport Call for Evidence on brake dust, tyre and road surface wear closes tonight (Friday, September 28) but can be found here <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/airquality/brake-tyre-and-road-surface-wear/>

CLEAN AIR DAY CELEBRATION REPORT

EPS's UK partners in organising Clean Air Day on June 21 have now published their 'celebration report' into the event. Click on the logo to read the full report.



IN THE PRESS & ON RADIO

EPS gave an interview to BBC Radio Scotland's 'Newsdrive' programme following a report by Yale School of Public Health which measured the impact of air pollution in China (which is three times higher than the World Health Organisation recommended guidelines) on cognitive behaviour. The full study can be read here

<http://www.pnas.org/content/115/37/9193> John Bynorth outlined the efforts being made by the Scottish Government, through its CAFS strategy to improve air quality in Scotland, Low Emission Zones and the 'Breathe Scotland' website. The interview can be heard here <https://www.ep-scotland.org.uk/news/air-pollution-may-harm-cognitive-intelligence-interview-to-bbc/>

EPS also welcomed the Scottish Government's Programme for Government announcement outlining plans to spend £16.7 million on 1,500 new electric-charging points and £1.7m for a 100 extra new low carbon buses, which featured in the Air Quality News website here <https://www.airqualitynews.com/2018/09/03/clean-bus-and-charge-point-funding-announced-by-scottish-government/>

John was holidaying in Fife when he took this image of students from Dundee University, after a tree tore through the roof of their coach in the village of Kincaple, near Guardbridge, during Storm Ali on September 19. The image, which was credited to Environmental Protection Scotland, appeared on the front pages of The Herald, the Daily Record, The Scotsman, The Sun, The Metro, the Courier and was published in The Times, the 'i' newspaper and news websites across the UK and Ireland, including the BBC, ITN and Irish Times. Only one of the students was slightly injured and the football team continued on their journey, albeit by other transportation means, to play a match in St Andrews.



BOOK COMPETITION WINNER

CONGRATULATIONS are in order to Paul Todd, Regulatory Services Manager in Environmental Health and Trading Standards at East Ayrshire Council, who has won a hardback copy of 'Chernobyl: History of a Tragedy' by Serhii Plokyh. Paul correctly stated in answer to our question in last month's issue that Sweden was the first country outside of the Soviet Union to become aware of the unfolding nuclear disaster.

NEXT MONTH – INTERVIEW WITH DR SARAH PAYNE

WE interview Dr Sarah Payne of Heriot-Watt University about her 'Project DeStress' online noise mapping survey which has seen her measuring soundscapes in urban environments in Brighton and Hove, Sheffield and Edinburgh.

There will also be a full report from EPS's 'Use Environmental Data Responsibly' conference in Glasgow.

We will present analysis The World Health Organisation's new Environmental Noise Guidelines for Europe, which are due to be launched on October 10.

There will be the usual reports, details of consultations and latest news of EPS events, including a piece on the 'Use Environmental Data Responsibly' event.

If you have a news item to highlight the work of your local authority, company or organisation in the Newsletter please contact admin@ep-scotland.org.uk marking the email '**NEWSLETTER.**'

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

Room 3, Caledonian Suit, 70 West Regent Street, Glasgow, G2 2QZ

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