



Environmental
Protection
Scotland

Newsletter OCTOBER 2018

Welcome

Last week, MPs produced a report which called for the UK Government to bring forward the ban on the sale of new petrol/diesel cars from its current 2040 deadline, to 2032 – in line with the Scottish Government’s stated target - to help with efforts to cut air pollution.

We are delighted to publish the Newsletter’s first contribution from an outside organisation or individual after Emily Stone of the Energy Saving Trust, wrote an excellent piece about why organisations and people really should be considering the purchase of electric vehicles.

Anybody who wishes to contribute an article should get in touch with us by emailing admin@ep-scotland.org.uk, marking them ‘NEWSLETTER’ or contact EPS on 0141 333 6655.

THE ELECTRIC REVOLUTION AND YOU

How organisations and the surrounding environment may benefit from the electric vehicle surge

By Emily Stone of the Energy Saving Trust

TRANSPORT currently accounts for around a quarter of carbon emissions in Scotland. Fortunately, with an ever-increasing range of electric vehicles (EVs) to choose from and sizeable packages of government funding available to assist businesses and individuals in the switch to electric, driving this figure down is becoming easier than ever.

We’re seeing a rapid increase in the practicality of EVs as a widening range of drivers make the switch: battery ranges are increasing, charging infrastructure is becoming more prevalent and manufacturers across the world are releasing new Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) models. This article aims to highlight how we can make the most of the constantly improving infrastructure to reduce our driving emissions, both as organisations and as individuals.

CHANGE MUST HAPPEN IMMEDIATELY

WE know that air pollution causes detriment to public health as well as the environment. The effects of particulate matter and nitrogen oxides (NOx) are thought to cost the NHS a minimum of £23 billion per year according to a [recent report](#) from researchers at the University of Oxford and University of Bath.



Alongside this, it is the cause of an estimated 40,000 premature deaths - around 7% of the total annual mortality UK-wide. These figures certainly act as a wake-up call that something needs to be done to improve air quality in our populated places.

Carbon dioxide (CO₂), while a potent greenhouse gas and contributor to climate change, is not in fact the most damaging to public health. Of course, there is no doubt that CO₂ emissions must be reduced immediately – any news item surrounding the latest IPCC report highlights this in indisputable terms. Click [here](#) to read the full article

CONFERENCE REPORT

USE ENVIRONMENTAL DATA RESPONSIBLY REPORT

LEADING speakers attracted dozens of delegates to EPS's 'Use Environmental Data Responsibly at the IET Teacher Building in Glasgow on October 8.



The well-attended event saw speakers from SEPA, Glasgow City Council, and both Salford and Glasgow Universities discuss topics ranging from how to make the most of data-sharing

using the latest guidelines from both the EU and Scottish Government to developments, how local authorities are using data, to how 'Citizen Science' and the use of 'Big Data' sets by universities.

The event was chaired by EPS Board of Trustees members Dr Iain McLellan and Professor Andrew Hursthouse, both from the University of the West of Scotland. The full-day programme included fascinating Q&A's with the guest speakers in the morning and afternoon sessions.

Here is a summary of the five speakers (six presentations). Click [here](#) to read the presentation summaries

IPPR RESEARCH FELLOW CALLS FOR NEW STRATEGY TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

LAURIE Laybourn-Langton, Senior Research Fellow at the IPPR think-tank, issued four conditions that he says are essential if UK governments and local government are to tackle air pollution and climate change in a speech in London this week.

Laurie, who is also Director of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change, said major barriers existed which were preventing the problem of poor air quality being tackled adequately in a speech to the Public Policy Exchange's 'Responding to Air Pollution: Setting the Agenda to Improve Air Quality' symposium in central London.

Here is what he had to say on the current efforts and the way forward to tackle air pollution and climate change:



“A number of barriers have not yet been met which would enable a proper national response to what is both a national and international problem.

“There are four areas; the political will on a national/local level; current policy on environment; advice to the public particularly from health professionals and my fourth are links to climate change.

“On political will, we frequently see this on a local level, borough level in London. We are seeing less of it at a national level commensurate with the scale of the challenge and to support those policy-makers that want change to occur.

“There are two things I believe within that which are missing from the discussion. Click [here](#) to read the full summary

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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 Bernadette McKell, Jacobs & Chair, 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

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.

EPUK ANNUAL CONFERENCE

A SCIENTIFIC advisor to DEFRA on air quality is give the keynote address to EPUK’S annual conference next month.

Paul Monks is a member of the UK Government’s expert advisory group on air quality and Professor in Atmospheric Chemistry and Earth Observation Science of the University of Leicester.

He will be talking on the subject of ‘evidence and environmental policy: learning from success, future directions’ during the event at Aston University in Birmingham on Thursday November 15.

Professor Monks leads an impressive array of speakers at the conference which marks the 120 years since the founding of the Coal Smoke Abatement Society, subsequently the National Society for Clean Air, both of which were predecessors of EPUK and EPS. Other speakers include Katherine Nield, of environmental activist lawyers' group ClientEarth, Sarah Legge, Chair of EPUK's air quality committee and Enda Hayes of the University of the West of England. To register visit www.environmental-protection.org.uk/events/epuk-events/annual-conference-2018/

GOREBRIDGE CO₂ LAND CONTAMINATION STUDY

CONSULTANTS have been assigned to launch a research project to discover how much carbon dioxide (CO₂) exists underground due to disused mine workings.

The Scottish Government's appointment of RSKW Ltd to lead the study follows incidents dating back to early 2013 which left a number of people hospitalised with CO₂ poisoning on a recently built housing development in Gorebridge, Midlothian.

The government hopes the study will shed light on what, if any implications, there are for residential properties in other former mining communities.

In a report published in 2017, NHS Lothian Incident Management Team concluded the CO₂ detected in Gorebridge was from an old coal mine, with the source of the ground gas most likely to have originated from higher levels of coal abandoned after it closed. The report said the CO₂ migrated to the surface as a result of changes in atmospheric pressure and other factors and made 26 recommendations. They included two which applied to new buildings with the aim of ensuring they must be designed and constructed in such a way to ensure there is no threat to people in them or nearby due to the presence of harmful or dangerous substances.

The study aims to find out how typical the health board team's findings from the Gorebridge incident could become if no action is taken in terms of Scottish building regulations, with the findings set to inform possible change if required.

RSKW will be in touch with stakeholders as part of the engagement with those contacted urged to provide assistance.

CONSULTATIONS

The European Noise Directive (END) requires member states to bring about measures which are intended to avoid, prevent or reduce, on a prioritised area basis, the harmful effects, including annoyance due to the exposure to environmental noise. The Directive was transposed through the Environmental Noise (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The END requires, on a five yearly cycle, the Scottish Government to produce strategic noise maps and thereafter prepare noise action plans based on the results of the noise mapping and then consult the public on these action plans.

This is Round 3 since the introduction of the END. The third round took place during 2017 and was published on the [SE website](#). Noise maps and action plans relating to rounds one and two can be found on the site too. There are four main areas of focus (agglomerations) and concern Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow. <https://consult.gov.scot/environment-forestry/consultation-on-draft-noise-action-plans/>

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/

EXPERT ADVISORY GROUPS

AIR QUALITY (AQ)

THE next meeting of the group is due to take place from 10am-12noon on Thursday November 8. Lawson Wight, of the Guild of Master Sweeps, will make a brief presentation via Skye followed by a Q&A. EPS will give an update following his attendance at the 'Responding to Air Pollution' conference in London, the IAQM 'Routes to Clean Air' conference in Birmingham and the LEZ conference in Edinburgh. Please note the change of venue. It will take place in the Boardroom at Ricardo's offices at 18 Blythswood Square, Glasgow, G2 4BG.

SCOTTISH NOISE ADVISORY GROUP (SNAG)

The SNAG is on the lookout for new members. If anyone in the public/private sector has an interest in joining the work of the group, which meets quarterly, usually at EPS's offices in West Regent Street, we would like to hear from you. In the first instance, please contact EPS on 0141 333 6655 or email admin@ep-scotland.org.uk and mark the words '**SNAG MEMBERSHIP**' in the subject header. The next meeting is planned for early to mid-December either at EPS's offices or in Edinburgh.

LAND QUALITY (LQ)

The LQ group plans to meet shortly. Please read the Newsletter for further details.

LATEST NEWS

MEDICAL experts from COMEAP (the Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollution) have followed up their report on mortality burden arising from Particulate Matter by publishing a fresh study which attempts to gauge the impact of cardiovascular disease due to air pollution on the NHS and wider economy/productivity. It can be read here www.gov.uk/government/publications/air-pollution-and-cardiovascular-disease-mechanistic-evidence

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has published its latest 'Environmental Noise Guidelines for the European Region' report, with recommendations to governments for reduced decibel levels to protect people from exposure to noise from traffic, railway, aircraft and even from listening to music on their headphones. Although the evidence-based report has no legal bearing in Scotland or the rest of the UK, it is likely to influence future policy-making. It can be read here http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/383921/noise-guidelines-eng.pdf

NEXT MONTH –

'ROUTES TO CLEAN AIR' CONFERENCE IN BIRMINGHAM

EPS will report on the Institute of Air Quality Management's 'Routes to Clean Air Conference' at the Birmingham CEC, which takes place next week and will attend the 'Key Issues For Delivering Low Emission Zones' conference, in Edinburgh the following day.

We also have a Q&A with Dr Gary Fuller, an air pollution scientist at King's College, London, who will be talking about his book 'The Invisible Killer: The Rising Global Threat of Air Pollution – and How We Can Fight Back' which is published next month.

November's issue will be emailed to members on **Friday November 30**. If you know of someone or an organisation that wishes to join send them this link www.ep-scotland.org.uk/join-us/

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

admin@ep-scotland.org.uk | 0141 333 6655 | www.ep-scotland.org.uk



Environmental Protection Scotland is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Scottish Charity No. SC043410. This transmission contains information which may be confidential and which may also be privileged. It is intended for the named addressee only. Unless you are the named addressee, or authorised to receive it on behalf of the addressee you may not copy or use it, or disclose it to anyone else. If you have received this transmission in error please contact the sender. Thank you for your cooperation.

You have been sent this email as you, or your organisation, are members of EPS. If you do not wish to receive details of our forthcoming events or future copies of this newsletter, please reply to this email with the word STOP in the subject title.