



Environmental
Protection
Scotland



Newsletter April/May 2019

WELCOME

ANYONE attending Edinburgh's first 'Open Streets' event on May 5th cannot fail to have noticed how much quieter and less polluted the city centre felt after the city centre streets were closed to vehicles. It was an exciting day and we interviewed one of the VIP guests, Chris Boardman, the former Olympic gold medal winning cyclist, about how the 'Open Streets' movement could push behaviour change in the UK.

Thursday will see The City of Edinburgh Council's Transport and Environment Committee put forward its Low Emission Zone plans. The documents were published for the first time on the council website on Friday. They can be found at **Item 7.2** by clicking [here](#).

There are also reports on the Committee on Climate Change report and the Holyrood Events climate and emissions conference in Edinburgh.

People can now download the toolkits from the Clean Air Day Scotland website to stage events on or before **Thursday June 20th**

“EDINBURGH HAS PUT POWER INTO THE HANDS OF THE PEOPLE – OTHER UK CITIES WILL FOLLOW THIS EXAMPLE”

INTERVIEW – CHRIS BOARDMAN

OLYMPIC gold medallist and former Tour de France yellow jersey winner Chris Boardman has praised The City of Edinburgh Council for showing 'courage' in closing off the streets to vehicle traffic on the first Sunday of each month.



Boardman, who is Greater Manchester's active travel and walking ambassador, travelled north to see the inaugural 'Open Streets' event on May 5th. It forms parts of a movement that takes place in New York, Paris and Bogota among other international cities.

The 18-month pilot follows a consultation which found 88% of people or organisations expressing a desire to see changes to the way the city operates.

Boardman said the closures had made the streets quieter and less polluted, but most of all they had put "power in the hands of the people who are

objecting, but also challenged them to try and give it a go." Read the full story [here](#)

NET-ZERO EMISSIONS BY 2045 ARE WITHIN SCOTLAND'S GRASP

THE Committee on Climate Change (CCC) has thrown down an ambitious target for Scotland to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions (GHG's) by the year 2045 – five years earlier than the majority of the rest of the UK.

The Committee said in a report that Scotland had a greater capacity to remove GHG's relative to the rest of the UK.

Policies are already in place to achieve the targets for Scotland and the UK through the supply of low-carbon electricity – which will need to quadruple by 2050 – more energy efficient properties and low carbon heating in new build homes, plus the development of Carbon Capture Storage (CCS) systems.



Lord Deben, the CCC's Chairman, said: "This is not about what we hope or we think ought to happen, it's about what can happen.

"We can do it, and therefore if we don't it's because we have chosen not to."

Roseanna Cunningham, the Cabinet Secretary for the Environment pledged the Scottish Government would adopt the new zero-emissions targets in the Climate Change Bill. Read our report [here](#)

"WE CANNOT ACHIEVE OUR CLIMATE TARGETS BY BEHAVING IRRESPONSIBLY"

THE Climate Change in Scotland conference, organised by Holyrood Policy, took place on April 24th in Edinburgh with the issue dominating the domestic political agenda.

The week before this event had witnessed arrests at the Extinction Rebellion protests in London, and roads also blocked by the group in Edinburgh, on a scale not seen before for an environmental protest in the UK.

And 16-year-old campaigner Greta Thunberg – whose efforts inspired an on-going series of protests by school pupils across the UK – pleaded for radical action on climate change in a speech to the UK Parliament.

This added a sense of urgency to the conference where the excellent line-up of speakers explained existing policy and how behaviour change could be brought about through public awareness or policy, how planners can intervene to create more sustainable developments and the thinking behind some of the academic work surrounding the issue. Read our full report [here](#)



CLEAN AIR DAY TOOLKITS GO LIVE!

THE Clean Air Day toolkits have gone live – with just over one month to finalise your event on **Thursday June 20th**.

Click on this link to download the resource packs www.cleanairday.org.uk/forms/clean-air-day-resources-scotland

The resources have lots of messages around cycling, walking, electric vehicles, no idling and using alternative less polluting routes.

From work colleagues to your school pupils, hospital/GP patients to people living within your local community, the packs can be downloaded and printed off to make it easy to stage a successful Clean Air Day event.

How to: organise a walking bus to school

A 'walking bus' is simply a group of parents/carers and children walking to school, picking up more children and parents/carers along the route. When done on a regular basis, parents/carers can take it in turns to accompany the walking bus, giving you the occasional break from doing the school run! Planning a walking bus is a practical way to give lots of cars a day off on Clean Air Day.

Top tips

- Stick to the side streets - there are websites to find the quiet, less polluted routes near you.
- The bigger the bus, the more fun you will have, but make sure you have enough adults to supervise the 'passengers'.
- You can have multiple walking buses from different locations.
- Agree a time that the walking bus will leave and on approximate time for when you will be picking people up on route.
- Talk to the school about your walking bus, and let them know which children will be coming in your walking bus.

Step by step

- Decide your route. Where possible stick to the side streets, avoiding the main roads can reduce your exposure to air pollution by up to 20%.
- Choose the time your walking bus will leave in order to get to school on time and work out a rough time schedule for when it will be walking past various places where you can pick up more children.

It was a really lovely fun walk, and great to get the Councilors and the Mayor involved!

Air Quality Officer

They contain clear instructions on how to organise and publicise an event with the media and on social media, from awareness raising of the importance of not idling vehicle engines to pledge cards which allow people to promise to try less polluting activities such as cycling, walking or using/buying an electric car.

The school Curriculum for Excellence packs allow pupils to carry out experiments on the effects on air pollution on lichen, in an effort to help them gain a better understanding of the importance of good quality air.

There's tips for involving pupils in other activities, whether it's inviting an electric vehicle to be driven into a playground or making sure your 'walking bus' is a success.



Sciennes Primary's 99 pupils who walked from Edinburgh school into the city centre are pictured on the cover of one of the resource kits! Chris Boardman posed for a photo with one of the pledge cards during a trip to Edinburgh's Open Streets event on May 5th.

Give your car the day off

Air pollution:
Find out how to protect yourself and your family

cleanairday.org.uk/scotland

Environmental Protection Scotland
Scottish Government
Riaghaidhs na h-Aibidh
gov.scot

30 June 2019
CleanAirDay

Clean Air Day is coordinated by © Global Action Plan, on behalf of over 200 Official Supporter organisations.

'Myth-busting' Clean Air Day fact-sheets also debunk some of the commonly held views about air pollution and electric vehicles and are a fun way to learn more about air quality initiatives.

People can also print off stickers, posters, flags, and even a quiz sheet to promote a successful Clean Air Day event. There's letter writing templates to send to local elected members and details of how to promote the event through social media.

The Clean Air Day Scotland website is also a brilliant resource with links to the Cleaner Air For Scotland (CAFS) strategy and other organisations websites such as Transport Scotland's Low Emission Zones site.

Leave the car at home
If you're able, reduce your car use for short journeys and include walking and cycling as part of your everyday travel habit, including the school run. By using public transport you're not only going to help reduce air pollution but also reduce the numbers of vehicles on the road, easing congestion and making our city centres a nicer place to be.

Don't idle
Turn off your vehicle's engine while stationary, this protects the health of people around you, especially near schools and other areas where there are a lot of people.
Drivers who fail to switch off can receive a £20 fixed penalty.

Support your staff
Businesses should encourage and support staff and visitors to their building to use active modes of transport such as cycling and walking or public transport. This will reduce congestion around the building and help staff to stay fit and healthy.

All we ask is that people register their details before downloading the forms.

The toolkits, developed in conjunction with the UK organisers Global Action Plan, were launched as the list of people and organisations interested in participating in Clean Air Day grows with each day. There are now several schools, along with the NHS and Health Protection Scotland which are getting behind the event. NHS Grampian has already been tweeting about Clean Air Day and local authorities in Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Stirling, Glasgow, Edinburgh and the Highland Council are planning events. Dozens of other smaller charities, such as the Kilmarnock Active Travel Hub, have also been in touch with us.

We also have some excellent social media memes on the way which shine a spotlight on the excellent work in Scotland to improve air quality and get people moving through active travel.

Can you help us promote Clean Air Day? If you have a relative or friend who is "well kent" and would endorse Clean Air Day, please get in touch.

Anyone interested in finding out more can email admin@ep-scotland.org.uk

EPS will be carrying updates on Clean Air Day via @EPScotland Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn – click this link to join our group here www.linkedin.com/company/environmental-protection-scotland/about/?viewAsMember=true

PROFESSOR GEORGE MORRIS JOINS EPS BOARD OF TRUSTEES



EPS are delighted to announce that Professor George Morris has joined the Board of Trustees.

One of the country's leading environmental scientists, Professor Morris is renewing an association with the organisation that dates back to the time when it was The National Society for Clean Air. He sat on the executive committee of the NSCA.

He is currently based at the University of Exeter's European Centre for Environment and Human Health. He co-leads work on the INHERIT (Inter-sectoral Health and Environment Research for Innovation) 'Horizon 2020' project. He began his career as a sanitary officer at Ayr County Council in 1971, before joining Cunningham District Council (now North Ayrshire Council) following local government reorganisation in 1975.

George subsequently worked as an academic at the universities of Strathclyde and Glasgow, before joining the NHS as a Consultant in Environmental Health. During his NHS career, he was seconded to the Scottish Government for a five year-period from 2004 where he was project adviser for 'Good Places Better Health for Scotland's Children' a new national policy initiative on the environment and health. The outcomes of this work have informed a variety of policy strands around these areas and, importantly, contributed to the introduction of the Scottish Place Standard to improve the environment in communities. Professor Morris has also engaged in research and consultancy work for various agencies including the World Health Organisation (WHO), the European Environment Agency (EEA) and Public Health England.

NOISE ACTION WEEK

Noise Action Week runs from May 20-25th and anyone wishing to participate in the event can go onto the website <http://www.noiseactionweek.org.uk/> or follow the event on Twitter @NoiseActionWeek. If you wish to take part in an event in Scotland, you can contact the organisers via the website.

EFCA FINE PARTICLES – AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE CONFERENCE

THE European Federation of Clean Air and Environmental Protection Associations has attracted speakers from across Europe for its symposium entitled 'Ultrafine Particles – Air Quality and Climate' in Brussels on May 15-16.

The event aims to build increased understanding of the importance of chemical composition for toxicological effects of UFPs and the use of surface area rather than dose metric to shed more light on the issue. EFCA said in a statement: "UFP's do not only affect respiratory health alone, but do have systemic effects such as on the cardiovascular system more than PM_{2.5}. Rachel Smith of Public Health England is among the speakers.

EPS MEMBER DISCOUNT OFFER – 'THE A-Z OF GROUND GAS 2019'

EPS members are being offered a 10% discount on bookings for the 'The A-Z of Ground Gas' in Edinburgh, which takes place on June 11th and 12th.

GGs and PAGEoTechnical are once again collaborating on the event which will provide the latest information and training on ground-gas monitoring techniques, risk assessment, solutions design and provision for best practice. The course covers

solutions design, materials, installation verification and there will also be practical demonstrations and verification exercises.

The seminar will appeal to specialists, consultants, regulators and developers who wish to learn how improved ground-gas characterisation and risk assessment can lead to better quality decision making, time and cost savings. The organisers are also offering a 10% discount for multiple delegate bookings from other organisations.

You can secure your discounted EPS place by filling out the [form](#), stating you are an EPS member and sending it to sophie@pageo.co.uk and steve.jay@ggs-uk.com

EXPERT ADVISORY GROUPS

NOISE

Lisa Lavia, managing director of the Noise Abatement Society (NAS) gave a fascinating presentation on the 'soundscape application in built environment' at the meeting on May 2nd. Lisa, who is studying for a PhD in urban studies and soundscape at Heriot-Watt University where the meeting was held, discussed how city and town planners are increasingly paying attention to the quality of acoustics and how acceptable noise levels in urban environments can sometimes become 'chaotic' thanks to all-night venues and sometimes disrupt communities. EPS has submitted a response to the Scottish Government consultation on the use and regulation of fireworks which closed on May 13th.

AIR QUALITY

Policy and Communications Officer John Bynorth is to speak at a conference chaired by Lord Whitty, the EPUK President in central London on May 21st. He will discuss the efforts to develop air quality strategies from a devolved perspective at the 'air quality in the UK' event which will examine transport emissions, cleaner air strategies and the role of local government. He also gave a presentation about Clean Air Day at the 'Greenfleet' electric vehicles roadshow at Murrayfield Stadium last month. The next meeting is due to take place in August.

LAND

The Minutes for the most recent meeting have been sent out and the next meeting will take place on June 25th in the EPS offices.

IN THE PRESS

The Herald's coverage of the transboundary air pollution episode which mainly affected eastern parts of Scotland on April 24th included a comment from EPS. The incident was caused by eastern winds bringing polluted air caused by forest fires in the Ukraine and Russia to the UK. It led to higher than normal levels of PM₁₀ at monitoring stations in areas including Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen. Click <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17458677.scotland-wide-warning-to-the-vulnerable-from-pollution-partly-caused-by-sahara-desert-dust/>

EPS was also quoted in The Herald's extensive coverage of the Committee on Climate Change report. <https://www.pressreader.com/>

BOOK COMPETITION WINNERS

Two members have won copies of the 'Urban Water Atlas for Europe'. Rachel Brooks, an environmental health officer at Dundee City Council, and Dominic Young, a Specialist Contaminated Land Officer and EPS Land Quality group member, were picked at random after correctly answering the two questions; When is 'EU Green Week?' **A:** May 13th-17th 2019; What is the name of the EU programme that protects the environment and fights against climate change. **A:** The LIFE Programme. Congratulations to both of our winners!

NEXT MONTH – CLEAN AIR DAY ROUND-UP

We will bring you all the latest news about Clean Air Day and a full round up from Noise Action Week.

We welcome articles from members or member organisations which can be sent to admin@ep-scotland.org.uk marked in the subject header '**NEWSLETTER ARTICLE.**' It will be emailed to members at the end of June.

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.

Environmental Protection Scotland

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