



Environmental
Protection
Scotland

Newsletter

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2019

WELCOME

THIS month we launch the EPS comprehensive guide for dealing with land contamination and development. The document is geared towards land professionals in the public/private sector and communities.

The publication of Professor Campbell Gemmill's independent review of the Cleaner Air For Scotland (CAFS) strategy in late August provides an insight into the direction of travel for air quality policy in the new strategy which is due out in 2020.

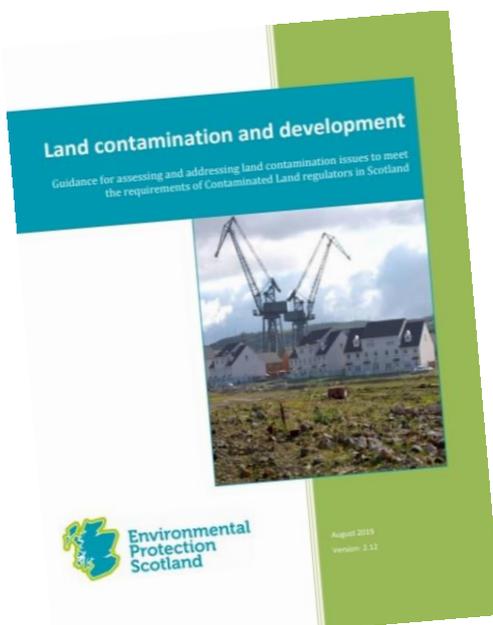
We have analysis of key recommendations made by the various working groups on transport, health and environment, industrial, domestic and agriculture emissions and Placemaking.

EPS reports on the start of the Glasgow Airport Airspace Modernisation stakeholder consultation, Glasgow's LEZ business event and the most recent climate change protests.

EPS LAUNCHES GUIDE FOR DEALING WITH LAND CONTAMINATION AND DEVELOPMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL Protection Scotland has launched a comprehensive guide to best practice for house builders, local authority staff and communities involved in land development.

The Land Contamination & Development Guide aims to ensure professionals and community leaders involved in land development follow current best practice and regulations.



We hope the online document will avoid public health problems, environmental damage caused by rules and safeguards relating to contaminated land not being followed correctly.

It contains clear information for developers, land contamination officers and private consultants to conduct site investigations, risk assessments and remediation programmes in line with present practice codes.

Scotland has around 11,600 hectares of derelict and vacant land across 3,700 sites, according to the Vacant and Derelict Land Task Force.

The guide aims to help local authority staff, house builders, consultants and communities who are seeking to unlock sites to ensure potential contamination risks are addressed.

The onus is on developers to ensure potential contamination risks are adequately addressed. Scotland's housing demands means there is more pressure to build developments, particularly on brownfield sites which may have legacy contamination issues.

The document will also provide additional reassurance for residents of new build properties and help people seeking to put land back into use for

activities such as community growing.

Roslyn McIntosh, a contaminated land officer at Inverclyde Council who is Chair of the EPS Land Quality expert advisory group together with colleagues on the steering group, drew up the guide in consultation with local authorities and other agencies, including SEPA. She said: "The booklet puts the latest regulatory information and best practice at the fingertips of the people directly involved in the development of sites. It links all of the codes of practice in Scotland that are used by

regulators and contaminated land officers in one document and we hope it will become an invaluable document for them.” Download it [here](#).

ANALYSIS: CLEANER AIR FOR SCOTLAND INDEPENDENT REVIEW

ON August 29th, the independent review of the Cleaner Air For Scotland (CAFS) strategy was published. Led by Professor Campbell Gemmill, the document reviewed the progress of the Scottish Government initiative and made 10 high level recommendations.

It concluded that, generally Scotland is performing quite well by comparison with the rest of the EU and the world with falling levels of regulated pollution emissions and ambient air pollutant levels falling. However, the report added that more needs to be done particularly in relation to sources other than transport, such as agriculture and domestic burning.

The report flagged up nitrogen oxides, particulate and ammonia levels from agriculture and issues around transport emissions and the choices people take when it comes to public transport. Although the CAFS strategy has had a positive impact, the report found its overall structure too complex; there was a major governance gap for the future air quality strategy to deliver at ministerial level, and the overall governance group was misnamed – but praised the fact it had delivered ‘so many of the CAFS’ commitments.’.

Roseanna Cunningham, the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, pictured, said that although Scotland was performing well by international standards and the CAFS strategy had raised awareness of air pollution she had “no illusions that there is still more to be done as we progress towards our 2020 targets.” Read our analysis [here](#).



“IF THE LOW EMISSION ZONE HARMS A BUSINESS, IT WON’T HAVE BEEN A SUCCESS” – COUNCILLOR ANNA RICHARDSON GLASGOW LEZ STAKEHOLDER EVENT

GLASGOW City Council hosted an event on September 17th which aimed to help small and medium sized firms ‘get ready’ for the Low Emission Zone at the end of 2022.

The gathering at the City Chambers was run in conjunction with FSB Scotland, which represents small businesses, and provided a lively discussion forum.

Dom Callaghan, an air quality specialist at the council, spelled out why the LEZ was being rolled out to include all vehicles. He said air pollution contributed to premature deaths, exacerbated existing health inequalities and contributed to an array of other health conditions in addition to making the city centre ‘a pretty unattractive place.’ There were also ramifications

if the city failed to meet EU targets on NO₂ which had been missed at the start of the previous decade.

He said that although the council had received criticism from some environmental campaigners for its initial ‘buses-first’ approach to LEZ compliance he felt that this gave the council the opportunity to make the ‘biggest NO₂ savings’ in the shortest possible time. Mr Callaghan added: “We expect to see signs of reductions in pollution levels and fundamental improvements in health targets. It’s fundamentally about public health.”

Councillor Anna Richardson, Convener of the Carbon Reduction Committee, in the



centre of the above picture, accepted there was still some uncertainty among people about what vehicles would be included in the LEZ and added: "If the LEZ harms a business, it won't have been a success." Click [here](#) to read our report.

GLASGOW AIRPORT FLIGHTPATHS CONSULTATION

STAKEHOLDERS have contributed to plans for airspace modernisation as Glasgow Airport seeks to overhaul a 40-year-old flightpaths system that it said is no longer 'fit for purpose.'

Operations Director Mark Johnston made the claim as he launched a consultation event at The Corinthian in Glasgow on September 10th.

The airport is consulting on the development of new airspace design principles following the advent of satellite technology – or a 'SatNav in the sky' as Mr Johnston described it – which are replacing traditional ground-based navigation aids.

They are used to guide planes in and out of runways with the new beacons bringing hope for major improvements to fuel efficiency and CO² emissions as pilots will follow their allocated flight paths far more accurately in the future.

Mr Johnston said Glasgow aimed to create flightpaths 'fit for the 21st Century' and said the current system was akin to expecting today's level of road traffic to drive on a 1960s road network. There is a requirement for UK airports to use the satellite-based technology by 2024.

The UK Government has an aviation strategy that aims to make plane journeys quicker, quieter and environmentally cleaner by redesigning 'blocks' of airspace for planes to travel through.

Glasgow, Aberdeen, Prestwick, Newcastle and Humberside airports are linked together in one flightpaths group in the north of the UK, with another for airports in the south. Each of the airports in the north area need to accommodate each other's new airspace plans at different points.

The airspace changes are likely to bring impacts on noise for some communities although it is far too early to say which areas will be affected. There were concerns raised at the meeting by some residents about light pollution over residential areas from larger aircraft coming into land at night.

One positive impact could be that planes may be able to reach a higher altitude more quickly on take-off. This may reduce noise impacts for some residents.

Last year the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) announced a new system of airspace modernisation called CAP1616. The announcement meant that Glasgow had to scrap its own consultation for modernising flightpaths with just three weeks left to run and is now starting the revised flightpaths consultation from scratch.

The new CAA process is described as more 'prescriptive' than the previous one and the airport is engaging with local communities, airport users, including the owners of light aircrafts and environmental groups from an earlier stage in the design process. The current process runs until November with socio-economic appraisals and a public consultation to follow. The airspace change proposals for Glasgow are set to be submitted until the end of 2021, with implementation to follow two years later. For more details of the consultation and CAP1616 click [here](#).

"IT'S GOOD THAT THESE MARCHES ARE LED BY YOUNG PEOPLE – THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE TO SORT OUF THE MESS" CLIMATE CHANGE PROTESTS REPORT

THOUSANDS of young people and adults took part in the climate change march to George Square on September 20th.

The Glasgow protests were echoed by an even larger demonstration in Edinburgh and others in Dundee, Aberdeen and towns across Scotland.

It comes as the climate change spotlight continues to shine on the city after the announcement that it will host the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) conference in November 2020.

The latest protests were among hundreds of events across Scotland and the rest of the world inspired by the remarkable environmental activist Greta Thunberg. The schoolgirl, 16, took her case for governments to do more to slow the pace of global temperature increases to a climate change conference at the UN in New York three days later. She told them: "You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words." Read our article on the Glasgow protests [here](#).



BREAKING NEWS

CLEAN Air Day has been nominated for a prestigious award.

The event on June 20th, which EPS coordinated in Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Government, is in the running for the 'best behaviour change initiative' of 2019 at [Healthy Streets Awards](#).

The prize-giving ceremony will take place at Glasgow City Chambers on October 9th. It is up against the Sustrans 'Big Pedal' project, cycle infrastructure programmes in Southampton and Waltham Forest and the 'Wheels for Wellbeing Guide to Inclusive Cycling.'

Over 112 participating CAD events were held in Scotland, involving 21 local authorities with major free public events in Glasgow's George Square and in St Nicholas Square in Aberdeen, Dundee and Elgin. NHS organisations, hospitals and cycling, walking charities and numerous schools from Ullapool to Edinburgh.

Thanks again to everyone who took part. We would be grateful if you could complete our Survey Monkey feedback form by clicking this link <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/F9Y8RNW>

CO₂ FROM DISUSED MINE WORKINGS REPORT

CURRENT processes to prevent CO₂ from entering homes are mainly satisfactory, but they are not always carried out by developers, a report into the Gorebridge incident has found.

Consultants RSK were commissioned to produce a report for the Scottish Government following the incident in the Midlothian village which began when a teenager was overcome by gas and taken to hospital in 2013. A total of 26 people sought medical help after falling ill from carbon dioxide poisoning from mine workings and 64 properties had to be demolished.

The study focussed on the prevalence of CO₂ in disused mines in Scotland and it identified 12 incidents over the past few decades. The figure included Gorebridge. The full report can be read [here](#).

EPUK CONFERENCE –BIRMINGHAM, NOVEMBER 13TH

THE full programme has now been launched for the annual EPUK conference at the University of Birmingham on November 13th. Prominent speakers on the itinerary include Gary Fuller of King's College, London. Mr Fuller, who wrote a book about air pollution last year, will give a keynote address on how to maximise the benefits of environmental protection into the next decade and beyond.

Katherine Nield of the activist legal group Client Earth will talk about making the UK Government's Environment Bill 'fit for purpose.' The conference will discuss the current degree of uncertainty surrounding UK Government plans for a new Bill, while the future extent of alignment between the UK's and Europe's environmental policies remains unclear. To see the full programme and reserve a place at the conference click this [link](#).

EXPERT ADVISORY GROUPS

NOISE

THE next meeting of the SNAG will take place on Thursday November 21st at the EPS offices in Glasgow. We look forward to welcoming two new members for the first time, Julie Robertson of Glasgow City Council and Simon Waddell of ITP Energised. The meeting will be chaired by Jim McIntyre of SEPA.

AIR QUALITY

THE next meeting of the AQ Expert Advisory Group is due to take place in late November or early December. The date is to be confirmed with members. It is hoped that an election will take place for a new Chair after Dr Stuart Sneddon indicated at the August meeting that he wished to step down from the post. Members of the group who would like to stand should email john.bynorth@ep-scotland.org.uk

LAND

THE Land Quality Expert Advisory Group met on Thursday October 3rd at the EPS offices. The main item was the launch of the EPS land guidance document. Group member Mark Aitken, Principal Policy Officer at SEPA gave a fascinating presentation about the importance of achieving good quality soil in rural and urban areas and some of the management practices associated with this policy. The group also discussed the RSK report on CO₂ emissions from disused mine workings and the initial report by the Vacant and Derelict Land Task Force. The next meeting will be held in December.

IN THE PRESS

SEPTEMBER began with an EPS press release on Glasgow City Council's introduction of two new bus gates.

We argued in favour of the gates and said it would mean fewer private cars in two of the city's busiest routes, Oswald Street and Union Street and simultaneously lead to improvements in air quality, pedestrian safety and speed up bus journey times.

[The Evening Times](#), [The Herald](#) and the [Glasgow Live](#) and [Air Quality News](#) were fairly positive about the move in their



follow-up articles.

The Herald contacted EPS for its views, along with those of other environmental charities, on what climate change policies we would like to see in the Scottish Government's Programme For Government. Their article published on the day of the PfG statement included a prominent comment from EPS. It can be read [here](#).

The Scotsman published a prominent article on the publication of the CAFS review report. The Ends Report picked up on a recommendation in the report

that Scotland should retain the latest EU emissions regulations after Brexit and published a comment by EPS. The article can be read [here](#).

EPS had an opinion article published in The Herald about the CAFS review and PfG announcement on bus routes funding entitled: 'It is time to cool our love affair with the car.' You can read it by clicking this [link](#).

NEXT ISSUE

With the Brexit deadline at the end of this month, EPS will aim to provide all the latest information about how leaving the EU will affect environmental protection in Scotland and the rest of the UK.

We will publish an interview with Dr David Connolly of SYSTRA, which had been held over from this month due to pressure of space. There will be a review of a new book 'Every Breath You Take,' by Mark Broomfield, which promises to sort out the facts from some of the myths about air pollution. The Newsletter will be emailed to members at the end of October.

If you have any articles for publication email admin@ep-scotland.org.uk and mark 'NEWSLETTER' in the subject header.

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.

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