



On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the EPS staff, can we take this opportunity to wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and a cleaner, quieter, healthier sustainable 2020.

Newsletter

December 2019

2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given of the 7th Annual General Meeting of Environmental Protection Scotland, to be held:

Date: Monday 20th January 2020

Venue: The DQ Lounge (basement lounge of Gin 71), Renfield Street, Glasgow. The link to their website will show the exact location and directions <https://www.gin71.com/about-gla.php>

Time: 17.15-18.00

The Agenda for the meeting, the Minutes from the 2018 AGM and any other relevant papers can be found [here](#).

We do have vacancies on our Board of Trustees. If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact the office in advance of the meeting.

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

CLIMATE COMMITTEE WARNS SCOTLAND'S 2045 NET-ZERO EMISSION AMBITIONS MUST BE BACKED BY URGENT ACTION ACROSS THE ECONOMY

THE COMMITTEE on Climate Change (CCC) has warned that action is required across every sector of Scotland's economy to achieve the 'step-change' that is essential to deliver net-zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHGs) by 2045.



The panel insisted the credibility of the UK Government and Scotland as hosts of the COP26 climate change conference rested on both governments being able to demonstrate that they would work together to reduce emissions.

Glasgow is set to host world leaders during the 10-day Conference of the Parties in November 2020. As the summit approaches, pressure is growing to set more stringent global emissions targets. A compromise agreement was signed off at the COP25 in Madrid earlier this month.

In the committee's 8th annual progress report on Scotland's plans to cut emissions, it said Scotland's 2030

deadline to cut GHG's by 75% remained extremely challenging and required immediate efforts to ensure meaningful reductions. Read our full summary [here](#)

“IT WASN'T THE FASTEST WAY TO TRAVEL, BUT I DIDN'T RUN OUT OF CHARGE ON THE INHOSPITABLE DRUMOCHTER PASS”

ELECTRIC VEHICLES – ‘A WINTER’S TALE’

ENCOURAGING people to give up their petrol and diesel cars and vans for electric and other forms of Ultra-Low Emission Vehicles (ULEV) is a priority for the Scottish Government over the next 13 years.

The sale of new combustion engined cars and vans will be banned from 2032 in Scotland.

Whilst they still emit particulate matter pollution from their brakes and tyres, electric vehicles offer a far more sustainable solution to the problems caused by private vehicles.

But what is EV ownership like? EPS's John Bynorth put this to the test with a 340-mile round trip drive in an EV from our Glasgow offices to Inverness on one of the coldest days of 2019.

During the journey, he found out how a whisky distillery is already switching to a hybrid fleet in preparation for 2032.



EPS spent last summer urging people to consider electric vehicle ownership as part of the Clean Air Day campaign. Read about John's whole journey [here](#)

“WE HAVE A SIGNIFICANT OPPORTUNITY TO ALIGN OUR AIR QUALITY ACTIONS WITH SCOTLAND’S INCREASED LEVEL OF AMBITION TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE AND TO IMPROVE PLACE-MAKING”

Roseanna Cunningham – Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform

THE Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform has said coordinated policies on air quality are crucial to ensure Scotland's 2045 net-zero climate change targets can be met.

Roseanna Cunningham drew a clear link between the objectives as she outlined the challenges that face the government as it revises the Cleaner Air For Scotland (CAFS) strategy.



In the keynote presentation to the Scottish Transport Emissions Partnership (STEP) annual conference in Edinburgh in November, Ms Cunningham said some people, including herself, vaguely recalled the 'choking smogs' of the 1950s.

The Cabinet Secretary added that air quality had 'improved beyond all recognition' since then.

Ms Cunningham went on to praise the work of the CAFS strategy, four years on from the publication of [‘The Road To A Healthier Future’](#) document. It listed 40 actions aimed at bringing about improvements to Scotland's air quality and to

make it the best in Europe. Read our summary of her speech [here](#)

“WE NEED GOOD AND EFFECTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS TO EMERGE FROM THIS BREXIT MAELSTROM”

Barrister William Wilson calls for clear environmental standards after Britain leaves the EU – EPUK annual conference, Birmingham

A LEADING environmental barrister has outlined a series of minimum expectations that he would like to see for the UK’s legal framework after Brexit.

William Wilson, pictured right, has worked at DEFRA, the Department of the Environment, managed environmental related Bills before the UK Parliament, worked with the devolved administrations and runs a private practice specialising in environmental and energy law. He has also been involved in negotiations on key EU legislation.

In a presentation to the EPUK conference in Birmingham last month, Mr Wilson warned uncertainty over the nature of environmental law after the UK leaves the EU has left questions over the framework in which industries such as aerospace, vehicle manufacture, chemicals and services industries will be expected to operate.

The Environment Bill, which is set to be reintroduced to the UK Parliament following the December general election, needed far more public consultation before it could become law, he added. Read a full summary of the presentation [here](#)



THE 13th annual Brownfield Land Scotland conference will be returning to Edinburgh’s Hilton Hotel on 5th February 2020

The event provides the opportunity to share first-hand experience and solutions to topical contaminated land and groundwater challenges.

Organised by Environment Analyst, the event is aimed at contaminated land officers, EHO’s and others involved in regulatory work, as well as consultants and contractors.

In addition to networking opportunities and the chance to share knowledge and insights, there will an abundance of practical advice and case studies. The line-up of speakers includes Sarah Hamill, a contaminated land officer at West Dunbartonshire Council and Vice-Chair of the EPS Land Quality expert advisory group.

EPS members can benefit from a 10% discount on the registration fee by entering the code EPS10 at the checkout or by quoting this reference when booking by email or phone.

Click the following link to find out more details <https://www.brownfieldscotland.com/>

CONSULTATION – LEZ REGULATIONS AND GUIDANCE

As Scotland’s first Low Emission Zone in Glasgow prepares to mark its first anniversary on December 31st, the LEZ regulations and guidance consultation went live.

This consultation seeks views on issues of a technical nature, such as penalty charges, emissions standards, exemptions, ‘grace periods’ and the circumstances in which a zone could be suspended. These regulations and exemptions underpin the operation and delivery of LEZ’s.

The consultation follows stakeholder engagement carried out earlier this year and involving a range of organisations, and elected members, from across Scotland. The link to the consultation, which runs until February 24th, can be found here: <https://consult.gov.scot/transport-scotland/low-emission-zones/>

EXPERT ADVISORY GROUPS

SCOTTISH NOISE ADVISORY GROUP (SNAG)

EPS has been invited by the Scottish Government to contribute to the work of the wider engagement group charged with developing a fireworks action plan. The group, which is chaired by Alistair Hay, former Chief Officer of Scottish Fire and Rescue, will consider plans to tighten devolved legislation around the use of fireworks in Scotland.

The next meeting of the SNAG is anticipated to take place in February. A Doodle Poll will be issued to members in due course.

AIR QUALITY

Several expressions of interest have been received from members interested in succeeding Dr Stuart Sneddon as the chair of the group. Plans are being finalised for an election at the next meeting which it is expected to take place in January. A Doodle Poll will be issued shortly.

LAND

The next meeting is expected to take place in January or February 2020.

IN THE PRESS, ON RADIO & TV

EPS published a free online guide to the environmental manifesto pledges of all of the major political parties standing in Scotland in the general election.



Policy and Communications Officer John Bynorth appeared as a guest on BBC Radio Scotland's 'Good Morning Scotland' election programme on December 10th to discuss his view that environmental issues had been overshadowed by Brexit during the campaign. He was also in the audience at Channel 4's 'Everything But Brexit' live TV debate in Leeds. Former Liberal Democrat leader, Jo Swinson, the SNP's Dr Phillippa Whitford and Labour's Angela Rayner joined the co-leader of the UK Greens, Jonathan Bartlett, and Plaid Cymru leader, Adam Price, in debating a variety of issues, including the environment and climate change.

General Election 2019: 'What Does It Mean For Environmental Protection?' can be downloaded [here](https://www.environmentalprotection.scot.nhs.uk/2019/12/10/eps-analysis-what-does-it-mean-for-environmental-protection/).

EPS also provided media comment to the West Lothian Courier newspaper about the most recent Scottish Household Survey which revealed a major shift in public awareness of climate change in the local authority area. Read the story [here](https://www.westlothiancourier.co.uk/news/2019/12/10/eps-analysis-what-does-it-mean-for-environmental-protection/).

BOOK COMPETITION WINNER

Congratulations to Colin Wilson from City of Edinburgh Council, who correctly answered our question in last month's Newsletter, has won a signed copy of 'Every Breath You Take' by Mark Broomfield.

Colin correctly answered **Joe Farman, Brian Gardiner and Jonathan Shanklin** to our question 'Who were the three scientists from the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) who published the first paper on the existence of the Antarctic ozone hole in 1985?'

Look out for more book reviews and competitions in future Newsletters.

NEXT MONTH – PROFESSOR JON FAIRBURN

We interview Professor Jon Fairburn, Professor of Sustainable Development at Staffordshire University. Prof Fairburn has carried out research into social inequalities in exposure to ambient air pollution and co-authored a report on

environmental justice in 2005, which explored the links between measures of environmental quality and social deprivation in Scotland.

The next issue will be emailed to members at the end of January 2020.

Please email any suggestions for articles or if you wish to contribute an article, to 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.

Environmental Protection Scotland

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