



Environmental  
Protection  
Scotland

## Newsletter – January 2021



# “ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SCOTLAND HAS PUT IN A HUGE AMOUNT OF WORK TO ENSURE CLEAN AIR DAY CAN STILL TAKE PLACE” – The Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Roseanna Cunningham

SEVEN months ago only the foolhardy would have placed a bet on Clean Air Day (CAD) being a success as the COVID-19 pandemic gripped Scotland.

A national lockdown that saw people stay away from public transport, being told to work from home, schools shut down, and finally, a curfew on pubs and other licensed premises across the central belt would have spelled doom for most national campaigns.

The determination to push ahead with CAD meant the event was delayed from its traditional June date to Thursday October 8<sup>th</sup>. However, this delay nurtured an atmosphere where people were more receptive to positive messages about the benefits of active travel, health and their impact on air quality.

To read the full story click [here](#)

## EPS ORGANISES SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT ‘CAFS 2’ STAKEHOLDER WEBINAR

Environmental Protection Scotland is hosting a stakeholder webinar, on behalf of the Scottish Government, as part of the ongoing 'Cleaner Air For Scotland ('CAFS 2') consultation process.

The free webinar will be held via 'MS Teams' on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021, from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Topics covered are transport, planning, health and well-being, integrating air quality and climate change policies and the communication of these policies to the public to encourage behaviour change.

The event will be chaired by EPS trustee Dr Iain McLellan, the joint chair of our air quality expert advisory group.

Places are limited to two per organisation. Once registered you will be sent an option form to ascertain your chosen discussion group. The groups are limited and places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, so please apply soon by clicking [here](#).

## EPS 8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Date:** Thursday 21st January 2021

**Venue:** Online-Via Zoom

**Time:** 16:30- 18:00

The Agenda for the meeting, the draft Minutes from last year's AGM and any other relevant papers will be sent to all members.

We are also delighted to host Molly Scott Cato, External Communications Co-ordinator, England & Wales Green Party and the former Green MEP for South-West England and Gibraltar. Following the AGM, Molly, pictured, will give a presentation entitled 'how pluralist politics benefits from the environment' and will be happy to take part in a Q & A session.



Please note that this meeting is solely for members and representatives of EPS. If you would like to participate in the AGM please email [admin@ep-scotland.org.uk](mailto:admin@ep-scotland.org.uk)

## STRONGER EU CONTINUITY BILL EMERGES AT HOLYROOD

A SERIES of crucial votes on the Scottish Government's 'UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Legal Continuity) (Scotland) Bill' took place three days before Christmas.

The amendments came during a day of scrutiny of the Bill by MSPs. A key aim was to ensure Scotland would not lose out on stringent EU environmental principles and oversight after the Brexit transition period ended on December 31<sup>st</sup> 2020

With the passing of the legislation, Scotland can now benefit from the work of a new watchdog, Environmental Standards Scotland (ESS), which became operational on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Scottish Ministers would be given the power to keep devolved laws in line the EU's where it is considered appropriate. The legislation aims to replicate EU laws in Scotland.

However, there had concern among some environmental groups that the ESS would lack the 'teeth' to enforce action in specific cases involving allegations of about environmentally damaging activities. However, an amendment was passed, during the voting on December 22<sup>nd</sup> which aimed to safeguard ESS's independence and ensure the Scottish Government's overall environmental strategy will be legally enshrined in law.

Among the other amendments was one put forward by the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Rural Affairs, Roseanna Cunningham placing a stronger onus on Scottish Ministers to apply environmental principles. Core EU environmental principles will be applied when developing future Scottish policy. Dr Annalisa Savaresi, pictured below, a senior lecturer in environmental law at the University of Stirling and a renowned expert in climate change law, has been appointed to the board of ESS.



She will serve alongside Paul McAleavey, Head of air quality and climate change at the European Environment Agency, Dr Richard Dixon, Director of Friends of the Earth Scotland, Marie Fallon, North East manager at the Environmental Agency and the former Scottish Public Services Ombudsman, Jim Martin.

Dr Savaresi said: “I am delighted to have been selected to serve in one of the most important public bodies set up in Scotland since the devolution settlement. I look forward to working with the ESS Board to support Scotland’s environmental ambitions.”

Ms Cunningham, who said the appointments represented the first step towards ESS being a strong, independent and effective governance body, added: “Between them, Jim Martin and the other members being put forward have significant experience of leading independent, scrutiny organisations and across the environment sector and its regulatory frameworks, including particular experience in Europe.”

A similar function was discharged in England. The UK Government has Office for Environmental Protection has appointed Dame Glenys Stacey as Chair of the Office For Environmental Protection. Dame Glenys is a former acting chief executive of the UK exams regulator, Ofqual.

More details about the role of the ESS can be found [here](#).

## EPS MEMBERS RECEIVE 10% DISCOUNT AT BROWNFIELD LAND SCOTLAND EVENT

EPS MEMBERS can take advantage of a 10% discount at next month’s Brownfield Land Scotland webinar. The annual conference, organised by Environment Analyst, is returning for its 14<sup>th</sup> year. Traditionally held in Edinburgh, this year’s event will be in a ‘virtual’ format over two days on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

EPS are delighted to be a media partner & this event provides first-hand experience and practical solutions specific to the management of brownfield and contaminated land in Scotland.

The presentations will be available online by video allowing participants to interact and network with others using a virtual face-to-face networking platform. There will also be ‘virtual’ face-to-face roundtable sessions, allowing delegates to discuss pertinent topics in smaller, more participative formats.

Brownfield Land brings together contaminated land and environmental health officers from local councils, regulatory agencies, brownfield consultants and contractors. This year’s topics covered include:

- What changes to National Planning Framework 4 mean for Brownfield Development and the role of land use in meeting Scotland’s housing targets
- Working towards a ‘circular economy’ approach to reusing soil and waste materials in brownfield developments.
- Updates on Ground Gas guidance
- Improving the quality of site data & optimising its use in developing a robust & workable CSM
- Managing the impact of climate change on risk assessment and remediation
- Remediation case studies and brownfield development projects in Scotland
- Developing & using an effective Materials Management Plan for the safe, compliant & cost-effective movement of materials on and off-site.



Confirmed speakers include: Shona Glenn, Head of Policy & Research, Scottish Land Commission; Craig McLaren, Director of Scotland & Ireland, Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI); Deryck Irving, Director of Strategy and Development, Green Action Trust; Steve Wilson, Technical Director, The Environmental Protection Group Ltd (EPG); Prof Colin T. Reid, Professor of Environmental Law, University of Dundee; Dr Tom Henman, Director - Geosciences, RSK; Will Fardon, Senior Technical Manager, i2 Analytical; Jeremy Crooks, Head of Innovation, The Coal Authority; Jon Aumonier, Project Manager, Innovation, The Coal Authority. To see the full programme and obtain the 10% discount, visit the website <https://www.brownfieldscotland.com/>

Go to '**Book now**' section, buy a ticket and enter the code **EPS10** in the '**promo code**' section at check-out.

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  
Room 3, Caledonian Suites, 70 West Regent Street, Glasgow, G2 2QZ  
[admin@ep-scotland.org.uk](mailto:admin@ep-scotland.org.uk) | 0141 333 6655 | [www.ep-scotland.org.uk](http://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.**