



Environmental  
Protection  
Scotland



Latha'Ghlan-èadhair  
CleanAirDay

56	09	31	17
days	hours	minutes	seconds

## Newsletter March/April 2021

### WELCOME

IN this issue, we look at the Brownfield Land Scotland 'virtual' conference, an excellent event that took place over two days in February. We are delighted to announce that Clean Air Day is to take place on Thursday June 17<sup>th</sup>. EPS has coordinated the event since 2018 on behalf of the Scottish Government. The pandemic notwithstanding, we expect there will be a surge of interest in the air quality campaign as we countdown to the event. Anyone interested in participating can email [admin@ep-scotland.org.uk](mailto:admin@ep-scotland.org.uk)

We also recommend saving a diary date for our forthcoming noise 'webinar' – 'Soundscapes and the Green Recovery' on May 26<sup>th</sup>.

We hope you enjoy the latest Newsletter.

### BROWNFIELD LAND SCOTLAND 2021 REPORT

THIS year's Brownfield Land Scotland event took place not in its usual venue of Edinburgh, but as a 'virtual' webinar held over two days in February.

The event, organised by Environment Analyst, featured a range of excellent speakers from across the public and sector and from bodies with an interest in land remediation good practice. The audience contributed enthusiastically to some very illuminating Q&A sessions with the various speakers and the event was applauded as a success in the new format.

For a report of some of the main presentations. Click [here](#).



### A LOOK BACK AT THE WATERFRONT AIR QUALITY FORUM 2020...AND 10% OFF NEXT MONTH'S 'VIRTUAL' 2021 EVENT FOR EPS MEMBERS!

CENTRAL London was the venue to the 'Waterfront Air Quality Forum' in February 2020. Little did we know that, it would be one of the last major conferences to be held before the COVID-19 pandemic!

The event featured speakers from across the board discussing the future of electric vehicles and efforts by local authorities



and other organisations to improve air quality and curb vehicle engine idling. This year's Waterfront Air Quality Forum will be held on Thursday May 20<sup>th</sup> in a virtual format with key speakers including Vincent McNally of Transport Scotland and Dr Ying Zhang of the National Physical Laboratory. EPS members will receive 10% off individual registration for the event. To find out more details or to register a place click the following link (EPS members should type or paste AQ21EPS in the discount code section of the online registration form) <https://waterfront.eventscase.com/EN/airquality>

Meanwhile, to whet your appetite you'll find a report of the Air Quality Forum 2020 event [here](#).

## CLEAN AIR DAY 2021 RESOURCES ARE UP AND RUNNING!

READERS will be interested to know that THIS year's Clean Air Day online resources for Clean Air Day 2021 have gone live ahead of the June 17th campaign. The 2021 packs enable all audiences across the UK from individuals, schools, businesses, health organisations, community groups and local authorities to demonstrate support for action on air pollution and have their say about building a healthy future for our children.



The resources support 'do and say' actions in line with the Clean Air Day theme which this year is '*Protect our children's health from air pollution*'. Actions include grassroots behaviour asks such as moving to pollution-free vehicles, to support council's action. (Note: The Scottish resources are in the process of being finalised)

EPS is looking forward to coordinating this year's campaign in Scotland and will be in touch with members shortly. To check out the Clean Air Day website visit <https://www.cleanairday.org.uk/free-resources>

## EPS 'ZOOM' WEBINAR - SOUNDSCAPES AND THE GREEN RECOVERY

**HBK**   
sponsored by HOTTINGER BRÜEL & KJÆR

**Wednesday May 26<sup>th</sup> – 10.30am-12.30pm**

Everyone needs somewhere where they can switch off from the experience of everyday life, even if it is only for a few minutes. For many people in city centres that can involve seeking out a quiet and restful spot. It could be a small park with a fountain, an urban garden or even a quiet corner of a municipal square.

Local authorities are increasingly exploring how parks, or simply undervalued tranquil spaces, which they can designate as 'quiet areas'. At the same time, cycle and walking paths can displace private cars, making our streets quieter and tranquil for residents and other users.

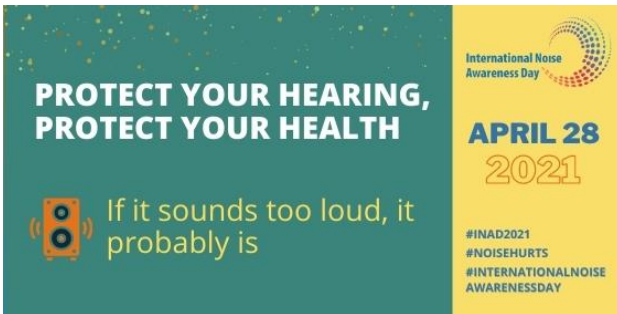
Neither is it possible to overlook the topic of rural areas and wildlife. A recent study suggested the normal behaviours of birds are being disrupted by noise from human activities. Conversely, and of particular contemporary relevance, evidence is building that urban areas made quite by Covid restrictions are positively influencing wildlife.

The forthcoming event, will look at the some of the research and efforts to improve soundscapes in the context of the UK's green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. We have an excellent line-up of speakers for the event. To find out more details and to register for a place click [here](#).

## EPS SUPPORTS #INTERNATIONALNOISEAWARENESSDAY

### WEDNESDAY APRIL 28

EPS are joining individuals and organisations around the globe in celebrating the 26th Annual International Noise Awareness Day. The event, organised by the Center for Hearing Loss in New York, raises awareness of the harmful effects of noise on hearing, health and quality of life, and inspire positive action in your community.



Given the pandemic-related challenges so many of us are facing, people are being encouraged to plan local noise awareness activities only when it is safe to do so. In the interim, people are invited to 'sound off for change' on social media. These opportunities can be found together with the INAD logo on the website [here](#).

There are so many reasons to be passionate about turning down the volume on noise, but the most compelling relate to protection of hearing and health.

## VOTE 'X' FOR OUR ELECTION LEAFLET!

With the Scottish parliamentary election campaigning under way ahead of the vote itself on Thursday May 6<sup>th</sup>, EPS will be producing an impartial online guide to the environmental policies of the main political parties later this week.

This follows on from the success of our guide to the 2019 general election which hit the headlines on 'BBC Good Morning Scotland.'

To download a copy, check the EPS website for updates and follow EPScotland on Twitter and @ENV.PROT.SCOTLAND on Facebook or our LinkedIn page. Keep an eye for updates of our website by clicking [here](#).

## EXPERT ADVISORY GROUPS

### NOISE

Dr Rosalind McHugh of the Scottish Government has joined the Scottish Noise Advisory Group (SNAG). Dr McHugh is a senior policy/project Manager responsible for horticultural peat natural resources and Biodiversity and Land Quality (LQ) at Environment & Forestry directorate at the government. Rosalind is looking forward to attending future meetings and contributing to the work of the group. At the latest meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup> the group discussed noise impact assessments in the post-COVID world, International Noise Awareness Day, Noise Action Week and the forthcoming 'Soundscapes and the Green Recovery webinar.' The group also valued a contribution by Lisa Lavia, Managing Director of the Noise Abatement Society. Lisa is one of the speakers at next month's webinar.

### AIR QUALITY

Dr Mark Miller, an air pollution researcher from the University of Edinburgh's Centre for Cardiovascular Science spoke to the group on February 27<sup>th</sup> about his studies with gold nano-particles, which simulate the effects of fine particulate matter on people's lungs and bloodstream. Dr Miller also discussed the university's funding bid to NERC as part of the Resulting Airborne Material Exposures to Child Health Outcomes (RESPIRE) consortium. Other topics discussed by the group included the latest developments to do with the Cleaner Air For Scotland ('CAFS 2') draft strategy; Clean Air Zones/Low Emission Zones, fleet renewal and modelling/predictions post-pandemic predictions surrounding vehicle use;

Glasgow City Council's Low Emission Zone and Clean Air Day. The next meeting scheduled for Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup> has been postponed and a new date will be forwarded to the group's members shortly.

## LAND QUALITY

The group's vice-chair, Sarah Hamill, who works in land contamination for West Dunbartonshire Council, wrote a fascinating article about the verification process and remediation for the Association of Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Specialists magazine. Sarah's mentioned the EPS Land Contamination and Development Guidance document. It can be read [here](#). We are very grateful to Sarah for writing this piece. EPS are also seeking progressing with plans to reschedule its 'Housebuilding on Brownfield Land' conference for the autumn. This event had been planned to take place in Edinburgh last year, but the pandemic forced its postponement.

## 'CAFS 2' STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Shortly before the pre-election 'purdah' period began at the start of April, the Scottish Government published details of the consultation responses received following the 12-week statutory consultation of the draft 'Cleaner Air For Scotland 2' strategy. Almost 1,000 responses were received, including 27 from individual members of the public. The government's full consultation responses analysis can be read [here](#). The new policy is expected to be published later in the year.

## E-PRESS

Our Policy and Communications Officer, John Bynorth, had an article published on the 'Planet Scotland' environmental journalism website <https://planetscotland.org/2021/01/29/john-bynorth-eps-scotland-take-climate-action/>

He also had an open letter published on the Glasgow Agreement website which is a forum for COP26 related opinion. It can be found here <https://theglasgowagreement.org/2021/02/03/dear-glasgow-john-bynorth/>

## WE HAVE MOVED!

EPS have now vacated our offices at Caledonian Suite in Glasgow city centre and are working from home in line with the Scottish Government guidelines on COVID-19. We had a great three years at this office, but the EPS Board felt it would be better to continue working remotely for the time being. The expert advisory groups and the Board of Trustees will continue to meet on a 'virtual' basis, as this format has worked well. Our staff of Clare, John and Elina are happy to help with any inquiries either directly on our mobile phones or via email. Please note our office landline 0141 333 6655 is no longer in use. You can contact us via [admin@ep-scotland.org.uk](mailto:admin@ep-scotland.org.uk)

## NEXT MONTH – ELECTION LATEST

We will assess the impact of the Scottish parliamentary elections on Thursday May 6<sup>th</sup> on the environment and profile the new Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Rural Affairs, who will take over from Roseanna Cunningham after she stepped down as an MSP.

It will have the latest environmental protection news, views and articles and reports from our expert advisory group meetings.

In line with government restrictions, Environmental Protection Scotland staff are currently working from home.

[admin@ep-scotland.org.uk](mailto:admin@ep-scotland.org.uk) | [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.**