

seadnews

scottish education and action for development

Issue 52, Winter/Spring 2008

They're switched on - are you?



Photos: www.abmphotography.com



What's inside this issue?

Switch On to Climate Change
The Global Community Challenge - An invitation to get involved, get together and make a difference. Find out what the project can offer you.

SEAD's 30th birthday
Three decades of action and solidarity - reaching from Scotland to Nicaragua, South Africa, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador and more. We think a celebration is in order!

Community action
Who are the real climate leaders? Communities everywhere are taking their own approaches to tackling climate change.

Raised voices
South African campaigner, Mpumelelo Mhlalisi explains how climate change is impacting people there.



Photo: www.raisedvoices.net

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Photo: Richard Dixon, WWF Scotland

Looking good for our age?

sead turns 30 in 2008

Some people manage to draw out their birthday celebrations for ages! SEAD's 30th Birthday is in 2008 and we're planning a series of celebratory events throughout the year. It's too good an opportunity to miss and we want to make the most of it. We'll bring together people who have been involved in SEAD during the last 30 years, plus new friends who've come on board during our work on "Switch On to Climate Change". If you're not already a member of SEAD, join up now so you're sure to be invited.



Of course our big news is that "Switch On to Climate Change" is going from strength to strength. Have a look at the page opposite to see what the project can offer you and your community.

Our other current priority is developing a project to find new ways to make meaningful links between communities in Scotland and around the world using new technologies as one of our tools for connecting people. That project is being developed under the working title "The Global Community Partnership", and is building on

SEAD's work creating exchanges between community activists in Scotland and South Africa.

Over the years SEAD has given great support to people working for positive change on all levels - from community projects to national campaigns. As our recent Organisational Review concluded, "If SEAD didn't exist, we'd have to invent it".

SEAD members, staff and Management Committee are working hard to do justice to the last 30 years of action and education. Read on to see what we've got on offer!

Some things are shifting slowly...

Not so very long ago in Scotland, it seemed the media, and most people, assumed you had a beard, sandals and a healthy supply of tofu about your person if you took any interest in climate change. Things, thankfully, have definitely changed.

It's a rare day now you pick up a paper or switch on the news and there is not at least a passing reference to climate change whether it be about the warm spring, the fate of polar bears or M&S's new organic knickers.

Pop stars are trooping out to show off their new low-carbon cars or lifestyles and in the world of politics change is afoot. In the run up to the Scottish Parliament elections every political party claimed tackling climate change was one of their top priorities. We now have a new government that wants a climate change bill and to reduce climate emissions by 80% by 2050. Now, this may not seem to fit with their pro-car, pro-plane transport policy but you can't argue it's not a start.

What's needed now is a way for people see past the pop concerts and cut through the myths to find out the truth about climate change. To find out what solutions will actually work and will do so in a globally fair and just fashion.

Kirstie Shirra

... but where are the real climate leaders?

From Portobello and Castlemilk, to Johannesburg and Bangkok, people are getting together to build their own response to climate change - communities setting the standards for governments and corporations. There is a world of inspiring community action we can all learn from.

From Thailand...

For travellers on the road from Bangkok to Malaysia, the crossroads at Bo Nok - Baan Krut might seem only a collection of rice fields, fishing boats, tourist resorts, coconut trees, temples and shops. Yet this is a community that defeated corporate and state plans to build one of the biggest coal-fired power plants in Thailand on its beachfront.

See www.redpepper.org.uk/article419.html

...to Scotland

...and closer to home, in Portobello the folks from PEDAL write, "We believe that the huge wave of communities around the UK - whether they're Transition Towns, Going Carbon Neutral, Sustainable, Community Buy Outs, kicking out plastic bags or getting more local food bought and sold - are showing that people have had enough of the way we've been doing things, and that there is another way - or lots of them!"

See www.pedal-party.org.uk for all their news



Portobello's Local Food Shindig

Would you like a way of getting active on climate issues in your own neighbourhood?

Does the media response to climate change leave you feeling overwhelmed and anxious? Do you get exasperated by the gap between what politicians say and what they do? With a global problem like this, how do people begin working together to solve it?

We've spent the last 2 years developing SEAD's "Switch On to Climate Change" in response to these questions. The idea of this project is that it offers support to people who want to begin addressing climate change in their own area. Different responses are appropriate for different people - and whether you're interested in getting active on a local, national or even an international level, we're here to help out.

We're offering a toolkit of support, which you can read about below. And we can also put you in touch with other organisations and community groups here in Scotland and all over the world who share your interests. If you're interested in finding out more, contact our Project Officer, Lorraine McCauley at lorraine@sead.org.uk. She's the one in the photo above - but you might be able to spot her in disguise on the front cover of this newsletter!



Getting involved

Switch On to Climate Change - the pack!

We've produced a pack which includes all kinds of resources - details of all the workshop templates, information about useful films, news about other groups working in Scotland and around the world on climate issues, a copy of our climate mythbuster, our newsletter and leaflet.

Give us a call

Contact Lorraine to find out what the project can give you. You can call her on 0131 555 5550, or email lorraine@sead.org.uk. When you order any of these resources it would be great (though not obligatory) if you could send us a donation to help with postage - or better still, become a member of SEAD (again, not obligatory but very helpful!).

We can help you with

Workshops and events

We can offer sessions, resources and ideas for action on all kinds of issues around climate change - taking a global perspective on everything from waste to food and travel. We can also help groups find their own way to get active on climate change, learning from the experiences of communities all over the world. If you're interested in having a facilitator visit your group, or would like help in running a workshop yourself, contact lorraine@sead.org.uk for details of the workshops and materials on offer.

The Climate Mythbuster

Our Climate Mythbuster is a handy booklet designed to help people cut through the fog of confusion surrounding the issue. It's a great route into the subject, presented in a lively and clear way. Contact us to order one for yourself - or better still, order a pile of them for your friends, family or community group!

Training

Would you like to be trained to run participatory climate workshops? We will be offering this kind of training throughout the year - contact us for details. These sessions will be offered in response to demand.



Sustainable transport in Edinburgh!

Raised voices

A South African campaigner speaks

"My name is Mpumelelo Mhlalisi. I'm from Capetown in South Africa from an organisation called Earthlife Africa and also part of the Environmental Justice Networking Forum – the energy task team. What I feel about the issue of climate change is the fact that until now this issue has mostly been discussed by the elites and the converted. People who know about it. And there has been less or little discussion with the people on the ground, that is the grassroots people. People who are directly affected by the consequences of the issue of climate change. This issue of climate change directly affects the poor in terms of access to water, access to food, access to work. Because of climate change people are not able to have food, grow their own food, and harvest their own food at the time they used to get their food."



For more testimonies, see www.raisedvoices.net

So many people to thank!

We are very grateful for the kind support of the following funders:



The Cobb Charity, The 1970 Trust and the MacRobert Trust

We'd also like to thank Alastair and Rose from Alastair Burn- Murdoch Photography (www.abmphotography.com) and everyone who took part in the photoshoot for Switch On to Climate Change. Last but not least, a big thanks to our members who make it all possible.

If you'd like to be kept in the loop and support our work at the same time, why not become a member of **sead**?

Name
Organisation (if applicable)
Address

Postcode
Tel
Email

What's in it for you?

Joining SEAD is a good way of supporting our work while hooking up with a network where you can find events, resources and people all over Scotland who share your interests. When you join we'll send you a copy of our Climate Mythbuster and our newsletter. If you enclose your email address we can also update you electronically.

Or become a One Percenter!

Since the early 80's the backbone of SEADs membership has been our 1% campaign givers – a group of people who regularly donate up to 1% of their income to SEAD. This started as a protest about shortfalls and inadequacies in the international development aid system, and through SEAD these givers have contributed to diverse projects in Scotland and around the world.

If you are a UK taxpayer, please complete this declaration. It will enable SEAD to reclaim tax on your donation, increasing our funds at no extra cost to you.

Please tick the appropriate subscription rate and return this form with your payment.

Individuals £20
Unwaged £10
Local organisations £25
National organisations £35
I would like to make a donation of

If you'd like to become a One Percenter, please fill in your chosen level of support here: £ per year

Leaving a legacy to SEAD

If you'd like to receive information about remembering SEAD in your will, please tick here

You can pay your membership or donation in a number of ways. If you'd like to pay by cheque, please make it payable to Scottish Education and Action for Development. However, it would help us even more if you choose to pay by Standing Order using this form.

I want Scottish Education and Action for Development to treat all donations I have made since 6 April 2000 and all donations I make from the date of this declaration (until I notify you otherwise) as Gift Aid Donations.

Signed Date

You need to pay UK Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that will be reclaimed by SEAD. Please remember to tell us if you no longer pay enough tax to cover the amount we reclaim. Also, remember to tell us your new address if you move. You may cancel your declaration at any time. This form supercedes any Gift Aid Form you may have signed in the past.

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Fixing a regular payment to SEAD saves you the bother of renewal, and reduces our administration costs - allowing more of your donation to go directly to support our work. To pay by Standing Order fill in the boxes below and return your form to the SEAD office.

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A/C No. 00257880 Sort code 83-1824

Royal Bank of Scotland, 2 Blenheim Place, Edinburgh EH7 5JH the sum of:

For office use only:
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Starting on (date) until further notice

Signature Date

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