



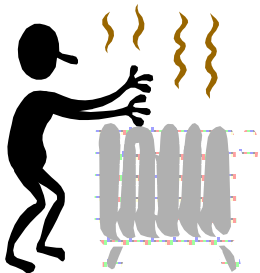
Our first update— Autumn 2008

Well, summer is almost over – correction, it is well over- and it's time to reach for the woolly jumpers again. We could blame the cold windy wet weather on global warming but it's probably just the "Scotland" effect. Writing up SASI's life over the last year for the annual report to the research committee has just reminded us that producing a SASI newsletter has been on the "to do" list for far too long. So here's a quick resume of some of the "sustainable" activities that SASI and the rest of the University has been up to, and some of our plans for the rest of the year.

Making Connections

One of SASI's key roles is to help make connections between SD researchers both within St Andrews, and between institutions.

A SASI workshop on changing behaviour which was held back in April 07 sparked the development of an exciting and practical research project. Members of the Social & Health Psychology Research group and the Medical school have been working with the Estates Environment and Energy team to study how the University may effect changes in behaviour in energy use. Funded by the University and the Carbon Trust, the project employed a dedicated research assistant. It's too soon to give you all the "ultimate answer" as the preliminary project report has only just been given to the Quaestor, but the findings will be published on the research section of the SASI website as soon as they are available.



The 2008/09 year is getting off to an exciting start. SASI has just hosted a joint St Andrews-Dundee workshop on Corporate Social Responsibility and the Mineral Resources Industry. Presentations were made by researchers and students from Social Anthropology, Management, and Geography & Geosciences at St Andrews, and the Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy, University of Dundee. We were also pleased to welcome Professor James Weiner, Leverhulme trust visiting professor. Presentations from all delegates will be available on the SASI website (www.st-andrews.ac.uk/sasi/kt/workshops)

Roddy Yarr, the University's Energy and Environment manager, made a presentation about the Climate Challenge Fund to the St Andrews Community Council at the beginning of September, and has since facilitated the formation of a local community working group (St Andrews Climate Change Group), which will be submitting a bid for this funding. Rachel Nunn, organiser of the Carbon Neutral Stirling Group, came down to St Andrews last week to share her experiences of setting up the group and securing funding for seven posts to roll out awareness and implementation of carbon saving actions to the various community groups in Stirling.

The meeting was hosted by SASI (ie we provided some tea and biccies), and included representatives from the community council, merchants association and university staff. Have a look at www.goingcarbonneutralstirling.org.uk/ for more information about the work in Stirling.



Sustainability in the Corporate World

Jan Bebbington and Nick Barter conducted a series of 12 one day workshops for Scottish & Southern Energy over the last year. Whether they successfully spread the word is a topic that will always be open to debate. However, they trained c250 of the top (by SSE's definition) managers from SSE and had them not only understanding sustainability but also exploring how they could action sustainability in their organisation.

Going forward, there is some talk of developing a elearning suite and master class sessions for the organisation. Furthermore the feedback from the attendees will be the subject of an academic paper.



Seminars

Last year, SASI organised a series of small seminars on a range of topics including the global commons (School of International Relations); the University's ecological footprint (Estates); and energy & fuel cells (School of Chemistry). It was great to see people coming together from different academic schools to discuss these important issues.

As well as organising our own seminars, we are keen to support and promote sustainability-related events initiated by other schools and student groups across the University. So please keep us posted about relevant events, and let us know how we can help – whether it is just advertising to the wider SD mailing list to get 'bums on seats', or helping out with venue / catering costs. Currently, the next event on the list is a joint SASI/G&G seminar on Nov 19th "*Scotland's countryside: food, fuel, feathers or fun?*" More details on the SASI website

Scotland-wide links

SASI is a key partner in developing a proposal for the formation of a National Sustainable Development Centre.

This centre will complement existing research strengths in Scotland and build new capacity to explore the themes of governance for sustainable development and envisioning sustainable economics. It intends to draw together existing and new knowledge on SD to provide a gateway to encourage the transfer of this knowledge to those who can use it, such as policy makers, business and citizens.

During the year the key partners for the Centre (SASI, UHI, the Forestry Commission and the Macaulay Institute) have been put in place and funding for an interim phase has been applied for to ensure that resources are available to bring a Strategic Research Development Grant application to the Scottish Funding Council to fruition. The science strategy for

New—support for "super-seminars"

This year we would like to experiment with running more substantial seminars, and have allocated funds to support these. Our idea is that these funds could support a "big name" speaker to come and visit St Andrews for a week or so (we would pay accommodation and travel) to work with staff and students in more depth, perhaps leading a series of lectures, seminars and masterclasses. Alternatively, you might like to bring together a group of people for a workshop type event to explore a sustainable development issue. If you have any ideas for events like this which you need funding to bring to completion, please get in touch and we can work it up together.

the centre has been more carefully developed and proofed with academic and policy partners. Work will continue on this project over the next year.

The SASI website hosts a Scottish-wide database of SD researchers, which was compiled as an early part of the work to scope the Centre. If you want to know more about this project, please contact Jan (jan.bebbington@st-andrews.ac.uk, extn 2348)



Getting there by degrees

It was party time in June, when the first cohort of students graduated from the undergraduate degree in Sustainable development. After posing for a photo shoot around the rickshaw, the group enjoyed a mini garden party with their families and SD teaching staff in the secret garden at Bute, before heading off to the main graduation parties.

On the postgraduate front, the paperwork for the proposed MSc in Sustainable Development was submitted to faculty in mid 2008. Like all new initiatives, it takes quite a while to sort out all the details, the new MSc in Sustainable Development is currently slated for launch in 2009. This launch will create a hive of activity so watch this space



The Adventures of "Beechnut"

Little did David (Energy Officer, Estates) know when he photographed his boat on the beach after a lunchtime rowing session that it was going to become the 'face' of SASI. We've had quite a few comments from people about how much they like the image, so it seems a good idea to pass on a bit more info.

Beechnut was built in 1984 in Windermere for David's Mum, who had many years of enjoyment on the lake before finally putting away her oars for good a couple of years ago, aged 80. Beechnut was then brought to St Andrews to explore new waterways and ultimately realise a new way of life as the face of an institute.

In July, Beechnut headed west to take part in the Crinan Classic boat festival. Now in its second year, this festival attracts wooden boats large and small for 3 days of informal racing, celidh dancing and whisky tasting. Needless to say, a great time was had by all and Beechnut won several prizes, including one for being the smallest classic boat.

You can find more pictures and information about the event at www.crinanclassic.com



Beechnut heading towards Jura. Photo ©Richard Pierce

Open for all

One of SASI's objectives is to spread the word about sustainable development, and Jan & Nick are putting on two day-school sessions for the local community as part of the University of St Andrews Open Association series.

Starting with a global perspective and ending with an appreciation of how day to day activities could be sustainable, there will be plenty of time to ask questions, debate issues and explore with others how we could build a future where everyone on the world is enjoying a sustainable lifestyle.

If you know of any friends or family in the local community who would like to learn more about SD, get them to book a place – the dates are 18th October 2008 and 7th March 2009 (both Saturdays). For details about attending give Oliver Jackson-Hutt a call on 01334 462206, or email him at open.association@st-andrews.ac.uk

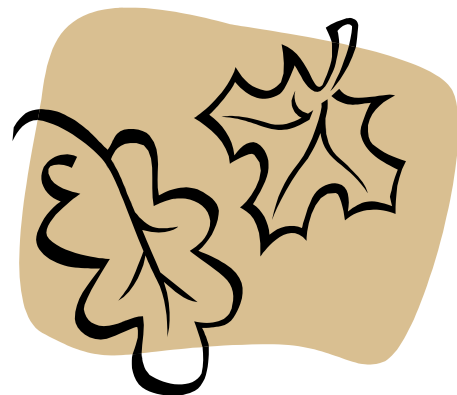
Website

The main Uni website has been given a makeover for the new academic year, and we're intending to have a go at revamping the SASI site too. Nick, our new marketing man (see next page for more about him...) has got lots of ideas, but we also need a bit of help from you.

Do you have a favourite quotation, or image which captures what sustainability means to you? If so, and you don't mind sharing, please send it in to us as sasi@st-andrews.ac.uk, and we'll add it to the website. We'll credit all contributions, and if you're really lucky there might be a prize.....

Reporting

SASI has been working with the Estates Energy & Environment team and Finance to produce an annual sustainability report for the University. This will combine information on a wide range of sustainability indicators such as energy and water use, waste, biodiversity and social responsibility, and will be published early next year. At the same time, and for the first time, there will be sustainability information in the University's formal annual report.



Welcome Aboard.....

Nick Barter joined the SASI crew as Research Fellow on 1st September. Hopefully steering, rather than bailing out, he will be initially working on the strategic development and marketing of SASI, as well as teaching on the proposed MSc in Sustainable Development.

He has spent the last 3 years as a teaching fellow in the School of Management, and is now working hard on the final stages of his PhD, researching companies that put the environment first and the economy second. His passion is looking at the kind of companies that are making a real change to what we buy and how we buy it, the kind of companies that are manned by environmentalists doing business, rather than businessmen doing the environment.



Nick in a cheery mood...

On the move again.....

Georgina has just moved her computer into the fourth different office she has inhabited since starting work for SASI.

At least now communication shouldn't be a problem, as both Georgina and Nick have moved into Jan's office. Yes, a professor giving away office space is almost unheard of, but maybe that's just part of what makes SASI a little different.....

We try to keep you up to date with news and events via the SASI email list. If you would like to be added to this mailing list, please let Georgina know at sasi@st-andrews.ac.uk. Don't forget to keep checking the SASI website for news, events and information.

