



SDRN Annual Sustainable Development Research Conference 2009

Event Programme

Thursday 24th September 2009



Engineering and Physical Sciences
Research Council



SDRN Annual Sustainable Development Research Conference 2009

About SDRN

The Sustainable Development Research Network (SDRN) aims to facilitate the better use of sustainable development research and evidence in policy-making. The Network was established in 2001 and is funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Department for Transport (DfT). SDRN activities bring together researchers, academics, policy-makers, practitioners and other stakeholders to focus on the identification of research needs, the discussion of new and emerging research and evidence, and the policy-relevant translation and interpretation of such research.

Membership of the Network is free and members receive the fortnightly email bulletin, the SDRN Mailing, updating them on network news, calls, research, new online resources, events and new publications. The SDRN website also features a dedicated 'Jobs and Training' section, where opportunities around the Network can be found, together with news on recent Network activities. The SDRN coordination team is based at the Policy Studies Institute in London, and Network activity is guided by an 18 member Advisory Committee.

For further information about SDRN, and to sign up to receive the fortnightly SDRN Mailing, visit www.sd-research.org.uk

Conference Aims

The SDRN Annual Conference aims to:

- Provide a platform for the presentation of new, cutting-edge sustainable development research relevant to Defra's five strategic priorities for sustainable development
- Update the research and academic communities on progress implementing the UK's Sustainable Development Strategy and current developments in UK sustainable development policy-making
- Identify future research needs for sustainable development, to inform the funders of sustainable development research
- Provide networking opportunities for SDRN members, particularly early career researchers, through the holding of the evening poster session.

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- 09.30 **Coffee and Registration**, (*Williams Lounge*)
- 10.00 **Welcome address** (*Henry Wellcome Auditorium*)
SDRN Advisory Committee Chair: [Prof. Roland Clift](#)
- 10.10 **Plenary Session I: Keynote Opening Speech ‘Models of low carbon growth’**
(*Henry Wellcome Auditorium*)
The opening session of the day will consider how society can drive innovation to deliver sustainability, and how we can advance the sustainable development agenda and move towards a low carbon society in a more positive and visionary way.
- Keynote Speech:* [Prof. Sir David King](#), University of Oxford
Respondents:
- [Prof. Tim Jackson](#), SDC, University of Surrey
 - [Prof. Jim Skea](#), UKERC
- 11.10 **Parallel Session 1a: Showcasing emerging research from the RESOLVE research programme**
(*Henry Wellcome Auditorium*)
Carbon emissions are fundamentally entwined in UK lifestyles. This session seeks to disentangle this relationship and shed light on what lower carbon lifestyles might look like, and how they might be brought about through both consumer and producer action, without jeopardising social well-being.
- Chair:* [Prof. Tim Jackson](#)
Speakers:
- [Dr. Angela Druckman](#), RESOLVE
 - [Dr. Justin Spinney](#), RESOLVE
 - [Tracey Bedford](#) and [Dr. David Evans](#), RESOLVE
- Policy respondent:* [Sara Eppel](#), Defra
- Parallel Session 1b: Educating for sustainable development** (*Franks Room*)
Whilst education for sustainable development is often perceived to be a niche activity, this session presents it as a critical challenge for all of society’s institutions, beyond just the formal education system. The session will consider how education for sustainability can be mainstreamed into not just schools and universities but also within government departments, non-formal forms of education and the work of non-governmental organisations.
- Chair:* [Julie Hill](#), Green Alliance
Speakers:
- [Prof. William Scott](#), University of Bath
 - [Hetan Shah](#), DEA
 - [John Ellison](#), Eden Project
- Policy respondent:* [Ann Finlayson](#), Sustainable Development Commission
- 12.40 **Lunch** (*Williams Lounge*)
- 13.30 **Parallel Session 2a: Enhancing the impact of social research on policy** (*Franks Room*)
This session aims to prompt both research and policy communities to think about how the impacts of social research on policy development can be enhanced. What have we learnt from the existing use of social research in government? And how can social research help policy-makers to prepare for the ‘big environmental challenges’ faced by government and society?
- Chair:* [Richard Price](#)
Speakers:
- [Tony Pike](#) and [Simon Maxwell](#), Defra Social Research - Social research and policy in Defra: an overview.
 - [Jane Gregory](#), Defra Food Policy Unit - Reflections on the impact of social research in Defra: A case study from the Food Policy Unit.

- **Rachel Muckle**, Defra Social Research - What are the social research questions and issues that emerge from the ‘big challenges’ facing Defra and society more widely in relation to climate change adaptation and/or food security?

Respondent: Carol Hayden, Shared Intelligence

The three brief presentations in this session will be followed by a facilitated discussion focusing on two key areas:

1. What are the implications of Defra’s ‘big challenges’ for the social research agenda? What are the social research questions that need to be asked to feed into Defra’s climate change adaptation, food security and other similar policies?
2. How can social research results be presented and interpreted to ensure they are of most value to policy analysts?

Parallel Session 2b: Sustainable Development and The Ecosystem Approach

(Henry Wellcome Auditorium)

This second afternoon session seeks to explore the benefits that accrue when applying the Ecosystem Approach in the delivery of sustainable development. It will draw on examples from the planning community and from the Ecosystems Services for Poverty Alleviation programme. It will consider whether the tools and processes designed to assist in delivering more sustainable outcomes sit comfortably with an ecosystems approach, and where embedding this thinking could make the biggest difference.

Chair: **Gary Kass**, Natural England

Speakers:

- **Prof. Dave Raffaelli**, University of York
- **Peter Ashworth**, ADAS
- **Prof. Andrew Watkinson**, Living with Environmental Change

Policy respondent: Dr. Robert Bradburne, Defra

15.00 **Tea** (*Williams Lounge*)

15.30 **Plenary Session II: Panel Discussion ‘Prosperity without growth?’** (*Henry Wellcome Auditorium*)

At SDRN’s very first Annual Conference in 2001, we asked whether economic growth should really be a key sustainable development objective for government. Revisiting this debate in 2009, this session will debate alternative indicators of prosperity, the ways in we might start to redefine what it means to be ‘prosperous’ and what such a redefinition might mean for policy and government, and society as a whole.

Chair: Prof. Roland Clift

Main speaker:

- **Andrew Simms**, new economics foundation (nef)

Panel discussants:

- **Prof. Michael Thompson**, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, James Martin Institute
- **Prof. Kate Soper**, London Metropolitan University
- **Jill Rutter**, Institute for Government

16.55 **Closing Remarks**

Conference chair: **Prof. Roland Clift**

17.00 **Evening Drinks Reception and the EPSRC / ESRC / NERC sponsored LWEC Young Researcher Poster Session and presentation of prizes.**

This will begin with a short presentation by Paul Rouse and Timothy Wright from the ESRC, introducing how the Research Councils seek to engage with early career researchers, and will be followed with the judging and presentation of prizes and opportunities for networking.

19.00 **Close**

Peter Ashworth is a Principal Consultant and Team Manager for ADAS in North West England and Scotland. ADAS is the UK's largest independent provider of environmental consultancy, rural development services and policy advice. It employs over 450 staff throughout the United Kingdom and Ireland. Peter joined ADAS in 1976 as an agricultural consultant providing advice to dairy, livestock and upland farmers as well as working on a number of research projects concerned with integrated management of uplands to meet multiple objectives. Since 2000 Peter has been involved in the development and management of a wide range of environmental projects including Heysham M6 link road EIA and Ormskirk Bypass EIA for Lancs CC, Trees in Towns II for Communities and Local Government, Environment Sensitive Farming for Defra, Upland habitat condition assessment for NE, Northern Uplands Moorland Regeneration for a partnership led by the Moorland Association and Ecosystems Case Study for Defra.

Tracey Bedford is a research fellow with the interdisciplinary research group on lifestyles, values and the environment (RESOLVE) based at the University of Surrey. Her research interests focus on the practices of ethical consumerism and sustainable lifestyles. Current projects include work on leisure practices and lifestyles, and Defra-commissioned research on the roles of identity, norms and guilt in pro-environmental behaviour.

Dr Robert Bradburne is currently the Head of the Ecosystems Approach team, part of the Natural Environment Strategic Unit in Defra, with responsibility for enabling people in central, regional and local government to take an ecosystems approach to their policy, strategy and decision making processes. This involves commissioning and communicating research to draw together the interdisciplinary evidence base and develop tools and methods which will enable people to use this framework in a variety of circumstances. A major initiative in this area is the National Ecosystem Assessment, which aims to create a compelling and easily understood explanation of the state and value of the UK's natural environment and ecosystem services. Robert has previously worked in the central strategy unit in Defra, in waste, and in horticultural crop sciences, following on from his post-doctoral research into crop genetics at the John Innes Centre.

Dr Angela Druckman is a Research Fellow in the ESRC Research Group on Lifestyles, Values and Environment (RESOLVE) based at the University of Surrey. Angela read Engineering at Cambridge University and has a PhD from the University of Surrey (Environmental Strategy). She achieved Chartered Engineer status through working in research and development in the field of electronics, during which time she was awarded two patents for her innovations. She subsequently had a wide variety of experience, including lecturing in electronics at Kingston University, commercial sector management for a thriving IT company, and non-governmental advocacy on climate change for Friends of the Earth. Angela's research interest is in exploring the linkages between lifestyles, energy use and carbon emissions in order to inform policies aimed at moving towards a low carbon society.

John Ellison is Head of Education Strategy for the Eden Project, Cornwall. He has worked in a range of fields; medical research, formal education, public understanding of science, non-formal learning and education policy. John was The Education Officer, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, until joining the Eden Project in 2004. He has interests in science education, learning and skills, ESD, global citizenship, sustainability and conservation. John is a member of the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) sustainable development in higher education steering group, and a director of the Botanic Gardens Education Network.

Sara Eppel has recently joined Defra as Head of Sustainable Products and Consumers, leading Defra's work on UK and EU product policy, sustainable public procurement, and sustainable consumption. Sara spent the last four years as Director of Policy for the Sustainable Development Commission, where she led SDC's policy advice to Government, delivery of its Watchdog role, and working with Government departments to develop understanding of sustainable development. Sara joined SDC from the Energy Saving Trust. Prior to that Sara worked in Paris as a consultant to the International Energy Agency and the OECD.

Dr David Evans is a research fellow in the department of Sociology at the University of Manchester. His research interests lie in the fields of consumption, practice and material culture with a particular focus on how accounts of these play out when faced with questions of environmental sustainability. Current projects focus on frugality and thrift; the citizen-consumer; divestment and waste.

Ann Finlayson is Commissioner for Education and Capability Building at the Sustainable Development Commission. She has worked in the environmental field for nearly 30 years, initially in forestry and micro-climate research in upland Britain. After a stint as a countryside ranger in Scotland, she began travelling the world teaching, facilitating and consulting in places such as Papua New Guinea, Australia and Canada. This included: managing environmental education programs; running conferences and workshops; training teachers, NGO staff and interpreters; evaluating large regional programs (British Columbia and Wisconsin); conducting strategic/operational planning for NGOs; developing resources for schools, communities and tourism sectors including designing award-winning training materials. On returning to the UK, she began work for WWF-UK and later became the WWF-UK Head of the Social Change department in 2002. She is currently Director of the new charity SEEd - Sustainability and Environmental Education. She brings to the SDC Education Commissioner post a working knowledge of formal, informal and non-formal education, a broad global perspective on education and has taught everyone from 3 year olds to 70 year olds. She is passionate about the role of learning in sustainability and for it to be about real people, real opportunities and real responsibilities.

Jane Gregory currently works on two projects within Defra's Food Policy Unit; influencing consumer sustainable food behaviour and developing a strategy for a sustainable and secure food system. Her work involves contributing to quantitative and social research projects that look at environmental impacts of, and behaviours towards, food and she is a member of various food related project steering groups. Jane joined Defra in 2003 when she worked for the Veterinary Medicines Directorate on antimicrobial resistance policy. She then went on to work for Ben Bradshaw MP (then Minister for local environment, animal and marine issues) as his Private Secretary leading on the sustainable waste and local environment portfolio.

Carol Hayden is a Director (Research and Evaluation) at Shared Intelligence and has a wealth of experience in researching, formulating and evaluating policy and programmes in a variety of contexts. From her previous roles in government, strategic organisations and academia, she has gained considerable specialist knowledge in the areas of community and economic regeneration, delivery through partnership, strategic planning, and learning networks. Prior to joining Shared Intelligence, Carol was Head of Research and Development at the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit (DCLG). She has also worked as a Strategic Policy Advisor at the Audit Commission, specialising in regeneration, at the Local Government Centre at the University of Warwick, and in a range of management roles in local authorities in the West Midlands. As Head of Area Co-ordination at Coventry City Council, Carol was responsible for much of the partnership working in the city including the Inter Agency Forum on Domestic Violence which brought together statutory and voluntary sector organisations to develop a joint approach to supporting women experiencing domestic violence.

Professor **Tim Jackson** is Professor of Sustainable Development at the University of Surrey and Director of the ESRC Research Group on Lifestyles, Values and Environment (RESOLVE). Funded under the TSEC (Towards a Sustainable Energy Economy) programme, the aim of RESOLVE is to develop a robust understanding of the links between lifestyle, societal values and the environment. In particular, RESOLVE aims to provide evidence-based advice to policy-makers in the UK and elsewhere who are seeking to understand and to influence people's energy-related behaviours and practices. Tim sits on the UK Sustainable Development Commission and is the author of the recently published Sustainable Development Commission report 'Prosperity Without Growth?' Tim was also chair of their former Economics Steering Group. In addition to his academic work he is a professional playwright with numerous radio-writing credits for the BBC.

Professor **Sir David King** is the Director of the Smith School of Enterprise and Environment at the University of Oxford. He was the UK Government's Chief Scientific Adviser and Head of the Government Office of Science from October 2000 to 31 December 2007. In that time, he raised the profile of the need for governments to act on climate change and was instrumental in creating the new £1 billion Energy Technologies Institute. In 2008 he co-authored 'The Hot Topic (Bloomsbury)' on this subject. As Director of the Government's Foresight Programme, he created an in-depth horizon scanning process which advised government on a wide range of long term issues, from flooding to obesity. He also chaired the government's Global Science and Innovation Forum from its inception. He advised government on issues including the foot-and-mouth disease epidemic of 2001; post 9/11 risks to the UK; GM foods; energy provision; and innovation and wealth creation. He was also heavily involved in the Government's Science and Innovation Strategy 2004-2014.

Sir David was born in South Africa in 1939, and after an early career at the University of Witwatersrand, Imperial College and the University of East Anglia, he became the Brunner Professor of Physical Chemistry at the University of Liverpool in 1974. In 1988 he was appointed 1920 Professor of Physical Chemistry at the University of Cambridge and subsequently became Master of Downing College (1995-2000) and Head of the University Chemistry Department (1993-2000). He has published over 450 papers on his research in chemical physics and on science and policy, and has received numerous prizes, fellowships, and honorary degrees. He continues as Director of Research in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Cambridge, and is currently President of the British Science Association.

Simon **Maxwell** is one of Defra's social researchers in the Environment and Rural Group. He is responsible for social research on a wide range of natural environment issues including biodiversity, ecosystems services, flood and coastal risk management, marine and fisheries, natural environment strategic issues and rural affairs.

Rachel **Muckle** is one of a small team of social researchers across Defra. She worked closely on the development of the research programme aiming to help policy-makers extend and utilise a thorough understanding of behaviour and how it can be influenced. Rachel has progressed from there to work in the Defra Strategy Unit and Evidence Programme. Her role is to bring social research into cross-cutting Defra projects, making sure that the latest research and evidence is reaching the key decision makers. Prior to joining Defra Rachel was a research fellow at the University of Surrey for eight years where she undertook many projects relating to environmental behaviour. Rachel applies this expertise in her advisory role to ensure that the potential and likely social impacts of policies are fully understood and considered.

Tony **Pike** is Defra's social researcher with responsibility covering policy areas across the Food and Farming Group. A recent research focus has been on understanding farmer attitudes, motivations and behaviour across a wide range of policy questions. During his five years in Defra he has been involved in research covering consumer behaviours, social justice, collective action and social capital and has been an advocate of both strengthening evidence into policy and the uptake of more deliberative qualitative research methods.

Professor Dave Raffaelli was appointed to a chair in Environment in February 2001 and is currently Head of the Environment Department at the University of York. Dave is also Director of UKPopNet, a collaborative NERC Centre (co-funded by NE) focussed on science for sustainable landscapes and livelihoods (www.ukpopnet.org) and he has recently finished a five-year period as Director of the NERC DIVERSITAS international, inter-disciplinary project office bioSUSTAINABILITY, concerned with developing the science of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in particular exploring the science-policy interface. He has worked extensively on the relationships between biodiversity, and ecosystem services and functioning, funded mainly by NERC and Defra, is a member of the Global Biodiversity Sub-Committee of the GECC, and has served on several UKBRAG working groups. His work with NERC includes a board member of NERC Science and Innovation Strategy Board (SISB) and Chair of NERC's Services & Facilities Review Group. In recent years he has been a journal editor (Journal of Animal Ecology), council member and vice-president of the British Ecological Society.

Paul Rouse leads the development and implementation of the Economic and Social Research Council's environmental change and energy research agenda. He works closely with Research Councils UK and other LWEC partners with a view to supporting the best possible research and postgraduate training and helping maximise the impact of these investments. He is currently interested in developing possible future research and research related activity in a range of areas including: the interplay between communities and environmental change; environmental governance & regulation; and, planning for and responding to natural hazard events. In relation to energy research he is working with interdisciplinary colleagues to develop whole systems approaches to issues of energy demand, security and equity. He is contactable at paul.rouse@esrc.ac.uk.

Jill Rutter joined Defra in February 2004 to head up a new Directorate with responsibility for Departmental Strategy and Sustainable Development, and she has recently moved on secondment to the Institute for Government. Jill's team produced the UK Sustainable Development Strategy, "Securing the Future," published in March 2005, and undertook Defra's Strategy Refresh for David Miliband in 2006. She spent the previous six years in BP in a variety of posts including helping to design BP's internal Pilot Emissions Trading Scheme. Before joining BP, the bulk of her career was in the Treasury, with posts including tax policy and international debt and local government finance, as well as running the Chief Secretary's Private Office and as the Chancellor's Press Secretary. She also spent a two-year spell in the Prime Minister's Policy Unit where her responsibilities included environment and health policy.

Professor William Scott is a Professor of Education at the University of Bath where he is Head of its Education and Sustainability research programme, director of the Centre for Research in Education and the Environment, and a deputy-director of the University's Institute for Sustainable Energy and the Environment. He was founding editor of the journal Environmental Education Research, is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, a director of the community interest company South West Learning for Sustainability Coalition, and the Forest of Avon Trust, and a Trustee of the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. William Scott's research focuses on the role of learning in sustainable development, on the contributions that educational institutions can make to this, and on the problems of researching the effectiveness of such activities. Of particular interest are: conceptual issues to do with the nature of education and professional development; pedagogical and evaluative issues about processes of learning and teaching; and ethical questions about the focus and limits of such interventions. These issues are addressed through research, consultancy, development and evaluation studies, through teaching, and through writing and reviewing, and William Scott has worked closely with research councils, government, industry, NGOs, and other agencies in the UK and in other countries. He is a member of the UK's co-ordinating group on the UNESCO decade for education for sustainable development.

Hetan Shah is Chief Executive of DEA - an education charity whose vision is for all citizens to understand the global challenges we face and develop the capabilities to create a more just and sustainable world. DEA works to support NGOs, educators and government in promoting better global learning. Hetan was previously policy director at the pressure group Compass and before that was director of the New Economics programme at the new economics foundation, and a director of the Social Enterprise Partnership. His publications include: Questioning Education; The Good Society; A New Political Economy; Democracy and the Public Realm; A Well-being Manifesto for a Flourishing Society; and Behavioural Economics: seven principles for policymakers.

Andrew Simms is Policy Director at the new economics foundation, and head of nef's Climate Change programme. He is the author of Ecological Debt: the health of the planet and the wealth of nations (2005) as well as numerous other publications about human development and the environment. He is co-editor of, 'Do Good Lives Have to Cost the Earth? (2008)', and author of 'Tesco-polity: How one shop came out on top and why it matters (2007)'. Andrew studied at the LSE and has worked for a variety of development and environmental organisations, including Oxfam and the International Institute for Environment and Development and has been a regular contributor to the International Red Cross's annual World Disasters Report. Andrew is a board member of Greenpeace UK and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) Europe. Previously, Andrew led campaigns for the development agency Christian Aid which included being one of the original organisers and leading advocates for the Jubilee 2000 Coalition debt relief campaign, the precursor to the Make Poverty History campaign. His work at nef is currently focused on global warming, our increasing global interdependence and what that means for different models of economic development.

Professor Jim Skea has particular research interests in energy, climate change and technological innovation. He has been Research Director of the UK Energy Research Centre, based at Imperial College, since 2004. He previously directed the Policy Studies Institute and the Economic and Social Research Councils' Global Environmental Change Programme. He has operated at the interface between research, policy-making and business throughout his career. He is a founding member of the Committee on Climate Change and a Vice-Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group III (climate change mitigation). He is also on the Boards of the Stockholm Environment Institute and Renewables East. He was Launch Director for the Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership and for several years chaired the Scottish Power Green Energy Trust. He recently chaired the Technical Advisory Group that developed the British Standards Institution specification for assessing the life cycle greenhouse gas emissions of goods and services.

Kate Soper is Emeritus Professor of Philosophy at the Institute for the Study of European Transformations (ISET) at London Metropolitan University, and Visiting Professor at Brighton University. She has worked as a journalist and translator. A Chairperson of European Nuclear Disarmament in the 1980s, she is currently a member of the UK Green Party. Her main research has been on theory of needs and consumption; environmental philosophy; the nature-culture divide, and nature aesthetics. She was lead researcher on the 'Alternative Hedonism' project funded in the ESRC/AHRC 'Cultures of Consumption' Programme (2004-6). Publications include: What is Nature? Culture, Politics and the Non-Human, 1995; To Relish the Sublime?: Culture and Self-Realisation in Postmodern Times, (with Martin Ryle) 2002; Citizenship and Consumption (co-edited), 2008; The Politics and Pleasures of Consuming Differently (co-edited), 2009.

Dr Justin Spinney is a research fellow with the ESRC-funded Research Group on Lifestyles, Values and Environment (RESOLVE) at the University of Surrey. Starting from the premise that ecological modernisation alone will not achieve the desired 80% cut in greenhouse gas emissions and critiquing the current emphasis on individual behaviour change to achieve cuts, Justin's work explores the relationships between producers and consumers. He is currently taking this agenda forward through qualitative fieldwork with employees of a global computer firm and their customers. The fieldwork explores the process of producing, marketing and consuming the laptop as a technology with specific attention to the ways in which different actors drive processes of acquisition, normalisation, devaluation and expectation in the life of the product.

Michael Thompson - Originally a professional soldier, Michael Thompson studied anthropology (University College London and Oxford) while also following a career as a Himalayan mountaineer (Annapurna South Face 1970, Everest Southwest Face 1975). His early research on how something secondhand becomes an antique, or a rat-infested slum part of Our Glorious Heritage ("Rubbish Theory", OUP 1979) diverted him into teaching at the Slade School of Fine Art, in London, and at Portsmouth University's School of Architecture, and from there to the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis: an East-West think tank in Austria. There he worked on energy futures, on risk perception and on environment and development in the Himalayan region, the key unifying concept in all that being "plural rationality": people doing very different things and yet still behaving rationally, given their different sets of convictions as to how the world is and people are ("Cultural Theory", with Richard Ellis and Aaron Wildavsky, West View 1990; "Divided We Stand", with Michiel Schwarz, Univ of Pennsylvania Press 1990; "Organising and Disorganising, Triarchy Press 2008).

Professor Andrew Watkinson is Director of the Living With Environmental Change Programme (www.lwec.org.uk) that is hosted within the School of Environmental Sciences at the University of East Anglia. This joint initiative represents an unprecedented partnership between the Research Councils, Government Departments and Delivery Agencies to ensure that the UK provides international leadership and solutions to the challenges of environmental change. Prof. Watkinson was formerly Director of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research and a Professor in the School of Environmental Sciences. His initial research career involved studies of population biology and its application to the fields of agriculture, conservation and climate change, but lately has involved interdisciplinary aspects of climate change, ecology and coastal zone management. Recent research highlights published in Science include predicting the biodiversity response to genetically modified herbicide resistant crops, the sustainability of Brazil nut harvesting in the Amazon and the decline of corals in the Caribbean. Research on climate change includes studies on the effects of hurricanes and global warming on coral reefs, sea level rise on turtle nesting beaches and climate change on island tourism. He was one of the lead authors of the Foresight report on Future Flooding commissioned by the Office of Science and Technology and was also involved with the preparation of the 2007 report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. He serves on a number of Research Council and Government committees and is a Visiting Professor at Fudan University in Shanghai.

Professor Roland Clift - Emeritus Professor of Environmental Technology and founding Director of the Centre for Environmental Strategy at the University of Surrey; previously Head of the Department of Chemical and Process Engineering at the University of Surrey. He is Visiting Professor in Environmental System Analysis at Chalmers University, Göteborg, Sweden, Adjunct Professor in Chemical and Biological Engineering at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, President of the International Society for Industrial Ecology, and a Vice President of Environmental Protection UK. He is a non-executive Director of the Blackrock New Energy Investment Trust, a member of Rolls-Royce' Environmental Advisory Board and of the International Expert Group on application of Life Cycle Assessment to waste management. From 1996 to 2005 he was a member of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution (RCEP). In 2004-5, he acted as Expert Adviser to a House of Lords enquiry into energy efficiency. He is a past member of the UK Eco-labeling Board and of the Royal Society/Royal Academy Working Group set up at the instigation of DTI to examine the risk and regulatory issues raised by nanotechnology. His research is concerned with system approaches to environmental management and industrial ecology, including life cycle assessment and energy systems.

Julie Hill is former Director of, and now an Associate of, Green Alliance - one of the UK's foremost environmental policy organisations. She has worked on environmental policy for over twenty years and her areas of expertise are waste & resources policy, sustainable buildings and biotechnology. She is currently a non-Executive Director of the Eden Project in Cornwall and a member of the board of the Environment Agency for England and Wales. She has been a member of the Government's Commission on Environmental Markets and Economic Performance, Deputy Chair of the Agriculture and Environment Biotechnology Commission (AEBC), and a member of the Government's GM Science Review Panel. She has authored and co-authored a number of publications on business and the environment, biotechnology and waste policy including 'A Zero Waste UK' published by IPPR in 2006. She was awarded an MBE in 2001. She is currently working on a book for Random House on 'The Secret Life of Stuff'.

Gary Kass joined Natural England in 2007 as Principal Specialist in Strategic Futures to help the organisation to anticipate and respond to critical challenges of the future. Prior to this, he was an Assistant Director in the Science and Society Directorate at the (then) Office of Science and Technology and between 1995 and 2004, Gary headed the environment and energy programme at the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology. Before that, he spent nine years as a consultant working on a range of environmental planning projects. He has been a member of the SDRN Advisory Committee since its inception.

Richard Price is Defra's Chief Economist and Director of Performance. He advises on how the performance of Defra's portfolio of policies can be improved, as well as overseeing economics and analysis across Defra. Richard has worked as an applied economist and policy adviser since the late 1980s, in the public and private sectors, including HM Treasury, the Home Office and the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit. His work has included oversight of DTI and Home Office spending; policy on business, entrepreneurship, regulation and productivity growth; economic regulation and private finance for infrastructure in the UK, eastern Europe and Asia; major reforms to the UK criminal justice system and crime reduction; policies to accelerate action on TB, malaria and HIV in developing countries; and the economics of environmental protection and climate change. Richard worked closely with John Birt on his review of crime reduction for the then-Prime Minister, and led on enterprise and business policy under Gordon Brown at the Treasury. He was a non-executive director of Etc Venues Limited, helping to prepare the company for sale to private equity in 2006. Richard is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and a member of the Royal Economic Society.

About our Sponsors



Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

Defra is the government department responsible for the environment, food and rural affairs. The overarching challenge for Defra is to secure a healthy environment in which we and future generations can prosper. As we build a low carbon, resource efficient economy, Defra helps people to adapt to changes, deals with environmental risks and makes the most of the opportunity we have to secure a sustainable society and a healthy environment. Under this overarching challenge lie three key priorities: to secure a healthy natural environment for us all and deal with environmental risks; to promote a sustainable, low-carbon and resource-efficient economy; and, to ensure a thriving farming sector and a sustainable, healthy and secure food supply. We would like to thank Defra for their additional sponsorship provided for this year's conference.



Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) is the UK's leading research funding and training agency addressing economic and social concerns. The ESRC attaches high priority to supporting the development and training of researchers across all stages of their research careers, as demonstrated by their sponsorship of the Young Researcher Poster Competition at this Conference. Environment, energy and resilience has been identified by the Council as a strategic challenge and they are working closely with other Councils and partners in taking forward activities in this area, including the 'Living with Environmental Change' Programme. This year, the ESRC has published a new Strategic Plan, which sets out the Council's strategic challenges for the five years from 2009 to 2014. Full details of the new Plan are available at <http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/strategicplan/>



Engineering and Physical Sciences
Research Council

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council is the main UK government agency for funding research and training in engineering and the physical sciences, investing around £740 million a year in a broad range of subjects - from mathematics to materials science, and from information technology to structural engineering. They operate to meet the needs of industry and society by working in partnership with universities to invest in people and scientific discovery and innovation. The knowledge and expertise gained maintains a technological leading edge, builds a strong economy and improves people's quality of life. One of the major current EPSRC programmes is 'Towards a Sustainable Urban Environment' (SUE), which aims to: develop and promote a strategic research agenda to address sustainability in the urban environment for the 21st Century and beyond; to strengthen the capability of the UK research base in sustainability issues within the urban environment; and to engage with end users of research in industry, commerce and the public and service sector. In recognition of the importance of such engagement, the EPSRC are once again generously supporting the Young Researcher Poster Competition and Evening Reception of this year's conference.



Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)

The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) is the UK's main agency for funding and managing research, training and knowledge exchange in the environmental sciences. They seek to gather and apply knowledge, create understanding and predict the behaviour of the natural environment and its resources, and to communicate all aspects of their work to contribute to a strong UK economy and to improve the quality of people's lives. They invest in different types of research from 'responsive research', through a range of directed research, to strategic research and survey work that is more applied or long-term and may underpin national and international needs. NERC is the main UK funder of climate change research and is a leading partner in the 'Living With Environmental Change' (LWEC) programme. NERC is also very kindly sponsoring this year's Young Researcher 'LWEC'-themed Poster Competition.



Research Group on Lifestyles, Values and the Environment (RESOLVE)

RESOLVE is a unique inter-disciplinary collaboration located entirely within the University of Surrey. The team currently consists of around 25 researchers and involves four internationally-acclaimed academic departments: the Centre for Environmental Strategy (CES), the Surrey Energy Economics Centre (SEEC), the Environmental Psychology Research Group (EPRG) and the Department of Sociology. Funded by the Economic and Social Research Council as part of the Research Councils' Energy Programme, RESOLVE aims to unravel the complex links between lifestyles, values and the environment. It draws on a variety of disciplinary perspectives including sociology, psychology, economics, geography, engineering and environmental science to shed light on these multi-faceted relationships.



Earthscan

Earthscan is the leading English publisher on climate change, sustainable development and environmental technology for academic, professional, policy and general readers. They seek to publish original, reliable and significant work that helps to foster the conditions for genuine sustainability by providing the means for understanding and analysing the issues and the tools for resolving them. Originally founded by the International Institute for Environment and Development in 1987, they continue to publish in association with them and in partnership with a range of environmental and development organisations worldwide. Visit the website to view the latest publications: <http://www.earthscan.co.uk>.



Scott Wilson

Scott Wilson is a leading consultancy in the promotion of environmental protection and sustainable development, with an established track record in policy, economics and strategic assessment. Achieving sustainable development involves tackling complex global issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss, increasing land degradation and pollution to air, soil and water, each of which necessitates innovative policy responses. In recognition of this, Scott Wilson has built extensive expertise in carrying out research and appraisal to inform appropriate policy development, capacity-building to aid policy implementation and the evaluation of the policy performance, and in providing the full range of strategic impact assessment services.

Policy into practice: making our conference sustainable

Catering

This year, SDRN has worked closely with host venue, the Wellcome Collection Conference Centre to ensure that this year's conference is as sustainable as possible. To this end:

- All food served at the Conference will be vegetarian.
- All tea and coffee served at the Conference will be certified FairTrade.
- All wine served during the evening reception will be certified FairTrade.
- The conference venue uses the Vivreau water-filtering system which means they can re-use bottles to ensure waste transport is kept to a minimum.
- All food waste at the venue is separated and composted and this is returned to the land to help grow new food.

Conference materials

The covers of delegates' packs can be reused, as can many of the inserts in the packs themselves. If you do not want your delegate's pack, or any of the contents, please drop these off with the Conference organising team when you leave. Any inserts that cannot be used again will be recycled.

Abstracts of many of the presentations have been produced but have not been included in delegates' packs due to their overall length. These will be available to download from the SDRN website: www.sd-research.org.uk

After the event

The popularity of last year's SDRN Conference led to efforts to ensure as many members as possible could follow today's proceedings. All six conference sessions are being recorded and will be available to download as MP3 files following the event.

As in previous years, presentations, a delegates list, speaker biographies and other conference materials will also be available to download from the SDRN website.

Acknowledgements

The SDRN Coordinating team would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the organisation and running of this year's SDRN Annual Conference. In particular thanks go to all our speakers, respondents and chairs; to everyone who has generously sponsored the Conference; and to members of the SDRN Advisory Committee, for invaluable input into the programming of the day. Particular thanks also go to Karen Smith and Andrea Finardi at the Wellcome Collection Conference Centre; Jenny Lau and Hilary Salter at PSI; and to all reviewers and judges of the Young Researcher Poster Session.