

Healthy Futures Update Autumn 2009

Healthy Futures



A new Sustainable Development Commission report, **Review of Public Service Regulators**, finds that the influence of public service regulators on schools, hospitals, PCTs and local councils will be vital in creating a sustainable future. The report gives a mixed picture of how regulators are embedding sustainable thinking into their work. **More details.**



Leading the field, by the Foundation Trust network, looks at the approach foundation trusts are taking on sustainability and corporate social responsibility and provides innovative and practical examples. This includes building a business case for sustainability, sustainability as a strategic priority and the impact of the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC).

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has announced the latest details on the **Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC)** - now called the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme. Also the NHS Confederation has published its **CRC Briefing** in conjunction with the NHS Sustainable Development Unit, DECC and the Department of Health.



Fit for the Future, published by the NHS Sustainable Development Unit, co-produced with Forum for the Future, is one of the first documents of its kind to detail what the health service could be like in 2030. It has been devised so current and future NHS leaders and staff can begin building a better, more sustainable, health service now.



Let's Get Moving, a recently published commissioning guide from the Department of Health, promotes active lifestyles as a simple answer to many of the big health challenges facing the UK today. With significant potential to improve the health of the nation, reducing all-cause mortality and improving life expectancy, promoting physical activity can save the NHS money and significantly ease the burden of chronic disease on the acute sector and public services.

The **Cycle to Work Guarantee** scheme challenges employers to be more cycle friendly in their approach to office life. It builds upon the success of the Cycle to Work initiative, which allows company employees to get a bike through their employer, saving on tax and National Insurance.

Supported by Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Department of Health, the **Blue Gym** is a new initiative which aims to promote health and wellbeing and appreciation of the environment. It showcases activities and encourages use of the coastline and inland waterways. Regular contact with the natural environment results in many benefits including: reduced stress; increased physical activity; stronger communities; and, an increased awareness of the value of the natural environment. **More details.**

Good Corporate Citizenship Assessment Model

A reviewed and revised version of the NHS **Good Corporate Citizenship Assessment Model (GCCAM)** is now live! The new site includes an updated test, with guidance on how NHS organisations should be performing on sustainable development now, and in the future. The site also contains new and updated resources and case studies, an on line forum and an events page to help share good practice. Please take the time to browse the new site and register to take the test. By taking the test you can measure your organisation's progress on sustainable development over time.

If you would like to contribute ideas on how the content of the model can be updated or improved, please contact **Susan Gransden**.

In the three years since the Good Corporate Citizenship Assessment Model was first launched, it has achieved great success. By April 2009, the Model had received over 33,450 visitors. 606 organisations had registered as users, including 283 NHS organisations. Our case studies show you just what can be achieved - use them to find ideas and inspiration.

The website will be launched formally in w/c November 23rd, 2009.

Coordinated by the Campaign for Greener Healthcare, **NHS Forest** is an exciting new national project to green the NHS by planting one tree per employee – amounting to 1.3 million trees in the next five years. Currently in its pilot phase, NHS Forest will eventually consist of trees on every NHS campus and in the local surrounding area, giving an excellent opportunity for involvement from the wider community and contributing to what has been called the Natural Health Service.

In recognition of both the short and long term challenges of global food security, Defra has put together **Secure and Sustainable Food** - a package of materials covering UK food security and sustainability. It discusses issues ranging from how to create a local sustainable food system, to the challenges arising from the need to feed a rising population sustainably. For more information see: **SDC's food work.**



Re-framing the great food debate: The case for sustainable food, a report by the **new economics foundation**, highlights that sustainable food can serve as the basis of an agenda for action. Its objective is to re-orient the food system to enhance well-being and to ensure that it is more fair and green.



The Health Practitioner's Guide to Climate Change - Diagnosis and Cure sets out what health practitioners can do to prevent the worst impacts of climate change, to make health services sustainable, and to design healthy, sustainable communities.

Papers are invited for a special issue of the Journal of Community and Applied Social Psychology. The special issue, with guest editors, will focus on 'Sustainability in the community: legal innovation, representation, communication and practice'. **More details.**

The Natural Environment Research Council, Medical Research Council, Economic & Social Research Council and Biotechnology & Biological Sciences Research Council have announced support for two new programmes of research that will tackle the major roles environmental and social factors play in human health. Calls for proposals for **environment, pollution and human health** are expected currently.

Keep an eye out for the SDC's **Healthy Futures** #8 publication on commissioning, due to be published soon!

Events

4 November: Green Commissioning Workshop, London. [More details.](#)

5 November: UK climate projections: helping the health sector prepare for climate change, London. [More details.](#)

17 November: Delivering Health and Well-being through Sustainable Healthcare Buildings, London.

This event will explore the effects of sustainable buildings on patient, staff and user well-being and productivity. Speakers include Sue Francis of CABE, David Strong of Inbuilt, William Bird of Natural England and Steve Boxall from Royal United Hospital Bath.

NOTE: The attendance fee is usually £120+VAT but for Sustainable Development Commission contacts, there is a discounted price of £90+VAT. [More details.](#)

23-24 November: A healthy approach to travel options: helping organisations and individuals to thrive, various regions. [More details.](#)

24 November: The Environmental Impact of Food, London. [More details.](#)

25 November: Public health impacts of different strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, John Snow Lecture Theatre, London. [More details.](#)

25 November: Grey Fleet annual conference. National Conference on Managing Grey Fleet in the Public Sector: Improving your carbon, cost & care, London. [More details.](#)

25-26 November: A Greater Sense of Well-being, Brighton Race Course, East Sussex. [More details.](#)

11-16 April 2010: Healthy Parks, Healthy People Congress 2010, Australia. [More details.](#)

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