



ESEE NEWS

Newsletter of the European Society for Ecological Economics

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ESEE News is published by the European Society for Ecological Economics (ESEE). Its purpose is to inform ESEE members of developments both within the Society and in other areas of potential interest. It is published up to four times a year and is sent free to ESEE members. The views expressed are those of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Society as a whole.

The European Society for Ecological Economics is a not-for-profit organisation devoted to the development of theory and practice in ecological economics in Europe. Membership is open to all interested individuals working in Europe or in other areas on request. For membership details please contact the Secretariat.

ESEE to head to Lisbon for the Biennial Conference in 2005



The venue for the Sixth International Conference of the ESEE has now been confirmed as Lisbon, Portugal. The general theme of the conference will be Science and Governance - The Ecological Economics Perspective.

The conference committee chair is Paula Antunes, who is supported by her local team in the Ecological Economics and Environmental Management Centre (ECOMAN), in the Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, Faculty of Sciences and Technology of the New University of Lisbon (UNL). ECOMAN is responsible for an MSc in Environmental Policy and Management, taught in combination with other Portuguese

and Brazilian institutions, and undergraduate teaching in environmental economics and environmental management, in addition to research activities. Current EU research projects include ADVISOR (Integrated Evaluation for Sustainable River Basin Governance) and FRAP (Development of a Framework for Biodiversity Reconciliation Action Plans).

The main conference proceedings will take place in the Gulbenkian Foundation buildings in the centre of Lisbon, and close to the New University site. Details on the specific themes and further conference information will be posted to the conference website soon: <http://www.esee2005.org>. Book mark it now!

******* ESEE Annual General Meeting at ISEE MONTREAL *******
Please note that an ESEE Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Monday evening, 12th July, at the conference venue. Hope to see you there!

COMMITTEES

*ESEE Administration
and Society
Development and
Planning Matters*

ESEE Administrative Board Members 2003

President: Clive Spash
(c.spash@macaulay.ac.uk)

Vice-President: Arild Vatn
(arild.vatn@ios.nlh.no)

Vice-President: Sigrid Stagl
(sts@env.leeds.ac.uk)

Secretary: Wendy Kenyon
(w.kenyon@macaulay.ac.uk)

Treasurer: Karen Refsgaard
(karen.refsgaard@nilf.no)

Newsletter Editor: Ben Davies
(b.davies@macaulay.ac.uk)

Standing Committee Chairs

Research
Fritz Hinterberger (Fritz@seri.at)

Conferences and Meetings:
Sigrid Stagl (sts@env.leeds.ac.uk)

Publications and Publicity:
Ben Davies (b.davies@macaulay.ac.uk)

Membership and External Affairs:
Felix Rauschmayer
(felix.rauschmayer@ufz.de)

Ordinary Members

Claudia Carter
(c.carter@macaulay.ac.uk)

Mario Giampietro
(giampietro@inn.ingrm.it)

Sybille van den Hove
(s.vandenhove@terra.es)

Jesus Ramos-Martin
(jesusramosmartin@yahoo.es)

Tatiana Kluvankova-Oravska
(tatiana@progeko.savba.sk)

Report on current membership administration problems

Felix Rauschmayer, Chair of the ESEE Membership Committee

I am aware that some of you might have experienced difficulties in re-subscribing to ISEE, or you might not have received information, or the journal. I would like to explain some aspects of this situation. Subscriptions to ISEE (and thereby to ESEE) and to the journal *Ecological Economics*, are handled centrally by Burke Inc., a US secretariat commissioned by ISEE. We (the ESEE board) have been addressing difficulties resulting from this in subscriptions, membership renewals, and flaws in addresses, etc, for the last few years, and have been successful in improving individual cases, but not in changing the general way of administering ISEE membership.

To give you one example: During the last few months, we have sent letters to 2001-2003 ESEE members who have not re-subscribed, and asked them for their reasons for not re-subscribing. Some members declared that they had never received a reminder mail from the ISEE membership administration (who normally would have been responsible for this, and who sent out mails, but apparently not to everybody). An astonishingly high number of non-re-subscribers thought that they were up-to-date members, and did not know that their re-subscription had not been effective. Unfortunately, apart from individual inquiries to the ESEE board (membership@euroecol.econ.org) or to the ISEE administration (hrohland@burkinc.com), there is no option for members to check whether their re-subscription has been effective or not. In fact, due to our letters, ESEE membership figures rose from 110 in April 2004 to 193 at the end of June. If you see higher numbers at the ISEE webpage where you can have a look at the membership registry, don't be taken in: those are joint numbers (and members) from all the years 2002-2004.

Three issues arise for us out of all this:

1. It is not clear why so many membership renewals have not been effective. We proposed *inter alia* to check the internet renewals or subscriptions on the fax containing the payment details. Additionally, we are suggesting the

administration should send a mail with membership information to all new or renewed members telling them that their renewal has been effective and announce this mail on the membership subscription page.

2. Members cannot see easily whether they are members for this year or not, as they still have access to the membership page of ISEE, and as they are still listed there as members even if they currently are not. One could easily add a column on the effective membership year in the membership list available to members.

3. One mailing action in October and one in the spring (I was not told when it had been sent out) are not sufficient to remind people. Even very active ISEE members (members of boards of regional societies, for example) forget to renew their membership. We are proposing to add an additional mailing in January, and make sure that every member of the last 3 years really gets these reminders.

Another issue which we deem important is the introduction of secondary memberships in regional EE societies. This issue is of special importance relative to the creation of the African Society for EE (ASEE), as many potential ASEE members work in other regions; but it also concerns members who leave their regions for some years but who want to remain members of their regional EE societies.

Membership administration has been a problem issue for the ESEE board time and again over the last few years - since the administration shifted to the ISEE directly - without any general improvement. Charles Perrings, the new President of ISEE, promises to be active on this and will discuss this issue with the ISEE board during the ISEE conference in Montreal. We hope for positive outcomes of this, and are at the same time considering re-assuming control of membership administration if no substantial improvements result.

I thought it would be useful to inform you of these issues and we hope very much to improve things in the near future.

Best wishes, and see you in Montreal?

News from the Community Research and Development Service

COMMISSION NEWS

Bayer decides against GM crop cultivation in the UK

The German company Bayer CropScience has scrapped plans to cultivate its genetically modified (GM) forage maize variety Chardon LL in the UK, citing government constraints for making it 'economically non viable'. The company was the only one authorised to grow GM maize in the UK, and the government believes that Bayer's decision not to press ahead with commercialisation means that it is unlikely that GM crops will be grown in the UK for the 'foreseeable future'.

In a statement issued by Bayer CropScience on 31 March, the company welcomes the UK government's policy announcement on GM food and crops, published at the beginning of March. The government announcement had confirmed that Chardon LL was both safe and effective, argues Bayer, which they regarded as 'a positive step towards the development of plant biotechnologies in the UK.'

'The government has, however, placed a number of constraints on this conditional approval before the commercial cultivation of GM forage maize can proceed in the UK,' the statement continues. 'The specific details of these conditions are still not available and thus will result in yet another open-ended period of delay. These uncertainties and undefined timelines will make this five year old variety economically unviable.'

Commission funds online evaluation tool for local sustainable development

Local authorities will soon be able to easily assess their progress in achieving sustainable development, and compare their performance with the rest of Europe, thanks to a new online evaluation tool developed with funding from the European Commission.

Since the establishment of Local Agenda 21 in 1992, and the signing the Aalborg Charter of European cities and towns towards sustainability in 1994, local authorities had no simple method of assessing their performance in a way that was comparable with other towns and cities.

Local Evaluation 21 answers this need by providing an online questionnaire which gauges performance in a number of areas of the sustainable development process. Local

Evaluation 21 is available in 20 European languages, and can be easily accessed on the Internet. To view the Local Evaluation 21 tool, please consult the following web address:

<http://www.localevaluation21.org>

Renewables can meet 50 per cent of energy needs by 2040, claims report

The European Renewable Energy Council (EREC) has claimed that 50 per cent of the world's energy supply can come from renewable energy sources by 2040, but that new policy measures, including additional support for research and development (R&D) are required in order to make this happen.

According to the EREC 'Renewable energy scenario to 2040', biomass will be by far the largest contributor to renewable energy by 2010, providing the equivalent of 3.271 million tonnes of oil in a year. Next will be photovoltaic systems, with equivalent of 784 tonnes, and then wind energy.

To access the EREC report, please visit: <http://www.erec-renewables.org>

EU adopts Action Plan for organic food

The European Commission has adopted a 'European Action Plan for Organic Food and Farming' to boost organic farming in the EU. Setting out 21 specific policy measures to achieve this, the action plan pays special attention to strengthening research, particularly in relation to processing and production methods; harmonising standards and genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

To consult the Action Plan, please visit: http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/qual/organic/plan/workdoc_en.pdf

Research finds little incentive for SMEs to go green

New research has revealed that small businesses are unlikely to adopt environmentally friendly practices based on voluntary action, as market forces alone are an insufficient motivation. The finding is based on research at Kingston University, UK.

'Most small firm owners do not accept the [UK] government line that going green is good for business,' said Andrea Revell, one of the study's authors. 'The ecological footprint of

SMEs is very significant - they make up 99 per cent of all enterprises and 43 per cent of private sector employment, and are estimated to be responsible for 60 per cent of all industry's carbon dioxide emissions, 60 per cent of commercial waste and eight out of ten pollution accidents.'

For further information, please contact: Professor Robert Blackburn, Small business research centre, Kingston University, E-mail: R.Blackburn@kingston.ac.uk

Insurance industry warned of nanotechnology risks

A major reinsurance company has advised insurance companies that they may need to reconsider covering products manufactured using nanotechnology until more is known about any possible side effects of the technology.

'As a major risk carrier, the insurance industry can only responsibly support the introduction of a new technology if it can evaluate and calculate its inherent risks,' says Swiss Re. Swiss Re is therefore calling for an open risk dialogue involving industry, scientists, regulators and the insurance sector. The recommendation is contained in the report 'Nanotechnology: small matter, many unknowns'. To access the Swiss Re report, see: <http://www.swissre.com>

Two billion will live in the path of extreme floods by 2050, researchers warn

The number of people living under the threat of devastating floods is set to double from one billion today to two billion by 2050 unless more attention is paid to prevention and prediction, according to researchers at the United Nations University (UNU). In response to this and similar threats, the UNU has opened a new institute for environment and human security (UNU-EHS) in Bonn, Germany, dedicated to researching natural disasters and improving countries' response capacity.

The institute's founding director, Dr Janos Bogardi believes that huge losses could be reduced if more attention and spending are focused towards flood prediction and prevention. He points out that countries spend 100 euro in relief for every one euro in disaster preparedness.

PROFILE

A fire-side chat to a leading figure in Ecological Economics about life, the universe and everything

Tatiana Kluvánková-Oravská was born and grew up in Bratislava, the capital city of Slovakia. She has worked in the Swedish University of Agriculture Sciences in Uppsala; the Warsaw Ecological Economics Centre, Warsaw University, in Poland; and on the Economic and Social Committee of the EU in Brussels, before her current position as a senior researcher at the Institute for Forecasting, Bratislava.

What was your impression of your local environment when you were a child?

I was not impressed since the environment and quality of life, like anything else under the communist life style, was "perfect"...

Can you identify a point when you realised you wanted to work on environmental problems?

It happened practically by accident...

Most likely the crucial moment was when as a child I was suffering from chronic bronchitis – resulting from the "perfect" quality of life in Bratislava city under communism. My parents, former active sport professionals, used all available tools to keep me in good physical shape, thus we often used to travel with father to his climbers' camps. Once on such a trip I got acute bronchial problems in the middle of the night, and my parents, completely helpless, in order to protect rest of the group from their noisy child left me outside in the winter mountain air, where surprisingly my cough immediately disappeared! Since then regular outdoor sport activities in fresh mountain air have become a necessity for my survival, and I have learned how to respect and live with nature and wildlife.

Who were the most influential writers for you when you were a student?

Perhaps it started with Odum's text book on ecology when my mental picture about the complexity of natural ecosystems was built up. Later on it was Gunnar Myrdal and his "values are always with us" ideas.

Certainly most influential was my former professor and friend Peter Söderbaum and his concept of the "Political-Economic Person", which definitely directed my orientation towards ecological economics. Last but not least Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen for bioeconomics – a unique interdisciplinary contribution to modern sciences and an impressive personal life story.

Have your research interests changed since you first started working on environmental issues?

I was quite clear from the beginning of my studies, that my career would certainly stay involved with nature. Thanks to "good training" under the former regime I had few ideals about

the "morality and environmentalism" of governmental officials. Nevertheless neo-capitalism in the early 90s re-directed me very quickly from idyllic park management into the hands of economics, so as to be able to provide arguments in favour of sustainable forest, land or tourism practices.

Which environmental problems concern you the most at the moment?

Biodiversity and rural development. Both are very challenging, as biodiversity in Central and Eastern Europe is rich compared to most Western regions and rural activities such as agrotourism, rural tourism or organic farming are promising sustainable innovations for underdeveloped rural communities in the neighbourhood of valuable biodiversity sites.

Recently also social justice, the relation between poverty, social exclusion and degradation of the environment in transition countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Presently we have been implementing a pilot project in my favourite national park, Slovensky raj, concentrating on the effects of the Romas community in the neighbourhood of Slovensky raj NP in relation to regional resilience.

If you had a year off to do whatever you wanted, what would you spend it doing?

My private dream for a long time has been for a simple mountain chalet at an elevation of at least 2000m above sea level, where the only access is by foot and where my dog would be my only regular company. That would be an excellent place to write without the pressure of city life!

Are you generally optimistic or pessimistic about the future? Has your view changed over time?

Optimistic while there is still room to make choices. Fortunately for the majority of issues, individual and local action can still produce global effects, and it leaves us with the opportunity to make choices.

What sort of local environmental problems are you faced with where you live now?

For the moment this would be unsustainable

transport in Bratislava city. As in most transition countries from CEE, public services are in collapse due to inefficient financing, corruption and weak management practices, and are unable to operate without the massive governmental subsidies they received in times past. Public transport, one of the major polluters in the region, is an illustrative example of the inefficient "old" type communist management. This is even more frustrating as Bratislava region belongs to the most developed regions in the enlarged EU, but the organisation of the transport in the city is really similar to a developing country.

How do you relax at the weekends?

If possible I try to get out of the city to "feed" my lungs with fresh air and my brain with an atmosphere of peace and quiet. I spend a lot of time travelling with my husband to see our favourite sites – 'hospitals': for my husband as a medical doctor these are ambulances, surgery and emergency units in real hospitals, while for me these are national parks where in addition to getting some fresh air I need to check the quality of resource management and visitors services such as information centres and educational trails.

What places (cities, regions, companies) have impressed you with the quality of their environmental management?

As for my favourite places I admire US national park management, and also Teide National park on Tenerife island which I visited while being at the Frontiers II conference there.

In the CEE region, most impressive was the primeval forest in Bialowieski National Park, Poland - the only place where the largest European mammal, Bison bonasus, can still live in open country; and Triglav NP in Slovenia which has well balanced tourism and conservation activities.

As for urban sites, it is Vienna city where Central European traditions are well linked with a friendly environment and modern life style. This helps me to believe that perhaps perfect organisation and order can go hand in hand also with a Central European mentality even another 60 km to the East.

continued opposite

RESEARCH NOTES

New EE research group in Germany

The University of Heidelberg and the Center for Environmental Research, Leipzig, have established a joint research group on Ecological Economics. Launched on April 1st, this group receives considerable funding from the Volkswagen Foundation and has a particular focus on modelling and conceptual foundation.

Objectives

We aim to contribute to the modelling and conceptual foundations of Ecological Economics as an interdisciplinary research field. Considering grazing in semi-arid regions as an example, we develop an integrated modelling approach which enables the analysis of coupled ecological and economic dynamics, and can be applied to a broad range of environmental problems. For this sake, we analyse relevant notions and concepts from both the disciplines of ecology and economics.

Approach

We start with concepts that are relevant in the context of grazing in semi-arid regions and which already exist in both ecology and economics. These are the descriptive concepts "stock" (e.g. biomass of vegetation; population of livestock; financial capital) and "variability/risk" (e.g. variation in precipitation, or in the farmer's income), and the normative concepts "optimality" (e.g. maximization of ecological fitness, or of farm income) and "viability" (e.g. survival of a population; existence of the farm). We study how these concepts are used in both disciplines, and examine the potential and limits of developing them into consistent interdisciplinary concepts. For this purpose, we step outside the context of the individual disciplines and adopt a comprehensive perspective.

At the center of our approach is the development of an integrated ecological-economic model framework which is based on the concepts mentioned above. We begin the model analysis with two "good-practice" case studies of sustainable grazing in semi-arid regions in Namibia: commercial sheep breeding at the Gamis-farm, and subsistence pastoral nomadism by the people of the Ova-Himba

In different model scenarios we analyse the consequences of a change in ecological conditions (e.g. climate) or economic conditions (e.g. credit, savings or insurance institutions). From these scenario analyses we derive general principles for grazing strategies in semi-arid regions, which are viable and efficient – both in ecological and in economic terms.

Contacts

Dr. Stefan Baumgärtner, University of Heidelberg, Interdisciplinary Institute of Environmental Economics, Bergheimer Str. 20, D-69115 Heidelberg. Phone: +49 (0)6221 54-8012, fax: +49 (0)6221 54-8020. e-mail: baumgaertner@uni-hd.de
 Dr. Karin Frank, UFZ - Centre for Environmental Research Leipzig, Department of Ecological Modeling, Permoser Str. 15, D-04318 Leipzig, Phone: +49 (0)341 235-2037, fax: +49 (0)341 235-3500, e-mail: karin.frank@ufz.de

Further Information: www.eco-eco.ufz.de; www.eco-eco.uni-hd.de

Just released at European Green Week: 'An Economic Assessment of Costs and Benefit of Natura 2000 Sites in Scotland',

by Jacobs and partners.

As Europe's most in-depth study of its kind to date, this report looks at the economic costs and benefits of the Natura 2000 network of protected area in Scotland using the concept of Total Economic Value. Using contingent valuation questionnaire surveys and other means of stakeholder consultation, cost benefit analyses were carried out at both a national level (top-down) and a case study site level (bottom-up). The report quantifies recreational and non-user willingness to pay values of local, regional and national residents and visitors as well as international visitors, associated with the continued protection of these sites. In addition, it suggests ways that public preference values could be enhanced and how the cost of providing protection might be minimised.

Log on to the Scottish Executive website to download a copy <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/environment/ean2k-00.asp>.

Also to be completed soon by Jacobs, on behalf of NOAA and the American Samoan Department of Commerce, is a report entitled 'An Economic Valuation of Coral Reefs and adjacent habitats in American Samoa'. This study assesses both current and future values using a location specific GIS based approach to valuation.

Contact James.spurgeon@jacobs.com or Stefanie.o'gorman@jacobs.com

New petroleum policy in Norway

The Norwegian Parliament has adopted a new oil and gas policy for Norway. The new policy implies that great parts of the Barents Sea are opened for exploratory drilling. One petroleum project is already taking place and another is planned in 2006.

The Barents Sea is part of the Arctic Ocean located north of Norway and Russia. The Sea area is especially valuable and vulnerable both from an economic and ecological point of view. The area is especially rich in fish and bird populations and plays an important role for professional fishing in Northern Norway. The low temperatures in this area combined with the rich ecosystems make petroleum activity more risky than in other sea areas.

The new policy also implies increased carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. The petroleum industry constitutes a significant share of the total CO₂ emissions in Norway today. However, the new policy's effects on these emissions are not mentioned in the policy documents – neither from the government nor from the parliament.

Do you have a favourite motto or saying about the environment?

Perhaps a joke which I like to use to wake up students at my classes on environmental valuation: "Degradation of the environment is the price we have to pay for a healthy economy".

What is the best piece of advice you've been given?

It is my Father's advise from the times of living on the other side of the "Iron Curtain": "There are always at least two solutions for one problem and it is just up to you how many more you are able to create"

French citizens enlisted in war on junk mail

The French government has asked householders to place a new sticker on their front doors rejecting delivery of non-addressed free publicity and similar mail. Environment minister Serge Lepeltier noted that each household receives 40 kg per year of such junk mail. If one million households displayed the sticker, 40,000 tonnes of paper could be saved each year, he said. Relevant trade unions and trade associations have pledged to respect the stickers. The anti-junk mail action is part of a national waste prevention policy launched earlier this year.

Norway moves to end all organic waste dumping

Norway's pollution control authority (SFT) has proposed a total ban on the dumping of biodegradable waste by 2009. The proposal goes far beyond requirements in the 1999 EU landfill directive (which applies to Norway even though it is not an EU member), for a 65% reduction from 1995 volumes by 2016.

A total ban would halve methane emissions and cut pollution by seepage while boosting district heating generation, the agency said in a statement. The anticipated cut in methane alone would be "the equivalent of a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from road traffic".

According to SFT's Merethe Steen, the "socio-economic utilitarian value" of the measure between 2005 and 2016 would total Nkr220m-1.1bn (€24m-133m). If the ban were to be implemented, Norway would join a few other countries, notably Germany and France, in putting stricter controls in place than specified in the directive. Many other EU countries face a tough challenge even meeting the law's targets.

France launches waste prevention action plan

French environment minister Roselyne Bachelot has announced a national municipal waste prevention plan, strongly emphasising the need to raise awareness and engagement among both consumers and companies. The plan aims to implement a government target approved

News coverage is collected from the Environmental News Daily Service (ENDS). What topics do you want to hear about? Email your thoughts to the editor, Ben Davies, on b.davies@macaulay.ac.uk.

LOOK ROUND

Each issue we take a look round the continent to catch up on the latest environmental news.

last year of stabilising municipal waste production at current levels by 2008.

Among actions affecting the industrial sector, French energy agency Ademe is to establish a network of 100 companies committed to reducing their waste by 10% in two years. "Green design" guides are to be developed for different sectors. Norms will be created on product life-time.

The government will make voluntary agreements with industry sectors on waste prevention. It will also support wider use of certified environmental management systems (EMSs) and expansion in eco-labelling, whether through the national NF Environnement scheme or self declarations.

Actions aimed at the public include an awareness campaign to be launched by end-2004, "symbolic" initiatives to reduce use of plastic carrier bags by 20% in three years under a voluntary agreement with supermarket chains, and a code of practice to reduce delivery of junk mail.

Environmentalists criticised the plan. A spokesperson for waste organisation CNIID, Florence Couraud, said that the goal of stabilising municipal waste over ten years was not ambitious enough, and warned that the plan's reliance on voluntary measures might be ineffective. Last year, government experts recommended use of fiscal measures, an area ignored altogether in the action plan.

Denmark successfully cutting household waste

A survey by Denmark's environmental protection agency has found that household waste generation is "slowly but surely" falling. It dropped 16%, from 1979 and 10% from 1992, to 515kg per household per year in 2001. Household waste generation rose over the same period in most EU countries. Denmark's downward trend was most pronounced in recyclable materials such as paper, cardboard and glass; food waste volumes remained

Waste and

constant; use of disposable nappies increased markedly. The results appear to demonstrate the efficacy of collection and recycling regulations, the EPA says.

Italy boasts record car battery recovery rate

A consortium in charge of collecting and recycling spent lead batteries in Italy, Cobat, has claimed record recovery rates for 2003. Nearly 200,000 tonnes were recovered, equal to 96% of annual sales and satisfying 40% of the national demand for lead. As some batteries discarded in the DIY market continue to slip through the net, Cobat last week made an agreement with Italian local authority body UPI to set up additional collection centres where individuals can dispose of car batteries free-of-charge.

"Nearly all" buildings aluminium recycled

Virtually all aluminium in buildings in Europe is collected for recycling during demolition, a study funded by the European aluminium association has found. Independently conducted research in France, Germany, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands and Britain found collection rates of between 92 and 98%. These "surprisingly high" levels show aluminium in buildings to be "an underestimated efficient scrap resource", claimed the association. EU rules on recycling and purity of demolition materials are revealed as "an important driver" for high collection rates, it added.

D EUROPE

news. This issue we review some developments in waste management.

Recycling

Europe's largest biodiesel plant launched

Construction work has begun in Scotland on the world's largest commercial biodiesel plant, being developed with official EU and UK government financial support by Argent Energy and Austrian firm Biodiesel International. The plant will contribute to EU policies on renewable energy and waste recycling by consuming used cooking oils and animal fats, or tallow, to produce up to 50m litres of biodiesel per year.

New EU states to get two years' grace on electronics recycling

The EU is set to give seven of the ten incoming member states up to two years' extra time to meet the electronic waste directive's collection, recovery and recycling targets.

Under the law governments must have achieved, by the end of 2006, a four kilogram per head waste collection rate, plus a waste recovery rate of between 70% and 80% and a recycling rate of between 50% and 80%, depending on the type of appliance.

But a draft EU decision released by the European Commission last Friday gives the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania an additional two years to meet the deadlines. The decision needs approval from all 15 current EU members, though this should be a formality.

All seven of the new states argue that a historical recycling deficit and low population density make it hard to meet the targets. The extension is in line with the two extra years

already given to existing members Ireland and Greece, which cited similar reasons.

Slovenia asked for and will receive only one extra year. All three Baltic states wanted three years, but the Commission says it cannot justify a longer derogation than for the other states. The Commission has also rejected both Lithuania's request to extend its transposition deadline and a request from Estonia, Slovakia and Lithuania to delay the deadline for setting up collection facilities.

Success for Danish drinks pack return system

In its first year of operation, Denmark's new deposit-and-return system for drinks packaging has achieved recovery rates of 81% for beer and soft drinks cans and 90% for glass bottles, according to preliminary estimates. However, recovery of disposable packaging as a whole, at 82%, was still falling short of the target of 90% by the end of this year. Environment Minister Hans Christian Schmidt said it was noteworthy that retail sales of "new, exciting brands of beer in bottles and cans" had risen sharply during the past year and that the number of varieties of beer on offer had increased from 350 to 550. For many years before the return system was introduced disposable containers for certain kinds of drinks were prohibited in Denmark to protect the market share of refillables. The government finally lifted the "can ban" under EU legal pressure.

First Irish toxic waste incinerator approved

Ireland's planning appeals board has marked a milestone in national waste management policy by approving plans for the country's first ever hazardous waste incinerator. The decision sparked widespread protest from opposition

parties and environmental groups. The Green party said it intended to take up the matter with EU environment commissioner Margot Wallström. Irish exports of hazardous waste for treatment abroad have risen sharply in recent years. The proposed incinerator should help to fulfil the government's objective of self-sufficiency in hazardous waste management capacity.

English waste permits scheme gets go-ahead

The world's first system of tradable permits for the landfilling of biodegradable municipal waste has been cleared for introduction in England by final approval of a new law. The scheme is designed to help cut organic waste dumping in line with targets in the EU's 1999 landfill directive. Local authorities will be able to bank unused allowances or bring forward part of their future allocation. Operational details are due to be finalised early in 2004 through an implementation regulation.

Falling Scandinavian emissions recorded

Recent compilations of environmental indicators in Norway and Denmark have underlined long-term reductions in emissions causing acidification and eutrophication. Norway's pollution control authority reported that sulphur content in rainfall was now down 55-80% on 1980 levels, while levels of sulphur dioxide (SO₂) in air were 75-90% lower. Meanwhile, the Danish environmental protection agency's annual round-up of environmental indicators finds releases of agricultural nitrogen and phosphorous down 25% and 30% respectively over the past decade; groundwater consumption fell by 40%.

Icelandic recycling fund growing fast

A "unique" Icelandic producer responsibility fund launched in January is set to nearly double in scale to €8.5m next year, figures in the 2004 budget show. The budget was approved by Iceland's parliament last week.

The Icelandic recycling fund builds on an existing hazardous waste fund in operation since 1997. It imposes levies on a range of products, with revenues earmarked to pay for environmentally sound disposal and recycling.

This scheme generated revenues of €1.5-2m and will now be incorporated into the new recycling fund.

In memoriam: JAMES KAY

Mario Giampetro and Tim Allen pay tribute to a much loved colleague and friend who sadly died in May this year, James Kay.

Trying to explain in a few lines what James Kay has represented for us is an impossible task. By "us" we mean those working in the field of sustainable development, especially those exploring innovative ideas, approaches and tools in practical terms. Paradoxically, James was good at it, exactly because he was an exquisite theoretician. As a theoretician he was able to interpret the concept with rigor, but at the same time daring to violate taboos when it was needed. He could do that because he knew exactly what he was talking about. He took a thermodynamic stance with regard to sustainability, which is often not available to the majority of the students of that field. On the other hand, he was also rightly confident and effective in addressing the human elements, the value laden soft parts of the system, the parts with which hard science thermodynamicists are often unfamiliar. In spite of his hard background in physics, network analysis and thermodynamics, he was perfectly at ease with Post-Normal Science and participatory processes held at the community level. There are experts in hard science, and another class of experts in modeling and guiding human affairs, but then there was James Kay, who stood almost alone in his ability to be rigorous as to the "hard" parts, while reflexive enough to deal with the "soft" side of sustainability. The combination of his breadth of experience and vision was breathtaking.

His joint work with Eric Schneider on the analysis of the self-organization of ecosystem development represents a goldmine in which there is still plenty to be found. More recently, with Roydon Fraser, James has covered the thermodynamics and meaning of the concept of entropy. They have been casting biological thermodynamics as a set of different logical types of exergy. Biological systems can only use certain inputs – a gallon of gasoline is of no use if you have a donkey cart. Furthermore organisms have flexible means of using their fuel, such that, in James' terms, "biology keeps changing the dead state." James and Roydon have found it necessary to redefine energy so that it is more than a bookkeeping device. While

addressing the hard nuts in physics and engineering, James was also looking into the applications of principles of non-equilibrium thermodynamics to real situations in the analysis of health of ecosystems. There was too the dimension more related to information theory (e.g. in relation to network analysis). His theoretical work has real time practical applications in terms of development of indicators of ecosystem health.

Being a good theoretician James was very concerned about the abuse of concepts such as entropy and exergy in existing literature. We can almost hear his voice when reading the following passage: "*I have not seen a good general treatment of the relationship between entropy change, entropy generated in a system and environment and exergy change . . . This is*

He said that in the equations it all boils down to differences in entropy being a change of averages, whereas differences in exergy are averages of changes!

the reason that dissipation and degradation are used in sloppy ways as it is never quite clear if one is talking about entropy change, entropy generation, exergy change, gradient change, or heat transfer and if it is for the system, or system plus environment." The clarity of his expression was terse and wonderful. He said that in the equations it all boils down to differences in entropy being a change of averages, whereas differences in exergy are averages of changes! Too few practitioners were either reading or listening, and so very few seem to be aware of these distinctions. The material he put together in his home page - <http://www.jameskay.ca/> - in relation to these issues should be made a mandatory reading for those working and publishing in this field. To our great relief, his family is committed to keeping up the web page.

Another remarkable aspect of James's

personality was the ease with which he could get into different disciplinary fields, comfortably handling their respectively different types of scientific challenge. His hard science background notwithstanding, he had no problems in acknowledging the unavoidable existence of ignorance and the need for dealing with semantic definitions that cannot be reduced to formal characterizations. This is a very rare mix indeed: he was someone that was able to be more rigorous than the most hard-nosed scientists, and at the same time he was spectacularly good at interacting with both social scientists and the regular people they study. Especially, he was a scientist capable of listening to people much more than talking at them. His delightful ability to interact with other people is clearly illustrated by his success

as teacher, as colleague, as member of his home-town community, as an invaluable friend for many of us.

In the last 10 years, many of us had the privilege of getting involved with him in a few wild-eyed projects. The memorable organization of the first meeting of the Dirk Gently Gang in Cortina, in which we had to go ahead, flying people across the Atlantic, with no funds, no plans and above all no sponsors but a

local wine-maker. The participants claim that it was one of the greatest scientific experiences of their lives. Then, there was the organization of a series of panels and special sessions on complexity and post-normal sciences in the most disparate locations, often at conferences of Ecological Economics. These were always executed so as to achieve excellent results, in spite of all kinds of difficulties. Then again there were the sessions he organized dedicated to theoretical ecology in the Biennial Workshop in Advances in Energy Studies of Porto Venere, in which James always played the crucial role of the "skipper fighting in the typhoon". Having James on the team was a guarantee of success. In spite of his gentle demeanor he was a rock solid person with an impressive determination. After having committed himself he just delivered, no matter what.

continued opposite

2004 World Water Week

August 15-21,
Stockholm, Sweden

The programme for the 2004 World Water Week is now complete and can be viewed at:

<http://www.siwi.org>

Since 1991, but even more so in recent years, the Stockholm events have become an integral component in the global effort to improve human welfare and the planet's health. This year is no exception. Urban water issues and future food requirements are among the broad range of issues being taken up by the Stockholm Water Symposium, "Drainage Basin Management Regional Approaches for Food and Urban Security," and its eight workshops. In addition, World Water Week plenary sessions, panel debates, side events and a record 24 different, independently organised seminars make the 2004 edition the most comprehensive to date. In total, some 47 leading international organisations and programmes are convening or co-convening activities.

Registration for the World Water Week is open now. To register, or for more information, visit www.siwi.org.

His passing marks a point at which we must restart the engine. In the last year, he was annoyed by the fact that there is a lot of work still to be done, and his health problems were preventing him from doing all he would have liked to do. Looking over the edge of eternity he was worried that his work might not amount to what it should, that it would fall short of its potential. That was a luxury we can forgive in him, even if we find it difficult to understand how he could come to such a conclusion. In spite of his regret, he did leave a huge legacy to us, in terms of books, papers, intuitions, enthusiasm, contacts, friendships, shared experiences, memories, ongoing projects, personal example. There have been many times when a group of splendidly intelligent and creative people were in some meeting room on some continent, and the only thing they all had in common was that they knew James Kay. Many of us start now realizing that we are all pieces in James' big game. Just in case we might falter we should take seriously our responsibility to make a good use of what James has given us.

CONFERENCES

ESEE 2005

June 14-17th, 2005

Sixth International Conference of the
European Society for Ecological Economics
Lisbon, Portugal.

Further details will appear soon at:

<http://www.esee2005.org>

Workshop:

Integrated assessment of the land system: The future of land use

28-30 October, 2004

Institute for Environmental Studies,
Amsterdam, the Netherlands

The workshop is co-sponsored by the Land Use and Cover Change (LUCC) community and the European Forum on Integrated Environmental Assessment (EFIEA) and aims at:

1. Providing a state of the art view of Land Use and Cover Change (LUCC) activities
2. An Integrated Assessment of the future of land use in Europe
3. Linking the networks of Integrated Assessment (EFIEA) and LUCC

We aim to bring together scientists that are involved in LUCC or land use/cover modelling and those involved in EFIEA or Integrated Assessment. Your research should be dealing with (agricultural) land use issues, should be multidisciplinary and preferably involve multiple actors at multiple scales. We especially invite those who employ participatory methods and involve stakeholders and policy makers.

The workshop focuses both on land use modelling and related data issues (Day 1), and on more qualitative methods and how those can be linked to those quantitative tools (Day 2 and Day 3). For Day 2, we are inviting only those whose work is within Europe.

Deadline for submission: 15th August 2004.

<http://www.lucc.nl> under 'Workshop'.

CALENDAR EVENTS

July

July 11-14, 2004

ISEE Eighth Biennial Conference.
Montreal, Canada.

<http://www.ecologicaeconomics.org/conf/conf.htm>

July 14-16, 2004

'History of Work' Contemporary British History Summer Conference.
London, UK.

Organised by Centre for Contemporary British History, School of Advanced Study, University of London.

Email info: Virginia.Preston@sas.ac.uk

July 14-16, 2004 (**NEW**)

Dialogue on Tourism, Cultural Diversity and Sustainable Development.

Barcelona, Spain.

Part of Universal Forum of Cultures Barcelona 2004.

<http://www.biospherehotels.org/tourism2004/ingles>

July 25-30, 2004

XI World Congress of Rural Sociology: Globalisation, Risks and Resistance.
Trondheim, Norway.

Organised by the International Rural Sociology Association.

<http://www.irsaworld.org/XI/index.html>

July 26-31, 2004

International Conference on Water Security for Future Generations.

Changchun, Jilin Province, China.

Organised by Northeast Institute of Geography and Agricultural Ecology, CAS.

<http://www.neigae.ac.cn/conference/20030227htm>

August 1-4, 2004

American Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting 2004
Denver, Colorado.

<http://www.aaea.org/meeting/aaea/2004/>

August 9, 2004

Tenth Biennial Conference of the International Association for the Study of Common Property (IASCP).

Oaxaca, Mexico.

Email: alan.wilson@biology.gatech.edu

August 15-21, 2004 (**NEW**)

Second International Symposium on Riverine Landscapes: The Scientific Basis of Restoring Watercourses in Landscapes.

Bresdel, Alvsbyn, Sweden.

Organised by Landscape Ecology Group, Umea University.

<http://www.riverine-landscapes.ch/index.htm>

August 16-20, 2004 (**NEW**)

Sixth International Conference on Social Science Methodology: Recent developments and Applications in Social Science Methodology.

Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Organised by Research Committee on Logic and Methodology, International Sociological Association.

<http://www.siswo.uva.nl/rc33/>

August 15-21, 2004 (**NEW**)

2004 World Water Week.

Stockholm, Sweden.

<http://siwi.org>

25-28 August, 2004

Workshop on Carbon and Energy.

Stockholm, Sweden.

Initiative of the European Science Foundation (ESF) Standing Committees for Life, Environmental and Earth Sciences (LESC) and the Social Sciences (SCSS).

<http://www.esf.org/>

September 1-3, 2004

Work, Employment and Society Conference
Manchester, UK.

With journal *Work, Employment, and Society*.

<http://www2.umist.ac.uk/management/ewerc/wes2004/wes2004.html>

September 5-7, 2004

Fourth Conference on the Capability Approach: Enhancing Human Security
Pavia, Italy.

<http://cfs.unipv.it/sen/index.html>

September 6-7, 2004 (**NEW**)

Taking Stock of Risk.

Nottingham, UK.

Organised by British Sociological Association Risk and Society Study Group.

<http://www.britisoc.co.uk/Library?risk6-7Sept04.doc>

September 8-10, 2004

Culture and Impact 2004. International Conference on the Impact of Technology on Culture and Norms.

Cadiz, Spain.

Universities of Bergen and Cadiz.

<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2004/culture04/index.html>

September 8-10, 2004 (**NEW**)

Economic Sociology: Problems and Prospects
Rethymno, Crete, Greece.

Organised by Dept. of Sociology, Univ. of Crete and the Economic Sociology Research Network of the European Sociological Association.

For details email: skoni@social.soc.uoc.gr

September 16-18, 2004

Eighth Luso-Afro-Brazilian Congress of Social Sciences: 'The Social Question in the New Millennium'.

Coimbra, Portugal.

Organised by Centro de Estudos Socias, University of Coimbra.

<http://www.ces.uc.pt/lab2004>

September 17-18, 2004

Environmental Economics: Institutions, Competition, Rationality.

Wuppertal, Germany.

Organised by International Network for Economics Research (INFER).

<http://www.infer.info>

August

September

CALENDAR EVENTS

October

October 20-24, 2004

Agro Environ 2004: The Role of Multi-Purpose Agriculture in Sustaining Global Environment.

Udine, Italy.

http://www.dpvta.uniud.it/agroenv/home_page.htm#coord

October 25-26, 2004 (**NEW**)

Sustainable Innovation 04: Towards Sustainable Product Design

Farnham, Surrey UK

<http://www.cfsd.org.uk/events/tspd9/>

October 28-30, 2004 (**NEW**)

Integrated Assessment of the Land System: The Future of Land Use'

Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Cosponsored by Land Use and Cover Change (LUCC) community and the European Forum on Integrated Environmental Assessment.

<http://www.lucc.nl/>

November

November 4-6, 2004

Science in Europe - Europe in Science: 1500-2000.

Maastricht, The Netherlands.

Organised by European Society for History of Science.

<http://www.gewina.nl?dutch/Science%20in%20Europe.html>

November 8-10, 2004

Leading Edge Sustainability 2004.

Sustainability in Water Limited Environments.

Sydney, Australia.

Organised by International Water Association.

<http://www.LES2004.iwa-conferences.org>

December

2005 2005 2005 2005

January

January 5-6, 2005 (**NEW**)

Contemporary Issues in Economic Development of Small States.

Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.

Organised by Faculty of Business, Economic and Policy Studies, University of Brunei Darussalam.

<http://www.ubd.edu.bn>

February

March

March 13-19, 2005 (**NEW**)

Ninth International Conference on Energy and Environment.

Cairo, Egypt.

Organised by Supreme Council for Research, Egypt, and Wayne State University, Detroit,

<http://ee9.sat-eng.com/>

April

May

June

June 11-12, 2005

Nature in the Kingdom of Ends.

Selfoss, Iceland.

<http://www.midja.is/fraedslunet/>

June 14-17, 2005 (**NEW**)

6th International Conference of the European Society for Ecological Economics: ESEE 2005.

Lisbon, Portugal.

Conference theme: Science and Governance - The Ecological Economics Perspective.

Organised by Ecological Economics and Environmental Management Centre (ECOMAN), New University of Lisbon.

<http://www.esee2005.org>

June 26-July 1, 2004 (**NEW**)

XX International Grassland Congress: Grasslands - A Global Resource.

Dublin, Ireland.

<http://www.igc2005.com/>

July

Do you know of forthcoming conferences and workshops in related areas? Please forward details (preferably with a website) to the editor at: b.davies@macaulay.ac.uk

Take Note

Initiative underway to found African Society for Ecological Economics (ASEE)

Kevin Urama

On 25 March, the inaugural meeting of the steering committee for the current initiative to establish an African Society for Ecological Economics (ASEE) was held at the Macaulay Institute, Aberdeen, Scotland. Dr Kevin Urama (acting president of the ASEE steering committee) is a post-doctoral researcher in the Institute's Socio-Economic Research Programme. During the day-long meeting, ESEE President Clive Spash, ISEE President Charles Perrings and Macaulay Executive Director Prof Maggie Gill joined delegates from eastern, western, northern and southern Africa and several European supporters in exploring and confronting the opportunities and obstacles of bringing ASEE into being. Following on from this meeting, the next step for the ASEE steering committee will be to formally present their plans and strategy to the ISEE Board and membership during the meetings to be held this July in Montréal.

For readers less familiar with its history, it is important to note that the current ASEE initiative is a continuation and combination of earlier and existing efforts to establish societies for ecological economics in Africa. Current efforts are part of an iterative process. In particular, the present initiative owes a great deal to the convening of the 7th Biennial ISEE conference in Sousse, Tunisia (March 2002) and the FRONTIERS conference in Tenerife, Spain (February 2003). At Sousse, French-English simultaneous translation opened the event to the widest possible range of African scholars providing the context for a Francophone initiative with which the ASEE steering committee is now working to liaise. Sousse 2002 also saw the beginning of a Southern Africa initiative, which was revisited in Tenerife in 2003. At Tenerife, the current initiative was discussed with Prof. John Proops, the then ISEE President. In taking forward the current initiative, the ASEE steering committee will be drawing from and building upon the

work of several networks of scholars, which have been taking shape across the continent within the past decade.

Over the past several months, following their Aberdeen meeting, the ASEE steering committee has been working to connect with these ecological economics associated networks across Africa. One of the main tasks for the current initiative is to identify and liaise with individuals and institutions both across the continent and across the world, that are active in African countries.

During the 8th Biennial ISEE Conference, Montréal, 11-14 July 2004, the ASEE steering committee hope to bring this initiative to a new stage. In tandem with the convening of affiliated regional societies – on Wednesday 14 July at 18:30-20:30 – the ASEE steering committee plan to convene a first general meeting of ASEE members and to (a) elect an interim committee for ASEE, (b) discuss and approve the draft constitution for ASEE and agree on a suitable African state for formal incorporation of ASEE, (c) discuss the process towards the convening of an ASEE Ordinary General Assembly, in Africa, after formal incorporation in 2005, and (d) nominate membership to the ASEE Advisory Committee.

The ASEE steering committee is committed to establishing a democratic and inclusive society and invites interested researchers to please contact them directly. You can write to either the acting president at <k.urama@macaulay.ac.uk> or the acting secretary at <Katharine.Farrell@qub.ac.uk>.

Dr Kevin C Urama
The Macaulay Institute,
Craigiebuckler,
Aberdeen,
AB15 8QH, UK.
Tel: +44(0)1224 498200 Ext 2388
Fax: +44(0)1224 311556
email:k.urama@macaulay.ac.uk

Food for Thought: Past Greats

The inherent vice of capitalism is the uneven division of blessings, while the inherent virtue of socialism is the equal division of misery.

Winston Churchill

If all economists were laid end to end, they would not reach a conclusion.

George Bernard Shaw

There are two kinds of statistics, the kind you look up and the kind you make up.

Rex Stout

A liberal is someone too poor to be a capitalist and too rich to be a communist.

Anon

That man is richest whose pleasures are cheapest.

Henry Thoreau

Three things are necessary for the salvation of man: to know what he ought to believe; to know what he ought to desire; and to know what he ought to do.

St Thomas Aquinas

Reality is not always probable, or likely.

George Luis Borges

If you would be a real seeker after truth, it is necessary that at least once in your life you doubt, as far as possible, all things.

Rene Descartes

ESEE Secretariat,
c/o Wendy Kenyon,
Socio-Economic Research Programme,
The Macaulay Institute,
Craigiebuckler,
Aberdeen, AB15 8QH

Tel: +44 1224 498200 ext. 2335

Fax: +44 1224 311556

Email: secretary@euroecolecon.org

http://www.euroecolecon.org/