



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 that are of potential interest. It is published 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. New members are always welcome – for membership details please contact the Secretariat (see back page).

Updating the ESEE constitution

Transferring the ESEE secretariat to the UK has made changes to the ESEE constitution necessary. Some initial changes were voted through at the Vienna conference however after a meeting of the executive at with the former secretariat at C3ED the need to transfer constitution from French law became apparent. In addition, the introduction of free student membership by the ISEE required further adjustments of the ESEE statutes. Therefore, the ESEE Board observed that several changes were required to make the constitution fully operative and has taken some time to adapt the constitution from a French-based regional society to a European-wide society under English and Welsh law.

During this process of rewriting, every attempt has been made to keep the spirit, if not the exact wording, of the past constitution. The text of this revised 'new' constitution is currently with lawyers for checking over the legal requirements. In the new year, both versions of the ESEE constitution (i.e. the amended Vienna version of May 2000 and the new fully revised version) will be posted on the ESEE website. A member vote to approve the new

constitution will take place in February 2001. All active ESEE members (i.e. those who have paid their ESEE subscription for 2001) will be able to vote. So fill in your subscription forms now!

One aspect of the new constitution is an expansion of membership categories (in line with the ISEE constitution). Thus, the following are proposed:

Active Members: are those who pay an annual subscription and in line with the ISEE Canberra decision all European ISEE Members are necessarily Members of the ESEE and must (without exception) pay the appropriate fees.

Student Members: enrolled at least half-time in higher education and receiving 3 years of free membership. They can vote for a dedicated student Board member.

Active Student Members: are enrolled at least half time in higher education but who pay the full annual subscription. They have full voting rights as an Active Member and can vote for the dedicated student Board member.

Institutional Members: are individuals, organisations or businesses paying an annual donation to the Association.

Elsevier failing to deliver

Part of the membership bonus to ISEE is a reduced fee to the Society's journal *Ecological Economics* published by Elsevier. Of the ESEE members, 88 are subscribers to the journal, but at least one quarter have been found to have problems with receiving the journal regularly due to posting problems at the publishers.

To date 22 ESEE members have returned the survey forms printed on the back page of the previous issue of ESEE News. The results are highly disconcerting and confirm that Elsevier has not responded to past individual complaints. Over the next weeks, the ESEE secretariat will put pressure on the publisher to take the issue seriously and ensure the journal is sent to subscribers on a monthly basis.

In the past, any complaint received by the

ESEE secretariat was forwarded to ISEE who administer the mailing list and directly liaise with Elsevier. Unfortunately, despite repeated efforts by the ISEE secretariat to help Elsevier get the mailing right, this has not yet been fully accomplished. The ESEE secretariat will now directly deal with the publisher and hopes that the recent survey, indicating the extent of their poor performance, should encourage them to sort these problems out as a matter of urgency.

If you experience problems and have not yet responded to the ESEE secretary, please do so as soon as possible, either by using the survey card in ESEE News No. 10 or by sending an e-mail detailing your problems.

For interest, the results of the survey are shown in the box on the BackPage.

Committees

Word from the President

Clive Spash

The past two months have been very busy. The Board has made membership category changes. New student membership has been finalised and their voting rights are explained on the back page of this issue. Other new categories have been formalised. As a result the Board has rewritten the ESEE constitution (see p. 1).

Annual membership fees for 2001 were agreed by the Board and in discussion with the ISEE (whose lead we followed); we reduced the fee rates across the board to soften the blow to those members who, while resident in Europe, had previously only been in the ISEE. As part of the new ISEE regulation on compulsory subscription to regional societies, the ESEE Board had to decide on regional boundaries for those areas that have to pay both ISEE/ESEE dues (see p. 12). We also designed a new ESEE subscription form that can be downloaded from the new website.

In November, we finally launched the new ESEE website. This will be used for supplying information on conference initiatives among other activities and planning has been on-going for next years FRONTIERS meeting and the Tunisia ESEE/ISEE conference.

This issue of ESEE News should reach you over the festive season: wishing you all a good read and happy New Year.

ESEE WEBSITE

The ESEE website is now up and running! Check it out at:

<http://www.euroecolecon.org>

The site is still being developed, so please send your ideas for additional links and other features to:

webmaster@euroecolecon.org

Committee report: Conferences and Meetings

Claudia Carter

The contract from the EC for funding towards two ESEE conferences has finally arrived this month. Detailed information and the call for contributions for the first of these two ESEE FRONTIERS conferences can be found on pp. 8-9 of this issue.

European ecological economists will be organising a session at the Fourth Biennial Conference of the Canadian Society for Ecological Economics (CANSEE). We are cur-

rently compiling suggestions; so if you have specific proposals, please contact me.

The planning for the ISEE/ESEE conference in Tunisia has also further progressed. Sylvie Faucheux, ISEE Conference Committee Chair, has been liaising with the Tunisian partners from the University of Sousse. The proposed date is 6 to 9 March 2002. Excursions will be offered over the weekend. A local organising committee has been formed and currently efforts are focusing on finalising the scientific committee. The drafting of the programme and fundraising are both in progress. Details on themes will be posted on the ISEE webpages early next year.

Committee report: Membership

ESEE secretary

Current ESEE members should have received an invoice for membership renewal to ESEE/ISEE from the ISEE secretariat in early December. You will find that membership fees have been reduced for the first three income groups and a new, fourth, income group has been introduced. The boundary for compulsory membership of ISEE members living in Europe has been set as follows: Austria; Belgium; Czech Republic; Denmark; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Iceland; Ireland; Italy; Luxembourg; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; The Netherlands; United Kingdom.

If you cannot find your form or have recruited new members, you can download membership forms from either the ISEE website at <http://www.ecoeco.org> or, an easy-to-fill-in form for European Members, from the ESEE website at <http://www.euroecolecon.org>.

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Committee members are always keen to hear from members interested in developing ideas within their areas of responsibility.

News from the Community Research and Development Service

Commission News

Report highlights the value of older forests in fighting carbon emissions

A report initiated by Research Directorate General's Environment Programme through the CARBOEUROPE research initiative has concluded that it is more important to preserve existing forests than to plant new ones. This evidence supports the position that the EU defended at the vital climate talks in The Hague, where delegates were resisting the US's attempts to avoid cutting their own emissions by planting new forests to soak up the pollution.

CARBOEUROPE involves 70 European research institutions and has received financial support totalling 15 million Euros from the European Commission. Its aims are to advance understanding of carbon fixation mechanisms and to quantify the magnitude of carbon sinks for a range of European terrestrial ecosystems.

Paper and board recycling on the increase in 1999

The Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI) has amassed statistics reflecting a continued increase in paper and board collection and utilisation in 1999. However, the trend is not entirely encouraging, as CEPI reports that 'some European countries have registered such high collection rates that further increases are becoming very difficult and are even brought into question'.

'There is an optimal level for collection, which cannot, even in theory, reach 100 per cent', CEPI continues. 'Given this, policy and legislative actions should be targeted to further increase collection and recovery rates—rather than introducing additional restrictions and regulations'.

Further information available at:

<http://www.cepi.org> and www.paperonline.org

New magazine covering Growth programme launched

Growth in Action, a magazine covering Competitive and Sustainable Growth programme issues, one of the thematic programmes of the EU's Fifth Framework Programme, has been launched by the Research Directorate-General. The magazine will be published bi-annually, and aims to present results of research projects and other activities funded by the Growth pro-

gramme. For more information see:
<http://www.cordis.lu/growth>

More controls on animal feeds

The Commission has adopted a proposal to exclude condemned animal material from the food chain. The move 'is one of the key actions of the White Paper on food safety and a major step towards preventing feed-borne food crises such as BSE and dioxin contamination', according to the Health and Consumer Safety Directorate-General.

The proposed regulation prohibits the recycling of fallen stock and condemned animal material in animal feed. The only animal material allowed to be used for the production of animal feed would then be material derived from animals declared fit for human consumption.

Comments relating to the Commission's White Paper on Food Safety and other details on the topic can be found at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/fs/intro/index_en.html

Moves on GM foods delayed

The discussion on the use of genetically modified foods took another turn on 20 October when a committee of European Member State food experts postponed a decision on whether to force Italy to reverse a national ban of four genetically modified varieties of maize in food. Italy had banned the foodstuffs earlier this year, claiming that they had been given an inaccurate classification of being 'substantially equivalent' to similar non-GM foodstuffs. The reaction of the EU scientific committee in September was that the Italian ban had no scientific basis.

The European Commission said in a statement that the postponement gave the committee the opportunity to look at the Italian case 'in the context of the proposed strategy [on GM regulation] announced by Commissioners David Byrne and Margot Wallstrom in July', which plans to see more labelling and traceability in foodstuffs.

Use of environmental taxes in the European Union

The latest developments in the use of environmental taxes in the European Union, as discussed by the EU's Environment Council at its informal meeting, are described in the summary

of a draft report recently published by the European Environment Agency (EEA).

The report covers:

- * recent developments in the use of green taxes;
- * effectiveness of environmental tasks;
- * taxes and integration of environment into sector policies;
- * how barriers to the introduction of environmental taxes can be overcome.

The report summary is available at:

<http://themes.eea.eu.int/toc.php/improvement/policy>

Commission to establish register of industrial pollutants

The European Commission is planning to set up a European register of emissions of industrial pollutants in 2003. The register will include data on 50 pollutants from some 20,000 industrial facilities throughout the EU. It will be publicly accessible and enable comparisons between different facilities' environmental performance.

Plans for the register are described in the European Directive on integrated pollution prevention and control. Member States will be required to supply data for the register every three years. The first reports will be published in 2003, and the data will be published on the internet by the European Commission and the European Environment Agency.

Urban transport and air quality

The Joint Research Centre's Institute for Prospective Studies has published a special edition of its monthly report (issue 47, September 2000) focusing on the challenges for urban transport in relation to air quality in European cities.

The issues discussed include an overview of the situation in Europe, new urban transport technologies, electrification of road transport, implications for economic growth and transport management.

For further information see:

<http://www.jrc.es/pages/f-report.en.html>

Energy Forum established

Experts from the European energy industry have been invited to contribute to Worldenergyonline.com, an on-line resource providing data on all facets of the energy industry. For details see:

<http://www.worldenergyonline.com>

Research Notes

Call for contributions

The IUSSP/IHDP Population-Environment Research Network

The Population-Environment Research Network is a new internet resource for scientists and scholars that will go on-line in January of 2001 at the internet address www.populationenvironmentresearch.org. The Network was created by the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) and the International Human Dimensions Program (IHDP) for Global Environmental Change with funding from the John D and Catherine T MacArthur Foundation in the United States and is being supervised by a Steering Committee and International Advisory Board of scholars and experts. The Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) at Columbia University in the United States is providing network development and support. The goal is to provide the first global electronic resource specifically focused on current scientific research in population-environment dynamics, provide an on-line searchable database, encourage active academic exchanges and collaboration, and help consolidate population-environment studies as a significant research field within demography and the social sciences.

The Network will provide free web-based access to the latest literature, data, project news and findings from population and environment research around the globe. In February 2001 the Network will host the first international cyber-seminar and electronic conference through the website that will focus on population dynamics, migration and coastal and marine resources and ecosystems.

The Network is now soliciting contributions from researchers for recent publications, working papers, bibliographies, conference presentations, datasets, project descriptions and other materials to enter into the Network's database. Electronic and hardcopy materials are welcome. Please send electronic materials, bibliographic citations or URLs for on-line documents to cmarquette@earthlink.net. Please send or fax hardcopy materials to the Washington Headquarters at the address below. Population and Environment Research Network, Washington Headquarters, 4611 Bayard Road, Bethesda, MD 20816 USA. Network Coordinators: Catherine Marquette (email: cmarquette@earthlink.net) and

Laura Murphy (email: llmurphy@neosoft.com)

Research Theme

Factor Four Research Desk at the Wuppertal Institute opened

In August 2000 the Wuppertal Institute (Germany) decided to set up a Factor Four Research Desk. Factor Four refers to a book written by Ernst Weizaecker, Amory and Hunter Lovins which lists some fifty examples of how a doubling of wealth while halving resource use is possible in areas such as energy, materials and transport. The research desk will allow for continuity on this important idea. According to the tentative agenda it will:

- 1) inform about new Factor Four products, services and policy responses;
- 2) give advice to anybody interested in this issue; and
- 3) strive for thorough research which relates eco-efficiency to theories on technical and institutional change.

This last theme may be especially relevant to ecological economics as it will link Factor Four to New Institutional Economics and Evolutionary Economics. A tentative agenda is available on request. Researchers from all over the world are encouraged to engage in any form of collaboration.

For further details contact:

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Wuppertal Institute
Head, Research Coordination/Factor Four Desk,
PO Box 100 480
D-42004 Wuppertal, Germany
Tel: 49 (0)202 2492 (0) 256;
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The Environmental Impacts of Organic Farming in Europe

M. Stolze, A. Piorr, A. Haring, and S. Dabbert
(22 Euros)

This latest report in the 'Organic Farming in Europe: Economics and Policy' series is now available. Using a series of indicators ranging from climate and the ecosystem to animal welfare and food quality, the study evaluates the environmental impacts of organic farming, and the policy relevance of the results.

Further details of this and other reports in the series can be found at: <http://www.uni-hohenheim.de/~i410a/ofeurope/>

Project Summary

Economic valuation of measures towards sustainable development in the Elbe River Basin

Research project within the programme Elbe-Ecology funded by Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, Germany (Ministry of Education & Research E&R)

The Elbe river basin is an important nature conservation area both in Germany and Europe. Within Germany its catchment covers an area of 96,000 km² while the Elbe river has a length of almost 730 km. Although the water quality was extraordinarily poor a few years ago and more than 80 per cent of the original floodplains were lost due to embankment, the Elbe still has many areas in a natural state. Along the river from the Riesengebirge to the North Sea there are currently more than 200 areas under different protection statuses. A significant example is the Biosphere Reserve 'Elbe Riverscape' which was recognised by UNESCO in 1997.

Since 1990 many of measures have been implemented along the Elbe, mainly to improve the water quality, and projects within the research programme Elbe-Ecology aim at improving habitats and the ecological structure of the rivers and its floodplains. Dike shifting at selected sites along the Elbe is one of the main measures to further improve its ecological value, among other things such as an extensive use of grassland on floodplains.

The aim of the project 'Economic valuation of measures towards sustainable development in the Elbe river basin' is to assess the benefits of these measures in monetary terms. As a frame for the economic valuation, the Total Economic Value (TEV) is used, and contingent valuation will be used as one valuation technique. People will be offered a programme to improve the ecological situation in the Elbe river. Psychological approaches such as attitude measurement will also be used to determine why people are willing to pay for the offered programme. All in all 1,400 people will be interviewed. Objective valuation approaches will also be used to derive indirect use values, for example, for ecological functions of wetlands such as nutrient removal and nitrogen recycling. The value derived will be used to conduct cost-benefit analysis for measures along the river. Results should guide policy decisions about their implementation.

Further details about 'Elbe-Ecology' are available at <http://elise.bafg.server.de/index.html>. For more information, contact Jürgen Meyerhoff (Tu-Berlin; meyerhoff@imup.tu-berlin.de) or Alexandra Dehnhardt (IÖW, Berlin; Alexandra.Dehnhardt@ioew.de).

Research Proposals Call Energy, Environment, and Sustainable Development

The European Commission has announced a call for proposals for indirect RTD actions under the specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration on 'Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development'.

Part 1 Deadline: February 15, 2001

Four Key Actions comprise:

1. Sustainable Management and Quality of Water
2. Global Change, Climate and Biodiversity
3. Sustainable Marine Ecosystems
4. City of Tomorrow and Cultural Heritage

Full details of the call can be found in the Official Journal of the European Communities: OJ No. C 324 of 15.11.2000, p.11.

Free Reports

The Secretariat on Acid Rain

Single copies of this Swedish NGOs recent reports on acid rain are available for free:

- The Worst and the Best. Atmospheric emissions from large point sources in Europe.* APC Series No.15. 2000
- Getting More for Less. An alternative assesment of the NEC directive.* APC Series No. 13. 1999.
- Acidification in 2010. An assessment of the situation at the end of next decade.* APC Series No. 10. 1999.
- Ground-level Ozone. A neglected problem for southern Europe.* APC Series No. 12. 2000.
- Economic Instruments for Reducing Emissions from Sea Transport.* APC Series No. 11. 1999.

Copies are also available as pdf downloads. See www.acidrain.org for details.

WEBWATCH

Post-doc scholarship opportunities, identified by SERI, can be found at:

http://www.cordis.lu/improving/src/hp_ncp.htm
<http://improving-mcf.sti.jrc.it/project/>
<http://www.mariecurie.org>
<http://www.cordis.lu/tmr/src/grants1.htm>

Useful calendars of events:

<http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/updates/upcoming.html>
<http://www.biodiv.org/conv/events/events.asp>

Jobs

Research Fellowship in Ecological/Environmental/Natural Resource Economics

Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies
 Australian National University, Canberra, Australia,

The Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies (CRES) is an interdisciplinary research

centre that focuses on resource and environmental policy issues of national and global significance. In conjunction with an expanding research programme, emphasising the transition to sustainability, CRES is seeking to fill a research post in its Ecological Economics Program for an ecological, environmental, or natural resource economist. While applications from people in any area of ecological, environmental or resource economics are welcome, research interests in the following fields will be of particular interest: defining and measuring sustainability and long-run substitutability in production and consumption; land-based natural resources and their links to human settlements; the use of economic instruments of policy; methods for integrating physical, biological and economic data.

Full details of the post, including salary

ranges and the application procedure, are at <http://www.anu.edu.au/hr/jobs/cres.pdf>. (It is the fifth out of five research posts currently advertised, reference CRES4958. The duration of the post is either 3 or 5 years, with a possibility of renewal.)

Further enquiries: Dr Jack Pezzey, CRES, ANU, Canberra, ACT 0200, Australia. Tel (02)/(+612) 6249 4143, fax (02)/(+612) 6249 0757, e-mail: pezzey@cres.anu.edu.au.

Closing date: 15 January 2001

Further details can be found at:

<http://cres.anu.edu.au/~pezzey> (where there is a page with extensive, informal information about the post).

Books

Developpement Durable et Territoire (in French) Betrand Zuindeau (editor)

296 pages (140 F/ 21.34 Euros)
 Septentrion Press Universitaires
 ISBN 2-85939-618-7

The outcome of a workshop on economics and sustainable development at the University of Lille, this text covers recent work in sustainable development, both theory and practice.

Sustainability: Life Chances and Livelihoods Michael Redclift (editor)

193 pages (16.99 UKP)
 Routledge, London
 ISBN 0-415-19618-3

This text links people's livelihoods and life chances to the concept of sustainability by examining the way in which social and economic processes complement and compound environmental change.

- Part 1. The environment and public policy
 Part 2. Historical perspectives on sustainable development
 Part 3. Geographical perspectives – the view from the South.
 Ten chapters including introduction.

Out in January 2001: The Perception of Risk Paul Slovic

473 pages (19.95 UKP)
 Earthscan, London
 ISBN 1 85383 528 5

Paul Slovic examines the gap between expert views of risk and public perceptions. New methods for assessing perceptions of risk are described, and the implications for regulation and public policy are discussed.

Contents:

Societal risk taking. Decision-making in mental health law. Rating risks. Facts versus fears. Informing and educating the public about risk. Intuitive toxicology. Perceived risks and the politics of nuclear waste. Perceived risk, trust and democracy. Technological stigma.

In Brief

EU Commissioner places bets on youth energy initiative

EU Environment Commissioner Margot Wallstrom has endorsed a youth initiative to reduce gas emissions, known as 'The Bet'. Youth groups in 16 countries have bet the EU that they can cut carbon dioxide emissions from their schools and personal activities by 8 per cent in 8 months, instead of the 8–10 year timescale specified in the Kyoto Protocol. If the youths fail to make the challenge, they have pledged to conduct an energy audit of a Commission building and transport Mrs. Wallstrom by rickshaw for a week. In return, the Commissioner agreed to cycle to work for a month if they succeed.

United Nations Environment and Development Forum

Network 2002 is a new monthly newsletter involving multiple stakeholders being produced in preparation for earth Summit 2002, the ten year review of the first Summit in Rio in 1992. The summit will address a wide range of issues concerning environment, development and economics. *Network 2002* is circulated free each month by e-mail in Acrobat pdf and text formats. To subscribe, e-mail: network2002-subscribe@egroups.com, or register on-line at:

<http://www.earthsummit2002.org>

CD-ROM from New Economics Foundation

The New Economics Foundation has produced a CD-ROM providing visions of how people and the environment can be put at the heart of economic thinking. *Brave New Economy* is a multi-media resource giving facts, figures, real-life examples, ideas for action and hundreds of links to key organisations. Priced at £9, with discounts for larger orders. For details contact:

New Economics Foundation, Cinnamon House, 6–8 Cole Street, London, SE1 4YH, UK.

Tel: 44 (0)20 7407 7447/ Fax 7407 6473

Email: info@neweconomics.org

<http://www.neweconomics.org>

PLEASE E-MAIL YOUR NEWS ITEMS TO THE EDITOR, BEN DAVIES, AT: bbd20@cam.ac.uk

LOOK ROUND

Each issue we invite an ESEE member to reflect on what kind of environmental year we take a look at Switzerland and Spain.

SWITZERLAND

Irmi Seidl reports that not only the US has trouble with votes

Swiss environmental policy and debate is strongly influenced by the country's basic democratic structures that are exercised through popular initiatives and referendums, amongst other forms. In 2000, three popular votes on environmental matters took place.

In May, an initiative was put to the vote that asked for the halving of transportation within the next 10 years. This initiative was considered from one side as being utopian, and from the other as being quite beyond sense. The group proposing and supporting this initiative devised a couple of instruments that would allow for the realisation of their objective. Many of the instruments were judged to be quite effective in a study on behalf of the federal government. The initiative was supported only late in the day by the big environmental groups, which were sceptical about its success. On the other hand, a broad coalition of conservative and economically-allied associations and parties, as well as the federal government, opposed the initiative. Still, many artists, intellectuals and young people supported it, giving the campaign an original, positive and utopian touch. Nevertheless, the initiative was only accepted by 21 per cent of the voters. Despite this clear dismissal, in places such as Basle where 34 per cent voted in favour of the initiative, future policy might not be able to totally ignore this public desire for less transport.

Another referendum took place in September and concerned two kinds of environmental taxes. The impulse for the referendum came from environmental groups who had submitted three popular initiatives on environmental taxes a couple of years ago. One initiative was for a so-called 'solar centime' to be applied on non-renewable energies to support solar energy and rational energy use; another was for a tax on fossil energy and electricity to be redistributed to households and firms (an 'eco-bonus'); and

the third concerned taxing energy use to support the social security system. These three initiatives put pressure on the federal government to come up with propositions for an ecological tax reform. The ensuing discussion took years and was tough. Eventually, a consensus was found for two proposals. One was more moderate than the 'solar centime' initiative, and the other was on an overall energy tax. Both proposals satisfied the federal government, both chambers, most cantons, most parties, many professional associations, and others. However, the people rejected all proposals (by 68 per cent for the proposal to support solar energy, by 53 per cent for the proposal on an overall energy tax). The disillusionment in environmentally aware circles was large, as after this any environmental tax reform is unrealistic for the next couple of years.

Though the big topics in environmental policy were rather unsuccessful in 2000, there are encouraging developments. Basle has introduced its own environmental tax system which works as follows: Electricity prices in Basle fell due to the liberalisation of electricity and to the fact that Basle never got involved in nuclear power production. However, the price reduction is not handed over to energy consumers. Rather, the money is put in a fund and is distributed to the households of Basle and to enterprises on a yearly basis (For details, see <http://www.bonusbasel.ch/>).

In the area of nature conservation, the federal administration on environment and nature conservation is slowly progressing in reintroducing predators, i.e. the lynx. The discussion about predators is very emotional, the main opponents being sheep farmers and hunters. But the public is also hesitant. Still, the information campaigns about these animals and the small dangers they pose are having some success.

The discussion about genetically modified organisms is going to boil up again after Switzerland had a very emotional debate two years ago around a referendum on genetic engineering. One mooted topic is a moratorium on commercial release of GMOs. However, this is currently a rather theoretical discussion, as Swiss consumers definitely refuse any GMO foods. The mad cow epidemic may well strengthen this desire for caution.

WATER IN EUROPE

Issues have been making the news in their own country. At the end of the

SPAIN

Juan Sanchez-Garcia takes stock of the issues surrounding water

I have selected the debate surrounding the National Hydrological Plan (NHP) presented by the Spanish government last July for this summary.

This news is inserted in a long and open-ended debate about the distribution, integral management and inter-territorial dimensions of the water problem in Spain. The following dates are the milestones of the story: 1992-93 (attempt of the socialist government, then in office, to approve a new National Hydrological Plan with a strong bias on water transfers); summer 1998 (approval of the River Basin District Plan, putting the river basin in the foreground of the analysis); December 1998 (Water White Paper); December 1999 (reform of the Water Law - water markets in the foreground of analysis); July 2000 (introduction of the new NHP by the government in office, Partido Popular - water transfers, dams and markets as the key words); summer 2000 (approval of EU Water Framework Directive - ecological sustainability as a new criterion to be taken into account); October 2000 (demonstration of more than 300,000 persons in Aragon against the NHP, especially against the water transfer policy 'embedded' in it).

From an environmental standpoint the new Plan is considered by some people as unprogressive and outdated, colliding with the sustainability logic. It is biased in favor of water transfers and large construction works and against the integral management of the river basin. Evaluation of such management in terms of self-sufficiency and without water transfers, already considered in the 1998 River Basin District Plan, seems not to have been taken into consideration in the NHP. The new Plan offers as a solution to the so-called water 'structural deficit' a traditional supply answer: water transfer and all its concomitants - a disastrous strategy in its socio-environment effects, and perverse in the economic irrationality that induces. The concept of water 'structural deficit' is used by the NHP in a diagnostic

context characterized by a generalized invasion of the river public domain, uncontrolled effluent discharges, large losses in the pipelines, and overexploitation of aquifers due to the water consumption by thousands of illegal irrigation hectares; in other words, a paradigmatic example of unsustainable growth.

Jimenez Beltran, executive director of the European Environment Agency, in a personal comment on the NHP (www.eea.eu.int) thinks that with the actual NHP Spain is losing a real opportunity for leading Europe in the environmentally-friendly management of such a valuable resource. Spain is a country which actually has some of the best hydrological information available; a country with already more dams than anyone in Europe; with a long and good tradition and experience of river basin management, putting it in a good position for an advanced application of the Framework Directive, which in the last instance was the result of a Spanish political initiative; and with a progressive legislation.

However, Spain with the NHP is going against the current tendencies set up by the Amsterdam Treaty, setting up, among other things, sustainable development as an aim of the EU and its member states. Those aims include the Water Framework Directive, taking ecological sustainability as a point of reference; and the revision of all economic and sectorial policies under the sustainability umbrella. Furthermore the confirmation of the process of climate change requires the recuperation of the hydrological systems and river basins in their maintenance in the best condition.

So, there was an opportunity for a real excellence sustainable Plan developed through a process of innovative optimization of the working of the existent hydrological infrastructures and water uses, rounded off with a programming and harmonization strategy in order to greater efficiency in sewerage plans, the recovery of public domain, soil regeneration and vegetation cover, aiming to get each basin working at an ecological optimum as a water 'factory', and also as a natural territorial unit from a socioeconomic standpoint. Instead, the NHP is introduced, dealing only in terms of water territorial distributions and not answering to a sustainability logic in which a 'no water transfer' option would be an important starting point.

In Brief

Sex, sulphur and a fishy business!

A video entitled 'Sex, sulphur and a fishy business' is available free (for single copies) from the Swedish NGO Secretariat on Acid Rain, who part-sponsored its production. It provides an unconventional means of highlighting the problems of acidification. It has been shown on TV in Norway and Sweden, and won several film prizes. Running time is 58 minutes, on VHS video. Single copies are available free within Europe, on application to the Secretariat (website details below).

The aims of the Secretariat are to promote awareness of the problems associated with air pollution. Copies of its recent publications covering air pollution issues are also available free of charge within Europe, and can be downloaded as pdf files from www.acidrain.org. See Research Notes (p. 5 this issue) for further details.

New 'Info' research area at SERI

The Sustainable Europe Research Institute (SERI) has opened up a new research area on the topic of 'ECO-INFO-SOCIETY'. This will look at the potential of the information society to combine with macroeconomic tools and challenge lifestyles to achieve an Eco-Info Society. Details of this research area can be found at:

<http://www.seri.at/eis>

European DataBank on Sustainable Development

A project team of IZP (Institute for Sustainable Projects) and INES (International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility), based in Dortmund, Germany, have been working since mid-1999 on a databank listing institutions, associations, societies and experts throughout Europe working on achieving sustainable development. Details can be found at:

<http://www.inesglobal.org/eudb/>

Friends of the Earth Sustainability Site

Friends of the Earth Europe has launched a new website with scientific support from SERI, outlining its approach to Sustainability. Ideas for new links are always welcome. Details can be found at:

<http://www.foeurope.org/sustainability>

CONFERENCES

For more details on FRONTIERS, visit the website at <http://www.euroecolecon.org/frontiers>

ESEE FRONTIERS Conferences

As announced in ESEE News No. 10, funding has been approved towards two 'mini-conferences' on ecological economics under the EC High-Level Scientific Conferences (type: EuroConferences), Human Potential Programme, 1998–2002. The main objectives of such conferences are to promote scientific excellence by (i) allowing senior researchers to impart their experience to younger researchers; and (ii) creating a framework for networking of EU researchers with scientists outside the Member and Associated States. Numbers are limited to 100 participants to allow for good focus and interaction.

Both FRONTIERS conferences will be four-day high-level meetings at the cutting edge of research. **FRONTIERS 1** will take place at New Hall, Cambridge, UK, 4–7 July 2001. The focus will be on fundamental issues concerning ecological economics. **FRONTIERS 2** will take place on the island of Tenerife, Spain, 12–15 February 2003 and focus on state-of-the-art applications of ecological economics for environmental planning and management, in education and for testing the robustness of research tools.

Conference language: English.

Who can participate?

Selection of participants will be based on submitted suggestions for contributions in the form of papers and/or posters. For submission details, see the enclosed submission form or the ESEE website at <http://www.euroecolecon.org/frontiers>.

Female and young researchers are particularly encouraged to participate. **EU grants for young researchers (up to age 35) are available** in the form of low participation fee and accommodation costs. Please include a letter of request and 2-page CV including a list of your publications with your submission form.

Session formats

Group sessions (two groups of about 50 people each) will have two papers, followed by questions and responses from the group. For **group discussions** (five groups of about 20 people each) full papers will have been circulated in advance, and presentations of papers are hence limited to 15 minutes, the remaining 45 to 60 minutes are for in-depth debate by the group.

Call for contributions

Contributions are sought in the form of papers and/or posters on the themes and sub-themes as listed below. Preference will be given to new and unpublished contributions of high standard.

T1: Value Conflicts in Environmental Management and Policy. Exploring value conflicts in environmental management and policy; feeding research findings into policy formulation; communicating research findings 'back to society'.

T1.A: Social/Community/Individual Values. Papers addressing the relative neglect of social and community values in economics and current environmental management compared with individual values and utility; advances in theoretical concepts which re-address this imbalance.

T1.B: Role of the Market. Papers highlighting points of conflict and/or synergies between markets and ecosystems; the scale and scope of non-market contributions to environmental and social well-being.

T1.C: Incommensurability & Non-Satiation. Papers exploring issues relating to session T1.B but focusing on theoretical and practical aspects of incommensurability and non-satiation.

T1.D: Open. Papers relating to topic T1 but outside the listed specific sub-sections above.

T2: Institutional and Social Changes for Long-Term Environmental Management. Establishing requirements for long-term sustainable environmental management; a particular area of interest is the role of institutional change and recent social changes.

T2.A: Role of Institutional Change. Contributions exploring forms of institutional change which facilitate long-term environmental planning and conservation.

T2.B: Changing Production – Changing Consumption: Pollution Prevention & Abatement. Contributions assessing novel/effective approaches to achieving a healthier environment; alternatives to high production – high consumption modes.

T2.C: Role of Recent Social Changes. Contributions assessing the effects and implications of changing societies on ecosystem health and ecosystem management.

T2.D: Deliberative & Participatory Approaches. Contributions focusing on the relative neglect of social and community values in economics and environmental management; critical appraisal of currently used/proposed participatory processes; suggestions of ways of integrating deliberative processes into day-to-day environmental management and/or policy.

T2.E: Other. Contributions addressing relevant aspects in relation to institutional and social changes but outside any of the above sub-themes.

T3: Defining New Paradigms. Exploring the potential for and kinds of new paradigms arising in ecological economics.

T3.A: Institutionalism & Political Ecology. Contributions looking at institutional economics and political ecology and their potential for helping frame new paradigms.

T3.B: Feminist Approaches. Contributions exploring feminism as a potential source for new approaches.

T3.C: Ignorance, Risk and Uncertainty. Contributions focusing on the relevance of addressing and distinguishing between ignorance, risk and uncertainty; development/criticism of the concept of post-normal science.

T3.D: Open. Contributions discussing relevant aspects and ideas relating to the foundations of ecological economics but not covered in any of the above specific themes.

T4: Research Methods - Teaching Methods. Highlighting theoretical aspects of research and teaching methods for ecological economics.

T4.A: Research in Higher Education. Contributions on novel/effective tools and methods.

T4.B: Research in/relating to Business and Industry. Contributions on ecological economics research methods for business and industry.

T4.C: Teaching in Higher Education. Contributions on developing curricula and interactive teaching methods that link theory and empirical applications.

T4.D: Public Education. Contributions developing methods and interactive communication tools for ecological economics that reach out to the public.

Submission and Registration Details **Draft Programme for FRONTIERS 1** **'FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES OF ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS'**

(i) Schedule

15 March 2001: Final date for submission of contributions (abstracts and summary)

10 April 2001: Notification of acceptance/rejection of contributions

10 May 2001: Registration deadline

15 May 2001: Deadline for submission of final/revised papers

Cambridge, UK 4–7 July 2001

Tuesday, 3 July 2001

17:00 – 18:30

18:30 – 20:00

Pre-conference Guest Lecture

Cheese and Wine Reception

(ii) Contribution Types

C1: Paper

C2: Poster

Wednesday, 4 July 2001

08:30 – 09:15

09:15 – 09:30

Registration; Putting Up Posters

Welcome

(iii) Guidelines for Submissions

Those interested in participating in FRONTIERS 1 are requested to submit an abstract plus a synopsis of their suggested contribution.

The Local Organising Committee and the Scientific Committee will assess submissions in terms of their relevance to the conference main objectives, topic and themes. They reserve the right to accept, reject or reclassify submissions.

After 10 April 2001, abstracts of accepted contributions will be posted on the conference website, and after 15 May 2001 full papers for group discussions (T2) and synopses for group sessions (T1, T3 and T4) will be added.

FRONTIERS1 Scientific Committee

Federico Aguilera Klink (Universidad La Laguna, Tenerife, Spain), Peter Earl* (Lincoln University, New Zealand), Silvio Funtowicz* (European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Ispra, Italy), Mario Giampietro (Istituto Nazionale della Nutrizione, Rome, Italy), Fritz Hinterberger (Sustainable Europe Research Institute, Vienna, Austria), Joerg Koehn (University of Rostock, Germany), Martin O'Connor* (Université de Versailles, France), Sabine O'Hara* (Green Mountain College, Vermont, USA), John O'Neill (University of Lancaster, UK), Inge Roepke* (Technical University of Denmark, Lyngby, Denmark), Paul Safonov (Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium), Juan Sanchez-Garcia (Universidad La Laguna, Tenerife, Spain), Irmi Seidl (University of Zuerich, Switzerland), Caroline Sullivan (Institute of Hydrology, Wallingford, UK).

FRONTIERS1 Organising Committee

Claudia Carter (Conference Secretary and Chair, Cambridge University, UK), Ben Davies (Cambridge University, UK), Helge Hagerup* (Agricultural University Norway, Aas, Norway), Clive Spash (Cambridge University, UK), Arild Vatn (Agricultural University Norway, Aas, Norway).

* to be confirmed

SESSION 1: Value Conflicts in Environmental Management and Policy

09:30 – 11:00

11:00 – 11:30

11:30 – 13:00

13:00 – 14:30

14:30 – 16:00

16:00 – 16:30

16:30 – 18:00

20:00

PLENARY SPEECH I: **Jack Knetsch, Canada**

Questions from the floor (45 minutes)

Tea/Coffee Break with Poster Session

PLENARY SPEECH II: **Clive Spash, UK**

Questions from the floor (45 minutes)

Lunch

GROUP SESSION 1.A: **Social/Community/Individual Values**

GROUP SESSION 1.B: **Role of the Market**

Tea/Coffee Break with Poster Session

GROUP SESSION 1.D: **to be defined**

GROUP SESSION 1.C: **Incommensurability & Non-Satiation**

Dinner

Thursday, 5 July 2001

SESSION 2: Institutional and Social Changes for Long-Term Environmental Management

09:30 – 11:00

11:00 – 11:30

11:30 – 13:00

13:00 – 14:30

14:30 – 16:00

16:00 – 16:30

16:30 – 18:00

20:00

PLENARY SPEECH III: **Federico Aguilera-Klink, Spain**

Questions from the floor (45 minutes)

Tea/Coffee Break with Poster Session

5 PARALLEL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lunch

5 PARALLEL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Tea/Coffee Break with Poster Session

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Questions from the floor (45 minutes)

Dinner

Friday, 6 July 2001

SESSION 3: Defining New Paradigms

09:30 – 11:00

11:00 – 11:30

11:30 – 13:00

13:00 – 14:30

14:30 – 16:00

20:00

PLENARY SPEECH IV: **Martin O'Connor, France**

Questions from the floor (45 minutes)

Tea/Coffee Break

GROUP SESSION 3.A: **Institutionalism & Political Ecology**

GROUP SESSION 3.B: **Feminist Approaches**

Lunch

GROUP SESSION 3.C: **Ignorance, Risk & Uncertainty**

GROUP SESSION 3.D: **open**

Dinner

Saturday, 7 July 2001

SESSION 4: Research Methods – Teaching Methods

09:30 – 11:00

11:00 – 11:30

11:30 – 13:00

13:00 – 14:30

14:30 – 16:00

16:00 – 16:30

PLENARY SPEECH V: **Sabine O'Hara, Germany/USA**

Questions from the floor (45 minutes)

Tea/Coffee Break

GROUP SESSION 4.A: **Higher Education – Research**

GROUP SESSION 4.B: **Business and Industry – Research**

Lunch

GROUP SESSION 4.C: **Higher Education – Teaching**

GROUP SESSION 4.D: **General Public – Education**

Tea/Coffee Break

CALENDAR EVENTS

January

January 21-25, 2001

The Ninth International Greening of Industry Network Conference.

Sustainability at the Millenium: Globalization, Competitiveness, and the Public Trust. The Greening of Industry Network, Asia. *Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand.*

For details see:

<http://www.eric.chula.ac.th/GIN-Asia>

January 29-February 2, 2001

Third International Meeting of Economists on Globalisation and Development Issues.

Havana, Cuba.

More information from:

Asociacion Nacional de Economistas de Cuba, Calle 22 No. 901 esq 9a, Miramar, Playa Cuidad de la Habana, CP 11300, Cuba. Email: anec@info.get.cma.net

February

February 7-9, 2001

Dehli Sustainable Development Summit. *New Dehli, India.*

Partners comprise Government of Dehli, Ministry of External Affairs, Gov. of India, United Nations Development Programme, India and World Business Council for Sustainable Development, Switzerland.

More details from:

<http://www.teriin.org/dsds/index1.htm>

February 25-27, 2001

Taking Nature Seriously: Citizens, Science and Environment.

University of Oregon, Oregon, USA.

This conference is devoted to establishing dialogue between the interdisciplinary fields of science studies (history, philosophy, sociology) and environmental studies.

<http://www.darkwing.uoregon.edu/~tns>

March

March 22, 2001.

World Day for Water.

Contact: gpa@unep.nl

March 31, 2001

The Seas and International Law. Sixth International Wildlife Law Conference. *Washington DC, USA.*

Organised by American Society of International Law - Wildlife Interest Group.

For details see:

<http://eelink.net/~asilwildlife/prelim6.html>

April

April 3-8, 2001

International Conference on Solar Energy. *Cairo, Egypt.*

For details see:

<http://www.photoenergy.org/solar2001.htm>

April 5-6, 2001

International Sustainable Development Research Conference. ERP Environment.

University of Manchester, UK.

For details see: <http://erpenvironment.org/cfrence/2000-1%20dates>

April 5-7, 2001

Bridging Minds and Markets. Emerging Issues in Environmental Education and Employment in Europe.

Venice, Italy.

Organised by the Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Venice, and the Association of University Departments of Environmental Sciences (ESSENCE) Network.

For details see:

<http://helios.unive.it/~audes6/home.html>

April 6-11, 2001

Workshop on the politics of 'New Environmental Policy Instruments'.

Grenoble, France.

The European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR).

For details about the focus and aims see:

<http://www.essex.ac.uk/ecpr/jointsessions/grenoble/details/list.htm#1>

April 8-11, 2001

Kyoto Compliance Review - GWXII. The 12th Global Warming International Conference and Expo.

Cambridge University, UK.

GWXII International Conference Program Committee, c/o the Global Warming International Center, 22W381 - 75th Street, Naperville, IL 60565 USA. Details from: gw12@GlobalWarming.Net <http://www.GlobalWarming.Net>

April 30 - May 2, 2001

On the Value of Variety - Diversity in Economics and Ecology.

Tutzing, Bavaria, Germany.

German-speaking group of Ecological Economics and the Lutheran Protestant Academy of Tutzing. For details see:

<http://www.voee.de> or <http://www.uni-trier.de/spehl>

May

May 6-9, 2001

Baltic Meeting Point II - Sustainable Community Development.

Uppsala, Sweden.

The conference will focus on issues related to sustainable cities in the Baltic Sea Region.

For details email: conference@slu.se OR see:

<http://www.balticuniv.uadm.uu.se/BMP2/general.html>

May 8-10, 2001

Sustain 2001. The World Sustainable Energy Exhibition and Conference.

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Organised by Amsterdam RAI.

For details see:

<http://www.sustain2001.com/>

May 14-16, 2001

Seventh International Conference on Urban Transport and the Environment for the 21st Century.

Lemnos, Greece.

Organised by the Wessex Institute of Technology, Southampton, UK.

For details contact: gcosutta@wessex.ac.uk

May 14-17, 2001

From Eco-Efficiency to Overall Sustainability in Enterprises.

Second International Conference organised by the Wuppertal Institute and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).

Düsseldorf, Germany.

For details see: <http://www.eco-efficiency.de>

May 21-24, 2001

International Conference on Biodiversity and Society.

New York, USA.

Organised by Columbia University.

Further details from:

calfsenorodom@aol.com or ca320@columbia.edu

June

June 5, 2001

World Environment Day.
For details see: <http://unep.org/>

June 6-8, 2001

Third International Conference on Ecosystems and Sustainable Development (ECOSUD 2001).
Alicante, Spain.
Organised by the Wessex Institute of Technology, Ashurst Lodge, Ashurst, Southampton SO40 7AA, UK. For details e-mail Susan Hanley: shhanley@wessex.ac.uk; or see: <http://wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2001/ecosud01/>

June 8, 2001

World Oceans Day
For info email: gpa@unep.nl

June 12-16, 2001

Is Globalisation Overpowering Democracy? The Challenge for Ecology, Economy and Culture.
Prague, Czech Republic.
Institute of Landscape Ecology, Academy of Sciences of Czech Republic and Czech Association for Landscape Ecology.
For details e-mail GlobDem@uek.cas.cz; or <http://www.uek.cas.cz/GlobDem/>

June 14-16, 2001

The Ecological Modernisation of Society Fifth Nordic Environmental Research Conference.
Aarhus, Denmark.
Contributions are sought from the international research community at large.
The conference language is English.
For details see: <http://www.au.dk/cesam/ecolo.htm>

July

July 2-4, 2001

Seventh International Interdisciplinary Conference on the Environment.
San Francisco, USA.
Organised by the Interdisciplinary Environmental Association (IEA).
For details e-mail Kevin Hickey: khickey@assumption.edu; or see: <http://www.desu.edu/mreiter/iea.htm>

July 4-7, 2001

FRONTIERS 1. Fundamental Issues of Ecological Economics.
Cambridge, UK.
Organised by ESEE.
For details see: <http://www.euroecolecon.org/frontiers>

July 5-7, 2001

New Natures, New Cultures, New Technologies.
Cambridge, UK.
Organised by International Sociological Association Research Committee on Environment and Society (RC24)
Further details at: <http://www.cies.geog.cam.ac.uk/www-cies/ISA.html>

July 9-11, 2001

12th Biennial Conference of the Society for Philosophy and Technology.
'Nature and Technology'
University of Aberdeen, Scotland.
Topics include: Moral and Conceptual Implications of Genetic Modification; and Environment, Technology and Development.
For details e-mail Andrew Light, International Center for Advanced Studies, New York University: alight@binghamton.edu

July 10-13, 2001

Global Change Open Science Conference.
Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
Co-sponsored by International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP); IHDP and WCRP.
Further details from: <http://www.scionf.igbp.kva.se>

July 16-20, 2001

Detecting Environmental Change. Science and Society.
London, UK.
For details contact Dr. Catherine Stickley, Environmental Research Centre, Dept. of Geography, University College, London, 26 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AP; E-mail: c.stickley@ucl.ac.uk; or see: <http://www.nmw.ac.uk/change2001/dec2001/>

July 22-27, 2001

Ninth World Conference on Transport Research (WCTR).
Seoul, Korea.
More details from the Secretariat of WCTR: wctr@cis.koti.re.kr

27-29 August, 2001

Asian Wetland Symposium.
Penang, Malaysia.
A forum for discussion and expertise on Asian wetland issues.
Organised by Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (MOSTE); Ramsar Centre, Japan (RCJ), Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM); and Wetland International - Asia Pacific (WI-AP).
Details at: <http://www.aws2001.domainvalet.com>

September

September 5-8, 2001

First Conference of the European Society for Environmental History.
St. Andrews, Scotland.
Organised by Centre for Environmental History (CEHP) and Institute for Environmental History, University of St. Andrews.
For further details see: <http://eseh.org/esehfutures.html>

October

October 6-8, 2001

2001 Open Meeting of the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change Research Community.
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
Deadline for submission of abstracts is 29 March 2001. Further information available from: <http://sedac.ciesin.org/openmeeting>.
Specific enquiries can be sent to: open.meeting@ciesin.org

October, 2001 (final date tbc)

Towards Sustainable Product Design. 6th International Conference.
The Netherlands.
Organised by the Centre for Sustainable Design in association with Delft University of Technology, Design for Sustainability Programme. Supported by UNEP.
Further details from: <http://www.cfsd.org.uk/events/tspd6/index.html>

August

Please send details of meetings and conferences (with web or email addresses) to bbd20@cam.ac.uk, or flyers by post to the Secretariat (address overleaf).

Take Note

Past Greats:
John Muir
(1838-1914)

MEMBERSHIP – Dues due!

Please remember to pay your membership dues for the year 2001 as soon as possible! There are several important issues coming up very early in the New Year, in particular a vote on the new constitution. Please make sure you are therefore paid-up in time to make your vote count. The US Courts will not intervene in this ballot!

You should have received a renewal form from ISEE back in November, which details the new membership structure. If you have mislaid your original form, you can download another one from the ISEE and ESEE websites:

<http://www.ecoeco.org>

<http://www.euroecolecon.org>

ESEE/ISEE student membership

Persons who are enrolled at least half time in higher education can join ESEE/ISEE as a 'student member' for free. This type of membership entitles the subscriber to stand and vote for the student representative on the ESEE Board (but no other ESEE posts or voting matters).

Alternatively, students can join as an 'active student member'. In this case, subscribers pay ESEE/ISEE dues (at the low income category that means \$30) and will have full voting rights on ESEE matters, be able to stand and vote for the ESEE Board (any post) and also can vote for the student representative on the ESEE Board.

It is up to you to decide which option you wish to choose.

Environmental White Paper criticised for lack of teeth

The EU white paper on environmental liability has been criticised by Friends of the Earth for lacking critical elements on both the 'what' and 'how' of its coverage.

The EU has moved away from a strict liability clause towards fault-based liability, particularly for non-hazardous and licensed pollutants. Further limitations include restricting coverage to habitats rather than including species; the exemption of diffuse sources of pollution; defences such as 'state of the art'; and mostly importantly, lack of retrospectivity for past damages. Further details can be seen at: <http://www.greenchannel.com/ukela/insure.htm>; and <http://www.europa.eu.int/int/comm/environment>, where the full White Paper is available.

When we are with Nature we are awake, and we discover many interesting things and reach many a mark we were not aiming at; some new flower or bird or waterfall comes to our eyes, and we gladly step aside to study it; or some tree of surpassing beauty attracts our attention, or some grove, though the species may be well known, or we come upon some specimen that has been riven and scattered by lightning stroke, or bent into an arch by snow, or one or many over which an avalanche has passed... All these and a thousand other attractions enrich our walks beyond the attainment of the main objective, and make our paths unconsciously crooked and charming. It is as if Nature was saying: 'The way is long and rough and the poor fellow is weary and lonesome. Birds, sing him a song; squirrels, show him your pretty ways; flowers, beguile the steep ascent with your beauty; sparkle and bloom and shine, ye lakes and streams; and wave and chant and shimmer in the sunlight, all ye pines and firs, that the wandered faint not by the way'...

We are overpaid a thousand times for all our toil, and a single day in so divine an atmosphere of beauty and love would be well worth living for, and at its close, should death come, without any hope of another life, we could still say 'Thank you, God, for the glorious gift!', and pass on.

from John Muir, 'A Voyage in Alsaka', in 'John of the Mountains: The Unpublished Journals of John Muir'

Ecological Economics: Results of Member Survey.

Here are the results as of 15 December 2000:

Matter of complaint:	Number of Responses
receive single issues irregularly	5
get several issues together irregularly	6
have received no issues since spring 2000	11
only received March and April issues	1
received none at all in 2000	7
reported to old ESEE secretariat	7
reported to current ESEE secretariat	5
reported to ISEE secretariat (Heide Rohland at Burks & Associates)	9
reported to Elsevier Publishers	5
first reported in the ESEE news survey	4

Thanks to all those ESEE members who have taken the time to complete the survey.

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