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If the MP you wish to contact is not mentioned above, please ring the House of Commons on 020 7219 3000, or leave messages on 020 7219 4343. To find your local MP visit: www.writetothem.com

INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURE & TRADE POLICY (IATP) promotes resilient family farms, rural communities and ecosystems around the world through research and education, science and technology, and advocacy of Fairtrade policies that promote strong health standards, labour rights, human rights, the environment and democratic institutions. *Contact: 2105 First Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55404 USA. Tel: +1 612 870 0453 Fax: +1 612 870 4846 Email: iatp@iatp.org Web: www.tradeobservatory.org*

INTERNATIONAL FAIRTRADE ASSOCIATION Global network whose mission is to improve the livelihoods and well-being of disadvantaged producers by linking and promoting Fair Trade organisations, and speaking out for greater justice in world trade. *Contact: IFAT, Pijssestraat 24, 4101 CR Culemborg, The Netherlands. Tel: +31 345 53 59 14 Fax: +31 847 47 44 01 Email: info@ifat.org Web: www.ifat.org*

INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON GLOBALIZATION (IFG) North-south research and educational institution composed of leading activists, economists, scholars, and researchers providing analyses and critiques on the cultural, social, political, and environmental impacts of economic globalisation. *Contact: 1009 General Kennedy Avenue #2, San Francisco, CA 94129, USA. Tel: +1 415 561 7650 Fax: +1 415 561 7651 Email: ifg@ifg.org Web: www.ifg.org*

LABOUR BEHIND THE LABEL Campaign supporting garment workers' efforts worldwide to improve their working conditions, by educating consumers, lobbying companies and government, and encouraging international solidarity with workers. Members include trade unions and their local branches, consumer organisations, campaign groups, and charities. UK platform of the international Clean Clothes Campaign. *Contact: 38 Exchange St, Norwich NR2 1AX. Tel: 01603 666160 Email: info@labourbehindthelabel.org Web: www.labourbehindthelabel.org*

MAKE TRADE FAIR The excellent Oxfam website, indispensable for campaigning on international trade issues. *Web: www.maketradeafair.com*

NATIONAL GROUP ON HOMEWORKING improves the working conditions of all homeworkers so that homeworking becomes a real employment option for those who wish to work at home in the UK. Free advice & info line: 0800 174095. *Contact: Office 26, 20-38 Dock St, Leeds LS10 1JF. Tel: 0113 245 4273 Email: admin@ng.h.org.uk Web: www.homeworking.gn.apc.org*

NETWORK OF EUROPEAN WORLDSHOPS (NEWS!) represents approximately 2,500 Worldshops that offer fairly traded products and campaign for a fairer world trade system. *Contact: Ludwigsstrasse 11, 55116 Mainz, Germany. Tel: +49 6131 9066 410 Email: office@worldshops.org Web: www.worldshops.org*

NO SWEAT An activist, campaigning organisation, fighting sweatshop bosses, in solidarity with workers, all around the world. *Contact: PO Box 36707, London SW9 8YA. Tel: 07904 431959 Email: admin@nosweat.org.uk Web: www.nosweat.org.uk*

PEOPLE'S GLOBAL ACTION (PGA) A platform, defined by the PGA hallmarks, manifesto and organisational principles, and an instrument for communication and coordination for all those fighting against the destruction of humanity and the planet by capitalism, and for building alternatives. *Contact: c/o Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW), 377 Bank St, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Email: agpweb@lists.riseup.net Web: www.agp.org*

TRADE JUSTICE MOVEMENT Fast-growing group of organisations including trade unions, aid agencies, environment and human rights campaigns, Fairtrade organisations, faith and consumer groups. The movement's supported by more than 80 member organisations with over nine million members, and new organisations join every month. Together, they're campaigning for trade justice - not free trade - with

the rules weighted to benefit poor people and the environment. *Contact: Tel: 020 7404 0530 Email: mail@tjm.org.uk Web www.tjm.org.uk*

TWIN & TWIN TRADING LTD's approach is based on establishing long-term trading relationships with small producers. They invest heavily in creating sustainable relationships, built on trust, with the aim of increasing the power of producers in trading relationships. *Contact: 3rd Floor, 1 Curtain Rd, London EC2A 3LT. Tel: 020 7375 1221 Fax: 020 7375 1337 Email: info@twin.org.uk Web: www.twin.org.uk*

WORLDWIDE RESPONSIBLE APPAREL PRODUCTION (WRAP) Independent, non-profit organisation dedicated to the certification of lawful, humane and ethical manufacturing throughout the world. *Contact: 2200 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 601, Arlington VA 22201. Tel: 703 243 0970 Fax: 703 243 8247 Email: info@wrapapparel.org Web: www.wrapapparel.org*

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Local Government

BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET EQUALITY TEAM supports three key groups among its staff members: Black & Minority Ethnic Workers Group, Disabled Workers Group, and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Workers Group. *Contact: Corporate Equalities Team, Town Hall, Keynsham. Email: equality@bathnes.gov.uk Tel: 01225 396267 Fax: 01225 477890 Web: www.bathnes.gov.uk/BathNES/communityandlivingequality/WorkerGroups.htm*

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL: SOCIAL ECONOMY BRISTOL supports the growth of Bristol's wide range of social economy businesses - community-based, co-operative and value-led. *Contact: Ted Fowler, Bristol City Council, Brunel House, St Georges Rd, Bristol BS1 5UY. Tel: 0117 922 2259 Fax: 0117 922 2954 Email: ted_fowler@bristol.gov.uk Web: www.c3partnership.org*

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL: SUSTAINABLE CITY TEAM works with the voluntary and community sector to integrate environmental sustainability into social and economic initiatives, as well as integrate social, economic and environmental policies into the services and operations of the council. *Contact: The Sustainability Team, Bristol City Council, CREATE Centre, Smeaton Rd, Bristol, BS1 6XN. Tel: 0117 922 4477 Email: sustainable_city@bristol-city.gov.uk Web: www.bristol-city.gov.uk*

BRISTOL MULTI-FAITH FORUM *Contact: Lily Khandker (equalities officer for the Social Inclusion Team, City of Bristol). Tel: 0117 922 2358 Email: lily_khandker@bristol-city.gov.uk*

BRISTOL PARTNERSHIP launched the Green Capital initiative. Works together as a strategic body to tackle the complex issues no single agency can achieve on its own, aiming to secure a sustainable future that benefits current and future generations. *Contact: Programme coordinator, The Bristol Partnership, Room 401, The Council House, College Green, Bristol. BS1 5TR. Tel: 0117 922 2845 Email: robert.benington@bristol.gov.uk Project manager for Green Capital, Alex Minshull: 0117 922 4477 Promoting a low-carbon pledge. www.bristolpartnership.org/progress/activity/green_capital*

BUY FAIR This website guide is meant to provide clear and simple advice for public authorities wishing to purchase Fairtrade products. Get in touch for more info on Fairtrade in public procurement, or about the Buy Fair project. *Contact: ICLEI European Secretariat - Sustainable Procurement. Tel: +49 761 368 9200 Fax: +49 761 368 9249 Email: procurement@iclei-europe.org Web: www.buyfair.org*

C40 CITIES A group of the world's largest cities committed to tackling climate change. Cities consume 75% of the world's energy and produce 80% of its greenhouse gas

GLOBAL DIRECTORY 2007/8

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Bristol's carbon footprint

Bristol council aims to reduce the city's emissions by 60% by 2050. Changes are already under way, says Lorraine Hudson

● Bristol's carbon footprint is around 2.3 million tonnes of CO₂ per year or six tonnes per capita (not including emissions resulting from activities caused by Bristol residents - such as aviation - outside Bristol). The major sources are energy use in homes (37%), industrial and commercial energy use (35%) and road transport (18%).

In 2004, the city adopted its first Climate Protection and Sustainable Energy Strategy and under its auspices has:

● Installed biomass boilers that use waste wood from Bristol's parks. The first was installed at Blaise Nursery and won the Regen SW Green Energy Award for Best Renewable Energy Project in the South West. It's the first wood fuel station in the south west that also processes wood chip for other biomass boilers installed by the council.

● Invested in energy efficiency in people's homes, reducing CO₂ emissions by over 20,000 tonnes per year. Contact the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre (run by the Centre for Sustainable Energy) on 0800 512012 to find out about grants available to you.

● Promoted walking and cycling by providing facilities including the innovative Bike Shed project (in partnership with the Mud Dock Cafe on the Harbourside): secure your bike, take a shower and/or have your bike fixed in one congenial spot.

● Planned for a local in-vessel composting facility and other waste treatment plants to recycle household waste and remove the need to transport waste outside Bristol. Since March 2006, household rubbish recycled in Bristol has increased from 18.5% to 37%.

Every organisation in the city can play its

part in making Bristol a low-carbon city while still maintaining its high quality of life. The Bristol Partnership is inviting all organisations to pledge to take action and help make Bristol a Green Capital. Over 30 organisations are already on board, including the University of Bristol, Bristol Primary Care Trust, Soil Association, Sustrans, Knowle West Media Centre, Space Engineering, Bond Pearce LLP and Luckwell Primary School. Find out more!

Ffi: www.bristolpartnership.org/progress/activity/green_capital or call the Sustainability Team on 0117 922 4477



Biomass Boiler at Blaise Nursery, Bristol

a commitment to sustainable development. ICLEI works with local governments using international performance-based, results-oriented campaigns and programmes to implement the Local Action 21 mandate. **Contact:** ICLEI European Secretariat, Leopoldring 3, 79098 Freiburg, Germany. Tel: +49 76 136 8920 Fax: +49 76 136 89219 Email: iclei-europe@iclei-europe.org Web: www.iclei-europe.org

LOCAL AUTHORITY CARBON MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME (LACM) The Carbon Trust provides councils with technical and change management support and guidance to help them realise carbon emissions savings. **Contact:** Carbon Trust, 8th Floor, 3 Clement's Inn, London WC2A 2AZ. Tel: 0800 085 2005 Web: www.carbontrust.co.uk/carbon/la

LOCAL AUTHORITY, LOCAL AGENDA (LA) 21 ACTION PLANS The green consumer guide, in association with UK local government, have put together a comprehensive database. Tel: 0191 275 9777 Email: la21@greenconsumerguide.com Web: www.greenconsumerguide.com/la21/main.php

LOCAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION connects citizens with the 49 town councils, parish councils and parish meetings in Bath & North East Somerset. **Contact:** Peter Duppa-Miller, LCA, Beechcroft, Combe Hay, Bath BA2 7EG. Tel: 01225 837271 Fax: 01225 840583 Email: peter.duppa-miller@virgin.net

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (LGA) is a voluntary lobbying organisation whose members include county councils, metropolitan district councils, English unitary authorities, London boroughs, shire district councils and Welsh unitary authorities. Also represents fire authorities, police authorities, national park authorities and passenger transport authorities. **Contact:** Local Government House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ. Tel: 020 7664 3131 Fax: 020 7664 3030 Email: info@lga.gov.uk Web: www.local.gov.uk

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION EUROPEAN & INTERNATIONAL UNIT (previously Local Government International Bureau) provides information and support services to councillors and local authorities, and works with politicians internationally to strengthen lobbying work, bring international issues closer to local government and help councils operate more effectively in Westminster, Brussels and worldwide. **Contact:** Local Government House, London SW1P 3HZ. Tel: 020 7664 3100 Email: info@lga.gov.uk Web: international.lga.gov.uk

NOTTINGHAM DECLARATION Nearly 200 representatives of UK local government convened in Nottingham on 5 Dec 2005 to discuss what can be done about climate change. Since 2000, 200 councils have signed The Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change. By signing, they pledge to actively tackle climate change in your area and work with others to reduce emissions country-wide. Web: www.nottingham2005.org

NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL SUSTAINABILITY TEAM promotes social, economic and environmental well-being by supporting local groups and initiatives and encouraging action on sustainability in the North Somerset Council, North Somerset Partnership and the wider community.

Handy tips
to... Cut the
carbon

icount

MAKE YOUR MP CLIMATE FRIENDLY. Call for a stronger UK Climate Bill, demand an 80% cut in UK Carbon emissions. Info/toolkits from www.icount.org.uk/get_involved/291.asp. Tel: 020 7729 8732

emissions. Campaigning on a number of action points, including, most notably, the creation of procurement policies and alliances to accelerate the uptake of climate-friendly technologies and influence the market place. Tel: 020 7983 4627 Email: contact@c40cities.org Web: www.c40cities.org

CITIES FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION (CCP) Campaign assists cities to adopt policies and implement quantifiable measures to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality and enhance urban 'livability' and sustainability. More than 800 local governments participate in the CCP, integrating climate change mitigation into their decision-making processes. **Contact:** www.iclei.org/index.php?id=800

CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE Association of European cities and municipalities that have entered into a partnership with indigenous rainforest peoples. Almost 1,000 European cities, municipalities and district authorities have joined the Alliance since its foundation in 1990. This worldwide alliance is united by a common concern for the world's climate. The CCA views its initiative as part of efforts towards sustainable development and north-south equity. **Contact:** Climate Alliance European Secretariat, Galvanistr. 28, D-60486 Frankfurt, Germany. Tel: +49 6971 71390 Email: europe@klimabuendnis.org Web: www.klimabuendnis.org/english/updatelframeset.htm, www.local-climate-protection.eu

CLIMATE CHANGE OFFICERS: LOCAL AUTHORITIES
Bristol: The Sustainability Team, Bristol City Council, CREATE Centre, Smeaton Rd, Bristol, BS1 6XN. Tel: 0117 922 4477 Web: www.bristol.gov.uk/climatechange
Lorraine Hudson: 0117 922 4470 Email: Lorraine_Hudson@bristol-city.gov.uk

city.gov.uk B&NES Jane_Wildblood@bathnes.gov.uk
South Glos Jessica.Whiting@southglos.gov.uk (sustainability manager)
North Somerset Steve.Hodges@n-somerset.gov.uk (energy manager)

COMMONWEALTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT FORUM (CLGF) works to promote and strengthen effective democratic local government throughout the Commonwealth and to facilitate the exchange of good practice in local government structures and services. **Contact:** 59 Southwark St, London SE1 OAL. Tel: 020 7934 9690 Fax: 020 7934 9699 Email: info@clgf.org.uk Web: www.clgf.org.uk

GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR THE SOUTH WEST works with other government departments, regional agencies, local authorities and private and voluntary sectors towards a sustainable future for the region. Its Greener Events guide has received national recognition. **Contact:** 2 Rivergate, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6EH. Tel: 0117 900 1700 Fax: 0117 900 1900 Email: sucontactus@gosu.gsi.gov.uk Web: www.gosu.gov.uk

IMPROVEMENT & DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (IDeA) works for local government improvement using experienced councillors and senior officers, sharing good practice through the Beacons Scheme, and promoting the development of local government's management and workforce. **Contact:** IDeA, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill St, London EC1M 5LG. Tel: 020 7296 6880 Fax: 020 7296 6666 Email: ihelp@idea.gov.uk Web: www.idea.gov.uk

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES (ICLEI) is an association of more than 640 cities, towns, counties and their associations worldwide which have made

Contact: NSC Sustainability Team, 3rd Floor, Town Hall, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, BS21 1UT. Tel: 01275 884472 Fax: 01275 888627 Email: sustainability@n-somerset.gov.uk Web: www.n-somerset.gov.uk

PROCURA* is an initiative designed to help support public authorities across Europe in implementing Sustainable Procurement – and help promote their achievements. Established in 2004 by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability to help drive the mainstreaming of sustainable public procurement throughout Europe. Contact: Campaign manager Mark Hidson. Tel: +49 761 368 920 Email: procurement@iclei-europe.org Web: www.iclei-europe.org/index.php?id=procuraplus

SEDGEMOOR ACTION GROUP FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT (SAGE) Group of volunteers and local agencies working together to improve the quality of life as part of Local Agenda 21. Contact: Julie Cooper, Sedgemoor District Council, Bridgwater House, King Square, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 3AR. Tel: 01278 435425 Email: julie.cooper@sedgemoor.gov.uk

SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCIL EUROPEAN & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS FORUM Contact: Anne Poole (democratic support officer), Council Offices, Castle St, Thornbury, South Glos BS35 1HF. Tel: 01454 863013 Email: anne.poole@southglos.gov.uk Web: www.southglos.gov.uk

SOUTH WEST OF ENGLAND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (SWRDA) leads the development of a sustainable economy in the south west, investing to unlock the region's business potential. All its work is guided by the Regional Economic Strategy 2006-2015 (RES), which provides a shared vision for the development of the region's

EUROPEAN CONSTITUENCIES AND MEPs IN THE SOUTH WEST

The MEPs for the South West are Graham Booth and Roger Knapman.

Graham Booth MEP (UK Independence Party) Tel: 01626 830630 Fax: 01626 830619 Email: gbooth@ukip.org Web: www.grahamboothmep.co.uk

Giles Chichester MEP (Conservative) Tel: 01404 851106 Fax: 01404 850752 Email: giles@gileschichestermep.org.uk Web: www.gileschichestermep.org.uk

Glyn Ford MEP (Labour) Tel: 01594 827193 Fax: 01594 829 953 Email: mep@glynford.eu Web: www.glynford.com

Dr Caroline Jackson MEP (Conservative) Tel/Fax: 01409 221840 Fax: 01409 221841 Email: cjackson@europarl.eu.int Web: www.carolinejackson-mep.org.uk

Roger Knapman MEP (UK Independence Party) Tel: 01805 622587 Email: RKnapman@ukip.org Web: www.rogerknapmanmep.co.uk

Neil Parish MEP (Conservative) Tel: 01278 450778 Fax: 01278 431034 Email: neil.parish@european.europa.eu Web: www.neilparishmep.org.uk

Graham Watson MEP (Liberal Democrat) Tel: 01458 252 265 Fax: 01458 253430 Email: euro_office@cix.co.uk Web: www.grahamwatsonmep.org

economy. Contact: Ian Knight (head of operations), 100 Temple St, Bristol BS1 6AE. Tel: 0117 933 0200 Fax: 0117 927 6466 Email: enquiries@southwestra.org.uk Web: www.southwestra.org.uk

SOUTH WEST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY (SWRA) represents the whole range of opinion in the region, and draws its members from a variety of political parties, economic (including business and employees) and social partners, and environmental stakeholders. It is an important influence on housing, planning, transport, economic development and sustainable development in the region. Contact: Dennett House, 11 Middle St, Taunton TA1 1SH. Tel: 01823 270101 Email: swra@southwest-ra.gov.uk Web: www.southwest-ra.gov.uk

SUSTAINABILITY, CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE, GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR THE SOUTH WEST The focus on sustainability in the south west is managed, developed and coordinated by the Government Office for the South West. Our South West supports the strategic work of GOSW and regional partners in moving the region towards a more sustainable future but the views expressed on this website are not necessarily the views and opinions held by GOSW. Contact: 2 Rivergate, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6EH. Tel: 0117 900 1700 Management of www.oursouthwest.com: Phil Harding, senior policy adviser on climate change, resource efficiency and sustainable development: 0117 900 1801

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AWARDS Local Government Chronicle and Health Service Journal, in association with DEFRA and DCLG. Sponsoring the LGC and HSI Sustainable Communities Awards for the third year, to celebrate work across local partnerships delivering genuinely sustainable communities for all. Contact: Leah Stoker (event coordinator). Tel: 020 7728 5293 Email: leah.stoker@emap.com Web: www.scaawards.co.uk

UK LOCAL GOVERNMENT ALLIANCE FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT is a network of organisations working with local government, community organisations and NGOs in the UK to build the capacity of local government in poorer countries. Contact: c/o Local Government House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ. Tel: 020 7664 3102 Email: info@lg-alliance.org Web: www.lg-alliance.org

VISION 21 is a friendly, independent, not-for-profit organisation promoting a sustainable future for Gloucestershire. Provides support and information via their local network about sustainable development (the balancing of environmental, community and economic needs). Produces a number of publications organises regular events. Contact: 30 St George's Place, Cheltenham GL50 3JZ. Tel: 01242 224321 Email: office@vision21.org.uk Web: www.vision21.org.uk

WOKING is believed to be the first UK authority to have adopted a comprehensive climate change strategy on a scale that's likely to meet The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution targets of 60% reductions of CO₂ equivalent emissions by 2050 and 80% by 2100. Web: www.woking.gov.uk/environment/climatechangestrategy

National Government

CONSERVATIVE CENTRAL OFFICE Contact: Conservative Campaign Headquarters, 30 Millbank, London SW1P 4DP. Tel: 020 7222 9000 Web: www.conservative-party.org.uk

DEPARTMENT FOR BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE & REGULATORY REFORM combines functions of the former Department of Trade & Industry and the Better Regulation Executive. Fosters conditions for business success through competitive and flexible markets that create value for business, consumers and employees. Drives regulatory reform and works across government and with the regions to raise levels of UK productivity. It leads on making sustainable improvements in the economic performance of the regions. Contact: 1 Victoria St, London SW1H 0ET. Tel: 020 7215 5000 Email: enquiries@berr.gsi.gov.uk Web: www.berr.gov.uk

CLIMATE WITNESS



Vladilen Ivanovich Kavry
Chukotka region, Russia

Has lived all his life in the autonomous region of Chukotka at the far eastern edge of Russia, on the coast of the Chukchi Sea.

"For generations my people have hunted marine mammals and herded reindeer. We're used to the frozen conditions, strong winds and ice storms. In my lifetime I've noticed significant changes in the cycle of freezing and thawing. The ice-forming period now lasts for about a month, which is longer than before, and the ice breaks up a month earlier than before. Ice fields that used to last all summer melt and there's no more old ice left here. The polar bears cause problems because they come looking for food in the village and often attack the sled dogs. It wasn't unusual for 10 to visit the village in one day when foraging. We need to scare them away. We're pretty sure that more bears are here because of climate change. The bears depend on sea ice to get to their prey, mostly seals - without sea ice, their hunting ground is shrinking."

Ffi: www.panda.org/climatewitness



DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD & RURAL AFFAIRS (DEFRA) Contact: Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR. Tel: 08459 335577 Fax: 020 7238 2188 Email: helpline@defra.gis.gov.uk Web: www.defra.gov.uk What is the UK Government saying on climate change? Web: www.climatechallenge.gov.uk, www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange

DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DFID) Part of the UK government that manages Britain's aid to poor countries and works to get rid of extreme poverty. Headed by a cabinet minister, which reflects the importance the government places on reducing poverty around the world. UK headquarters (London and East Kilbride), 64 offices overseas, and over 2,500 staff, almost half of whom work abroad. Produces an excellent free quarterly magazine, Developments (www.developments.org.uk) and keynotes on climate change. Contact: 1 Palace St, London SW1E 5HE. Tel: 020 7023 0000/0845 300 4100 (UK only) Fax: 020 7023 0019 Email: enquiry@dfid.gov.uk Web: www.dfid.gov.uk

ELECTORAL REFORM SOCIETY researches and provides information on electoral systems, lobbies for electoral

GLOBAL DIRECTORY 2007/8

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Poor relations

Bristol East MP Kerry McCarthy asks how we can help the world's poorer countries prepare for climate change

● The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has launched 13 flash appeals this year, 12 of which have been related to weather. The emergencies have included severe flooding in Ghana, Uganda, Zambia, Sudan, Mexico and Pakistan, leaving millions of homes and acres of crops submerged; serious drought in Swaziland and Lesotho; and cyclones and hurricanes in Mozambique, Madagascar and Nicaragua. The world's poorest have fewer strategies to mitigate the wide range of climatic stresses, making them highly vulnerable to the direct and indirect impacts of climatic change.

Climate change is one of the most important challenges facing our generation, and it's the world's poorest – those least responsible for the problem – who are proving to be affected most. In Africa, for instance, carbon dioxide emissions are just over one-fifth of a tonne per person per year, while the average European produces more than eight tonnes and an American more than 20 tonnes.

Avoiding the issue of global warming when talking about development is not an option. As Parliamentary Private Secretary in the

Department for International Development (DFID), I'm really pleased that DFID is leading the way in responding to these challenges and is now focusing on efforts to enable poor countries to prepare for climate change. DFID is spending £24m over five years in the Climate Change and Adaptation in Africa Programme (CCAA), which works to improve the capacity of African countries to adapt to climatic changes. Without such efforts to prevent and prepare for these impacts, the future would be increasingly bleak for Africa.

We can't halt technological progress in the developing world. It would be wrong to do so when we've benefited so much from scientific and industrial advances ourselves. So I support very much the principle of 'contraction and convergence', whereby we accept that, as developing countries will inevitably increase their share of carbon emissions as their economies grow, we have a responsibility to reduce ours. But we also need to do what we can to ensure that economic growth in Africa and elsewhere is sustainable – by sharing new environmental technologies, encouraging and investing in Fairtrade producers and promoting sustainable agriculture.

Ffi: call 0117 939 9901, email: mccarthyk@parliament.uk, web: www.kerrymccarthymp.org



Business as usual in Dhaka, despite the heavy floodwater

LABOUR SOUTH WEST is building a future for the south west. *Contact:* 1 Newfoundland Court, Newfoundland St, Bristol BS2 9AP *Tel:* 0117 942 1900 *Fax:* 0117 924 6799 *Email:* southwest@new.labour.org.uk *Web:* www.laboursouthwest.labour.co.uk

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS believe that the role of the state is to to disperse power, foster diversity and nurture creativity and so enable all citizens to contribute fully to their communities and take part in the decisions that affect their lives. *Contact:* 4 Cowley St, London SW1P 3NB. *Tel:* 020 7222 7999 *Email:* info@libdems.org.uk *Web:* www.libdems.org.uk

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE works to strengthen international peace and stability and defend the UK and its interests. *Contact:* Secretary of State for Defence, The Ministerial Correspondence Unit, Floor 5, Zone A, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB. *Web:* www.mod.uk

PARLIAMENT is comprised of the House of Commons and the House of Lords. It scrutinises the government's work and debates and passes all new laws. *Contact:* Main Switchboard: 020 7219 3000 *Web:* www.parliament.uk *For records of MPs who have signed Early Day Motions:* *Web:* edmi.parliament.uk

PARLIAMENTARY ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT COMMITTEE Established in Nov 1997 to consider, audit and report on the contribution of all government departments and non-departmental public bodies to environmental protection and sustainable development. *Contact:* Room 118 & 119, 7 Millbank, House of Commons, London SW1P 3JA. *Tel:* 020 7219 5776/6150 *Email:* eacom@parliament.uk *Web:* www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/environmental_audit_committee.cfm

VACHER DOD PUBLISHING The leading provider of complete information on the people and institutions that make up the UK Parliaments and Assemblies, Civil Service and EU, from in-depth biographical reference to the subscription service dodonline. *Tel:* 020 7091 7633 *Email:* info@dodonline.co.uk *Web:* www.dodonline.co.uk

Europe

COUNCIL OF EUROPE is not part of the European Union but an international organisation in its own right. Its headquarters are in Strasbourg and its main role is to strengthen democracy, human rights, and the rule of law throughout its member states. Although the 27 member states of the EU are all members of the Council of Europe, both organisations are quite distinct. *Contact:* Avenue de l'Europe, 67075 Strasbourg Cedex, Strasbourg, France *Tel:* +33 (0)3 8841 2033 *Email:* infopoint@coe.int *Web:* www.coe.int

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION is the Union's legislative body. For a wide range of Community issues, it exercises that legislative power in co-decision with the European Parliament. The Council is composed of one representative at ministerial level from each of the 27 member states. It meets at least twice a year (generally in June and Dec) and members are politically accountable to their national parliaments. *Contact:* 175 rue de la Loi, B-1048 Brussels, Belgium. *Tel:* +32 2 281 5650 *Fax:* +32 2 281 4977 *Email:* public.info@consilium.europa.eu *Web:* www.consilium.europa.eu

EUROPEAN COMMISSION is the unelected executive of the EU. The President of the Commission is appointed by the governments of the member states, and then approved by the European Parliament. This dual legitimacy gives the president political authority, which s/he exercises in a variety of ways. There are 27 commissioners who have offices, called representations, in all member states. These are in London, Belfast, Cardiff and Edinburgh in the UK, where there's also a networked information centre. The You Control Climate Change Campaign is at www.ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/campaign/index_en.htm *Contact:* Main Office, Rue de la Loi, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium. *Tel:* +32 2 299 1111 *Email:* Web:ec.europa.eu *Head of UK Representation:* Reijo

reform in Britain, advises on electoral matters worldwide and conducts ballots. *Contact:* Ken Ritchie (chief executive), Electoral Reform Society, Thomas Hare House, 6 Chancel St, London SE1 0UJ. *Tel:* 020 7928 1622 *Email:* ers@electoral-reform.org.uk *Web:* www.electoral-reform.org.uk

FOREIGN & COMMONWEALTH OFFICE (FCO) works for UK interests in a safe, just and prosperous world. They do this with some 16,000 staff, based within the UK and in their overseas network of over 230 diplomatic offices. *Contact:* Secretary of State for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs, Foreign & Commonwealth Office, King Charles St, London SW1 2AH. *Tel:* 020 7008 1500 *Web:* www.fco.gov.uk

GREEN PARTY aims to create a socially just, equitable and sustainable society by focusing its efforts primarily, though not exclusively, through the electoral system. The Green Vision is an expression of how to achieve these long-term goals. *Contact:* 1a Waterlow Rd, London N19 5NJ. *Tel:* 020 7272 4474 *Fax:* 020 7272 6653 *Email:* office@greenparty.org.uk *Web:* www.greenparty.org.uk

HOUSE OF COMMONS INFORMATION OFFICE answers enquiries about the House from the public. A range of services and publications is available on the Parliamentary website. *Contact:* House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. *Tel:* 020 7219 4272 *Email:* hcinfo@parliament.uk *Web:* www.parliament.uk

HOUSE OF LORDS INFORMATION OFFICE acts as a central service for answering queries from Members, staff, the press and the public. *Contact:* House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW. *Tel:* 020 7219 5353 *Email:* hlinfo@parliament.uk *Web:* www.parliament.uk

LABOUR PARTY A democratic socialist party. It believes that by the strength of our common endeavour we achieve more than we achieve alone, so as to create for each of us the means to realise our true potential and for all of us a community in which power, wealth and opportunity are in the hands of the many, not the few. *Contact:* 39 Victoria St, London SW1H 0HP. *Tel:* 08705 900200 *Email:* info@newlabour.org.uk *Web:* www.labour.org.uk

Kemppinen, 8 Storey's Gate, London SW1P 3AT. Tel: 020 7973 1992 Fax: 020 7973 1900 Email: reijo.kemppinen@ec.europa.eu Web: www.cec.org.uk

EUROPEAN COMMISSION HUMANITARIAN AID OFFICE (ECHO) Its main function is to launch operations designed to meet immediate humanitarian needs. It's in charge of implementing European Community decisions granting humanitarian aid to victims of natural disasters or armed conflict in non-member countries. *Contact: www.ec.europa.eu/echo/index_en.htm*

EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR TRADE is responsible for the EU's external trade policy and negotiating EU trade policy on behalf of Europe's 27 member states. Peter Mandelson is the current European Commissioner for Trade. *Contact: 200 rue de la Loi, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium. Tel: +32 2298 5615 Fax: +32 2299 6087 Web: www.europa.eu.int/comm/commission_barroso/mandelson/index_en.htm*

EUROPEAN COUNCIL brings together the heads of state or government of the European Union and the president of the Commission. It's not legally an institution of the European Union, but it coordinates, arbitrates and disentangles difficult questions and defines the general political guidelines of the EU. Decisions taken at the European Council meetings represent a major impetus in defining the general political guidelines of the EU. *Contact: Web: consilium.europa.eu/european-council*

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT is the only directly elected body of the European Union, the largest multinational and democratically elected international parliament in the world. It has 785 MEPs who exercise democratic control across 27 member states of the EU, on behalf of its 492 million citizens. *Contact: UK Office: Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AA. Tel: 020 7227 4300 Fax: 020 7227 4302/4301 (library) Email: eplondon@europarl.eu.int Web: www.europarl.org.uk*

EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY TOWARDS EQUAL PARTICIPATION OF PEOPLE (EUROSTEP) provides information and comment on EU development and cooperation. *Contact: 115 rue Stevin, B-1000, Brussels, Belgium. Tel: +32 2 231 1659 Email: admin@eurostep.org Web: www.eurostep.org*

EUROPE'S FORUM ON INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION (EUFORIC) Navigating Europe's international cooperation and development policies and practices. *Contact: Cortenstraat 4, 6211 HT Maastricht, The Netherlands. Tel: +31 43 3285 180 Fax: +31 43 3285 392 Email: info@euforic.org Web: www.euforic.org*

SOUTH WEST UK BRUSSELS OFFICE was established in April 2001 with the aim of providing a unified voice for the south west in Europe. *Contact: 86 Avenue Michel Ange, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium Tel: +32 2 734 4110 Fax: +32 2 734 4434 Email: info@southwestuk.be Web: www.southwestukbrusselsoffice.com*

United Nations

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT Multilateral disarmament-negotiating forum of the international community. *Contact: Jerzy Zaleski, senior political affairs officer, Department for Disarmament Affairs, Geneva Branch, United Nations, Palais des Nations, Room C.119, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. Email: jzaleski@unog.ch Web: www.unog.ch/disarmament*

UN ASSOCIATION OF THE UK campaigns for a strong, credible and effective UN. *Contact: UNA-UK, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL. Tel: 020 7766 3444 Email: info@una.org.uk Web: www.una-uk.org*

UN CONFERENCE ON TRADE & DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD) promotes the development-friendly integration of developing countries into the world economy. *Contact: Palais des Nations, 8-14 Avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. Tel: +41 22 917 5809 Fax: +41 22 917 0051 Email: info@unctad.org Web: www.unctad.org*

UN ECONOMIC & SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC) was established under the UN Charter as the principal organ to coordinate economic, social, and related work of the 14 UN specialised agencies, functional commissions and five regional commissions. *Contact: The General Assembly, The Security Council, UN Headquarters, First Avenue at 46th St, New York, NY 10017, USA. Email: ecosocinfo@un.org Web: www.un.org/ecosoc*

UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP) provides leadership and encourages partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations. *Contact: UNEP/Regional Office for Europe, International Environment House, 6th Floor A & B Blocks, 11-13 Chemin des Anemones, 1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland. Tel: +41 22 917 8279 Fax: +41 22 917 8024 Email: roe@unep.ch Web: www.unep.ch/roe UNEP Climate Change info: www.unep.org/themes/climatechange*

UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) has two basic and closely related aims: to protect refugees and seek ways to help them restart their lives in a normal environment. *Contact: UNHCR, Strand Bridge House, 138-142 Strand, London, WC2R 1HH. Tel: 020 7759 8090 Fax: 020 7759 8119 Email: gbrloea@unhcr.org Web: www.unhcr.org.uk*

UK MISSION TO THE UN (NEW YORK) offers a wide range of information about the UK's activities at the UN and support of its different activities, bodies and agencies. *Contact: Sir John Sawyers, UK Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN in New York, 1 Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, 885 2nd Avenue, New York, NY 10017, USA. Tel: +1 212 745 9200. Fax: +1 212 745 9316. Email: uk@un.int Web: www.ukun.org*

UN REGIONAL INFORMATION CENTRE FOR WESTERN EUROPE services western Europe and provides information and documentation to the countries of the region. *Contact: Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 155, Block C2, 7th Floor, 1040 Brussels, Belgium. Tel: +32 2788 8484. Email: info@unric.org Web: www.unric-europe.org*

UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) is the largest organisation in the world dedicated to improving the lives of children, their families and communities. *Contact: UK Committee for UNICEF, Africa House, 64-78 Kingsway, London WC2B 6NB. Tel: 0870 606 3377/020 7405 5592 Email: helpdesk@unicef.org.uk Web: www.unicef.org.uk*

International Organisations

COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT Main intergovernmental agency of the Commonwealth, facilitating consultation and cooperation among member governments and countries. It's responsible to member governments collectively. *Contact: Marlborough House, Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5HX. Tel: 020 7747 6500 Fax: 020 7930 0827 Email: info@commonwealth.int Web: www.thecommonwealth.org*

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO) Tripartite UN agency that brings together governments, employers and workers of its member states in common action to promote decent work throughout the world. *Contact: 4 route des Morillons, CH-1211, Geneva 22, Switzerland Tel: +41 (0) 22 799 6111 7828 Fax: +44 (0) 22 798 8685 Email: ilo@ilo.org Web: www.ilo.org*

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF) International organisation of 185 member countries that was established to promote international monetary cooperation, exchange stability and orderly exchange arrangements. *Contact: Headquarters, 700 19th St NW, Washington DC 20431, USA. Tel: +1 202 623 7300 Fax: +1 202 623 6278 Email: publicaffairs@imf.org Web: www.imf.org*

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION & DEVELOPMENT (OECD) uses its wealth of information on a broad range of topics to help governments foster prosperity and fight poverty through economic growth and financial stability, helping to ensure that the



Under the weather

Be prepared, says Alex Webb from the South West Climate Change Impacts Partnership

● Recent events like the 2003 summer heatwave, Boscastle floods in 2004 and Gloucestershire floods in 2007 highlight the impact of extreme weather events and how unprepared we are. But events like these are only likely to occur more frequently in the future.

Climate change is happening now. And while most people in the south west have heard of climate change, many people don't know how it will affect their jobs, homes, lifestyles and environment. It's predicted that the south west will experience:

- Hotter summers: by the 2050s, average temperatures may be as much as 3.5° C warmer in summer.
- Wetter winters and drier summers: winters are expected to be 5-20% wetter by the 2050s, with summers 15-30% drier.
- More extreme events: heavy rainfall in winter will become more common, twice as frequent by 2080.
- Warmer winters: snowfalls will decrease significantly.
- Rising sea levels - by as much as 80cm by the 2080s. And extreme sea levels could occur 20 times more frequently than at present.
- Warmer sea temperatures.

Yet climate change doesn't need to be an overwhelming prospect - it presents us with both opportunities and challenges. Here are some things you can do to adapt to climate change:

- Use water more efficiently: install a water hippo in all toilet cisterns and, with increasing pressure on water resources expected in summer, a water butt in the garden to collect rainwater (www.swwater.co.uk).
- Plant your garden with climate change in mind: select varieties that are drought tolerant, plant trees in your garden for shade, and avoid paving over lawns - they help to slow water run-off in heavy rain (www.rhs.org.uk/research/climate_change).
- Grow your own fruit and veg (or buy locally grown, seasonal produce). As the climate warms, try growing Mediterranean crops like peaches, bell peppers and olives.
- Protect yourself from exposure to the sun, especially with increased opportunities for an outdoor lifestyle, by wearing sunscreen to protect against skin cancer.
- Prepare for the possibility of extreme weather events. Call the Environment Agency's Flood Line (0845 988 1188) to see if you're at risk and how to prepare. (www.environment-agency.gov.uk).

Efi: The South West Climate Change Impacts Partnership (SWCCIP) was established in 2001 to 'investigate, inform and advise on the impacts of climate change'. Web: www.oursouthwest.com/climate, email: swccip@environment-agency.gov.uk