

Scotland and Northern Ireland Conference on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Monday 20th October 2008
St Andrew's In The Square, Glasgow

Getting better value from SEA

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 extended the European Union SEA Directive (2001/42/EC). The SEA Act intended to put 'Scotland ahead of Europe in the protection we afford the environment'.

Increasing numbers of public sector bodies are now required to assess the environmental effects of their plans and programmes. But the requirement to do SEA has environmental, social and economic implications for the public sector.

This conference examines these implications by bringing together a range of expert perspectives

– from environmental lawyers, local authority officers, Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and academics – to discuss how better value can be gained from SEA so that its environmental protection objectives can be met.

The implications for Scotland of potential legal challenges to SEA are evaluated in light of the recent High Court rulings in Northern Ireland. Whilst sustainable development's role as a 'guiding principle' for SEA is considered.

This conference provides an opportunity to make a vital contribution to the debate about

the efficiency and effectiveness of SEA. This will encourage further collaboration in and development of environmental protection and regulation.

The David Livingstone Centre for Sustainability would like to thank the following for their sponsorship of this event:



Monday 20th October 2008
St Andrew's in the Square, No 1 St Andrew's Square
Calton, Glasgow G1 5PP

Registration and refreshments: 10:15 – 10:45; close 16:00.
 St Andrew's in the Square is located in Glasgow's Merchant City,
 Good public transport links serve the area.



Getting better value from SEA P R O G R A M M E

Programme as of 3rd September subject to change. For further updates please visit www.ce.strath.ac.uk/sea

- 10:15 Registration and refreshments
- 10:45 Welcome and introduction by the chair *Elsa João*
Senior Lecturer
University of Strathclyde

Session one:

The impact of legal challenges on SEA

Scotland's commitment to the benefits of SEA is reflected in: the establishment of the SEA Gateway; and the extension of the scope of SEA via the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. This session reviews the outcomes of the Scottish extension of SEA and how Scottish local authorities have integrated this legal requirement into their activities. This is discussed in light of the potential for legal challenges on SEA and their implications. In particular the High Court ruling on the SEAs of two development plans in Northern Ireland.

- 11:00 **Scotland's commitment to the benefit of SEA**
William Carlin
Scottish Government
SEA Gateway Manager
- 11:20 **SEA: A view from Northern Ireland**
Professor Sharon Turner
Professor of Environmental Law, Queen's University Belfast

- 11:40 **SEA challenges perspectives and potential**
Graham Esson and Ciara Duffy, The Environment Service, Perth and Kinross Council
- 12:00 Questions and discussion
- 12:30 Lunch

Session two:

SEA and environmental justice

Sustainable development is cited as the objective of the SEA Directive. The previous Scottish Government combined their commitment to sustainable development with one to secure 'environmental justice for all of Scotland's communities'. Theoretical debate suggests that the concept of environmental justice could provide a better guide to SEA than sustainable development. This workshop explores this prospect.

- 13:30 **Workshop session introduced by**
Anna McLauchlan
Doctoral Researcher
University of Strathclyde

Session three:

SEA in action

This final session considers the frameworks in which SEA operates. The evolution of the term sustainable development and how different interpretations of this term can be used to justify certain action or inaction is reviewed. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is the only UK Non-Governmental Organisation to have staff dedicated to environmental assessment policy and practice

– how the RSPB are engaged with SEA and the value that the organisation places on this process is highlighted. Challenges to SEA are likely to arise in relation to land use planning. How SEA fits with recent Scottish planning reforms is examined.

- 14:30 **Modern interpretations of sustainable development**
Andrea Ross, Senior Lecturer
The Law School
University of Dundee
- 14:50 **Why does the RSPB care about SEA?**
Mariam Ali
Planning Policy Officer
(Environmental Assessment)
RSPB
- 15:10 **Planning reforms in Scotland**
Professor Mark Poustie
The Law School
University of Strathclyde
- 15:30 Questions and discussion
- 16:00 Close of conference and refreshments

Conference Report

A report summarising the speakers' presentations, questions, and analysis of the information gathered from the workshops will be emailed to delegates after the event. The report, together with slides of the speakers presentations, will also be available online from www.ce.strath.ac.uk/sea



Why you should attend this conference?

- To attain an understanding of the Scottish and wider UK implementation of SEA.
- To gain a comprehensive overview of the implications of the Northern Irish legal challenge on SEA.
- To hear a wide variety of expert perspectives on SEA – from environmental lawyers, local authority officers, NGO's and academics.
- To make a vital contribution to the discussion about the effectiveness of SEA, particularly in Scotland.
- To reflect on the past four years of SEA implementation and to look forward to further development in environmental protection and regulation.

Who should attend?

Any person with an interest in strategic environmental assessment, including but not limited to:

- Public agencies
- Local authority officers
- Environmental consultants
- Environmental lawyers
- Non-government organisations
- Policy makers, researchers and academics

CPD: Depending on your learning outcomes you may be able to claim continuing professional development (CPD) points by attending this event.

REGISTRATION AND BOOKING

Conference fees

(please tick)

Full rate ☐ £50.00

Supported rate* ☐ £10.00

*Unwaged; students; community councils; unpaid volunteers and community action groups

Delegate details

First name _____

Surname _____

Job title _____

Organisation _____

Dietary/Access requirements _____

Email _____

Payment options

Cheque/Bank Draft

Payable to **University of Strathclyde** in Pounds sterling drawn on a British Bank.

Credit/Debit Card:

Charges – 1.2% Visa/Mastercard, 3.30% Amex, 2.95% Diners Club.

No charges for debit cards

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Register online:

www.ce.strath.ac.uk/sea



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Booking Form Return Options

Email this form to us:

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SEA Conference
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Fees and venue:

The fees for this conference cover all written materials, lunch and refreshments. A receipt will be emailed to you acknowledging your booking.

Substitution/cancellations:

Upon receipt of your booking form and payment, your place will be confirmed. Unfortunately we will be unable to refund fees but a substitute delegate can be named at any time before the programme begins without charge.

Join our mailing list

(please tick)

Please inform me of future events hosted by DLCS and the Department. ☐

