

N S C A

A N N U A L
R E V I E W



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environmental protection, improvement, innovation

THIS YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

- First CLARCC conference on local authority response to climate change
- Success for NSCA's car energy labelling campaign
- New research on environmental impacts of transport biofuels
- New NSCA guidance on air quality and development control launched
- First national conference on flooding
- Research and stakeholder policy workshop on definition of waste
- Hosted a stakeholder workshop on Air Quality Strategy review for Defra
- First two-day workshop on land contamination
- New research on roadside emission testing
- Launch of EU-funded ozone research project
- Successful Noise Action Week
- New NSCA Chief Executive – Martin Joseph
- NSCA Scotland appoints first Policy Officer

NEXT YEAR'S PRIORITIES

- Membership – complete review of services and direction of NSCA to ensure we continue to meet the needs of current and potential members
- EU Thematic Strategy on Air Quality – understand the implications for UK air quality
- Local Transport Plans – integration of air quality and climate change planning
- AQ and Development Control – provision of training and revised guidance for local authorities
- Climate Change – influence national policy and support local authority action in responding to climate change effects
- Flood Risk Management – establish network with CIRIA and National Flood Forum to provide support and information for local authorities
- Noise Action Week 2006 – building on the success of 2005 NAW to provide support and encouragement to bodies wishing to participate
- Transport – to lobby for stronger fiscal incentives or cleaner, low carbon cars and for EU CO₂ emission standards for cars



Martin Joseph, formerly of Defra and ODPM, took over as NSCA's Chief Executive in February 2005

NSCA IN PROFILE

NSCA is the environmental protection charity that brings together organisations across the public, private and voluntary sectors to promote a balanced and innovative approach to understanding and solving environmental problems.

NSCA is both active and influential in the fields of air quality, noise, land quality, local environment management, and industrial regulation. It is a registered charity with over 100 years' experience of environmental campaigning, public information provision, producing educational resources and policy formulation.

Its membership includes over 350 corporate bodies – business and environmental organisations, and 60% of UK local government – in addition to individual members.

HONORARY OFFICERS

President: Professor Richard Macrory CBE
Immediate Past President: Mr. John Speirs CBE, LVO
Vice-President: Professor The Lord Hunt of Chesterton CB, FRS

Honorary Vice-Presidents:

Professor Dame Barbara Clayton DBE
Sir Ken Collins
The Earl of Cranbrook DSc, DL
Dr. Tom Crossett
John Edmonds
Nigel Haigh OBE
Brian Hanna
Dr. Caroline Jackson MEP
Air Commodore John Langston CBE
Professor The Lord Lewis KT, FRS
Sir John Mason CB, DSc, FRS
Rt Hon Michael Meacher MP
Richard Mills OBE
Lord Nathan
Steven Norris
Derek Osborn CB
Len Poole BEM, JP
Sir Hugh Rossi
Sir Crispin Tickell GCMG, KCVO
Gareth Wardell

NATIONAL COUNCIL

Chair: Calum MacDonald
Immediate Past Chair of Council: Mrs Jane Light
Deputy Chair of Council: Cllr F. John Smith

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair: Paul Cooney
Deputy Chair: Kevin Leyden

Honorary Treasurer: Keith Horton

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

I have been lucky enough to visit some of the NSCA Divisions during my time as Chairman of Council, and I am always impressed by the hard work which our members, all environmental protection specialists, put in to developing the work of the Society. It is thanks to you all that NSCA enjoys a reputation as an environmental organisation which speaks with real authority.

When the Divisional Secretaries met recently in Brighton we identified a number of areas where we continue to lead the field – in air quality, noise, and increasingly in contaminated land.

This year has also seen us take important steps to consolidate our work on waste, and our Vice Presidents Michael Meacher and Lord Hunt hosted the first meeting of CLARCC – the new standing Conference on Local Authority Response to Climate Change. We also tackled climate change through a conference on flooding, and plan a further one on this and one on renewable energy.

Against this successful expansion, we have to recognise that new developments require new resources. If we want NSCA to continue its key role in UK environmental policy and practice, we need to identify the income to support our work. During this year I welcomed a new Chief Executive, Martin Joseph, who is giving top priority to securing a solid basis for NSCA's finances. I am looking to all the membership to help him – by recruiting more

members, developing new research projects, extending our events, and identifying new sponsors and donors.

We have an exciting programme of work which is vital for this country, and ultimately the planet which sustains us. This can only happen with your continued support.



Calum MacDonald, Chairman, NSCA 2003-05

NSCA President, Richard Macrory and Chairman, Calum MacDonald joined staff and Divisional representatives at their meeting in June. Pictured l-r (back row): Tim Brown, Peter Mitchell (HO), Neil Turner (NW), Phil Gervat (SE), Derek Reynolds (WM), Pete Fryer (SW), Martin Joseph, Brian Anderson (Y); (seated): Terry Jones (Wales), Len Poole (N), Richard Macrory, Calum MacDonald, Lorraine Tulloch (Sc)



For NSCA the year 2004-5 has seen another significant expansion in the policy content of our work. First, as signalled in last year's review, we established a Standing Conference on Local Authority Response to Climate Change with the aim of providing a focal point for local authorities to discuss technical measures and political initiatives to help councils address climate change more effectively. Secondly, increasing areas of the UK are now at risk from flooding and NSCA joined with the National Flood Forum to organise a conference bringing together all the various parties involved in planning for floods and dealing with the aftermath. As a result of feedback from the Conference NSCA has set up a working group to develop its work in this area and a further conference is planned.

However as this Report shows, activity in our "traditional" areas of interest – air quality, noise, waste and land contamination – has not diminished; NSCA continues to provide a focal point for noise policy, which this year saw Noise Action Day expanded to Noise Action Week; in addition NSCA's programme of Spring and Autumn Workshops on noise, air quality and land quality continue to provide a valuable discussion forum for policymakers and practitioners.

AIR QUALITY

NSCA's annual air quality Spring Workshops have for some years now provided a valuable forum for the UK's air quality experts to discuss current concerns and new developments and this year's workshop was no exception. Among the presentations was one by Matti Vainio of the Commission's Environment DG who outlined his expectations for the European Thematic Strategy on Air Quality which would indicate how the air quality management directive and three daughter directives can be streamlined and taken forward for the next few years. Proposals are thought to include the introduction of exposure reduction targets and a PM_{2.5} particle standard. Publication of the final document was originally anticipated for June, but political arguments and concerted industry lobbying led to delays and much uncertainty. By August, however, following pressure from NSCA and other environmental groups, the process was back on track and publication imminent, though the degree to which the proposals have been watered down as a result of political compromise remains to be seen.

NSCA also worked closely with the European Environment Bureau (EEB) throughout the year, including helping to represent the NGO network on the Café (Clean Air for Europe) Steering Group and contributing to a snapshot review of the implementation of the first air quality daughter directive in member states. Working through EEB-UK, we lobbied the UK government during its presidency of the EU, raising the profile of air quality, climate and waste management issues.



Speakers at the Spring AQ Workshop included (L-R) Duncan Laxen (AQ Consultants), Matti Vainio (EU Commission), Davide Minotti (Defra), and Steve Moorcroft (NSCA AQ Committee Chairman & AQ Consultants)

In parallel developments, Defra and the Devolved Administrations started the process of reviewing the UK's own National Air Quality Strategy and, in line with NSCA lobbying, preparatory work has focused on new measures and implementation, rather than on revising the objectives themselves. NSCA hosted a stakeholder workshop in May to support this process, providing an opportunity for Defra to explain their latest thinking and for air quality stakeholders to get involved well in advance of formal consultation. The Air Quality Committee has engaged Defra in subsequent discussions, attempting to clarify key areas of concern before publication of a final draft strategy in late 2005/early 2006.

At the local level, the second round of local transport plans came into full swing. The new regime and funding formula present opportunities for local authorities to join up air quality action planning and local transport plans more effectively. In support of this, NSCA held a session on air quality indicators for local transport plans at our spring workshop.

The launch of NSCA's AQ guidance document, on development control and air quality management coincided with publication of ODPM's own guidance, PPS23: Planning and Pollution Control. It was gratifying to see good consistency between the two documents. This relatively new policy area, is evolving rapidly and already plans are in place to update the guidance. This update is especially important since, in the absence of any equivalent statutory guidance, the report is increasingly finding legal application within planning disputes.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The focus of NSCA climate change work this year was the inaugural conference on local authority response to climate change (CLARCC). Speaking at the event, former Environment Minister Lord Whitty, pulled few punches. He stressed the extraordinary challenge, which climate change represents and he lay down the gauntlet to local authorities to use the powers available to them. Afternoon sessions focused on policy initiatives and technical tools available to support these efforts.



NSCA President, Richard Macrory, seen here with Cllr Jim McBriar, Chairman of the Northern Ireland Division, at the Division's AGM, summarised the work he had been carrying out on behalf of NGOs in NI on the structure and delivery of environmental governance in the region.

The program for the conference, which was chaired by NSCA vice-presidents Michael Meacher and Lord Hunt, was developed in association with Defra, EST, the Carbon Trust, LGA and COSLA. It was well attended by representatives from national and local government as well as by

academics and consultants. A follow up is planned for February 2006.

Clearly climate change is a large field with many actors, and it is important that NSCA recognises its unique strengths and establishes a useful niche, if it is to continue to add value to the debate. Our June conference provided a launch pad for further work. Since then discussions with a range of policy experts and local authority officers have helped shape our plans and, while the outcome of the Government's review of the Climate Change Program will largely influence our future activities, a number of priorities are emerging:

- Building support for statutory obligations for local authorities on climate change and for the inclusion of climate change in the central-local government shared priorities.
- Embedding action on climate change into current and future performance appraisal frameworks for local authorities.
- Explicit designation of Climate Champions (members/senior officers) for each local authority.

While much has been said about the integration of local air quality management and climate change concerns, it is harder to identify practical examples of where and how this has been achieved. NSCA continues its interest in this area and is considering project opportunities. For example, one mechanism to support more integrated decision making is through the wider development of local level emissions inventories. NSCA is pursuing a possible collaboration with NETCEN to develop guidance on this topic.

Another important development will be the publication of the Air Quality Expert Group's next report, 'Air Quality and Climate Change' anticipated for late 2005/early 2006. NSCA's Air Quality Committee looks forward to reviewing this work.

OZONE

NSCA is coordinating research on ozone pollution in South East England and northern France. The Air Rives Manche – Ozone (ARMO) project is funded by the EU Interreg Fund, BOC Foundation for the Environment and Environment Agency and aims to investigate the formation and distribution of ozone across regions on either side of the Channel, explore health, ecological and agricultural impacts and provide mixed media information to the public, raising awareness and improving the forecasting of ozone pollution incidents. To date one ozone monitoring station is in place and a second is undergoing installation. In addition 10 micro-analyzers are operating throughout East and West Sussex, five of these are running on solar power. Ozone diffusion tubes are also being deployed at 40 different sites. A pilot website has been published (www.arm-ozone.org), and a more detailed site is under development. Educational work has been initiated including design of a school project, which involves growing ozone sensitive plants. Various publicity and promotional activities are underway. The project is planned to run until early 2007.

LAND QUALITY

The Land Quality Committee has developed and built upon its work over the past year and continues to thrive under the guidance of its Chair, Judith Lowe and its joint Vice Chairs Ann Barker and David Rudland. The Committee itself continues to evolve and its members include many of the UK's leading land quality professionals including local authority officers, consultants, academics, industrial representatives, consultants and representatives of the Environment Agencies and Defra. The Committee is truly national in its representation with members from England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The Committee has continued to monitor progress and issues relating to the implementation of the Part IIA contaminated land regime including brownfield development, the development of Soil Guideline Values and performance indicators for contaminated land, emerging soil policy and the development of



Members of NSCA's South East Division, and the ARMO team visited the Ozone monitoring site near Lewes, East Sussex, in September 2005.

legislation related to radioactively contaminated land – the Committee is currently preparing its response to the Government’s final consultation document on the latter issue. The Committee also maintains a close watch on implementation of EU Directives, with particular interest in the Water Framework and Environmental Liability Directives.

Following last year’s commitment to focus on soil quality the Committee has formed a Soil Sub-Group which is chaired by Andrew Hursthouse; members include some of the leaders from soil policy and soil science from across the UK. The group is currently developing its response to the European Thematic Strategy on Soil Consultation.

The training and seminar programme for land quality has gone from strength to strength over the last year. The Land Quality Update held in February attracted over 150 delegates and it is complemented by a two-day Autumn Workshop focusing on the practical aspects of managing contaminated sites across the UK.

WASTE AND RESOURCES

The issues involved in the debate over what constitutes a waste and when a material should be considered as a resource have been discussed at EU and national level for a number of years. NSCA has continued its work in this field and has been looking at the development of solutions which will maintain a high level of environmental protection whilst ensuring that sustainable resource use can be developed and encouraged. A discussion paper “Waste and Resources – Seeking the Solutions” was the focus for the second meeting of NSCA’s Waste Contact Group in July 2005. At that meeting it was clear that government bodies are still awaiting the outcome of the European Thematic Strategy on Waste and Recycling (expected October 2005), before making any firm comment on the key issues the NSCA group is considering. Similarly stakeholders are awaiting UK developments such as Defra’s updating of Circular 11/94 (on waste management licensing) which has been delayed. More recently, NSCA has contributed to a Cabinet Office Better Regulation Task Force examination of the issues, and is currently gathering information for a further report which will identify the environmental, social and economic benefits of sensible materials reuse concentrating in particular on secondary products and recovered materials.

FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

The increasing incidence of flooding in various parts of the country and the need for local authorities (as well as the Environment Agencies) to plan for flood risks and to respond to the needs of the local community led NSCA to join with the National Flood Forum in a national conference particularly aimed at local authorities. The conference was well



Yorkshire Division members visit SITA Kirklees Ltd in May 2005

attended and identified a need for local authorities to be given more support on dealing with what is an increasing and complex problem, with many different aspects from planning and institutional arrangements to emergency response. As a result NSCA is to establish a Flood Management Committee, bringing together

all the various interests and to oversee the development of information materials for local authorities; a further conference is also planned for 2006.

NOISE

Noise Committee

During 2005 the NSCA Noise Committee has been restructured to allow specialists and practitioners to focus on developing UK noise policy and practice, and to allow more appropriate fora in which NSCA members can make a proper contribution to the development of emerging strategic approaches to noise. The Committee is now formed of two sub-committees – Neighbourhood Noise and Nuisance Committee, and the Ambient Noise Committee.

Neighbour Noise

During 2005 there has been a policy focus on neighbour nuisance – including noise – with the introduction of the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act, and the commencement of scoping work by Defra on a Neighbourhood Noise Strategy for England. NSCA is contributing to the developing strategy through continued active involvement in the UK Noise Forum, as well as providing significant input through involvement in the Stakeholder Working Group and the Noise Forum Conference. We are keen to ensure that the Strategy

- is integrated with the National Ambient Noise Strategy to ensure that all noise sources are explicitly included;
- provides a clear measurement and reporting system so that its effectiveness can be quantified;
- integrates noise into planning policies and procedures to ensure that it is considered in development proposals;
- provides an integrated approach to noise in the design, regulation and management of housing;
- provides effective alternatives to formal action, through mediation and counselling services.

To achieve these goals, there must be adequate funding, effective publicity and education, encouragement of partnership initiatives, and further research into technical, legislative and social remedies to noise problems. During the coming year, NSCA through our noise events, the Neighbour Noise and Nuisance Committee and public education work, will continue our constructive contribution to developing practical policies in this area.

Environmental Noise

The consultation paper on the transposition of the Environmental Noise Directive in England was issued in February 2005, and in its response NSCA expressed disappointment in the lack of support for the environmental agenda shown by the proposals but noted that the lateness of the consultation – 7 months after the deadline for implementation (18 July 2004) – made it unlikely that any significant changes would be made. A notable omission was the lack of reference to the National Ambient Noise Strategy. NSCA also expressed concern that – despite noise being a local issue – local authorities had not been designated as the competent authorities and that there were no proposals to produce consolidated maps covering road transport, industrial, rail and aviation noise, with the result that individual source maps could show as little as a quarter of the real noise climate in an area.

In August we welcomed the letting of the National Noise mapping contracts for roads, while restating the need for a strategic and inclusive policy framework for the management of the noise climate. This need has been further reinforced by the consultation on night flights at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted. In our response, we highlighted our concerns that aviation continues to be treated as a special case with no acknowledgement of the wider requirements of EU policy on noise or, indeed, of global impacts of aviation.

Planning Policy Guidance (PPG24, TAN11, PAN 56) is being revised to form Planning Policy Statements and formal consultation is expected. The Society joined the Institute of Acoustics in an initial consideration of the issues and will carefully consider its response when the document is issued. In the coming year the Ambient Noise Committee will focus on ensuring that the integration of environmental noise into a coherent strategy is addressed across Government.

Noise Events

A varied and topical programme attracted over 80 delegates to our Spring Workshop in March. The event covered a wide range of policy and practice issues – an interactive examination of the use of ASBOs and CRASBOs providing a particularly stimulating insight into the realities of noise enforcement. The event also received widespread national press coverage serving to raise the profile of noise issues and of NSCA. Noise Update in October 2005 took on a European dimension with an update

on the Environmental Noise Directive. With nearly 100 attendees, including a wide range of exhibitors, it proved an informative and engaging event.

Noise Awareness Raising

Our first Noise Action Week in May was a resounding success. The initiative, funded by Defra and the Devolved Administrations, was exceptionally effective in encouraging participants to reach out to raise awareness of noise. Over 200 organisations took part – with over a third promoting practical solutions to everyday noise throughout the week. NSCA Scotland opened the week with ‘Noise – the Big Issues’ conference, with Deputy Minister for Environment and Rural Development Lewis Macdonald giving opening remarks and attracting national media coverage.



Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council organised a poster competition for primary schools for Noise Action Week

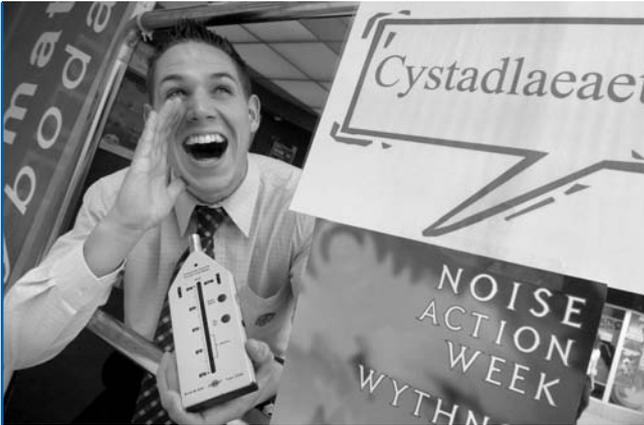
Defra supported a conference on developments in noise research hosted by the Institute of Acoustics, and the Noise Abatement Society were involved in an event promoting technological innovation to control noise in the North West. Local events included travelling roadshows, school workshops, radio and bus advertising, mediation workshops and much more. To support participants for 2005, we launched a dedicated website – www.noiseactionweek.org.uk, and provided a package of promotional and information material to enable effective promotions. To target the difficult teenage market, and beyond, we produced and distributed ‘A Short Film About Noise’ – an 18 minute DVD portraying the impacts of night time noise and potential remedies. As ever, local press and radio coverage was extensive, and we anticipate a bigger and better campaign in 2006, with Noise Action Week 2006 scheduled for 22-26 May.

Noise education work continues throughout the year – in particular we are working with organisations in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire to promote European Week of Health and Safety on Noise during October. Our Noise DVD is going to all secondary schools in the counties, and Hear This teaching pack to 500 primary schools.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

NSCA continues to maintain a comprehensive and contemporary catalogue of information for the general public, students and anyone requiring an overview of environmental protection issues and legislation, both in print and electronic format.

The Pollution Handbook, our one stop guide to UK and EU environmental legislation, continues to be an



Promoting Noise Action Week in Cardiff

invaluable resource for hundreds of pollution control professionals. Leaflets and factsheets provide impartial guides to environmental problems and solutions – ranging from bonfires to contaminated land, with the monthly Briefing highlighting our current policy concerns and activities. Regular and recent publications are listed on the inside back cover of this Review.

The NSCA website consolidated its credibility this year in being voted best non government site for Air Quality by Air Quality Management journal – praised for being ‘Bright and cheerful and ever changing’, and eminently appropriate for its target audience. The site now averages 68,000 hits a week – peaking at 115,000 during Noise Action Week. The website aims to keep members and the wider public up to date with current developments and concerns within our policy remit, and provides the Divisions with a means to promote regional events and issues.

NSCA DIVISIONS

NSCA’s regional Divisions in England, as well as those for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, continue to provide valuable input to NSCA’s work at national level, contributing actively to the work of the Policy Committees and the National Council. In Scotland, the appointment of a part-time Policy Officer early in 2005 has already resulted in significant benefits for the Division in terms of an increased public profile and in the issues covered – see below. However NSCA Divisions throughout the UK have been active during 2005, and below we give a flavour of the many events held during the year – more details have been given in the NSCA Briefing during the year and have also been reported on the Divisional pages of the website.

Our thanks go to all the Divisional Hon. Secretaries (listed on the inside back cover), their administrative officers and colleagues for their hard work on behalf of NSCA. Our thanks too, to the many members who have generously hosted meetings for our Divisions.

NSCA East Midlands regular programme of meetings included a seminar on “Environmental

Contamination and Land Remediation in Derbyshire”, with a visit to the Pride Park site in the centre of Derby where members could see the results of successful reclamation and development. In September the Division were joined by members from NSCA Yorkshire for a meeting at Chesterfield BC, also with the theme of remediation of contaminated land, followed by a visit to the former Avenue Coking Works site. At a joint meeting with Envirotechnology, members were given a demonstration of the OPSIS combined beta attenuation and gravimetric PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} particulate monitor. The East Midlands Division also led a working party which produced an information leaflet on the safe and efficient use of solid fuel – this has also been made available on a CD.

The year under review has seen a particular upsurge in activity for the **Yorkshire Division**, resulting in a significant increase in attendance at its meetings. As well as the joint meeting with the East Midlands Division, meetings have been held at the SITA Kirklees waste disposal facility, and at Leeds Civic Hall where members heard how Leeds plans to meet air quality targets while meeting the transport needs of the increasing number of commuters. The first meeting of the year, the AGM, was held at Leeds United Football Club, with presentations on the work of NSCA’s Land Quality and Air Quality Committees, and on contaminated land.

A busy year for **NSCA South West** began with its 7th Annual Joint Conference with the Air Quality Management Resource Centre of the University of the West of England in January. A wide ranging agenda covered environmental liability, fugitive emissions from shipping and from the Cornish china clay industry and quarries, with air quality being represented by presentations on the future for setting limit values for ozone and particles, bioaerosol emissions from green waste composting, and achievements and limitations of the air quality management regime in the UK and Europe.

NSCA Wales’ 2004 AGM, together with a seminar, was hosted by the Environment Agency in Wales, and asked the question “Is Sustainable Development



Speakers and officers at the joint meeting of the East Midlands and Yorkshire Divisions in September, together with NSCA Chief Executive Martin Joseph outside the offices of Chesterfield BC



Speakers at the NSCA Wales Seminar – Is Sustainable Development Achievable in Wales?

Achievable in Wales?” Speakers addressed the environmental, social and economic aspects of the subject, with delegates finally concluding that sustainable development *is* achievable providing all the parties involved – central and local government, business and the public – play their part to the full. At their April meeting, hosted by Rockwool in Bridgend, members heard how the factory had dealt with the environmental problems arising from its process over the years and the close links with the local community which had been built up.

Elsewhere, **NSCA West Midlands** also discussed contaminated land, with speakers representing the Environment Agency, local authorities and consultants looking at the way in which they can work together in implementing the regulations. Members of the **North West Division** were concerned with the environmental consequences of the use of fireworks and firework safety. **NSCA North** member, Middlesbrough BC, explained the use of CCTV and covert surveillance equipment. In the **South East** the focus has been on attracting new members to the Division, with some members also being actively involved in the ARMO project (see earlier report) – at their AGM in September members were able to hear first-hand how the project was progressing and to visit an ozone monitoring site near Lewes in East Sussex.

NSCA Scotland

NSCA Scotland has, over the past year, continued its work to raise the profile of NSCA in Scotland and to become a leader in the environmental field. In March 2005 a part time dedicated Policy Officer was appointed for the Glasgow Office. Through this new post NSCA Scotland will be in a position to better respond to Scottish Executive Consultations, to input to an increased number of policy areas, and to solidify NSCA’s reputation as a key player in Scotland’s environmental future.

NSCA Scotland has done much to develop its reputation for its balanced response to issues, integrity and promotion of public education. We are increasingly asked for information from the Scottish media; we have been asked for our views by the Environment and Rural Development Committee, and we continue to work to raise our profile throughout the Scottish Parliament and the Scottish Executive. Policy formulation for NSCA Scotland has

been developed principally through advice from the NSCA Scotland Executive Committee.

Policy Advisory Groups are now being established for Air Quality, Noise and Land Quality, which will improve our ability to usefully input to the national NSCA Committee structure. The advisory groups will also assist in developing the Division’s training and education programmes and maintain an overview of legislative and technical practice in key interest areas.

NSCA Scotland’s programme for conferences, workshops and training continues to expand and during the past year has tackled new areas of policy and environmental legislation, as well as continuing to provide high quality training for local authority officers, including a 2-day course on contaminated land management. In conjunction with the AGM, NSCA Scotland held a half-day conference on the new Environmental Information Regulations and, as mentioned elsewhere, a one day conference was held to launch Noise Action Week.

ASSOCIATED BODIES

Cleaner Transport Forum

Much of NSCA’s work on transport issues is undertaken through the Cleaner Transport Forum, which brings together interests in cleaner automotive technologies. Topics have included alternative fuels, low emission zones, biofuels, and roadside emission testing. The recent introduction of car energy labelling was a significant victory for NSCA, and the introduction of a low emission zone for London builds on research undertaken over the last five years by the CTF.

Although the primary focus is on air quality, the CTF is also interested in climate change issues, and seeks to find a balance between air quality and climate change objectives, which can sometimes conflict. In this respect we balance the Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership which has a predominantly carbon agenda.



John Merefield, Dave Muir, Clare Beattie and Nicky Woodfield giving welcome publicity to NSCA at the International Hot Air Balloon Fiesta in Bristol in August where Dave and Clare took to the skies with a portable PM₁₀ monitor

NSCA is represented on the Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership working groups on Fuels and Passenger Cars; the Motorists Forum; and the EST Transport Energy Advisory Committee.

In the transport field, our current lobbying objectives are:

- Stronger fiscal incentives for cleaner, low carbon vehicles, including much more steeply raked VED rates;
- Maximum CO₂ emission standards for passenger cars;
- Full lifecycle assessment and environmental justification for transport biofuels, including biogas;
- Adequate funding and political support for local authorities to pursue and deliver significant air quality improvements at a local level;
- Accelerated implementation of management options, such as road-user charging and low emission zones.

PRECIS

NSCA provides the secretariat for PRECIS, the Partnership in Reducing Emissions from Construction Industry Sites. The Partnership focuses on initiatives for promoting non road mobile machinery (NRMM) controls and clean diesel on construction sites. During the year work has included consultation on the proposed London Code of Construction Practice; this will require road vehicles used in construction sites to achieve tight emission standards ahead of new Euro standards, and the development of a register of approved equipment – discussions are under way with the Energy Saving Trust to administer the register. Work is also in hand to establish the air quality case for further controls on emissions from NRMM.

Dispersion Model Users' Group

The UK Dispersion Model Users' Group (UK-DMUG) was formed over 10 years ago from an initial meeting of air dispersion modellers. It is now part of NSCA and collaborates with the Institute of Air Quality Management (<http://www.iaqm.co.uk>) to provide an independent forum for discussion and exchange of information for all dispersion model users. The broad aims of the Group are to:

- Improve the performance of available air dispersion models by influencing model developments, in accordance with the needs of the modelling community, and
- Foster the improvement of dispersion modelling techniques through improvements in communications and dissemination of knowledge within the user community.

During the last year DMUG held a workshop bringing together many delegates from the UK and

European air quality modelling community. At its 21st meeting in November 2004 sensitivity analysis and robustness of models was the theme. A wide range of speakers raised issues as diverse as the practical application of modelling, to unconventional stack configurations, to the robustness of some of the assumptions made in the local authority review and assessment process (which gave rise to some lively debate). Contributions were also received from Swedish air quality monitoring and modelling organisation, Opsis, on experience with nested dispersion models and a summary of CFD modelling being carried out on behalf of Defra by Westlakes as well as a presentation on the use of CERC's ubiquitous ADMS model in local settings.

For more information about DMUG, please contact DMUG Coordinator, Gordon Clamp (gordon.clamp@mottmac.com).

IUAPPA

NSCA is a founder member of the International Union of Air Pollution Prevention and Environmental Protection Associations (IUAPPA) and has continued to contribute to the work of the Union through its representative to the Board, Dr. John Murlis. During the past year much of the focus has been on developing two policy areas – both of which were initiated at the London World Congress, co-hosted by NSCA in 2004 – the long range transport of air pollution, and transport and air quality in mega-cities.

Work on the long range transport of air pollution is being taken forward under the auspices of the Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum, established at the London Congress, and with funding from the US EPA, Environment Canada and the BOC Foundation for the Environment. A review document is to be published on hemispheric pollution and the Forum plans to work towards a biennial review on regional air pollution.

IUAPPA's programme on transport and air quality in mega-cities, aims to promote exchange on experience, information and knowledge in practical aspects of urban air quality management, and in particular the role of transport, between cities at different stages of urbanisation and development.

IUAPPA's next World Congress is to be held in Brisbane in 2007.

NSCA continues to provide Secretariat services for IUAPPA and its Director General, Richard Mills. For further information about IUAPPA contact the Director General at rmills_iuappa@yahoo.co.uk.

NSCA is currently a non-contributing member of the European Federation of Clean Air, participating in its work as resources allow.

NSCA Divisions and Hon Secretaries

Scotland: Lorraine Tulloch
Northern Ireland: Graeme Bannister
Northern: Jeff Duffield
North West: John Dinsdale
Yorkshire: Bob Jennings
West Midlands: Derek Reynolds
East Midlands: Bill Pearce
South East: Rob Gibson
South West: Peter Fryer
Wales: Alan Brown

Principal Policy Committees

Air Quality: Chair – Steve Moorcroft
Ambient Noise: Chair – John Hinton
Neighbourhood Noise & Nuisance: Chair – Robert Deller
Land Quality: Chair – Judith Lowe

Associated Bodies

Cleaner Transport Forum: Chair – Martin Joseph
Dispersion Model Users' Group: Convenor – Gordon Clamp
Environmental Analysis Co-operative: Chair – Richard Mills OBE
PRECIS: John Murlis
IUAPPA: President – Gavin Fisher (NZ)

Staff

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PA to Chief Executive: Marie Campbell
Head of Finance & Administration: Peter Mitchell
Head of Policy & Development: Tim Brown
Policy Officer: Rob Pilling
Production Editor: Loveday Murley
Project Manager: Mary Stevens
Administration Manager: Sally May
Administration Officers (Headquarters): Aldona Siwicki; Lucy Salter
Administration & Public Relations Manager (Scotland): Clare Carruthers
Policy Officer (Headquarters/Scotland): Carolyn Vannan
Policy Officer (Wales): Terry Jones



Past Chairman of Council, Geof Kaufman, was awarded a Certificate of Honorary Membership by current Chairman Calum MacDonald in recognition of his long-standing support and commitment to NSCA both at national level, and as a member of the North West Division. Other recipients of Hon. Membership during the year were Ken Hodgson (NW Division), Stan Atherton and Ann Rees (NSCA Wales), Stuart Morrison (NSCA Scotland), and Martin Eversfield (NSCA West Midlands).

Recent Publications

NSCA Pollution Handbook 2005

Annual overview of current and pending pollution control and environmental protection legislation

NSCA Briefing

Monthly update on air pollution, noise, waste and related environmental issues; and forthcoming NSCA events, both national and regional
(also published online at www.nasca.org.uk/pages/news/briefing)

Development Control: Planning for Air Quality

Guidance from NSCA on dealing with air quality concerns within the development control process (November 2004)
(also available online at www.nasca.org.uk/topics_and_issues/air_quality_guidance.cfm)

Smoke Control Presentation Pack

Produced by NSCA's Solid Fuel Working Party, in collaboration with the Solid Fuel Association, this pack comprising a leaflet, and a CD-rom with audio-visual presentation, provides advice for domestic users of solid fuel appliances.

Information Leaflets

Covering a wide range of issues, from air pollution to contaminated land, noise to fireworks and bonfires, NSCA leaflets provide information on current legislation and issues in environmental protection. They are regularly updated throughout the year to ensure they remain current.

Online Publications

Responses to consultation documents, press releases and policy documents and, where available, summary presentations from our conferences and workshops can be accessed via NSCA's website.

Clean Air On-line www.nasca.org.uk/pages/news/cleanair.cfm has been developed during the year to provide a means for NSCA members to publish ongoing research and discussion papers.

The following research reports have also been published online during the year:

Co-composting Research

Nearly one million tonnes of paper mill sludges are produced annually in the UK. Research for NSCA by the University of Paisley demonstrates that these sludges can be successfully co-composted with municipal organic wastes, which boost the nitrogen component
www.nasca.org.uk/pages/topics_and_issues/waste.cfm

Roadside Emissions Testing

Research undertaken by NSCA and TRL, funded by The BOC Foundation, into the effectiveness of local authority roadside emission testing. Three reports – a summary of findings and recommendations, a review of local authority experience, and a technical review
www.nasca.org.uk/pages/topics_and_issues/roadside_emission_testing.cfm

National Society for Clean Air and Environmental
Protection
44 Grand Parade
Brighton BN2 9QA

Tel: 01273 878770

Fax: 01273 606626

Email: admin@nsca.org.uk

Website: www.nsca.org.uk

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