

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release



1 June 2016

Society for the Environment calls for clear action in celebration of World Environment Day

As part of our celebration of World Environment Day the Society for the Environment announces three initiatives calling for collective action.

Firstly, the Society for the Environment is calling on UK Government leaders to commit to the inclusion of sustainability as an ethical standard for everyone in a public role. Secondly, the Society is writing to the European Commissioner calling for closer alignment of the management of forests, water catchments and basins. Finally, the Society is launching a new campaign highlighting the cultural important of environmental change noting 'we cannot be green by legislation alone'.

Sustainability as an Ethical Standard for Public Roles

Currently all public office holders are required to agree to the seven 'Nolan' principles as their ethical standard. This includes selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership. Legislation in Wales has already added sustainability as an additional principle and the Society is calling for the rest of the UK to do the same.

Everybody has the right to a healthy, clean and safe environment. However, the world has limited resources and we must consider economic, social and environmental sustainability both now and in the future. We recognise that our community must always have sustainability central in their decisions. The UK Government has stated its wishes to allow economic growth to continue, but more sustainably, to ensure that the costs of growth do not result in excessive environmental deterioration or social justice.

So that we have the best chance for a sustainable future, we urge all the Governments of the UK to adopt a principle of sustainability for all those appointments to which the Nolan Principles apply, so that office holders always include sustainability in the decisions and actions they take. This is vital to the well-being of future generations.

We have written today to the Governments of the United Kingdom and to the Chair of the House of Commons Committee on Public Services.

Closer Alignment of the Management of Forests, Water Catchments and Basins

The Society has written to the European Commissioner for the Environment, Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Karmenu Vella, extolling the virtues of closer alignment of the management of forests, water catchments and basins. This will ensure greater resilience in flood risk management but also will enhance landscapes and increase the opportunities for biodiversity.

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Green Man: Mankind Cannot be Green by Regulation Alone

The 1st of June, is the launch of our iconic image of the Green Man for World Environment Day in the UK. This image has very deep cultural roots in our communities. It emphasises flourishing nature at one with mankind. Protecting and enhancing our natural resources whilst using them must engage people and we need to appeal to all of our hearts as well as our minds and we need to bring to life the abstract scientific concepts and practices underpinning our work. Mankind cannot be green by regulation alone. The icon is just the start of new activities the Society will play in delivering sustainability. We will be seeking contributions to improve the icon.

END

More information, contact the Society for the Environment, on 02476 796451 or email enquiries@socenv.org.uk

Note for editors:

- 1) The Society for the Environment is a leading independent, non-political umbrella organisation for environmental and sustainability professionals. Our purpose is to support and champion the role of environmental professionals everywhere in the pursuit of a sustainable future. The 24 institutions and learned societies that form our [membership](#) represent hundreds of thousands of practitioners, working across a broad spectrum of disciplines and sectors.
- 2) For further information on the work of the Society, see the website www.socenv.org.uk
Alternatively, contact the Society for the Environment: tel: 024 7679 6451
enquiries@socenv.org.uk
- 3) The members and Constituent Bodies of the **Society for the Environment** are:
 - Arboricultural Association (AA)
 - Chartered Association of Building Engineers (CABE)
 - Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists (CIAT)
 - Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM)
 - Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB)
 - Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM)
 - Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM)
 - Energy Institute (EI)
 - Institute of Agricultural Management (IAgrM)
 - Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF)

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Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)
Institute of Fisheries Management (IFM)
Institute of Materials, Minerals & Mining (IOM3)
Institute of Water (IWater)
Institution of Agricultural Engineers (IAgrE)
Institution of Chemical Engineers (ICHEM)
Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE)
Institution of Engineering Designers (IED)
Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES)
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Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC)
Society of Environmental Engineers (SEE)
Society of Operations Engineers (SOE)