



Forth Estuary Forum 23rd Annual Conference Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in the Forth

17th November 2016

Presentation Summaries and "Soap Box" Topics

Session 1:

Relative sea level change in the Forth and Tay Estuaries
Dr Victoria Powell, University of Chester

–

Local Visions for the Inner Forth Landscape by 2040

Dr Aster de Vries Lentsch, University of Edinburgh

As part of a large European research project called OPERAs, we have been asking the people who live and work in the Forth area what they hope its future will look like and how the local landscape matters to them in their everyday lives. At the Forth Estuary Conference we will share the first results from the in-depth interviews we've been conducting with people from the area using the STREAMLINE format, and hope to get feedback on some of the outcomes of the research. We'll also explain a bit more about the background of the project, how the interviews worked and what the feedback has been from participants so far. Discussion and audience contributions are greatly encouraged, and more information about the project can be found on www.streamline-research.com.

Session 2 :

Valuing and paying for coastal ecosystem services around the Forth
Dr Jasper Kenter, Scottish Association of Marine Science

Ecosystem services are the benefits to human economies and societies that nature provides us, such as clean water, flood protection, opportunities for recreation and contributions to our cultural identity. My presentation will include two components. First I will present the outcomes of research with community councils around the Inner Forth on the value of coastal ecosystem services in association with the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative. The Research, based on a new deliberative method for valuing nature, demonstrated that the economic value to society of improvements in a number of ecosystem services (wildlife, water quality, and recreational opportunities) resulting from intertidal habitat conservation could be in the order of £14 mln per annum. The second part of this talk will present the idea of a "Payments for Ecosystem Services"™ scheme, where land owners undertake ecosystem conservation work and this is sponsored by private sector funding in return for the generation of a number of ecosystem services. I will discuss the opportunities that may arise for the Forth from a national "Saltmarsh Code"™ to set accreditation standards such schemes for saltmarsh habitats, which builds on earlier experiences with similar codes for peatland and woodland habitats, and which is in the early stages of development in a collaboration between SAMS, Defra, the Forth Estuary Forum, the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology and Newcastle University.

Edinburgh Adapts-a vision for a climate resilient city ***Anna Beswick ,Adaptation Scotland***

The Inner Forth Futurescape:climate change adaptation for wildlife and people

David Anderson RSPA/Inner Forth Landscape Initiative

"The Inner Forth is a landscape rich in industrial heritage, hugely important for agriculture and home to many thousands of people. It is also a landscape which flourishes with wildlife, playing host to thousands of wintering waders and wildfowl on the special inter-tidal habitats that line the estuary.

Much of what makes this landscape special however is under threat, historic land claim has caused the loss of half the inter-tidal, and increasing sea levels due to climate change threaten to further reduce what is left. The loss of these habitats also further increases the risk of coastal flooding, with an increase in the occurrence and severity of storm surges affecting the human uses of the landscape.

The Inner Forth Futurescape project aims to tackle these pressures by taking a landscape scale, partnership approach and looking to create new wetland habitats that will not only provide a home for wildlife, but also provide vital services to local people such as sustainable flood risk management."

Session 3 :

Neptune nicked our sand (and we're gonna get it back!!!)

Kenny Maule, Dunbar Shore Group

Over the years the sand from our prize-winning East Beach has come and gone. However during the last few years the sand has disappeared and NOT returned, causing rotting seaweed and flies. The beach endures 5 metre tides, heavy wave action and is open to direct north-east storms. We have searched for the solution and after discussion with coastal-erosion experts, the Council, Scottish Water and engineers various we believe we have an effective way forward.

Edinburgh Living Landscapes

Leonie Alexander, Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh

The Edinburgh Living Landscape is a partnership project that will create, restore and connect green areas of the city to make attractive and bio diverse landscapes, enjoyed by residents and visitors. Landscapes will be healthy, nature rich and resilient to climate change. Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh (RBGE) is one of the key partners in the project along with the City of Edinburgh Council, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Edinburgh and Lothians Green space Trust and Green Surge. Leonie is currently Urban Biodiversity project Officer at RBGE and she will be talking about the contribution RBGE is making to the project.

Marine Scotland-an up date

Lorna King, Marine Scotland

A brief round up of work being undertaken by Marine Scotland with a focus on marine planning and invasive non native species.

Soap Box sessions

1 Kathryn Ball SEPA: Flood Risk Management Strategies / the National Coastal Change Assessment (the first national assessment that looks at past maps to give an indication of future erosion risk),

2. Alan Munro University of Edinburgh: An overview of his Master thesis project, entitled "Coastal adaptation in Scotland: Is national policy driving local action?"