

# Portsmouth Climate Action Network



ISSUE 1

OCTOBER 2007

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- PCAN launches film competition at local Film festival
- Profile of Solar Powered Sean Cavendish
- Eastney pumping station application turned down!

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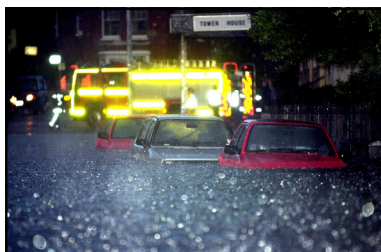
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## Portsmouth City Council gambles with Climate Change in rejecting Eastney pumping station application

*Remember these images from 2000 when Portsmouth's drainage system was overwhelmed by high intensity rainfall?*

Well the risk of this happening again could be with us for a lot longer following councillors' decision in September to refuse permission for a new pumping station at Eastney. The works were scheduled to take 30 months and it appears unlikely now that there will be any increased storm water



protection available until 2011 or beyond. The proposed works were intended to increase the storm water pumping capacity at Eastney (which serves a significant part of the City) by up to 60%. This would not only lessen the risk of back-up in the sewerage system (a particularly unpleasant consequence of flash floods) but also reduce the impact on the marine life of Langstone Harbour (a point of release when the system becomes overburdened).

The pumping station adjoins residential properties and planning officers concluded that infrastructure needs, on balance, outweighed other

concerns. Councillors disagreed and rejected the application.

Portsea Island is particularly vulnerable to surface water flooding due to a combination of its geology, the vast amount of hard surfacing (think driveays etc) and the existence of an antiquated low lying combined drainage/ sewerage system.

As a result, heavy rainfall can quickly overburden the system. The floods in 2000 resulted from a 1 in 50 year rainfall event. However, climate change is forecast to bring us more frequent extreme rainfall events – thus shortening the odds and raising the stakes (think insurance!). The floods this summer in the North and West of England could be a foretaste...

A recent councillor Topic Panel "Review of the Adequacy of Sewerage and Water Supply Systems in the City" concluded:



*"The Panel believes that the city's existing sewerage and wastewater infrastructure is not adequate enough to meet the future demands that will be placed upon it"*

So just how serious is Portsmouth City Council about climate change and the risk that it poses to Portsmouth?

On the one hand councillors refuse consent for a new pumping station. On the other hand they continue to approve residential schemes that will presumably place an increasingly greater burden on the City's drainage system.

Let us hope that this situation is resolved swiftly to everyone's benefit. In the meantime let us know your views or take a look at our website for more information on "Flooding and Portsmouth" at [www.portsmouthcan.co.uk](http://www.portsmouthcan.co.uk)

Photographs courtesy of The News, Portsmouth

## Letters to the editor...

### Dear PCAN Editor

I live in Southsea. I worry about Climate Change. I DO things on my own to reduce my Carbon print thing. I think I'm going mad though, on my own, and wonder if you can help me.

I have built a desk out of empty yoghurt pots and butter containers - hundreds of them. I built it because I can't work out all the re-cycling jargon. It's flimsy - the desk. It keeps falling over.

My saved carrier bags recently tried to kill me. I store them (5 years worth) under the bed and they have become tidal in nature. High tide (where they lap the shore of the rug) took my feet away and I banged my head on the wardrobe.

A work colleague who lives up the road snubs me ever since I gave up my car. I might as well be on Mars. I think I've now got "LIFT" written on my head - which is a worrying symptom of delusion

Someone's just told me I live on the Southsea "bog" and that I'll never sell my house. "Sod the house" I thought, so I bought an inflatable dinghy and tried it out indoors. I can't get it to deflate.

Help please

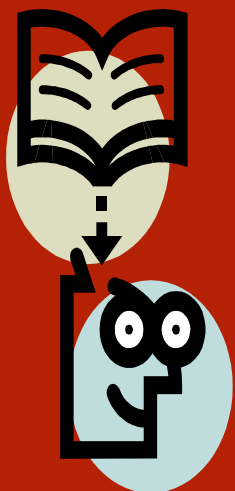
Mary

### Editor:

Dear Mary

Ah! Come on home to PCAN at our next meeting - bring a friend (if you've got any left).

It's on the 29th October with location T.B.A., check the website for more details!



We'd love to hear your comments at:

[editor@portsmouthcan.co.uk](mailto:editor@portsmouthcan.co.uk)



## PROFILE: SEAN CAVENDISH SUNPOWERED ENERGY SYSTEMS LTD

Sunpowered Energy Systems Ltd is a dynamic and growing multi-discipline Renewable Energy Design and Installation Company based in Portsmouth. The Company was Established in 1997 by Sean Cavendish with over twenty years experience in the industry behind him.

Sean became involved within the Solar industry in 1990 and, after the United Nations Summit in Rio in 1992, made a conscious decision to promote renewable technology in order to help protect future generations from 'Global Warming'.

Realizing that there was a real lack of understanding about the issue of Global Warming, in 1992 he therefore created an educational exhibition and started traveling around the country

general public. With the adoption of Agenda 21, Sean started Sunpower in 1994 which became Sunpowered Energy Systems Ltd In 1997

It's Sean's drive and passion that have enabled the company to grow to where it is today, at the forefront of the domestic marketplace. Although they specialise in the domestic market they have experience in commercial projects, off-grid systems, and working with housing associations and architects for new build projects.

The company has recently expanded its premises and employs engineers, designers, sales and project-support, with a number of installation teams out on the road working nationally, installing

both electrical and hot water systems. It is Government Accredited, and is an ISO 9001 and OHSAS 18001 registered firm.

To help celebrate their 10th Anniversary they are offering a £250 Marks & Spencer gift voucher for every order placed.

To contact the company either email [sales@sunpowered.co.uk](mailto:sales@sunpowered.co.uk) or phone on 02392 836570 or drop into the new building in Kirpal Road, next to the ambulance station on the Eastern Road.



# FEATURE: Who are Portsmouth Climate Action Network?



PCAN is a network of people and groups in Portsmouth who are calling for urgent action to cut carbon emissions. We believe that:

- We need to set an annual carbon emission reduction target of at least 3% per year for Portsmouth
- We need a carbon footprint
- We need Portsmouth City Council to lead a public information campaign on carbon
- Portsmouth City Council should establish a climate strategy in line with many other cities

PCAN was only set up in November 2006 and since then we've had a busy programme of public meetings, films, fund-raising events and debates plus our Climate Awareness Day back in April, when we had stalls, DVDs, a programme of talks and a chance to work out your carbon footprint. We plan another for next Spring.

Our work of lobbying and persuading is important too. We've made two presentations to the City Council, talked to groups of councillors, met individually with MPs, and key local staff, attended meetings and now form part of the Portsmouth Sustainability Action Group at which major local stakeholders meet with Councillors and Council staff to decide on policy. As a result of our pressure, Portsmouth City Council has now agreed to the 3% cuts and the carbon footprint and has appointed a Climate Change Officer so we want to work with them to move things forward.

We also respond as a group to national consultations like the Climate Change Bill. We're going to be doing more work on this vital piece of legislation over the coming months.

We've done quite a lot of work with schools too; we've done assemblies and class groups and we've given an environmental angle to some enterprise days. This is an area of work we're keen to develop

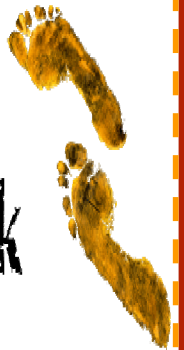
We've talked to adult groups too and put PowerPoint presentations together so we're happy to receive invitations

As you can see, we have lots of ideas and we could really do with more people to help carry them out. Why not come along to one of our planning meetings and get involved? You can always find details on our website.

We're proud of website which has masses of information on climate issues and lots of useful links. Do have a look and sign up to be on our mailing list.

[www.portsmouthcan.co.uk](http://www.portsmouthcan.co.uk)

Portsmouth Climate  
Action Network



## *This month's markets and events....*

### Markets...

- **Southsea Farmers Market**  
21st Oct & 18th Nov Palmerston Road
- **Charlotte Street Market**  
Every Thurs, Fri and Sat. Commercial Road and Charlotte Street, Portsmouth

### Events...

- **One World Week Faith Walk**  
28th Oct  
A walk around the city's main places of worship with a ten minute talk at each about how their religion is dealing with Climate Change. Organised by Portsmouth World Development Movement

- **Natural hazards and disaster management in Domenica**

31st Oct 6pm Portland Building, Portland Street

A free public lecture on how staff and students from the University helped the Community deal with natural hazards. You will need to make a reservation at [events@port.ac.uk](mailto:events@port.ac.uk) as spaces are limited.

- **Flood risk and Climate Change**

9th Nov 7.30pm—9pm Havant Arts Centre, East Street, Havant

Evening lecture, £3.00 at the door

- **PCAN Competition Launch—HOT FLUDDZ!**

11th Nov 1pm Third Floor Arts Centre, Central Library, Guildhall Square

See below and right for details.

- **Southampton Go Green Fair**

Nov 11th 11am—3pm

Avenue Street, St. Andrews Church, The Avenue, Southampton.

[www.gogreenfair.co.uk](http://www.gogreenfair.co.uk)

- **Next PCAN Meeting**

Monday 29th October 8pm

Location to be advised (probably upstairs at Café Citrus on Albert Road)

All are welcome to come along and find out more!

**Contact us on.....**

**[editor@portsmouthcan.co.uk](mailto:editor@portsmouthcan.co.uk)**

## Top Energy Saving Tips.....

- Turning down your thermostat by 1°C could cut heating bills by 10% per year, saving up to £40. Remember jumpers?
- Turn lights off when out of the room
- Only boil as much water as you need in the kettle but make sure to cover the heating elements.
- Open curtains and blinds as much as possible to let in natural light and close curtains at dusk to stop heat escaping through the windows.
- When charging batteries or mobile phones, unplug the charger when finished. Don't just switch it off.
- Unplug appliances not used often or when going on holiday; they may still be using energy.
- When not using your computer, turn off the monitor. The monitor alone uses 60% of the energy needed for your computer.
- Ensure you're washing a full load in the washing machine, or, use the half-load or economy setting.
- Using just a rinse cycle does not need warm water, using cold is just as effective.
- Tumble dryers are not necessary, a clothes horse inside or a clothes line outside in the summer will do the job – saving you up to £40 per year.
- When using a dishwasher, make sure it's a full load and use a low temperature. Do not pre-rinse dishes, just scrape off food and put them in the dishwasher.
- A dripping hot water tap wastes 95 litres of water per month, costing 7kWh in one month.

**There are so many more that we suggest you visit our website at [www.portsmouthcan.co.uk](http://www.portsmouthcan.co.uk)**

## HOT FLUDDZ!

### **More Southsea than Sundance... More Portsea than Palm D'or...**

.... On the 11th November PCAN is launching an exciting short film competition "Hot Fluddz" which will be open to all ages and levels of experience with amazing prizes up for grabs.

Your film will focus on the effects of Climate Change on Portsmouth and the surrounding areas and can use any genre you like. The more inventive the better.

The deadline will be early April 2008 in time for our Annual Climate Awareness Day where the winning films will be screened.

This should give you plenty of time to work on your film, if you're a student you could even use it as part of your coursework.

If you are interested in taking part and having your film shown at a public screening, on our website and at future events then come to the official launch on November 11th at 1pm at the Third Floor Arts Centre, Central Library, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth.

We'd love to see you there!

For more information and to register see our website or email:

[hotfluddz@portsmouthcan.co.uk](mailto:hotfluddz@portsmouthcan.co.uk)