

Ev June 9th 2010

## **An Environment Agency - CIWEM Conference**

**British Hydropower Association & The Angling Trust**

# **Hydropower**

***Opportunities, challenges and sharing best practice***

**June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010 SOAS, University of London**

*Hydropower is an important and topical issue. The aim of this conference is to provide delegates with an update on current progress including identifying new opportunities, tackling environmental challenges and streamlining the permitting process. It will also give delegates the opportunity to share their experiences.*

**Sponsors MWH WRC**

**Sponsorship:** If you are interested in sponsoring this event please contact Lauren Goozee [lauren@ciwem.org](mailto:lauren@ciwem.org) or Justin Taberham [justin@ciwem.org](mailto:justin@ciwem.org) or ring them on 0207 831 3110

**Please circulate to colleagues who may be interested**

A conference organised by CMS - Communications and Management for Sustainability  
in partnership with CIWEM

## Hydropower - Opportunities, challenges and sharing best practice June 23<sup>rd</sup> - 2010 SOAS, London

**Introduction - What are the issues?** The Environment Agency supports the installation of sustainable small-scale hydropower, and is committed to helping meet national renewable energy targets. The Environment Agency also has statutory duties to protect the water environment and to ensure that flood risk is not increased by new developments.

Poorly designed hydropower schemes can have serious impacts on the local river environment, particularly on fish populations, such as salmon and trout, and on flood risk for properties downstream of the installation. The planning and permitting process seeks to minimise these risks as well as protecting people and the environment. It's the Environment Agency's role to help developer prepare successful applications which comply with environmental and other legislation.

In August 2009 the Environment Agency, in partnership with the British Hydropower Association and angling and conservation groups, published Good Practice Guidance for small-scale hydropower schemes. This provides clear guidance for developers on how schemes should be designed to meet environmental and flood risk legislation. The Environment Agency is now in the process of reviewing the document and wishes to gather feedback and lessons learnt from its use to inform the publication of an updated version later this year.

**What's the challenge?** Currently some 500 sites on rivers in England and Wales are being considered by landowners and developers for hydropower, and this figure likely to increase with the introduction of the feed-in tariff. British Waterways, National Parks, The National Trust and water companies also have many potential sites under consideration. The Environment Agency estimates that there may be a theoretical, unconstrained maximum of 1100MW of energy that could be generated through Hydropower schemes. This would be equivalent to 1.5% of UK electricity needs but would involve developing many tens of thousands of small sites. The Environment Agency has carried out an opportunity mapping exercise for potential hydropower sites which indicates the potential sites.

Every potential hydropower site is different as there are considerable variations in hydrology, terrestrial and aquatic ecology, fisheries and flood risk between different sites. This means that a one-size-fits-all approach to managing their impacts is not feasible but a consistent assessment framework is essential.

**What is happening now?** A major programme of work has been launched by the Environment Agency to support the sustainable development of hydropower to ensure that permit applications are dealt with rapidly and efficiently. It includes:

- A review of the permitting process for small-scale hydropower to streamline the process and reduce administrative burden. A public consultation will be launched in Spring 2010 with the review due to be completed in the Autumn
- An internal training programme to ensure that expertise is available to deal with hydropower scheme applications
- An internal Environment Agency hydropower 'hub' of experts has been developed with the support of DECC. This will ensure better coordination and consistency between staff working on hydropower applications across England and Wales
- An evidence programme will provide information to refine and improve the Good Practice Guidance.

**The aim of this conference** is to provide delegates with an update on current progress including identifying new opportunities, tackling environmental challenges and streamlining the permitting process. It will also give delegates the opportunity to share their experiences.

### Objectives:

- To provide delegates with an update on current progress and activity including opportunities mapping, the permitting review and evidence gathering
- To provide information and gather views on the Environment Agency's Good Practice Guide for hydropower and its revision
- To provide an opportunity to discuss issues and challenges in the planning and delivery of hydropower schemes
- To share experience and best practice of the development of hydropower schemes.

### Who should attend?

- Regulators will have an opportunity to share their guidance and listen to the concerns and experiences of developers
- Developers will be able to share their feedback on schemes and demonstrate best practice
- Environmental practitioners will be able to discuss the importance of adequate protection for fish populations
- Consultants, scientists and engineers will be able to discuss the practicalities of implementation

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**Programme**

9.00 Registration and Tea and Coffee

9.45 **Chairman Gerard Morris** Environment Agency

9.50 **Session 1 Keynote - Overview Drivers and Responses** **Lord Chris Smith**  
Chairman of the Environment Agency

15 min presentation + 10 min Q&A

10.15 **The resource - Opportunity mapping** **Sam Lumb** Climate Change Group Environment Agency  
15 presentation + 15 Q&A

10.45 **Environmental interest** **Roger Furniss** Director The Angling Trust  
15 presentation + 15 Q&A

11.15 **The British Hydropower Perspective** **David Williams** CEO British Hydropower Association  
15 presentation + 15 Q&A

11.45 Break sandwich buffet and refreshments

12.30 **Session 2 Case Studies** **Chairman Ron Chapman** CEO WRc  
20 minute slots: 15 min presentation + 5 min Q&A

12.30 **Oliver Paish** Derwent Hydropower

12.50 **Tim Reeder & Clive Coley** Romney Weir

13.10 **Paul Southall** The National Trust perspective

13.30 Panel question and answer with the speakers

13.50 Break: Sweets and refreshments

14.30 **Session 3 Update and progress on major Environment Agency work streams**

**Chairman: Richard Fyfe** SEPA

14.30 **Evidence programme** Fisheries and biodiversity issues, **Matt Crocker** Environment Agency  
15 presentation + 15 Q&A

15.00 **Good Practice Guide** **John Aldrick** Environment Agency  
15 presentation + 15 Q&A

15.30 **Streamlining permitting** **Gerard Morris & Beth Elsbury** Environment Agency  
15 presentation + 15 Q&A

16.00 Close

16.30 close – allowing 30 mins for general discussion

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**BOOKING FORM**

**The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM)** is an independent professional body and registered charity, advancing the science and practice of water and environment management for a clean, green and sustainable world. [www.ciwem.org](http://www.ciwem.org)

**The Venue:** The venue is the School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS), Russell Square, London. This is a new, air conditioned lecture theatre, with all the modern AV aids and professional projectionists; there will be ample space to accommodate the anticipated delegate numbers.

**Accommodation:** There is a wide range of accommodation available in the area and delegates will receive a hotel list when they book.

**The Organisers:** The conference is being organised by Bob Earll of Coastal Management for Sustainability (CMS), in partnership with CIWEM.

**Conference fee:** [VAT at 17.5%]

Conference fee	£160	VAT £28.00	£188.00
Concession rate*	£130	VAT £22.75	£152.75
Group Rate [3 or more paying together]	£140/person	VAT £24.50	£164.50 each
Full time Post Graduate student/ Retired CIWEM members	£45	VAT £7.87	£ 52.87

\*Our aim is to make the conferences as inclusive as possible. The concession rate applies to individuals and organisations that clearly work from limited budgets in the academic or voluntary sector. We will review this on a case by case basis and place individuals and organisations on a register for future reference. Please contact us first by email to [bob.earll@coastms.co.uk](mailto:bob.earll@coastms.co.uk) **before booking** if you think you qualify.

- The fee includes food and refreshments and the conference papers
- Delegates with special needs should make this clear on booking

**Conditions:**

- Payment may be by cheque, BACS, credit card or online at [www.coastms.co.uk](http://www.coastms.co.uk)
  - Cheques (made payable to 'CMS') should be sent to: **CMS, Candle Cottage, Kempley, Glos GL18 2BU**
  - For BACS payments please **return the booking form first** for an invoice to be raised
  - Invoices will be issued as the standard response
  - Confirmation of registration will be acknowledged on receipt of booking form
  - Receipts will be issued on payment
  - Payment should be completed **BEFORE** the event; otherwise entry may be refused
  - Payment is due for all cancellations within ten days of the meeting. Refunds (less £20 administration charge) will only be issued for cancellation more than ten working days before the meeting; substitutes are permitted
- Further details from Bob Earll: Phone/Fax 01531 890415 Joining details – maps, directions and hotels – programme are on the CMS website: [www.coastms.co.uk](http://www.coastms.co.uk) or Email: [bob.earll@coastms.co.uk](mailto:bob.earll@coastms.co.uk)

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