

JOHN
MUIR
AWARD

wild places:
DISCOVER
EXPLORE
CONSERVE
SHARE

Views from 2050



Views from 2050

'Views from 2050' is a discussion about the value of nature, landscapes and biodiversity.

It's a response to a report¹ that asked a broad canvas of people to consider themselves as being in the year 2050, with the Government's 80% greenhouse gas emission reduction targets having been met.

Jeremy Peat, Director of the David Hume Institute, invited further debate: 'Your views would be welcome. This topic will remain with us for a while!'

The John Muir Award, the educational initiative of the John Muir Trust, responded to this invitation, focusing on a particular aspect relating to the Trust vision that 'wild land is protected and wild places are valued by all'.

This leaflet gives an overview of contributions from a wide variety of sources. Although diverse in theme, they all promote the idea that the natural world - and our relationship with it - should be prominent in discussions about a future 'emission-lite' society.

Views expressed are not necessarily those of the John Muir Trust. Thanks to all who have contributed, supported and taken an interest in this initiative.

'Clearly Scotland's natural landscape is a key component of our heritage and indeed of the heritage that we seek to pass on to other generations. More power to the elbow of the John Muir Trust in following through the debate'.

Jeremy Peat, David Hume Institute

Huw Irranca-Davies, Minister for Marine and Natural Environment, DEFRA

'Views from 2050' is an interesting way of engaging people. We all depend on the natural environment. It provides us with the essentials of life, contributes to our economy, inspires our lives, and is central to our health and happiness.

But we are currently not using it sustainably: we know that human activity is causing loss of biodiversity at a greatly accelerated rate.

Growing pressures are demanding a fresh approach to how we manage and use our natural environment. We know how to do things in a better way, and there is a strong economic case to drive action too. We get a lot from our natural environment and from biodiversity: resources and raw materials to use, services to support us and personal benefits from interacting with it.

As a society we need to value these benefits. By considering how different aspects of the environment are related, we can make better decisions that open up new opportunities for both protecting and enhancing our environment and our lives.

To achieve our vision of a diverse, healthy and resilient natural environment, which provides the basis for everyone's well-being, health and prosperity now and in the future, we will need to work together, understanding how our individual and collective actions affect the natural environment upon which we depend.'

¹Reducing Carbon Emissions – the View from 2050, October 2008, The David Hume Institute, Edinburgh

Views from 2050 – an overview

For full versions of these contributions click on the link from the John Muir Award home web page www.johnmuiraward.org

General

Reducing Carbon Emissions: the View from 2050 - David Hume Institute

Extracts from articles, relating to landscape, nature, biodiversity, and relationships with natural environments.

‘Human survival on the planet depends upon our ability to imagine, to be aspirational in what we want for our future and then apply our thinking to develop the means of how we might get there.’ Professor Anne Glover, Chief Scientific Advisor for Scotland

www.davidhumeinstitute.com

A view from 2050: A shared vision for the English National Parks - English National Park Authorities Association

This vision addresses the themes of: Community Engagement; Health, well-being and enjoyment; Climate change; Natural environment and cultural heritage.

‘In 2050 National Parks are one of the prime ways in which everyone can discover England’s natural and historic environments and be inspired by them.’



www.enpaa.org.uk

Global Drivers of change to 2060 - Natural England

‘A synthesis of global drivers of change that represent the most significant trends, factors and pressures that could affect the natural environment to 2060.’

Timeline: 2000-2050 – Rob Bushby, John Muir Award Manager

A decade by decade snapshot, from 2000-2010, ‘the Decade of Denial’, to 2040-2050, a ‘Decade of Equilibrium’.

2050 Time Capsule

‘What objects, images, messages, artwork and stories capture key messages about the value of wild places in 2009-2010 and should be in a time capsule to be opened in 2050?’

Contributions include: The Lorax by Dr Seuss, Joseph Cornell’s Sharing Nature 30th Anniversary booklet, broad bean seeds, The

John Muir Trust 2004 Wild Land Conference ‘Decalation for the Wild’, Keith Brame’s Wild Land Photography project, an extinct/not extinct Forth oyster, the Official Video of International Year of Biodiversity 2010, quote from Jim Perrin in TGO Magazine...

Choosing our Tomorrows – Macaulay Land Use Research Institute

‘It is the year 2050. How has society reacted and adapted to climate change? This resource explores what life could be like in 2050 through the video diaries of three members of the same Scottish farming family as they experience three very different futures...’

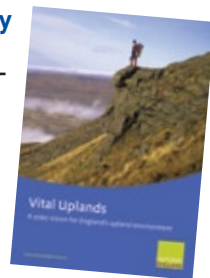
www.macaulay.ac.uk/videos



Landscapes & Biodiversity Vital Uplands: A 2060 vision for England’s upland environment – Natural England

Vital Uplands sets out Natural England’s long-term vision and ambitions for England’s upland environment. Follow the debate kickstarted by the vision.

www.naturalengland.org.uk



Picturing Upland Futures Joining up thinking on landscape policy – Flora of the Fells

‘A first step for the project was to establish a range of different values for upland landscapes and then create pictorial ‘visions’ of future upland landscapes in the Lake District and the North Pennines based on the enhancement of these values.’

www.floraofthefells.com

‘Mission Possible? Can we save Cumbria from the impact of climate change?’ – Flora of the Fells

‘What will happen to our lakes and rivers? How will farming be affected? What about wildlife? Will our woodlands survive? All of these topics are explored, along with simple suggestions for how we can all make a difference, minimizing the consequences of global warming for the much loved landscapes of Cumbria.’

www.floraofthefells.com

Renewable living – A Polyhome View from 2050 – Dr Bob Stewart

Dr Bob Stewart lives on Mull. His view from 2050 focuses on Polyhomes or Membrane Envelope Buildings.



www.bobstewartphotography.com

Farms and Forests of the Future – Marjan van de Weg – PhD Student, University of Edinburgh

‘The Scottish landscape has a part to play in reaching these targets through a combination of factors of change in the urban, natural and the agricultural landscapes.’

A Bryologist’s View from 2050 – Oliver Moore, BTCV Natural Talent

‘It was recognised that mosses and liverworts were vital in increasing the lag time of rivers by soaking up and retaining vast quantities of rain water in woodland, heathland and bogs...

The BTCV Natural Talent scheme played a role by encouraging the next generation of bryologists to fight the cause of the lower plant.’



www.btcv.org/naturaltalent

John Muir Trust

The John Muir Trust: A Trustee perspective from 2050 – Will Williams

‘My term as a Trustee ended in 2009, just as the debate was hotting up. One of my final contributions was to urge the John Muir Trust to think more about its position in the context of inevitable climate change. In establishing itself in 1983, the Trust was unique in promoting a holistic approach to protecting wild land. But the political and public concern 25 years on had moved on... Climate change adaptation, carbon sequestration, biodiversity restoration, sustainable energy sources, and putting a value on natural capital were some of the big issues of 2010 – 2020.’

www.jmt.org

A summary of ‘The View from 2050’ Consultation at John Muir Trust Members’ Gathering & AGM 2009

‘John Muir Trust members ‘imagineered’ themselves into the year 2050 and looked back to 2009 to see how land and nature had contributed to the low carbon society they found themselves in. Some approached their task with pessimism – ‘Man is the greatest predator on earth, 41 years is too short to change behaviour’ – some through spectacles slightly rosier of tint. There certainly was a sense that the world would be a very different place.’

Recreation

A view from the Lodge – George McEwan, Head of Mountaineering, Glenmore Lodge

‘In some senses the courses now are quite similar to what were being run in 1948 – around 100 years ago. The climbing courses go back to the very essence of mountaineering, which is journeying through the mountains.’



www.glenmorelodge.org.uk

2050: The view from a hostel window? – Amy Boud, John Muir Award YHA Do It 4 Real Manager – 2030–2050 is a golden era for YHA as business booms in the growth of ‘Staycationing’

- links strengthen between hostel operations and the maintenance of a healthy environment.

- YHA becomes the UK market leader in provision of out of classroom environmental education

www.yha.org.uk

Environmentalism and Climbing: An Uneasy Partnership – Es Tresidder

‘Can I feel happy watching the alpine world that I so love being so damaged by climate change when I know I am still very much a part of the problem?’

Extracts from article for UKClimbing.com

www.es-on-ice.co.uk

Learning, Values, Art and Media

School's Out! – poem by Juliet Robertson

'In 2030, an Act of Parliament was passed
The "Leave No Child Inside" Law came about
at last!

This innovative motion clearly stated
The indoor classroom was overrated'

www.creativestarlearning.co.uk

New Media: Navigating white noise – Toby Clark, John Muir Award Manager, West Scotland

'Countryside Rangers in the Tywi Valley texted
messages to help interpret its biodiversity
and landscape. A FaceBook profile kept the
Staffordshire Wildlife Trust in contact with youth
volunteer rangers. Educators were also engaging
walking audiences with natural and social
history trails via ipod and mp3 downloads (www.audiotrails.co.uk).'

Reflections on 'Earth: Art of a changing world' exhibition, Royal Academy of Arts – David Buckland, Edith Devaney and Kathleen Soriano, Exhibition Curators

'35 leading contemporary artists from around
the world...were invited to respond to what was
perceived as the most pressing concern of our
time, an issue that was forcing us to engage
with our relationship with our planet, and one
that highlights the role of
the artist as provocateur,
upholder of the collective
conscience, observer.'



www.royalacademy.org.uk

'What if?' – poem by Lemn Sissay

What If? is a powerful examination of the
direction that
'evolution' has
taken the human
race in the 150
years since the
publication of
On the Origin of
Species.



3 minute video at:

www.darwinoriginals.co.uk/LemnSissay.html
www.lemnsissay.com

'Where Now 'Hell and High Water'? – Alastair McIntosh, Fellow of the Centre for Human Ecology

'We are planetary infants, and the travail we
currently experience, the upset we're currently

causing, could be seen (albeit at grave risk to
the Mother) as evolutionary birth pangs. Our
challenge now is to grow up fast. In this I believe
that nature, and not just human culture, is our
teacher.'

Full article published in ECOS – Journal of the
British Association of Nature Conservationists,
Dec 2009 and at www.alastairmcintosh.com

Reflections on the 'Creative Climate' Decade: 2010-2020 – Dr Joe Smith, Senior Lecturer in Environment, Open University, and Director of Creative Climate

'Creative Climate is an ambitious 10-year diary
project that will record how people understand
and respond to environmental change. 'My
hope at the outset was that, in documenting a
very wide range of creative, determined and
imaginative responses to environmental change
issues, we did three things:

- helped to accelerate change
- built confidence in the idea that we can run the
economy and society differently
- made space for stories that didn't start from
fearfulness or threats about the future, but
rather started from highlighting humanity's
fantastic ability to pull a rabbit out of the hat
when under pressure and when applying our
best talents.'



www.open2.net/creativeclimate

'Sell the Sizzle': The new climate message – Futerra sustainability communications

'The building blocks of your vision should
be valuable, irrespective of climate change.
Upgrading our energy sector, protecting our big
green spaces (like the Amazon) and little green
spaces (like our parks), living healthier lifestyles
and cutting pollution; we'd want these whatever
the circumstances. These desirable outcomes
are at the heart of a sizzling vision.'

www.futerra.co.uk

My Gran and Me – poem by Liesel Harvey

'I listen to Gran and the things that she's done
I love her story of how it all began,
And I wonder if I'd been alive back then,
What would I have done to change things in 2010?'

**Cover: Tomas Saraceno,
Endless Series,
2006 (detail)**

Courtesy of Studio Saraceno, Andersen's
Contemporary, Tanya Bonakdar Gallery and
pinksummer contemporary art.

'A major concern of Tomas Saraceno's work is to
consider the challenges of the way we live... His
Endless Series of photographs, taken in Bolivia
at Salar de Uyuni, the world's largest salt flat,
develops this notion further by depicting a figure
in this imagined environment, exploring the
possibilities of creating a secure future in this
new home.' Curators' Notes, Royal Academy of
Arts, Earth: Art of a changing world

**For full versions of contributions to 'Views from
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the link.**

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