

The Firth of Clyde Forum, established in July 2000, is a partnership of local authorities, statutory organisations, businesses, community groups and individuals all with an interest in the appropriate management of the Firth of Clyde. The Forum works from an agreed Management Strategy and Action Plan which aims to promote integrated coastal zone management within the Firth. The Forum is Chaired by Lady Isabel Glasgow and it's Action Plan is managed by a representative core group of Forum members.

EnviroCentre is an independent environmental consultancy, based at the University of Strathclyde, supplying professional environmental services in the fields of river engineering and flood risk assessment, environmental impact assessment, contaminated land, waste management and environmental education. To find out more visit <http://www.envirocentre.co.uk/>

The Clyde Heritage Trust, a small group of enthusiasts with wide expertise, meets regularly to discuss current issues that affect the River and also to promote knowledge of its history. They have a keen interest in ensuring that current riverside developments are sustainable and that flood mitigation proposals are beneficial to commercial, public and also amenity and heritage interests.

**The Venue:** The Teacher Building, Glasgow City Centre. This is a purpose designed conference centre with modern facilities. St. Enoch underground station is approximately 20 yards from the front door of the Teacher Building. Glasgow Central and Queen Street Stations are both within easy walking distance. Buchanan Street Bus Station is a 10 min walk or 5 min taxi ride away.

**Conference Fee:** £45 + VAT

The fee includes food and refreshments and delegate papers. There are also a number of free places for the unwaged.

**Conditions:**

- Cheques should be made payable to 'EnviroCentre Ltd'.
- **Cheques and completed booking forms should be sent to: EnviroCentre, Wolfson Centre, 106 Rottenrow East, Glasgow, G4 0NW.**
- Credit cards cannot be accepted.
- **Invoices will be provided** on request.
- Confirmation of registration and receipts will be forwarded on payment.
- Payment should be received prior to the event.
- No refunds for cancellation will be given less than 14 days prior conference

Further details from Tricia McGregor: Phone 0141 553 4128, [tmcgregor@envirocentre.co.uk](mailto:tmcgregor@envirocentre.co.uk)

Location Maps will be posted on Firth of Clyde Forum website [www.clydeforum.org/whatson](http://www.clydeforum.org/whatson)



# Clyde Catchment Conference: Living and Working with the River

***“An opportunity to reconcile economic development and flood risk”***

The Firth of Clyde Forum, EnviroCentre and The Clyde Heritage Trust are organising a one day conference to bring together all interested parties to outline a catchment wide strategic plan to protect and take forward the sustainable regeneration of Clydeside communities.

**13 December 2002**

**The Teacher Building  
14 St Enoch Square, Glasgow**

**Chaired by Lady Isabel Glasgow**



**Clyde Catchment Conference: Living and Working with the River - December 13th, 2002 Booking Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Organisation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone / Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Please Register \_\_\_\_\_ place / s Total Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate what workshop you would like to be involved with:

- Heritage and Amenity Planning
- Biodiversity, Water Quality and Fisheries
- Sustainable Economic Development
- Flood Risk Management
- Flood Awareness for Community and Business Groups

Please return completed booking forms to EnviroCentre, Wolfson Centre, 106 Rottenrow East, Glasgow, G4 0NW

**Cheques should be made payable to 'EnviroCentre Ltd'**

### The Clyde

The River Clyde flows approximately 100 miles from its source in the Southern Uplands down to Glasgow and out into the Firth of Clyde. Around 1.8 million people, approximately two fifths of Scotland's population live in Glasgow and the Clyde Valley, with 600,000 living within the city boundaries. Surface water runoff from eleven different local authority areas drains into the River and the Firth. With so many people and places affected by the Clyde the economic prosperity of the catchment is vital as is a sustainable and catchment wide approach to environmental change and flood risk management. This is necessary in order to protect property and infrastructure and to support economic growth.

### Current Situation

The lower Clyde as we now know it, is an engineered construction that has resulted from over 300 years of commercial, industrial and agricultural activity. Over the years the river has been narrowed, deepened and constrained by quay walls to allow navigation up to the City of Glasgow. Docks and basins were excavated to accommodate expanding trade and shipbuilding and the navigation channel from the Firth to the Broomielaw was maintained by extensive dredging. An undershot "tidal weir" was constructed at Glasgow Green to provide water for industry and recreation during low tides and to protect the newly built banks from erosion.

During the late 20<sup>th</sup> century heavy industry on the Clyde dwindled and sea going navigation particularly in the upper reaches of the tidal river is now virtually non-existent. The old banks and quay walls have deteriorated in many areas with the ownership and responsibility for maintenance becoming increasingly fragmented.

Local authorities and the Scottish Enterprise Network are now promoting the river corridor as an exciting major regeneration opportunity and large-scale development projects have started to appear along the river banks. There is also much interest in developing the river as a source of leisure and recreation and as a transport link. A small water bus now links the city centre to Braehead and the viability of a larger more extensive service linking to outer Firth communities is also being investigated.

Insurance companies have recently expressed increasing reluctance to insure properties, businesses and projects on floodplains and many poorer tenants have no insurance. There is thus a need for a catchment wide focus to accommodate environmental change and flood risk in order to promote and protect sustainable regional economic and social re-generation.

### Environmental Change

Current predictions of climate change suggest that Scotland will become warmer and wetter, increasingly stormy and that sea level will rise. Increasingly frequent intense rainfall events will lead to increased surface runoff and increased peak river flow rates, both with an associated flood risk, directly from rivers bursting their banks and indirectly from overwhelmed drainage networks, as seen recently at Shettleston. Rises in sea level and increasingly frequent and intense tidal surges, associated with storm events, are likely to result in coastal flooding.

The Scottish Executive estimates that, not allowing for flood defences, more than 93,000 properties in Scotland are presently at risk of coastal flooding, while a further 77,000 are at risk of river flooding. Within the tidal extent of the Clyde, there is the potential for high river flows to coincide with extreme tidal events resulting in extensive flooding. The lower Clyde estuary, the lower Kelvin and urban areas, including Paisley, Cathcart, Kirkintilloch and Kilmarnock, have been identified as being particularly vulnerable to flooding.

Given the projected climate change scenario's flood risk and environmental change are issues requiring urgent attention by all riparian and coastal stakeholders.

### What is required for the river

It is proposed that the Firth of Clyde Forum utilise it's broad membership base in order to address some of the issues outlined above. By drawing together members and interested parties in this one day conference it is hoped that information exchange between statutory and non-statutory organisations, business and community groups will lead to a greater understanding of the needs of the Clyde Catchment.

### Issues to be covered

- Identify the main environmental problems impacting on economic and social change,
- Review sources of data, historical studies and identify gaps in knowledge; and
- Enable a fuller understanding of the Clyde catchment and what is required to develop an integrated approach for the future.

### Longer Term Aims

- Encourage a transparent catchment wide forum for all stakeholders,
- Formulation of a basic catchment strategic plan to reassure local communities and businesses and restore the confidence of insurers and investors,
- Increased community awareness and engagement in the planning process,
- Increased awareness of the business community and their potential for contribution to strategic sustainable catchment planning; and
- Support exchange of information by all professionals and administrators concerned with the management of the catchment.

## Clyde Catchment Conference: Living and Working with the River. Programme

09:30 Registration and Coffee  
10:00 **Opening address. Lady Isabel Glasgow, Chair Firth of Clyde Forum.**

### Session 1

10:15 **Learning to live with rivers. Prof. George Fleming, EnviroCentre**  
10:35 **Clyde reBUILT, An Economic and Social Strategy. Steven McGarva, Scottish Enterprise.**  
10:55 **Discussion + Questions**  
11:15 Coffee

### Session 2

11:30 **Water Framework Directive. Callum Sinclair, SEPA**  
11:50 **Forward thinking in Catchment Management. Iain Macnab, Glasgow City Council.**  
12:10 **Discussion + Questions**  
12:30-13:30 Buffet Lunch

### Session 3

13:30 **Predicting water levels in the Clyde. Prof. Alan Ervine, Glasgow University.**  
13:50 **The cost of keeping dry: an insurance perspective. Prof. David Crichton.**  
14:10 **Discussion + Questions**  
14:30 Coffee

### Workshop Groups

14:45 Workshops

**Each group aims to review the information necessary for an outline catchment management strategy. Further notes on workshop content will be provided on registration.**

Heritage and Amenity Planning,  
Biodiversity, Water Quality and Fisheries,  
Sustainable Economic Development,  
Flood Risk Management; and  
Flood Awareness for Community and Business Groups.

15:30 Plenary session  
16:00 Close

**This is your chance to discuss catchment management within the Firth of Clyde and how we take forward integrated management of the Clyde as a resource. Early booking is recommended.**