

Scotland's Environment Web Project Summary

1. Background

- Scotland's Environment Web aims to bring together information on Scotland's environment so that it is easily available and in a useable form.
 - The Scotland's Environment Web vision is: "Better information to help deliver an improved environment for us all."
 - Scotland's Environment Web phase one created a new partnership of public sector agencies and a pilot website was launched in November 2011, providing a comprehensive insight into the condition of Scotland's environment, an interactive map and extensive document library. The current website is the result of excellent collaborative working.
 - The LIFE+ programme is the European Unions funding – instrument for the environment. The general objective of LIFE+ is to contribute to the implementation, updating and development of EU environmental policy and legislation.
- The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) successfully applied to the European Commission on behalf of Scotland's Environment Web's partners for funding to support the initiative. The Scotland's Environment Web partnership has been successful in securing funding from the LIFE+ programme combined with match funding from SEPA, totalling €4.9 million for phase two of the project Scotland's Environment Web (LIFE+) which will run until March 2015.
- The Scotland's Environment Web (LIFE+) project aims to provide access to data and information held and managed by a wide range of organisations across Scotland. It is a long-term partnership commitment to develop a new, modern and dynamic approach to presenting information by moving away from static, published reports, to a website where the most up-to-date environmental information is always provided.

2. Key messages and opportunities

- Scotland's Environment Web is a new environmental information hub and paints a generally positive picture of the condition of Scotland's environment. In 2011, Scotland's environment was said to be worth £23.5 billion per year.
- Everything you want to know about Scotland's environment is available at the touch of a button with information and data provided by Scotland's key environment and health agencies.
- Scotland's Environment Web aims to be the gateway to everything you want to know about our environment and is supported by funding from the European Union LIFE+ programme.
- Scotland's Environment Web (LIFE+) project will put Scotland at the global forefront of sharing environmental information, prioritising problems and involving citizens in assessing and improving their own environment.
- Scotland's Environment Web is a fantastic public resource and a result of excellent collaboration between Scotland's public agencies. See briefing document two for more information on partnerships.



3. Description

Scotland's Environment Web currently offers information at a range of levels suitable for different audiences.

It provides straight-forward descriptions of the condition of Scotland's environment, its value and the threats it faces; summaries and key messages which highlight progress in protecting the environment; interactive map-based tools that allow direct access to a wide range of spatial environmental data; and a search facility that allows users to find information and reports published by a wide range of partner organisations on Scotland's environment.

Scotland's Environment Web (LIFE+) aims to do much more than provide information on a website.

Over the next three years, Phase two of Scotland's Environment Web will build on the existing partnership and website, aiming to:

- Provide a platform for shared services and achieve efficiency savings to the user by developing a range of online applications and web tools to facilitate quicker and easier access to environmental information and data.
- Deliver a single point of access to data on Scotland's environment, and improve data prioritisation and environmental reporting to Europe.
- Improve sharing, analysis and presentation of environmental information through an enhanced network of partnerships between interested organisations, businesses, groups and individuals.
- Improve understanding of Scotland's environment through research and new data presentation and analysis tools.
- Improve methods of identifying and prioritising environmental problems, and targeting measures to manage and improve Scotland's environment; and
- As Scotland's Environment Web develops, it will also seek to actively involve the public, schools and academics in developing understanding of the environment and improving the way we protect it. For more information see briefing documents three and four.

4. Contact Us

If you are interested in finding out more about the Scotland's Environment Web (LIFE+) project or have any comments about the website, contact seweb.administrator@sepa.org.uk



5. Supporting documents

Scotland's Environment Web website:

www.environment.scotland.gov.uk

EU LIFE+ website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life>

Description of the LIFE+ project:

www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/about-us/lifeplus-project/

European Environment Agency website:

www.eea.europa.eu

