



The May Day Network in Scotland

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why are we holding the Summit?

The May Day Summit 2008 is an initiative of HRH The Prince of Wales. It will reconvene the May Day Network which was formed at the first May Day Summit held in England on 1 May 2007, and in Scotland and Wales on 7th November 2007. The Summit aims to:

- Report on the progress companies have made since the last Summit, sharing inspirational examples of best practice.
- Challenge companies on climate change by asking them to pledge to take action to measure, report and reduce their carbon footprint
- Grow the May Day Network to 10,000 member companies and organisations by asking existing members to firstly engage their supply chains on climate change, and secondly engage their employees and customers

2. What will happen on the day and who is speaking?

Over 1600 businesses will be taking part in the event at 13 locations across the UK. In Scotland 100 companies will take part in a series of plenary discussions prompted by presentations from companies who have already taken action on climate change. Delegates will use interactive handsets to pledge to take action on climate change. The handsets will allow pledges to be relayed instantaneously and collated at the central 'hub' event in London, hosted by HRH The Prince of Wales.

The May Day Summit 2008 is the first time the Prime Minister Gordon Brown and HRH The Prince of Wales will share a platform to celebrate business progress and challenge companies to do more on climate change. Scottish businesses will hear this address broadcast via satellite technology. Other speakers will include: Stewart Stevenson, MSP, Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change; James Curran, Chair of the Scottish Sustainable Development Forum and Susan Rice, CEO Lloyds TSB Scotland.

3. Who is attending and why were they invited?

The full range of businesses from FTSE 100 companies operating globally to small and medium sized enterprises will be attending. Importantly, this is not an event just for those companies who have already begun to take action on climate change, but also for those that wanting to start their journey.

4. Where are the Summit events taking place?

There are thirteen Summit events in total: in Scotland at Our Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh, 9 in the English regions, 2 in Wales, and a UK 'hub' event in London. Sky is providing the technology to broadcast hub event proceeding to regional events, which will help to reduce the carbon footprint of the whole Summit.

5. What are the expected outcomes of the Summit and how will you monitor and ensure progress?

At the Summit, businesses will make pledges to take action on climate change by measuring, reporting and reducing their carbon footprint, as well as mobilising employees, suppliers and customers to take action. Each of the 6 pledges will be tracked to each business and they will be asked to report back on their progress by 1 May 2009. Throughout the process, Scottish Business in the Community and its partner organisations will support companies in the achievement of their pledges.

We also want to reach as many companies as possible and seek to grow the Network to 120 organisations in Scotland by the end of the Summit on May 1st.

6. What will happen to those businesses who do not meet their pledges?

Membership of the May Day Network is free, voluntary and open to businesses of all sizes. Making the pledges is voluntary but we encourage each company to set themselves challenging targets. Businesses were sent the 6 pledges in advance of the Summit to allow them to discuss which ones could be achieved and therefore committed to. All companies will be asked at the Summit to report their progress, and those that do will be entitled to use the prestigious May Day Network logo in their communications.

7. How will the success of the event be measured?

The success of the event will be measured against the pledges made, how they are achieved over time and how many companies report back on their progress before 1 May 2009.

8. Have you set the May Day Network members a carbon reduction target?

At next year's Summit on 1 May 2009 we aim to set a Network carbon reduction target of 5% over the following 3 years (2009 – 2012) against a 2008 baseline. This fits in with the end of the current Kyoto Protocol agreements and the start of the new ones. The 5% target was chosen as a realistic and challenging figure based on varying UK emission data since 1990.

9. What action has Scottish Business in the Community taken to reduce the Summit's carbon footprint?

Scottish Business in the Community has taken practical steps to reduce avoidable emissions and is working with Global Action Plan, via its sister organization BITC. Unavoidable CO₂ emissions created by the event will be offset through the CarbonNeutral Company on two projects.

Scottish Business in the Community is also encouraging delegates to travel by public transport where possible and where not, to share cars and taxis. Delegates will also have the opportunity to offset their transport emissions through the CarbonNeutral Company and through Climate Change Scotland, a brand new not-for-profit company working in carbon offsetting with the unique proposition that all funds raised will remain in Scotland

10. If every business could do one thing, what should it be?

At the Summit every business will be encouraged to commit to measuring and reporting their carbon footprint to Scottish Business in the Community. Those who have already done so will be encouraged to help ten of their smaller suppliers to do so.

11. Some of the companies attending have already taken strong action on climate change. Is there anything more they could do or learn?

There is always more that businesses can do to tackle climate change. Companies considered to be 'leaders' in the field can share their learning with peers and suppliers, to spread best practice. Business also has an enormous influence on the behaviour of the UK public, through its employees and customers. By encouraging these groups to reduce their carbon emissions, the 'leading' businesses can have an unparalleled reach.

12. Why is HRH The Prince of Wales involved?

HRH The Prince of Wales has been a leading advocate of the need to tackle climate change for many years. He is also President of Scottish Business in the Community and has worked to encourage responsible business practices.

13. Why May Day?

Climate change, like the 'May Day' distress signal, requires urgent action.

14. What has Scottish Business in the Community pledged and what is it doing itself?

Scottish Business in the Community is committed to 'acting with integrity'. Central to this is practicing what we preach. Our largest environmental impact is indirect; through our stewardship of responsible businesses practices to our members. However, we will also take steps to reduce our direct impact by measuring, reporting and reducing CO2 emissions from our use of energy and employee transport, and cutting our paper use and waste.

15. Is the May Day Network just for the private sector?

No. Any organization – private, public and voluntary sector can join the Network and begin the journey to tackle their climate change impacts.



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