

## The Campaign for Greener Healthcare

A national campaign which works with the public, private and community sectors, and undertakes activities throughout the UK aimed at putting green words and targets into tangible and sustainable action, primarily within the National Health Service and the industries that supply it. Specific links to the South West? ...

## The Green Peninsula, based in Truro, Cornwall

Green Peninsula possesses a world class team of renewable energy professionals. We have specialist teams and expertise in each area required to deliver a project from initial business case through development, procurement, construction and operations?

## Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership

A partnership combining the expertise and knowledge of organisations within the public, private, health and community sectors. Aims to actively integrate sustainable energy into public, private and community sector strategies. With membership of over 72 organisations who have signed the 2004 Energy Strategy for Cornwall with the aim to ensure a sustainable future for Cornwall.

## Environment, Health and Well-being in the South West



South West  
England

## Environment, Health and Well-being in the South West

The environment profoundly affects on our health and well-being. This is most obvious when extreme events occur such as earthquakes, tsunamis, forest fires, hurricanes and floods. Less obviously, during our normal daily lives, the environment poses challenges that our bodies must respond to.

Infectious agents, chemical contaminants, radiations, thermal fluctuations and changes in air quality can all trigger disease processes. Conversely, the environment can also have beneficial effects on our health and well-being through lifestyle activities. Detecting and understanding the influence of environmental factors on human health and wellbeing and as triggers for disease is a prerequisite for developing better health management strategies.

In the South West UK Environment and Human health has emerged as a strong and growing theme among researchers and practitioners in human, environmental, medical and social sciences.

Our location in the South West of England provides us with a unique range of environments within which to work, and a growing strength within the region has developed.

Researchers in the South West are examining such diverse issues as the accumulation of contaminants in our bodies as we age, the high incidences of skin and lung cancers through to the health benefits of time spent the natural environment.

We are especially concerned with climate-ocean-human health interactions because of the maritime nature of the south west peninsula.

### Key initiatives in the South West include:

- The Peninsula Environment and Human Health Forum
- International Centre for Environment & Human Health
- The Campaign for Greener Healthcare
- The Green Peninsula
- Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership

## Peninsula Environment & Human Health Forum

The Forum brings together organisations in Southwest UK whose staff are working on a wide range of environment and human health issues providing a critical mass of expertise and a central point of contact for the local community, the region, national and international interests

### The Forum aims to:

- co-ordinate activities in environment and human health in the South West as carried out by members and involving information exchange;
- provide a one-stop-shop for information for local, national and international stakeholders including government, agencies, health service providers, Local Authorities, business and the wider public;
- enhance collaborative research among forum members through the organisation of sub groups examining different topics;
- foster commercial development and new applications in particular involving

the environment and human health service sector through provision of training, advice and expertise on environment and human health issues.

The forums supports a number of focus groups that are able to target key research questions by combining their strengths with the aim of developing collaborative projects using a multidisciplinary approach.

### Current forum topics are:

- Health and well-being from the environment
- Environmental toxicology/epidemiology
- Skin and lung cancer
- Environmental change (including climate change) and its implications for human health and wellbeing
- Environmental toxicology/epidemiology
- Skin and lung cancer
- Environmental change and human health



## International Centre for Environment & Human Health

The Peninsula Medical School (PCMD) is currently establishing an International Centre for Environment and Human in Cornwall focusing on research, training and policy development.

The Centre will be a focal point for excellence in research in this area providing a base from which the Peninsula Medical School tackles local, national and international health and wellbeing issues..

The International Centre for Environment and Human Health will house the offices of the Peninsula Environment and Human Health Forum.

The International Centre for Environment and Human Health will facilitate multidisciplinary research bringing together expertise to:

- Examine the roles of environmental stressors in initiating the onset of diseases processes;
- Investigate the potential impacts of pollutants;
- Understand the risks of exposure and mechanisms of disease induction;
- Identify environmentally sensitive genes and genetically susceptible subgroups;
- Explore ways of minimising the impact of environmental stressors through changes in lifestyle and the management of exposure;
- Examine ways of integrating environmental and human health risk assessment procedures.
- Provide advice on policies to promote health and wellbeing

### Members of the Peninsula Environment & Human Health Forum

Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry  
University of Exeter  
University of Plymouth  
Eden Project  
Environment Agency  
Health Protection Agency  
The Hyperbaric Medical Centre (DDRC)  
The Met Office  
National Marine Aquarium  
Natural England  
Plymouth Marine Laboratory  
Plymouth Marine Sciences Partnership  
Royal Cornwall Hospital NHS Trust  
South West Public Health Office  
South West of England Regional Development Agency

### Peninsula Environment & Human Health Forum

Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry  
The John Bull Building  
Tamar Science Park  
Research Way  
Plymouth  
PL6 8BU

forinfo@pehhforum.co.uk  
+44 (0)1752 437402  
www.pms.ac.uk/ahcc