



UNDER EMBARGO – 00.01, TUESDAY 9 DECEMBER

## Mayor welcomes new 'London Leaders' to champion a greener and fairer city

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, today welcomed the second team of London Leaders who will each pledge to make London more liveable now and in the future.

The 16 London Leaders come from all walks of life and include Wayne Hemingway MBE, founder of Hemingway Design; Chantal Cooke, Founder, Passion for the Planet Radio; Steve Waggott, Group Chief Executive of Charlton Athletic Football Club and Vijay Amin, Managing Director of Abi Associates. Each London Leader will undertake a campaign over the next year to champion 'sustainability', which could range from boardroom to community action.

The London Leaders programme is run by the London Sustainable Development Commission, which is supported by the Mayor. London Leaders are chosen by the Commission for their ability to inspire, motivate and innovate in their chosen field of knowledge or passion.

The first team of London Leaders have successfully completed a range of projects over their 'term of office', from retrofitting green roofs, publishing a community cookbook, working with London TV/film industries to promote energy efficiency and training young refugee leaders in environmental issues.

The Mayor said: 'This year's team of London Leaders have a wonderful opportunity to make a real difference to our city and I look forward to seeing what they will achieve in 2009. Inspirational individuals can really help to galvanise communities and organisations to make changes for the better and help create a more liveable, pleasant city now and for future generations.'

Paul de Zylva, Acting Chair, London Sustainable Development Commission: 'When people ask me what sustainable development means I point to our London Leaders. They make it real by demonstrating change that makes London a better place to live now and helps tackle bigger issues such as climate change. Our first Leaders put

sustainable thinking into practice and I now welcome our new Leaders who will bring it alive in their own way.'

Wayne Hemingway MBE and London Leader 2009, said: 'London has the potential to lead the way and become a sustainable city but we need to be more than just green. Cities need to be liveable and attractive to be considered truly sustainable and we need to give young people the creative and entrepreneurial space to be part of this change. I was lucky enough to start my early businesses before the high street had been bought up by the pension funds and was able to find space to experiment. This is where I hope to make a difference through the London Leaders programme.'

Laura Ivill, Vice Chair, Bankside Open Spaces Trust and London Leader 2009, said: 'Bankside Open Spaces Trust is all about bringing the local community closer together and shaping concerns into action to improve our parks, gardens, housing land, the streetscape and the wider shared environment. In my year as a London Leader I'll be focussing on partnership working and community wellbeing. The more I look into what's going on, the more I'm amazed at how many great projects there are out there and how much energy and enthusiasm people have to make lives better, not just for themselves but for those around them too.'

Philippe Castaing, Chair of Brixton Green and London Leader 2008, said: 'We are on our way I believe to making a huge difference. It's very important that individuals from the community take leading roles in the future of London. We need to empower communities and this is one of most effective ways to do it. I think London Leaders is a fantastic programme and I think we're going to do amazing work.'

The 2009 London Leaders programme will be launched tonight at the Royal Society at an event, which will include speakers, Sir Simon Milton, Deputy Mayor for Policy and Planning representing the Mayor, and Wayne Hemingway.

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- More information on the London Leaders programme including the achievements of the first team of London Leaders, visit: [www.londonsdc.org](http://www.londonsdc.org)

**Full list London Leaders 2009:**

Vijay Amin, Managing Director, ABi Associates  
Chantal Cooke, Founder, Passion for the Planet Radio  
Dr Frances Corner, Head of London College of Fashion  
Richard Featherstone, Regional Development Manager, London Community Recycling Network  
Wayne Hemingway MBE, Founder, Hemingway Design  
Robert Holdway, Director and Presenter, Giraffe and Channel 4's Dumped  
Laura Ivill, Vice Chair, Bankside Open Spaces Trust (BOST)  
Arthur Potts Dawson, Executive Head Chef, Acorn House Restaurant  
Melanie Poyser, Manager, Handyperson Service, London Borough of Southwark  
Debbie Leach, Chief Executive, Thames21  
Andrew MacAskill, Supply Chain Director, Skanska

Professor Hugh Montgomery, Director, UCL Institute for Human Health and Performance and Intensive Care Consultant, University College London  
Susan Sheehan, Founder, Hyde Farm Climate Action Network  
Alex Smith, Founder, Alara Wholefoods  
Ben Todd, Executive Director, Arcola Theatre  
Steve Waggott, Group Chief Executive, Charlton Athletic Football Club

**Full list of London Leaders 2008:**

Stephen Howlett, Chief Executive, Peabody Trust  
Andrew Morrison, Travis Perkins  
Michaela Crimmin, Head of Arts and Ecology, RSA  
Elliot Lipton, Chief Executive, First Base  
Philippe Castaing, Restaurateur and Chair of Brixton Green  
Monica Saini, Climate Change Ambassador and a Sustainable Travel Advisor, Christian Aid  
Professor Rick Trainor, Principal, Kings College London  
Ife Piankhi, Social Entrepreneur and Facilitator  
Reverend Roger Gayler, Chair of Barking and Dagenham LA21  
Joseph Oliver, Director, Bash Creations  
Solitaire Townsend, Director, Futerra Sustainability Communications  
Tzeggai Yohannes Deres, Director, Evelyn Oldfield Unit  
Mark Johnson, Manager, London Warm Zone  
Lutfun Hussain, Project Coordinator, Coriander Club  
Dusty Gedge, Urban Ecologist and Co-Founder of Living Roofs

- The London Sustainable Development Commission was appointed in 2002 to promote sustainable development in London and advise on the sustainability of city-wide strategies.

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