

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Coventry, England (31st May 2018)

Experts from DEFRA and the University of Leeds to Provide Insightful Talks at the Society for the Environment Annual Awards and Lectures

The Society for the Environment confirm DEFRA's Chief Scientific Advisor, Professor Ian Boyd, has joined the expert line-up at their Annual Awards and Lectures on World Environment Day.

To add to this, Chartered Waste Manager and Lecturer in Resource Efficiency Systems at the University of Leeds, Dr Costas Velis, is joining Professor Boyd and will be discussing marine litter, amongst other areas of expertise.

Next week, on Tuesday 5th June, the Society for the Environment host their annual Awards and Lectures evening at Arup, London. Confirmed speakers had already included former CEO of the Environment Agency and current Professor of Environmental Assessment at Cranfield University, **Paul Leinster CBE CEnv**, and the first CEO of Natural Resources Wales, **Dr Emyr Roberts**. The Society have now confirmed two additional experts, creating an evening of invaluable knowledge sharing opportunities from a range of perspectives and backgrounds.

Event Chair and Vice Chair of the Society, Dougal Driver CEnv said; "It's fantastic to be able to announce that Professor Boyd and Dr Velis are able to participate in our World Environment Day event. Both bring a wealth of national and international experience and knowledge.

"It will be a privilege to hear their views, thoughts and ideas as we lift the lid on the global environmental threats and opportunities facing us today and into the future."

Professor Boyd is an award-winning scientist with vast experience in ecology, polar science and biology. Alongside his role as Chief Scientific Advisor at the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), he is also Professor in Biology at the University of St Andrews. Professor Boyd's expertise in environmental exploitation of marine ecosystems and ecological economics will make for a thought-provoking key note speech, titled "Plastics and the Environment".

Dr Velis conducts research at the School of Civil Engineering, University of Leeds, coordinating a cross-disciplinary network on Circular Economy & Resource Recovery (CERRY). He leads the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) Marine Litter Task Force, working to establish how sound waste and resource management practices can prevent marine litter, solving this global challenge. This experience informs his insightful talk around marine litter that links directly to the 2018 theme for the World Environment Day (a global UN initiative) – "Beat Plastic Pollution".

The evening will also see the presentation of the prestigious [Environmental Professional of the Year 2018](#) award, as well as recognising the exceptional contributions of three new Honorary Fellows of the Society for the Environment (HonFSE).

Last minute registration for the Society's Awards and Lectures on World Environment Day is still available! The event is free for Chartered Environmentalists (CEnv) or Registered Environmental Technicians (REnvTech), with a nominal fee for interested parties and aspiring registrants. Register your attendance at www.socenv.org.uk/event/WED2018.

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NOTES TO EDITOR:

About the Society for the Environment

The Society for the Environment, is comprised of 24 Licenced Bodies, with over 500,000 members between them. It received a Royal Charter in 2004, which empowers it to regulate the Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) and Registered Environmental Technician (REnvTech) registration in the UK. There are now over 7,000 environmental professionals currently registered who share a common vision of delivering sustainability through environmental professionalism. Further information can be found at www.socenv.org.uk.

About Dougal Driver CEnv, Vice Chair of the Society for the Environment

Dougal has extensive experience in the public, private and NGO sectors. After a successful career managing the Defence Estate Environment, he became a Defra Director and Ministerial advisor on environmental matters. He played a vital role in the first green infrastructure and natural capital polices and is an advisor to the Natural Capital Coalition. He set up both the New Forest and South Downs National Parks and is an expert in lowering the impact of powerboat racing in the marine environment.

Dougal is now a sought-after Chairman, Director and advisor and is a board member for several environmentally focused organisations including Grown in Britain which has an aim to substitute unsustainable materials with home grown timber.

Dougal is passionate about the work of the Society and is our cabinet lead for World Environment Day.

The 25 Constituent Bodies of the Society for the Environment are:

Arboricultural Association (AA)
Chartered Association of Building Engineers (CABE)
Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists (CIAT)
Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM)
Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB)
Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM)
Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM)
Energy Institute (EI)
Institute of Agricultural Management (IAgrM)
Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF)
Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)

Institute of Fisheries Management (IFM)
Institute of Materials, Minerals & Mining (IOM3)
Institute of Water (IWater)
Institution of Agricultural Engineers (IAgrE)
Institution of Chemical Engineers (ICHEM)
Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE)
Institution of Engineering Designers (IED)
Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES)
Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE)
Nuclear Institute (NI)
Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC)
Society of Environmental Engineers (SEE)
Society of Operations Engineers (SOE)