

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

**Environmental Professionals brought together to celebrate World Environment Day  
Society for the Environment leading efforts to raise awareness of World Environment Day**

Coventry, England (30 January 2017)

Environmental professionals will share examples of best practice and environmental protection during a series of activities planned by The Society for the Environment for World Environment Day on the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017. The events and actions will be a showcase of the UK's professional expertise and demonstrate a commitment to high environmental standards.

In the coming months, The Society will share details on how individuals can get involved with the Society's World Environment Day events and how to better promote the role of environmental professionals. Registered professionals from members of 24 professional bodies covering a broad range of industries and sectors, as well as members of the public interested in issues of sustainability, are being encouraged to participate in activities.

Dr Emma Wilcox, Chief Executive Officer of the Society, said "the Society's core belief is that professionalism and best practice is the key to environmental sustainability. We've held this belief for over 10 years and in that time we have seen environmental professionals achieve incredible things and change the approach we all take towards sustainability. The 24 professional bodies that form the Society share this belief and are happy to join us in promoting the value and role of environmental professionals, as well as to take this opportunity to share knowledge and best practice across sectors."

This latest announcement is a part of the Society's mandate to put environmental professionals to the forefront of the conversation regarding sustainability, the environment and its protection. In 2016, the Society brought significant attention to adding sustainability to the existing Nolan Principles of Public Life, promoted the joint management of forests of water and was active in responding to Government consultations following the EU referendum vote.

Dr Emma Wilcox said "for a subject as crucial as the future of the planet's sustainability, World Environment Day is still not given a high enough profile to the wider public, or even amongst environmental professionals. The Society and its 24 member bodies intend to rectify this."

Dr Peter Matthews, Chair of the Society, added "Whilst we all share concerns for the whole planet, good practice always starts at home and this provides the UK with a better evidence base in its contribution to global environmental management. We hope that the series of events planned not only raises awareness, but also contributes to the UK's evidence base and demonstrates to the world our commitment to environmental protection."

**END**

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**NOTES TO EDITOR:**

The Society for the Environment, is comprised of 24 Licenced Professional Partners, with over 500,000 members between them. It received a Royal Charter in 2004, which empowers it to regulate the Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) qualification in the UK. There are now over 7,000 CEnvs who share a common

vision of delivering sustainability through environmental professionalism. Further information can be found at [www.socenv.org.uk](http://www.socenv.org.uk).

#### **About Dr Peter Matthews**

Peter Matthews is a Chartered Environmentalist, Chartered Chemist, and Water and Environment Manager. He has held a variety of senior positions in the environmental field, in both the private and public sectors. After a career in the water industry spanning almost 35 years, he retired from Anglian Water International as Deputy Managing Director International in 1999. And after serving on the board of the Environment Agency and as Chair of the Northern Ireland Utility regulator, he was appointed in August 2012 as Founding Chair of the Welsh Government's new body for managing natural resources in Wales, Natural Resources Wales (NRW), a position he held until December 2015.

#### **About Dr Emma Wilcox**

Emma has been CEO of the Society since July 2015 and since joining the organisation has led the development of a new five-year strategy increasing registrations and profile for Chartered Environmentalists and Registered Environmental Technicians.

Her career has spanned a number of disciplines including scientific research, knowledge and technology transfer, skills and education, programme and business management and stakeholder and relationship management. Emma's strong academic background is supported by an in-depth knowledge of both public and private sector landscapes.

#### **The Licensed Partners 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 (IMECH)  
Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)  
Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC)  
Society of Environmental Engineers (SEE)  
Society of Operations Engineers (SOE)