



Commons launch of healthy planet guide

<http://www.firstlight.cn> 2007-03-15

19 February 2007, Essex MPs James Duddridge and Bernard Jenkin are hosting a House of Commons reception to launch the University of Essex's Guide to a Healthy Planet.

The book contains 100 contributions from more than 80 staff in ten of the University's departments and centres. It demonstrates the contribution researchers from wide ranging subject areas at the University are making to understanding and resolving some of the most pressing national and global health challenges of the 21st Century.

Its scope ranges from understanding a variety of illnesses, new therapies, lifestyles and exercise, mental health, food, environment and health, society and health, and health services and policy.

The Guide, edited by Professor Jules Pretty, Dr Martin Sellens, Professor Nigel South, and Professor Mike Wilson, will be distributed widely across the country to health professionals and to school sixth forms.

Professor Pretty said: "The major health problems we face today cannot be addressed from the viewpoint of a single discipline. Researchers, practitioners and policymakers need to work together to increase understanding and achieve real improvements to the health of the next generation."

The reception will also feature the re-launch of Guide to a Green Planet, edited by Professor Pretty, Head of the Department of Biological Sciences and one of the country's leading experts on sustainable development. This Guide contains 90 contributions from 48 authors in 12 of the University's departments and centres.

Politicians, senior civil servants, health practitioners, academics and sixth formers with an interest in health and environmental issues, will be among the guests at the launch, which takes place in the Strangers' Dining Room at the House of Commons from 4pm to 5.30pm on Wednesday 28 February.

The launch will feature a bicycle generator, set up by members of the University's Department of Electronic Systems Engineering, to demonstrate the amount of effort required to generate energy. In support of the green and healthy planet theme, copies of the Guides will be distributed in recycled paper bags, envelope re-use labels were sent out with the invitations, and a recycling bin will be used at the launch to collect invitation cards.

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