

## April 2013 Sustainability Update

### News, Policy, Resources, Opportunities & Events

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[www.claspinfo.org](http://www.claspinfo.org)

CLASP is the sector-led (NW focussed) local authority sustainability support programme, funded by the Environment Agency and NWIEP, and hosted by Liverpool City Council.

#### Hello

Hello and welcome to April's news, policy, resource and funding update from CLASP.

This edition contains a wide round-up, including:

- [The Role of Local Authorities in Health Issues](#)
- [New Fuel Poverty "Snapshots" Data](#)
- [Adaptation & Resilience Update](#)
- [NW Flood Scheme Bids Successful](#)
- [Community Emergency Planning Resource & Case studies](#)
- [2012 Greenhouse Gas Emission Data \(provisional\)](#)
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Do get in touch if you have items to share in next month's edition.

We're pleased to confirm that CLASP is continuing to support public sector organisations in 2013/14 and we look forward to updating you shortly.

Thank you to everybody who has responded to recent calls for comments, ideas and requests regarding future support from CLASP. We'd still welcome all input so feel free to call or email [ailsa@claspinfo.org](mailto:ailsa@claspinfo.org)

#### Low Carbon Skills

Next month we'll be bringing you a full round-up of the local authority led projects that CLASP funding has been supporting in 2012/13. However as a taster you might like to look over the presentations from our most recent event (which took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> April) where Wigan Council launched the report and toolkit from their Low Carbon Skills project. See: <http://www.claspinfo.org/resources/low-carbon-skills-event>

**Full details of this project and all others will follow next month.**

## Health & Wellbeing

### Home Energy & Fuel Poverty

CSE's latest model available to Local Authorities is the Housing Energy and Fuel Poverty Assessment Tool (HEAT). 'HEAT' is a tool for designing optimal housing programmes and fuel-poverty 'snapshots'. It simulates the current profile of fuel poverty at a regional and national level, and also predicts the most effective energy efficiency retrofit measures for the housing stock.

Find out how you can access your local data here: <http://www.cse.org.uk/projects/view/1144>

### The Role of Local Authorities in Health Issues

The Communities and Local Government Select Committee has recently published a report on the role of local authorities in health issues. This report considers what the arrangements for public health, including its integration with health and social care, will look like at a local level. In particular the role of health and wellbeing boards; the JSNA and joint health and wellbeing strategies, including the preparedness of PHE and local authorities to deal with a health emergency; the causes of the causes of poor health and what a multi-faceted approach to the issue looks like; and the financing of the new public health system.

The Eighth Report of the Communities and Local Government Select Committee - The role of local authorities in health issues, can be downloaded at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/communities-and-local-government-committee/inquiries/parliament-2010/health-issues/>

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## Adaptation & Resilience

### NW Flood Resilience Community Pathfinder Schemes Announced

Nationally 13 areas that are deemed to be at particular risk from flooding will receive a share of £5m. In the NW these include Blackburn, Liverpool and Rochdale.

#### **Blackburn**

Establish flood resilience groups, community champions and develop community flood plans volunteering opportunities to engage people in flood management.

#### **Liverpool**

Raising awareness of community flood resilience and increasing the flood resilience of 36 vulnerable properties. Working with a Residents Association (over 300 properties) by developing a voluntary Flood Warden scheme.

#### **Rochdale**

The proposal focuses on three areas of Rochdale. The project will include outreach and engagement to target priority communities to create and support local groups.

For more information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/5-million-to-support-innovative-flood-defence-schemes>

## **Adapting Our Hospitals For A Changing Climate**

The DeDerHECC project (Design and Delivery of Robust Hospital Environments in a Changing Climate), part of the Adaptation and Resilience to a Changing Climate Coordination Network at UKCIP, has launched an informative video about its work, describing the project and its findings. DeDerHECC began its work in 2009, funded by EPSRC, to investigate ways to adapt NHS hospitals to cope with a changing climate, while also meeting carbon reduction and performance targets.

<http://sms.cam.ac.uk/media/1446036>

<http://www.arcc-cn.org.uk/project-summaries/dederhecc/>

## **Cumbria Community Emergency Planning Toolkit**

ACTion with Communities in Cumbria has produced a ten-step Community Emergency Planning Toolkit to support communities to plan for how they could respond to emergencies locally, drawing on local knowledge, skills and resources, in addition to support provided by emergency services and local authorities.

The ten-step Community Emergency Planning Toolkit enables communities to produce their own unique plan which can then be validated by the emergency response agencies in Cumbria. It is not a rigid template but instead describes a method that can be followed to prepare for an emergency in a way that fits the particular needs of different communities, and the key tools needed to do this; local people, local knowledge and local resources.

A 10 minute video case study with details of Keswick's Community Emergency Plan, supports the written Toolkit. It explains how flooding in 2005 promoted the community to start to plan for future emergencies, and how they found themselves putting it into action much sooner than expected when flooding hit the area again in November 2009.

Full Toolkit (includes links to further resources):

[http://www.cumbriaaction.org.uk/images/uploads/dt032\\_cep\\_toolkit\\_&\\_cover\\_\(website\).pdf](http://www.cumbriaaction.org.uk/images/uploads/dt032_cep_toolkit_&_cover_(website).pdf)

Keswick Case Study Film: [http://www.cumbriaaction.org.uk/resources/case\\_studies/693](http://www.cumbriaaction.org.uk/resources/case_studies/693)

## **No Progress On Flood Insurance Agreement**

The Government and the insurance industry have been negotiating to ensure the continued availability of affordable flood risk cover to even high-risk properties, but UKCIP reports that recent statements from Ministers suggest that agreement on a way forward is not even close. The existing 'statement of principles' commits the Government to provide flood risk defences, while the insurance sector provides flood risk cover in its standard policies at a reasonable cost. This statement of principles is due to expire in June this year, and with no new deal yet agreed, the Government is considering temporarily extending the current arrangement. Without a new deal, at-risk home owners and businesses face the prospect of significantly increased premiums, or difficulty in securing flood risk insurance at all.

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## Emissions Update

### UK Agriculture Emissions To Fall

An interesting new analysis of UK agricultural emissions models suggest that total greenhouse gas emissions from the sector are projected to fall by around 2% by 2020, over 2009 levels. Previously they were projected to rise by 4%.

Recent research also shows that feeding cows and sheep foods such as maize silage, naked oats and higher sugar grasses can reduce the amount of methane they produce.

More here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/greenhouse-gas-emission-projections-for-uk-agriculture-to-2030>

And here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-diets-for-cows-could-cut-climate-emissions>

### 2012 GHG Emissions

On Thursday 28th March, DECC released provisional figures on UK greenhouse gas emissions for 2012. This covers the whole of the UK – figures for the Devolved Administrations and Local Authorities will be published later in the year.

In 2012, UK emissions of the basket of six greenhouse gases covered by the Kyoto Protocol were 3.5% higher than in 2011, with CO<sub>2</sub> contribution up 4.5%. It is thought that the increase in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions between 2011 and 2012 resulted primarily from lower use of gas and greater use of coal for electricity generation at power stations, combined with an increase in residential gas use.

Find out more here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/provisional-uk-emissions-estimates>

**Table 1: Emissions of greenhouse gases (MtCO<sub>2</sub>e)**

|                                | 2011  | 2012(p) | Change |
|--------------------------------|-------|---------|--------|
| Total greenhouse gas emissions | 552.6 | 571.6   | +3.5%  |
| Carbon dioxide emissions       | 458.6 | 479.1   | +4.5%  |

(p) 2012 estimates are provisional

Carbon dioxide emissions figures are for the UK and Crown Dependencies; Total greenhouse gas emissions figures also include some Overseas Territories.

Emissions are reported as *net* emissions, to include removals from the atmosphere by carbon sinks.

### New Round of Voluntary Climate Change Agreements

UK Energy Intensive Industries have agreed to commit to stretching energy efficiency improvement targets to 2020 as part of the voluntary Climate Change Agreements (CCA) scheme. This will deliver an overall 11.0% energy efficiency improvement across all industry sectors by 2020 against agreed baselines.

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## Planning Update

### The Government's Response to the Heseltine Review

In addition to the budget announcements last month the Government have also responded to Lord Heseltine's report "No Stone Unturned: In Pursuit of Growth", accepting the majority of his recommendations and devolving significant financial and planning powers to Local Enterprise Partnerships. Key elements of the Government's response include:

- Create a new Single Local Growth Fund from 2015. This will include elements of key economic levers of skills, housing and transport funding. Full details will be set out in the spending review.
- Support LEPs to develop strategic growth plans, with local authorities providing the democratic and financial accountability, as well as delivery capacity.
- Incentivise a step-change in local economic governance, encouraging local authorities to co-operate, get behind their LEP, develop joint decision making, and pool economic development functions and existing resources across functional areas.
- Negotiate a "growth deal" with every LEP based on these plans, with sharp incentives for growth so that allocation of funds, flexibilities and additional levers and resources reflect the quality of the plan and the capacity of the local area.
- Align EU funding. The majority of future EU structural funds will be notionally allocated to LEPs and Government has commissioned each LEP to lead the development of an investment strategy for structural funds. These plans are expected to form part of, and align with, the LEP's overarching strategic plan.

Full details are available at:

[http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ukecon\\_heseltinereview\\_index.htm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ukecon_heseltinereview_index.htm)

### North West Regional Strategy Abolished

Local Government Secretary Eric Pickles announced on 27<sup>th</sup> March that the final 3 Regional Strategies for the West Midlands, South West and the North West are to be abolished. Click on the following link for more information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-step-for-localism-as-every-regional-plan-has-gone>

### Community Infrastructure Levy - Case studies

PAS have recently published three Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) case studies:

- Setting the bar- developing and adopting a CIL - Outlines the experiences of authorities that have developed their CIL highlighting what was important to them, including early Councillor involvement.
- Implementing the CIL - Focuses on the importance of preparing your CIL early and recognising that this is a corporate project that will involve others in additional work.
- Decisions decisions - Governance and spending the CIL It is early days for most CIL authorities but CIL represents a new opportunity for governance and partnership working. Find out about the work done so far by the front runner authorities.

Click on the following link to download a copy of the case studies:

<http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/core/page.do?pagelid=3425368>

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### MPs Scrutinise Local Energy Investment

The Energy and Climate Change Select Committee has announced a new inquiry into local energy. The Committee is interested in hearing about ownership and/or investment in energy projects from local authorities and community groups and would be keen to hear about experience of setting up or investing in their own energy projects. For more information on the inquiry click on the following link:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/energy-and-climate-change-committee/inquiries/parliament-2010/local-energy/>

### Low Carbon Heat Strategy Unveiled

The Government has published its updated Heat Strategy, designed to ensure affordable, secure, low carbon heating for UK businesses and homes in the years to come. Key elements of the Strategy include:

- A £9million package to help local authorities get heat network schemes up and running in towns and cities across the country, with a new Heat Networks Delivery Unit to sit within the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) providing expert advice.
- £1million for the cities of Manchester, Leeds, Newcastle, Sheffield and Nottingham to help them develop heat networks.
- 100 green apprenticeships to be funded primarily for young people in small scale renewable technologies.
- Up to £250,000 for a new first come first served voucher scheme for heating installers to get money off the cost of renewable heating kit installation training, with up to £500 or 75 per cent of the cost of the training course per person.
- The findings of recent studies into peoples' perceptions of renewable heat have been published alongside the updated strategy, which is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-future-of-heating-meeting-the-challenge>.
- The strategy document also includes a number of case studies of renewable heat initiatives, such as a biomethane installation in Dorset, low carbon heating in social housing managed by Aspire Housing, and a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plant that heats the 72-storey 'Shard' building in London.

View the strategy here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-future-of-heating-a-strategic-framework-for-low-carbon-heat>

### Renewable Electricity up 20% on Previous Year

Government figures reveal 2012 was a strong year for the performance of renewable energy generation, mainly due to new renewable power projects coming on-stream, 11.3% of the UK's electricity last year was generated from renewables overall, and 12.5% in the fourth quarter.

Much of this growth is due to new on- and offshore wind farms, in spite of lower than average wind speeds over the year. 2012 was also fairly dry, meaning less output from hydro. Biomass generation increased 17%, largely due to the conversion of Tilbury power station to biomass, and the capacity of solar PV increased 70%, up to 1.7GW. Total UK renewable power capacity now stands at 15.5GW.

DECC: 'Energy Trends and Prices statistical release: 28 March 2013', 28th March 2013 is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/energy-trends-and-prices-statistical-release-28-march-2013>

## Automatic Tariff Cuts for Mid-sized Solar Installations

New mid-sized solar panel installations will still be eligible for Feed-in Tariff (FIT) support but at a slightly reduced rate from 1 May, as the Government's automatic tariff reductions take effect. Tariffs will fall by 3.5% as part of a recently announced degression mechanism to ensure that solar power incentives remain affordable.

The new rates will apply to any new arrays completed between 1 May and 1 July this year, with a capacity of 50 kiloWatts (kW) to 250kW, meaning that financial returns will be slightly less. They will continue to fall gradually in the future, as part of a phased process.

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## Green Deal Update

### Green Deal Stats – Month 2

9,268 Green Deal assessments have taken place in just over two months. 48 firms are now authorised as providers, with a further 831 registered to carry out installations and over a thousand individuals registered to offer assessments.

### How The Green Deal And Feed-In Tariffs Work Together

DECC have produced a handy short guide for householders on the interplay of the Green Deal and Feed In Tariffs. You can view it here:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/172883/Feed\\_In\\_Tariff-web.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/172883/Feed_In_Tariff-web.pdf)

## CLASP Events

### External Solid Wall Permitted Development

**Thursday 9th May**  
**10am-4pm**  
**Preston**

Just a few places now remain at this very popular event provided by CLASP, DECC and the National Insulation Association.

This event will look at the roll out of external solid wall insulation under the Green Deal and ECO and discuss the implications for you. The session will include:

- Overview of Solid Wall Insulation, and Permitted Development Rights by DECC
- Technical session on Solid Wall Insulation Finishes by the National Insulation Association
- Demonstration: Insulation Technologies and Render Finishes
- Industry demonstration stalls for delegates to browse

You can book your place online via: <http://solidwallspreston.eventbrite.co.uk>

## Community Resilience and Climate Change Workshop

**Tuesday 21st May**  
**1.30pm - 4.30pm**  
**Warrington**

You are invited to attend a workshop CLASP is hosting on behalf of: The Department for Environment food and Rural Affairs (Defra); Cabinet Office Civil Contingencies Secretariat (CCS); Department for Communities and Local Government, Resilience and Emergencies Division (DCLG RED); and Local Resilience Forums.

This workshop will be showcasing some of the initiatives that have developed from the recent Defra Community Resilience, Climate Change grants, a significant number of which were secured by NW partnerships, and could be transferable to other areas.

In addition one or two of the projects that were recently successful in securing funding to deliver the Defra Flood Resilience Community Pathfinder scheme will be on hand to talk about their work.

The workshop will also be an opportunity to meet with representatives from DCLG, Defra, Cabinet Office and local LRFs. And will provide opportunity to start to explore ideas for supporting LRFs at the strategic level to facilitate and promote community resilience.

**Find Out More Here:** <http://claspinfo.org/events/community-resilience-and-climate-change-workshop>

**To Book Your Place:** Email [Geoffrey.newman@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Geoffrey.newman@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

- Please be sure to state clearly that you wish to attend the Warrington session
- Please include your name, organisation & job title

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## Other Events

### Greenbuild Expo 2013

**8th & 9th May**  
**Manchester**

With an extensive conference programme, with more than 100 to choose from, all FREE, Greenbuild Expo 2013 will provide comprehensive coverage for all sectors of the built environment. The programme will include a focus on Green Deal, sustainable refurbishment, as well as looking at topics such as the Code for Sustainable Homes and renewable energy, plus fabric first & materials.

Click on the following link for more information: <http://www.greenbuildexpo.co.uk/>

*\*Hold The Date\**

### Local Opportunities for Renewable Energy

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June**  
**Preston**

DECC and Climate UK are running a series of four events this summer to generate discussion on the costs, benefits, impacts and opportunities of renewable energy. The aim of the events is to improve understanding in order to enable positive and proactive action to be taken that recognises the needs of local areas. Climate Change North West will be hosting one of these events on the 27th June in Preston and details will be sent around the CLASP network shortly.

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## Other News and Resources

### Coastal Communities Fund: Round 2 Now Open

Following on from our article last month applications for this year's pot of over £27 million are now being taken. The funding is available for "*Promoting sustainable economic growth and jobs in coastal communities*". The fund for the projects is raised from the Crown Estate's marine assets and reinvested in coastal areas. The closing date for projects in England is 13 May 2013 and further details are available on the Big Lottery Fund website at: <http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/global-content/programmes/uk-wide/coastal-communities>

### European Rural Energy Casestudies

Back in January Cumbria Action for Sustainability facilitated a trip to Saxony-Anhalt in the north east of Germany. The renewable energy ambassadors who went on the trip each reported on the different site visits that they went on so this information could be shared on their return. The sites included Small & Large Scale Biomass, Anaerobic Digestion, Energy Efficiency in Buildings, Community Buildings, a Biomass Power Station & Biodiesel Distillery; and a Solar PV Panel Factory.

View them all here: <http://www.cumbriagreenbuild.org.uk/index.php/what-we-do/agrese/>

### Climate Local Update

Climate Local, an initiative from the Local Government Association has developed two new resources to help local government adapt to a changing climate'. It has produced a new report 'Local climate actions: supporting growth, saving money and supporting communities'. The report looks at the impact of council-led action on climate change. It has also developed a set of slide packs and handouts covering key portfolio areas. These resources will support council officers in engaging with councillors on climate change.

You will need to register for the Knowledge Hub using a gov.uk email address to see the documents in the Climate Local Network Knowledge Hub. <https://knowledgehub.local.gov.uk/group/climatelocal>

Also please note that Jess David's secondment to the LGA has now ended and the new lead for Climate Local is Lucy Breeze, Phone: 020 7664 3175, Mobile: 07717 720639, [lucy.breeze@local.gov.uk](mailto:lucy.breeze@local.gov.uk)

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