

## May 2013 Sustainability Update

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

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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

This bulletin takes a look back at May's news, policy, resource and funding developments. This edition contains a wide round-up, including:

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#### CLASP Local Projects Complete

May saw the final conclusion of the 4 local authority led projects that CLASP supported in 2012/13, with their full outputs and lessons learnt now documented. Take a look online and make use of the resources, ideas and contacts they've produced:

##### **Carbon Brokerage (Lake District National Park Authority)**

The overall aim of the project was to appraise options and develop potential business models for a carbon brokerage scheme that incentivises carbon sequestration through land management.

[http://claspinfo.org/carbon\\_storage\\_brokering](http://claspinfo.org/carbon_storage_brokering)

##### **Supporting Local Leadership (Sefton Council on behalf of all LCR authorities)**

This project engaged and inspired Members and Senior Officers about the opportunities in the low carbon economy and encouraged them to take action to increase the uptake of renewable energy.

[http://claspinfo.org/supporting\\_local\\_leadership](http://claspinfo.org/supporting_local_leadership)

##### **Low Carbon Skills North West (Wigan Council)**

This project aimed to identify common current issues, barriers and practical actions that local authorities and educators can take to support career development in the low carbon sector.

[http://claspinfo.org/low\\_carbon\\_skills\\_north\\_west](http://claspinfo.org/low_carbon_skills_north_west)

##### **Developing An Approach To Allowable Solutions (Rossendale Council)**

This project aimed to develop a replicable methodology for how Allowable Solutions could be considered and taken forward by Local Authorities in the North West.

[http://claspinfo.org/developing\\_allowable\\_solutions](http://claspinfo.org/developing_allowable_solutions)

## Funding Opportunities

### Air Quality Grant Programme 2013/14

All authorities are invited to apply to the 2013/14 Air Quality Grant Programme to support capital expenditure on measures to improve air quality and statutory duties for local air quality management (LAQM) under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995. The closing date is 28<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

More information here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/air-quality-grant-programme-2013-to-2014-application>

### Local Sustainable Transport Fund

The Government has announced, as part of the Local Transport White Paper, the creation of a Local Sustainable Transport Fund to help build strong local economies and address the urgent challenges of climate change.

The purpose of the Fund is to enable the delivery by local transport authorities of sustainable transport solutions that support economic growth while reducing carbon.

The Department plans to make £560 million available to the Fund over the 4 year period to 2014-15. The funding will comprise both resource and capital.

More information here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-sustainable-transport-fund-application-process-and-bidding-guidance>

### £6m Renewable Heat Scheme for Social Landlords

A new £6m competition aimed at getting renewable heating kit into the homes of social tenants across Great Britain has been launched by DECC. This new competition, part of the extended Renewable Heat Premium Payment (RHPP) scheme announced in March this year, will help registered providers of social housing to install heat pumps, solar thermal panels and biomass boilers.

For more information see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-heat-is-on-for-social-landlords>

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## Adaptation and Resilience

### Greater Manchester Climate Change Risk Assessment

A new analysis has been undertaken to better understand risks to the Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS), and its goal of promoting sustainable economic growth, from direct weather and climate change impacts. The resulting report evidences, and where possible spatially prioritises, weather and climate change risks to the GMS.

<http://climatechangenorthwest.co.uk/resources/greater-manchester-climate-change-risk-assessment>

### Snow Angels In Ashton Hayes

Ashton Hayes is in the local authority area of Cheshire West and Chester which has one of the highest rates of excess winter deaths in the North West. Last winter "Snow Angel" volunteers have been in action in the village to develop community resilience as well as supporting its more vulnerable residents. Although the model was developed for extreme cold weather, it is applicable to other extremes such as heatwaves and flooding.

For more information see:

<http://climatechangenorthwest.co.uk/resources/ashton-hayes-snow-angels-case-study>

## **The Economics of Climate Resilience Project**

Defra has published the long-awaited results of its study into the case for adaptation in the UK. It assesses the extent to which individuals and organizations in selected sectors are likely to adapt effectively and what other action by government or other organisations is needed.

Click on the following link to download copies of all the reports:

<http://bit.ly/VQIRsG>

## **CRC Reminder**

A few people have asked us recently about updates/follow-up from the Environment Agency re CRC simplification. We've checked and at the moment the latest information online is still the April 2013 update available on the Environment Agency website.

If you haven't see the document is at: [http://a0768b4a8a31e106d8b0-50dc802554eb38a24458b98ff72d550b.r19.cf3.rackcdn.com/LIT\\_7669\\_1408de.pdf](http://a0768b4a8a31e106d8b0-50dc802554eb38a24458b98ff72d550b.r19.cf3.rackcdn.com/LIT_7669_1408de.pdf)

This is the same document as is linked to from the main CRC information page: <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/pollution/127775.aspx> (Confusion has arisen as the link on that page is still labeled "CRC Simplification Quick Guide December 2012" however the document was updated in April 2013.)

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## **Renewable Energy**

### **New RHI Tariff Consultation**

DECC is consulting on increasing the tariff levels for heat generated by ground source heat pumps, large biomass and solar thermal kit accredited under the Government's Renewable Heat Incentive scheme (RHI).

See: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-tariffs-for-world-first-renewable-heat-scheme>

### **Centres of Offshore Renewable Engineering - COREs**

Centres of Offshore Renewable Engineering - COREs - bring together relevant expertise from Government and six major investment hubs in England to support business growth and to showcase opportunities for foreign direct investment for the offshore wind sector. Liverpool City Region is one of the six and the only CORE on the west coast.

Click on the following link to watch the CORE video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yDsMTsJaegw>

### **Public Support for Renewables Still Rising**

A national opinion poll has revealed that public support for renewables such as wind farms and solar panels is still on the rise in the UK. Four surveys of more than 2,000 people have been carried out on behalf of the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) since last March – including one large annual survey and three shorter, quarterly ones. The research is known as the Public Attitudes Tracking Survey and it aims to monitor public attitudes towards the Department's main business priorities.

Click on the following link for more information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-attitudes-tracking-survey-wave-5>

## **Crown Estate Launches New Wave And Tidal Knowledge Sharing Hub**

The Crown Estate has launched a new website to support collaboration in the emerging wave and tidal industry. Called the Wave and Tidal Knowledge Network, the website will make it easier for organisations to share information with each other and help deliver industry growth.

See: <http://www.waveandtidalknowledgenetwork.com>

## **From the Message Boards...**

The following information has not been verified by CLASP, but comes from posts we've noticed online recently:

### **Green Deal Data at Local Authority Level**

LGA put a question to DECC on whether they have plans to publish figures on the number of Green Deal assessments carried out at local authority. The following answer from DECC was shared on the LGA Knowledge Forum:

*"DECC will publish, on 27 June, our first quarterly Official Statistics publication which will contain more detailed analysis of GD Assessments lodged up to the end of March. This will include a geographic breakdown of where GD assessments had taken place, at least by country and region level. DECC are looking at providing this by local authority area, but this depends on data quality and disclosure issues".*

### **Single Indicator List / NI 185 / GHG Reporting**

The Leicestershire Climate Officers Group requested clarification from DECC on the GHG emissions factors to use for 12/13 returns. They were told:

*"This exercise is still on the single data list as an ongoing annual request with the deadline as end July. However we have recently been reviewing the requirement (including use of emissions factors) in the light of experiences on the 2011-12 exercise and other developments such as the launch of the LGA's Climate Local. We should be writing out to local authorities soon once Ministers have decided."*

## **Health and Well Being**

### **2013 Heatwave Plan**

Public Health England has published the Heatwave Plan for 2013 to raise organisational, public and professional awareness of the potential dangers to health from severe hot weather.

More information here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/heatwave-plan-for-england-published>

### **Linking Environment and Health**

Climate London have produced a new resource for policy and decision makers working on Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. It has been written to help Health and Well-being Boards, Directors of Public Health, Health Watch and Local Authority Environment Leads to address the interface between health and well-being, population health and environmental change. <http://climatelondon.org.uk/publications/linking-environment-and-health/>

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## New Data – Heating, Housing, Fuel Poverty

### Fuel Poverty

The latest statistics have been released on the number of households living in fuel poverty, in England and the United Kingdom, including:

- analysis of the composition of the fuel poor group in 2011;
- reasons for changes in the number of households in fuel poverty;
- estimates of sub-regional fuel poverty.

See: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fuel-poverty-report-annual-report-on-statistics-2013>

### Free Census Data On Heating And Housing

Researchers from the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) have compiled 2011 census data about housing types, occupancy and heating, at the smallest possible geographical level. This data should be useful for planning and targeting schemes like the ECO across England and Wales:

<http://www.cse.org.uk/resources/open-data/output-area-level-census-data>

Free household energy consumption data - as part of their Open Data project, CSE have published some key statistics on household energy consumption which could be used to estimate how much different households pay for their energy.

<http://www.cse.org.uk/resources/open-data/domestic-energy-consumption-data>

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## Planning

### New Resources From PAS

The Planning Advisory Service (PAS) have recently published a number of helpful resources including:

The '**Principles of Plan-Making**' manual has been updated and can be used at any time as a reminder of the fundamentals of how to make a good plan.

<http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/core/page.do?pagelid=1786265>

**Legal compliance checklist** (for plan-making) has been updated to reflect the changes to plan-making introduced in the Local Plan Regulations and the NPPF.

<http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/core/page.do?pagelid=109568>

**CIL event presentations** from series of events in February and March for both councillors and officers. These events covered the amended 2012 CIL statutory guidance, and 2012 and 2013 CIL Regulations, focusing on the practical aspects of getting a CIL schedule in place.

<http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/core/page.do?pagelid=3203285>

**New councillor presentations** have been updated including The Introduction to Planning, Planning Reform Update, Developer Contributions, Sustainable Energy applications and Decision Making presentations have all been improved.

<http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/core/page.do?pagelid=714986>

## Did You Miss...?

### External Solid Wall Insulation – Permitted Development Rights

CLASP, DECC and the National Insulation Association came together on the 9th May 2013 to host a workshop in Preston examining planning policy, materials and techniques around solid wall insulation.

The event was attended by 80+ local authority and housing association representatives, plus a number of exhibitors from member companies of the National Insulation Association.

All presentations are online here: <http://claspinfo.org/external-solid-wall-insulation-May2013-event>

### Community Resilience and Climate Change

On the 21st May over 70 officers and members of local authorities, emergency services, Local Resilience Forums and health authorities came together to discuss "Community Resilience and Climate Change".

This event was hosted by CLASP on behalf of DCLG, Defra and the Cabinet Office.

The session provided an opportunity to see and hear first-hand how local partners from across the NW and beyond are delivering project to strengthen their communities' resilience to the impacts of climate change.

All presentations are online here: [http://claspinfo.org/May\\_2013\\_Community\\_Resilience](http://claspinfo.org/May_2013_Community_Resilience)

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## Events

### Manchester Networking Event for Sustainability Practitioners

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June**  
**Manchester**

Sustainability practitioners from all sectors are invited to a free seminar to network, share best practice and discuss the changing role of sustainability specialists. The event is part of the North West Sustainable Business Quarterly (NWSBQ) series, hosted by M4C Sustainability, and this quarter's topic will be 'The Sustainability Specialist – The conscience of the Business?'.

Click on the following link for more information:

<http://nwsbq.m4c-sustainability.co.uk/>

### Wind Energy Seminar and Wind Farm Visit for Planners and Councillors

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June**  
**Scout Moor Wind Farm, Lancashire**

Renewable UK are holding events around the country for planners and councillors to increase their understanding of the considerations involved in planning and developing wind energy projects and the drivers for renewable energy deployment. The events will focus on:

- Key drivers and benefits of wind energy
- Turbine technology

- Noise and visual impact
- Offshore wind energy

The NW event is being held in Lancashire on 25th June (Scout Moor Wind Farm)

Click on the following link for more information:

[http://www.renewableuk.com/en/events/workshops-and-seminars/wind-energy-seminars.cfm?dm\\_i=4NH,1HFCX,6LKSGG,51HVL,1](http://www.renewableuk.com/en/events/workshops-and-seminars/wind-energy-seminars.cfm?dm_i=4NH,1HFCX,6LKSGG,51HVL,1)

## Local Opportunities for Renewable Energy

**Thursday 27th June**  
**Preston**

Climate Change North West, 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 an event on the 27th June in Preston.

Click on the following link for more information:

<http://climatechangenorthwest.co.uk/news/local-opportunities-renewable-energy-event-27th-june>

## Planning for Low-Carbon Living

**Saturday 6th July**  
**Bridge 5 Mill, Manchester**

A workshop highlighting the NEW PlanLoCaL toolkit on Energy Efficiency and the Green Deal for community groups and organisations who support them

<http://planlocalmanchester.eventbrite.co.uk>

## North West Retrofit Roadshow

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July**  
**Liverpool**

Developed in partnership with Liverpool City Region, the Retrofit Roadshow will be exploring solutions that can make low carbon retrofit scalable and effective across the domestic and commercial sectors. See:

<http://www.retrofit-roadshow.co.uk>

CLASP has been offered 10 free tickets on a first come first served basis and a 10% discount to everybody else.

Codes: CLASPRFR100 = Free ticket (will only work for the 1<sup>st</sup> 10 people)  
PUBSRFR10 = 10% discount

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