

New Year 2014 Sustainability Update

News, Policy, Resources, Opportunities & Events

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Join Us

Have you been passed this update by a colleague?

If so you can sign up to receive CLASP mailings directly via our website:

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

Welcome back to everybody. We hope you had a good Christmas and New Year. In this short bulletin we've rounded up key news and developments from December 2013 that you may have missed. We'll be back again at the end of the month with a review of January.

In the meantime don't miss our "[Life After CERT and CESP](#)" event and site visit on the 30th January, and take a look through our round-up of news, opportunities, resources and events including:

- [Heat Networks Funding Round 2](#)
- [Local Sustainable Transport Fund](#)
- [Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning support](#)
- [Updates on RHI, ECO and Shale](#)
- [Flood Clean-up Funding](#)
- [Planning Part L – New Guides](#)
- [Marine Climate Change Impacts](#)
- [Health & Wellbeing](#)
- [January CLASP Events](#)
- [Other Events](#)

Over Christmas we've also moved the main office we work from on CLASP so to contact Ailsa Gibson please now use: 01524 824325. Krista's number remains unchanged.

Funding & Other Opportunities

Heat Networks Funding Round 2

Round 2 of the HNDU Funding Stream is now open and will close on the 31st January. The funding available to local authorities will cover 67% of the projected external costs of planning and constructing a Heat Network. Local authorities are required to match fund the remaining 33%. HNDU has advised local authorities that applications including requests for funding to cover external support on project governance will be welcomed.

A new Information Pack is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/heat-networks-funding-stream-application-and-guidance-pack>

Local Sustainable Transport Fund Re-opens

On the 23 December 2013 Local Authorities were invited to bid for up to £1m of the £78.5m Local Sustainable Transport Fund to support the cost of a range of sustainable travel measures. Proposals should consider the importance of integrating sustainable transport to make it easier and more convenient for people to make their journey from door-to-door by public transport, cycling and walking. This fund will also support Bikeability training.

Guidance is available that sets out the criteria against which decisions on the allocation of funding will be taken and the need to demonstrate value for money, deliverability and affordability of package proposals.

Guidance and More information: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/local-sustainable-transport-fund>

Assistance with Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans

Local authorities are invited to apply to access free support from the EU BUMP (Boosting Urban Mobility Plans) project. This aims to help local governments in cities with between 40,000 and 350,000 inhabitants to develop their own Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP).

BUMP's package comprises a four-step process. An initial training programme including six modules will help participants learn how to develop a SUMP. Thereafter, a series of mutual learning exchanges will take place, to allow participants to share know-how and expertise.

For more information see: <http://www.bump-mobility.eu/en/how-to-apply.aspx>

Energy Updates

Proposed Changes to the Non-Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive

In early December the government published their response to earlier consultations setting out a series of improvements and increased support under the non-domestic RHI scheme. Key features of the new policy are:

- An increase in support for: renewable CHP, large biomass boilers (over 1MW), deep geothermal, ground source heat pumps, solar-thermal and biogas combustion.
- New support introduced for air-water heat pumps and commercial and industrial energy from waste.
- An evolved approach to budget management.

A useful summary of revised tariff levels and other policy changes can be found here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/265853/Summary_of_changes_to_the_non-domestic_RHI_-_December_2013.pdf

Shale Gas Production: SEA, Consultation and Next Steps

The government has published a regulatory roadmap for shale oil and gas developers along with a Strategic Environmental Assessment report for consultation.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) report, produced by AMEC, sets out the potential economic and environmental effects of further oil and gas activity in Great Britain, including shale oil and gas production, comparing a 'low activity' and 'high activity' scenario. The assessment was carried out in preparation for the launch of the next round of licenses being made available for onshore oil and gas exploration and production. A consultation will now run until March 2014 to consider the findings of the SEA and how this affects shale gas production in the UK. See: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-steps-for-shale-gas-production>

Re-cap – Changes to ECO and Green Deal:

(Repeated from last month)

ECO

A range of proposals have been announced, on which Government will consult, including:

- A rebate of £12 on domestic electricity bills to be passed directly to customers, funded by the Government, for two years.
- A range of changes to ECO, including reducing the Carbon Emissions Reduction Obligation element of ECO by 33 per cent for the period to 2015, and setting a target for the period to 2017 reflecting this same level of activity.
- Maintaining the level of ECO activity currently directed at low income and vulnerable households and extending the same activity out to 2017.
- Including district heating schemes as a primary measure under the Carbon Obligation element of ECO.

- Allowing energy suppliers to insulate easy-to-treat cavity walls and lofts as part of their ECO carbon targets. However, they would still need to provide a minimum of 100,000 homes with solid wall insulation.

Full details here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/govt-action-to-help-hardworking-people-with-energy-bills>

Green Deal

The government will increase the funds available to local authorities this year through Green Deal Communities from £20 million to £80 million. A range of changes are also proposed to the Green Deal to try to increase access and take-up. These are detailed here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/streamlining-and-improving-the-green-deal>

Flood Clean-up

The Department for Communities and Local Government has written to local authorities saying that the government has activated the Bellwin scheme. This scheme enables councils to get financial assistance depending on local circumstances. It has also asked for assurance that councils are prepared for any future flooding and that everything possible is being done to help those affected by the bad weather.

Councils, police, fire and national park authorities are eligible for certain clearing up costs under the Bellwin scheme when they have spent more than 0.2% of their calculated annual revenue budget on works that have been reported to the department as eligible for grant.

The Bellwin scheme compensates councils retrospectively for the exceptional costs incurred. See: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bellwin-scheme-2013-to-2014-guidance>

Ministers have said that they would look sympathetically on councils where they have costs as a result of the floods, and that they would reimburse councils eligible clearing-up expenditure under the Bellwin scheme.

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Planning Update

Part L - New and amended Approved Documents and Compliance Guides

DCLG has published new 2013 versions of Approved Document L1A and L2A, amendments to the 2010 versions of Approved Document L1B and L2B and new 2103 versions of the Domestic and Non Domestic Building Services Compliance Guides. These come into effect from 6 April 2014 and are available to download at: <http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/buildingregulations/approveddocuments/partl/changes>

Government Publishes Revised National Infrastructure Plan

The National Infrastructure Plan 2013 has recently been published which brings together analysis of the UK's infrastructure needs across different sectors now and in the future.

As part of the 40 priority infrastructure investments identified key sectors such as energy (i.e wind and other renewables as well as smart meter roll out) water and flood defences (Northwich Town Centre and Salford Flood Alleviation).

You can download a copy of the National Infrastructure Plan and view all the relevant North West infrastructure pipeline data in an interactive map via the following links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-infrastructure-plan-2013>
<http://www.building.co.uk/infrastructure-pipeline-microsite/map/>

Changing Climate & Impacts

4th Carbon Budget Review

The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) advised on the 11th December that there has been no change in the circumstances upon which the fourth carbon budget (2023 – 2027) was originally set in 2011 that would justify a lowering of ambition. You can find the review here: <http://www.theccc.org.uk/publications/>

New Marine Climate Change Impacts Report Card

The Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership (MCCIP) launched its latest Report Card on the 28th of November, which summarises the current state of scientific understanding on UK marine and coastal climate change impacts. See: <http://www.mccip.org.uk/arc>

2014 Set to be one of the Warmest Years on Record

The global average temperature in 2014 is expected to be between 0.43 °C and 0.71 °C above the long-term (1961-1990) average of 14.0 °C, with a best estimate of 0.57 °C, according to the Met Office annual global temperature forecast.

More information: <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/news/releases/archive/2013/global-temperature-2014>

Online Course on Climate Change

Exeter University are running a free online course titled 'Climate Change Challenges and Solutions' from 13th January 2014 for 8 weeks. The course aims to explain the science of climate change, the risks it poses, and the solutions available to reduce those risks.

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/climate-change-challenges-and-solutions>

This is part of the futurelearn programme, which is running a variety of courses throughout 2014, including a number on other environmental and sustainability themes. The full programme is available here -

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses>

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Health & Wellbeing Updates

Save-the-date: Health & Social Care Adaptation 27th February, Manchester

Climate Change North West will be hosting a Climate Ready workshop on the 27th February to launch the new Climate Ready health & social care adaptation toolkit. This is a practical guide to local health and wellbeing in a changing climate. More details will follow shortly.

Health & Community Resilience Knowledge Hub

There is a new Health and Community Resilience forum on the LGA Knowledge Hub, which is being run by the Climate Ready team at the Environment Agency. In the coming weeks, more content will be added, but in the meantime check out: https://knowledgehub.local.gov.uk/group/climatelocal/forum/-/message_boards/message/11625487

Other News

New Marine Conservation Zones Confirmed

The government has designated 27 new special conservation areas off the coast of England and Wales where marine life will be better protected. The majority of the sites are described as "inshore", and those in the North West include Fylde and the Cumbria Coast.

Each site has specific rare species or geographic features that require protection, however the designation does not ban development outright. The latest designations would mean that almost one-quarter of English inshore waters and 9 per cent of UK waters were now better protected.

Click on the following link for more information on the designations:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/marine-conservation-zone-2013-designations>

New website for UKCIP

The UK Climate Impacts Programme have relaunched their website, with a revised look and content that focuses on three main themes: decision-making for adaptation, exchanging knowledge and ideas; and creative adaptation. See: <http://www.ukcip.org.uk>

Local Authority Views on Energy Efficiency

The LGA have recently carried out a survey and focus group with local authorities looking at ECO, Green Deal and other local energy offers that councils are involved in.

Anonymised points from both the survey (103 authorities) and the workshop (7 authorities) have been shared at: http://www.local.gov.uk/climate-change/-/journal_content/56/10180/5766259/ARTICLE Both are worth a read if you are looking to develop or review your own approach this year.

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CLASP Events

Life after CERT and CESP

**AM – Thursday 30th January 2014
Warrington**

Making the Most of ECO II and ERDF 2014 – 20 to Deliver Energy Efficiency in Social Housing - An interactive, facilitated CLASP event for representatives from local authorities, housing associations and local enterprise partnerships to help you to:

- Share experience from housing energy improvement projects
- Look at how to maximise environmental, social and economic benefits
- Identify solutions to funding changes and challenges, including ECO
- Identify potential practical solutions for future delivery at scale
- Highlight areas for collaboration

Be prepared to come along with questions, challenges and your own organisation's experience to share solutions and ideas for the future.

Click here to find out more: <http://www.claspinfo.org/events/life-after-cert-and-cesp>

Golden Gates Housing Trust Site Visit

PM – Thursday 30th January 2014
Warrington

CLASP are hosting a briefing and site visit to an energy efficiency improvement scheme in Penketh, Warrington delivered by Golden Gates Housing Trust. The session will commence with a briefing at the Halliwell Jones Stadium where you will have the opportunity to hear all about the energy efficiency improvement measures that have been delivered including a presentation from Paul Lowe and Mark Moore, Golden Gates Housing Trust.

This will then be followed by the site visit to Penketh, which will be led by Paul and Mark, who will be on hand to talk about the proposals in more detail and answer any queries. Subject to availability there may also be an opportunity to talk to tenants about their experiences.

Click here to find out more and book a place:

<http://www.claspinfo.org/events/golden-gates-housing-trust-site-visit>

Other Events

A Future Vision for the Coast
13th January 2014
Liverpool

The University of Liverpool and the NW Coastal Forum are hosting an event that aims to shape a long-term vision for the coast. To find out more see: <http://www.liv.ac.uk/geography-and-planning/research/adaptation-and-resilience-of-coastal-energy-supply/events/>

To book a place please contact: Mary Dean at arcoes@liverpool.ac.uk or 0151 795 0614

Producing Your Local Plan
22 - 23 January 2014
Warwick

PAS are delivering a free two-day residential course for councillors involved in producing their local plan. The course will be looking at some of the challenging issues and experiences in producing a local plan and include an opportunity to discuss attendees issues with a Planning Inspector and a councillor from a local authority that has recently adopted their local plan. The session will be held at Warwick on the 22 - 23 January 2014. If you would be interested in attending please email: pas@local.gov.uk

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