

December 2012 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

By the time you read this it will be 2013, so Happy New Year from CLASP, and our best wishes to you and your colleagues.

This edition of our bulletin contains a full round-up of developments from December, including:

- [New Support for Elected Members](#)
- [Funding for Flooding and Resilience Schemes](#)
- [Adaptation Updates](#)
- [Green Deal and ECO Developments](#)
- [CRC & EU ETS Changes](#)
- [Planning Updates](#)
- [New Carbon Footprinting Data](#)
- [Renewables Update](#)
- [CLASP Events](#)
- [Round-up of other news and resources](#)

CLASP's Support in 2013

Decisions will be taken in the next months regarding the future of CLASP and how authorities can best be supported, and support each other, in 2013 and beyond.

If CLASP is to go forward it will likely be as a smaller programme, and to help inform this planning we'd like to hear your perspective on the key challenges facing your authority and new local structures this year.

CLASP is sector-led and directed and we can only continue to make the case for funding for further activity if we have a clear picture of where and how you feel support can add the most value to your work.

Please take a few moments to consider this and send your comments to aisa@claspinfo.org

CLASP Member Support

What Is Available?

1. All authorities will shortly be sent an introductory Briefing Pack for elected members on 6 key topics. The Briefings focus on local authority responsibilities, key questions to consider, and contain examples, contacts and resources from around the NW. These Briefings complement the Climate Local approach.
2. Members are invited to attend a session shared with members from other neighbouring authorities. 3 January sessions have been confirmed so far, in E.Lancashire, Cumbria and Cheshire. For more information see:

www.claspinfo.org/events/cumbria-elected-members-briefing

www.claspinfo.org/events/lancashire-elected-members-briefing

www.claspinfo.org/events/cheshire-and-warrington-elected-members-briefing

CLASP has been developing these events with the local authority representatives from the CLASP Advisory Body. If your area is not yet covered, and you would like CLASP to provide a local session please contact ailsa@claspinfo.org to join in our planning.

3. Further free training sessions for elected members in a range of locations in February & March 2013 will include:
 - a. Building Community Resilience
 - b. Dealing With Flood Risk - Local Authority Responsibilities
4. Dependant on the demand indicated by feedback received there may be further training sessions on other topics available from April 2013. Please contact ailsa@claspinfo.org with any requests.

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Adaptation & Resilience Updates

Pathfinder Funding for Flooding

Defra have launched a scheme to support innovation by funding projects that demonstrably improve resilience in communities at significant risk of flooding in England. To be eligible for pathfinder funding, projects must be focused on communities at significant or greater risk of flooding from fluvial or tidal sources, or where surface or groundwater flooding is a major problem.

Full information here: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13841-fcco-prospectus-20121206.pdf>

LDNPA Success with Resilience Fund

You may remember that last month Defra announced funding for local climate resilience projects. The Lake District National Park, with the backing of the Cumbria Local Resilience Forum, were successful in securing funding to establish a model for climate change adaptation and community resilience planning in a rural setting. To find out more about their plans contact Becky.Willis@lakedistrict.gov.uk

The time-scales for applying for this funding were very short which put-off many from applying, however the potential for a joint NW-wide application was discussed which may lead to future collaborations.

Proposals for Voluntary Adaptation Reporting

Defra is developing the approach to the second round of the Adaptation Reporting Power and has launched a consultation exercise. In the second round of reporting the Government is proposing a voluntary approach - inviting key organisations to report their assessment of their current and predicted climate change threats and opportunities as well as proposals and policies for adapting to climate change.

Local authorities and Fire and Rescue authorities are not proposed as "Reporting Authorities" but if you would like to find out more look here:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2012/12/19/adaptation-reporting-power-1219/>

NW Rainfall Peak May Shift to Autumn

New research has suggested that different parts of the UK could experience different peaks in extreme precipitation by mid-century. In the NW the period of heaviest rain is likely to shift to autumn from a winter peak. This information could assist in the development of appropriate adaptations, including risk reduction strategies and water resource management. For more information see:

<http://environmentalresearchweb.org/cws/article/news/51573>

<http://iopscience.iop.org/1748-9326/7/4/044029/article>

Planning as a Route to Tackling Urban Heat Islands

New research from the Netherlands shows how adaptation strategies to tackle the urban heat island effect can be applied. Adaptation measures were integrated into planned renovation works, and policymakers were given clear information to help them understand the impacts that different measures would have.

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/newsalert/pdf/301na2.pdf>

Climate UK Review of Adaptation Tools

Sustainability West Midlands have carried out a review of adaptation resources on behalf of Climate UK. The [catalogue of resources examined is all online here](#) and each tool selected is summarised within the report with strengths, limitations and advice on how and when to use.

Weathering the Storm Guidance Updated

Climate East Midlands has updated its guide to help businesses increase their resilience to severe weather and climate change. The guide, called "Weathering the storm: saving and making money in a changing climate", was originally published in 2010, and has been updated in 2012.

You can find the guidance here:

<http://www.climate-em.org.uk/news/item/weathering-the-storm/>

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Green Deal & ECO

Green Deal Marketing Campaign

Ahead of the first Green Deals being available on 28 January 2013, DECC has secured an exemption from the Government-wide marketing freeze with money for a new communications campaign to build understanding and trust in the Green Deal. An initial £2.9m will cover digital and traditional channels aimed at unifying partners and activating stakeholders in the supply chain. The Campaign will be aimed at making the Green Deal and the Quality Mark more visible, as well as encouraging those considering home improvements to take up the Green Deal. This will happen through a series of launch events, developing a stronger digital presence, and advertising through print and digital press.

The campaign will be supported by the Energy Savings Advice Service on 0300 123 1234 and the new Green Deal web pages on www.gov.uk/greendeal

Local Authority Green Deal Survey

The LGA sent out a survey to local authorities in June 2012 on the Green Deal and FITs. Respondents could fill in either or both sections of the survey. The results on the Green Deal part of the survey have now been released [and can be found here](#) (log in to the LGA Knowledge Hub required).

Of councils who were aware of the Green Deal:

- The majority of councils (87 per cent) had at least started to develop their plans for the Green Deal.

Of these councils who had started to develop their Green Deal plans:

- Most councils had decided on whether they would facilitate the Green Deal as a provider, a partner or a promoter with the greatest proportion (41 per cent) stating as a partner.

Green Deal Guidance for the Water Sector

The Energy Saving Trust and Waterwise have published guidance on domestic water efficiency. The guidance identifies ways in which Green Deal and ECO providers can work in partnership with water companies to:

- Integrate water devices in energy-efficiency installations
- Improve the quality of customer engagement on water use
- Increase the uptake of water-saving devices

[Click here for more information](#)

ECO Brokerage

A new resource from DECC on ECO brokerage - what it is, how it works, who can trade, can be [found online here](#).

Note: Local Authorities and RSLs can't directly trade on brokerage under current proposals. The LGA has a strong view on this and is looking at the routes for local authorities to access ECO. If you are interested in discussing this join their group at: <https://knowledgehub.local.gov.uk/group/greendealandeco>

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Renewables Update

Winners of Community Renewable Heating Scheme Revealed

On 3rd December it was announced that 38 groups had made successful applications to reach the delivery stage of the RHPP Community Scheme including just a couple from the NW. These groups will now be helping local households install renewable heat technologies (including solar water heating, heat pumps and biomass boilers). For more information see:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/pn12_154/pn12_154.aspx

Nearly 12% of UK electricity from Renewables - Official Figures

New statistics published by DECC show renewable energy is playing an increasingly significant role in powering UK homes and businesses. Key headlines include:

- In the 3rd quarter of 2012 renewables provided 11.7% of electricity.

From July 2011 to July 2012, there was a:

- 27 per cent increase in overall renewable electricity generated;
- 40 per cent increase over the same period in renewable electricity capacity. Now over 10 per cent of all electricity generated is coming from renewables;
- 60 per cent increase of offshore wind capacity to 2.5 gigawatts, and;
- Five-fold increase in solar PV capacity.

More information can be [found here](#) and [also here](#)

FiTs: Getting the Benefits Right for Social Housing

A new report by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation explores the experiences of social landlords since the introduction of Feed-in-Tariffs, which can provide a new attractive source of funding.

Find out more here: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/renewable-energy-getting-benefits-right-social-housing>

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Low Carbon Economy

DEFRA Release New UK Carbon Footprint Data

On 13th December DEFRA released a report on the UK's carbon footprint, providing an assessment of the greenhouse gas (GHG) impact of UK consumption of products and services. The UK's CO₂ footprint has risen in 2010 after a fall from a peak of 852MtCO₂ in 2004. From 2009 to 2010, CO₂ emissions rose by 10%, which reversed the 19% decline seen the previous year.

The rise has been attributed to a sharp increase in imported goods and services, the associated carbon emissions of which have risen by 59% since 1993. Imports now account for almost 45% of all consumption emissions, up from 30% in 1993. The largest rise in emissions is from imports from China which have risen by 263%, dwarfing the 67% import emissions increase from the rest of the world.

Find more information here: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/environment/green-economy/scptb01-ems/>

Green Cities – Using City Deals to Drive Low Carbon Growth

'City deals' have been introduced to unlock the economic potential of cities, transferring power, tools and support from central government. They are a new opportunity for cities to accelerate low carbon growth and to embed progress towards prosperous and resilient futures. But how far have they been used to do so?

A report by the Green Alliance looks at the first eight city deals (including Liverpool and Manchester), agreed with the core cities in July 2012, in detail, exploring how they integrated low carbon ambitions. A further 20 cities, known as 'wave two', are now in the running to agree deals in 2013. The report looks ahead to this, making recommendations about how wave two cities can use low carbon aspirations to frame their priorities and embed progress on low carbon growth more consistently across their deals.

Read the report here: http://www.green-alliance.org.uk/grea_p.aspx?id=6786

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CRC & EU ETS Updates

Simplification of the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme

Reforms to Carbon Reduction Commitment scheme were announced in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement and are expected to deliver a 55% reduction in costs, saving around £272 million for participants.

Reforms to the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme include:

- Reducing the number of fuels that participants have to report against from 29 to 2 (electricity and gas for heating).
- Reducing scheme complexity by removing the 90% rule and Climate Change Agreements (CCA) exemption rule.
- Abolishing the Performance League Table but continuing to publish participants aggregated energy use and emission data.
- Reducing overlap with other climate change legislation.
- **Withdrawing all state-funded schools in England from the scheme.**
- Government will consider how the CRC can incentivise the uptake of new onsite renewable self-supplied electricity.

You can find out more information here:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/emissions/crc_efficiency/crc_efficiency.aspx

**** Hold The Date – CRC Simplification for Local Authorities ****

CLASP and the Environment Agency will be holding a briefing session on changes to the CRC, specifically for local authorities, in Warrington on the 4th Feb from 13:30 until 15:30. Invitations will be sent out shortly. If you would like to find out more, or suggest colleagues to invite, email to ailsa@claspinfo.org now.

Changes to EU Emissions Trading Scheme

The Carbon Trust have a useful summary on their website of the changes to Phase III of the EU ETS which will start in 2013 and run until 2020. This includes an opt-out provision for small emitters and hospitals. See:

<http://www.carbontrust.com/resources/reports/advice/eu-ets-the-european-emissions-trading-scheme>

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Planning Updates

Stockport Council Publish Sample Energy Statements

Stockport Council has published two sample energy statements for large and small scale developments. The Energy Statement can form part of a Design & Access Statement or a Sustainability Statement and these sample documents are backed up by Stockport's Low Carbon Design Guidance (LCDG) which provides detailed guidance on the content of Energy Statements and how to incorporate low carbon design, including delivering carbon targets.

Click on the following link to download a copy of the statements:

<http://www.stockport.gov.uk/services/environment/planningbuilding/planningpolicy/sustainabledevelopment/>

Minor Consequential Improvements, Major Energy Impacts?

The government has announced that anyone looking to improve their home through measures such as building a conservatory will not be subject to any rules requiring them to carry out additional building works such as energy efficiency on other parts of the home.

The UK Green Building Council has made a strong and critical response to this, read it here:

<http://www.ukgbc.org/news/government-scrapping-consequential-improvements-shows-complete-lack-ambition>

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CLASP Events

Changes to the CRC Scheme For Authorities

**** Save The Date ****

4th February 2012

CLASP and the Environment Agency will be holding a briefing session in Warrington on the 4th Feb from 13:30 until 15:30. Invitations will be sent out shortly. If you would like to find out more, or suggest other colleagues to invite please email ailsa@claspinfo.org now.

CLASP January Events

CLASP has 3 events planned for January however in a change from our usual pattern these sessions are **reserved for elected members**. However we do need your help to encourage your members to attend.

The events will follow the release of CLASP's new set of Member Briefings, and will provide members with topical updates and opportunities for discussion. Invitations will be circulated in the New Year to all member services officers. You can find out more here:

Cumbria, 23rd January

www.claspinfo.org/events/cumbria-elected-members-briefing

Lancashire, 28th January

www.claspinfo.org/events/lancashire-elected-members-briefing

Cheshire & Warrington, 31st January

www.claspinfo.org/events/cheshire-and-warrington-elected-members-briefing

Did You Miss...?

Developing Allowable Solutions

CLASP held a special event on 4th December for local authorities and other public bodies looking at approaches to developing Allowable Solutions as part of the zero carbon homes policy. The session shared recent progress on the development of Allowable Solutions in the UK and the NW drawing on the recent work by the Zero Carbon Hub and introduced an approach that has recently been developed for Rossendale Borough Council.

You can download presentations from the day here:

<http://www.claspinfo.org/resources/developing-allowable-solutions>

Learning From the West Midlands

As part of the Sustainability West Midlands Low Carbon Economy Programme a number of events have recently been delivered with the following presentations available to download:

[‘Planning for a Low Carbon Economy’](#) for Local Authority Planning Officers on 29 November.

[‘Developing and Implementing Corporate Carbon Management Plans for Local Authorities’](#) on 5 December.

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Other News and Resources

2013 IEE Call for Proposals launched

The 2013 IEE Call for Proposals was launched on 13th December 2012. The Call budget is 65M€ and the Call deadline is 8th May 2013. The Call is focused on defined priority areas and the Commission is seeking high quality, ambitious projects with significant European impact.

The IEE Programme aims to tackle non-technological barriers to the uptake of energy efficiency measures and renewables. The programme **cannot fund technological research and demonstration activity**.

A handy “Is it for me” fact-sheet can be found here:

http://docs.energiehelpline.co.uk/IEE_is_it_for_me_Jan_2012.pdf

More general information is here:

<http://euenergyfocus.co.uk/>

The UK Information Day on the Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) Programme 2013 Call for Proposals will take place in London on Wednesday 30th January 2013. The event will run from 10am - 2.30pm. [You can register here](#).

Linking Environment and Health

Climate London have produced a resource for policy and decision makers working on Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 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.

“Linking Environment and Health” is about how the strategic challenges involved can be addressed and what practical steps can be taken to increase the health and resilience of communities.

The document can be downloaded here: <http://climatelondon.org.uk/publications/linking-environment-and-health/>

Green Places Funds Launch

GreenSpace are proposing setting up a series of Green Places Funds, which aim to ensure public green space continues to benefit local communities and is not put at risk from local spending cuts.

A Fund will be set up within each participating area, and a board (chaired by a member of the business community and consisting of community, business, charity and council representatives) will be set up to oversee and develop the Fund in each location and distribute funding to project applicants.

Birmingham City Council and Nottingham City Council are leading the first 2 funds to be set up and GreenSpace is keen to hear from any council or organisation keen to develop the Fund in their area and can provide a number of ways of assisting you to promote the Fund concept.

Look here for more information: <http://www.green-space.org.uk/GreenPlacesFund/index.php>

Business in the Community’s Responsible Business Awards

The search is now on! BITC’s Responsible Business Awards are now open for entries.

The Awards identify and celebrate best practice from companies who are transforming communities and in turn transforming their businesses to create a more sustainable future for us all. Rigorously assessed by independent judges, they are the UK’s most influential corporate responsibility awards.

The Award categories which now include UK-wide, International and Local Impact Awards. Find out more here:

http://www.bitc.org.uk/the_responsible_business_awards/

Government Defers Decision on International Aviation and Shipping Emissions

DECC have announced that the Government will defer a decision on whether to include international aviation and shipping emissions in carbon budgets until the setting of the fifth carbon budget in 2016, by which point there should be more clarity on how aviation emissions will be tackled at an EU and global level.

More here: http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/pn12_168/pn12_168.aspx

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