

## March 2013 Sustainability Update

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

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

#### 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](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 March's news, policy, resource and funding update from CLASP.

This edition contains a wide round-up, including:

- [Health & Wellbeing in a Changing Climate](#)
- [Order support packs for your elected members](#)
- [Coastal Communities Funding](#)
- [Budget Review](#)
- [Economics of Climate Resilience](#)
- [Business Adaptation Support](#)
- [Climate Justice - Distribution of Carbon Emissions In The UK](#)
- [District Heating – Emerging Policy](#)
- [Non-domestic RHI Revisions](#)
- [Smarter Streetlighting Support](#)
- [CLASP Events for April](#)
- [Other Local Events](#)

Do get in touch if you have items to share in next month's edition.

We're pleased to confirm that CLASP will be continuing to support to public sector organisations on this agenda in 2013/14 and we look forward to updating you shortly with what we will be able to offer next year.

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



# CLASP.

## Health & Wellbeing

### Local Health and Wellbeing in a Changing Climate

Climate Change North West, on behalf of the Environment Agency and Climate UK, hosted a stakeholder event on 4th March 2013, which was part of a series of eight local workshops being held across England during February and March 2013, as part of the Climate Ready Support Service.

The event aimed to open dialogue with those who work across health and wellbeing and had a focus on helping Health & Wellbeing Boards to realise their objectives in a changing climate.

All the presentations from the day are now available to view again or share with colleagues at:  
<http://www.climatechangenorthwest.co.uk/resources/local-health-and-well-being-changing-climate>

### Climate Change & Older People – New Online Resource For Service Providers

New resources are now available to help local authorities and neighbourhood and community groups with local level resilience planning. The BIOPICCC (Built Infrastructure for Older People's Care in Conditions of Climate Change) toolkit provides guidance on how to develop plans to make health and social care services for older people more resilient to the effects of extreme weather.

<http://www.dur.ac.uk/geography/research/researchprojects/biopiccc/toolkit>  
<http://www.arcc-cn.org.uk/project-summaries/biopiccc>

## Support For Elected Members

CLASP has been delivering a range of sessions for elected members over the last few months, to members in Cheshire, Lancashire and Cumbria. We've given them an overview of all the issues covered by our new briefing packs:

- [1 Developing your Local Low Carbon, Green Economy for Enterprise and Jobs](#)
- [2 Helping Households Save Energy – Delivering Social and Economic Opportunities](#)
- [3 Local and Low Carbon Energy Opportunities](#)
- [4 Assessing and Understanding Renewable Energy Developments](#)
- [5 Creating Resilient Communities](#)
- [6 Local Authority Responsibilities for Flooding and Risk Management](#)

We've also run a very popular session on Flood Risk Management specifically for the Lancashire and Cumbria authorities. You can view that here:  
<http://www.claspinfo.org/resources/flood-risk-management-and-community-resilience>



All these events are done in response to local demand, and we hope to be offering one to LCR authorities in June.

If you think that elected members in your area may be interested in some external training and support from CLASP please get in touch with [ailsa@claspinfo.org](mailto:ailsa@claspinfo.org)

**We are about to start posting out briefing packs to those members you have requested sets for.** If your authority has not yet requested any, or if you are unsure if a colleague has or not, please check by contacting [ailsa@claspinfo.org](mailto:ailsa@claspinfo.org) asap.

[Go back to the index](#)

## Funding & Finance

### One To Watch... Coastal Communities Fund

The Coastal Communities Fund (CCF) encourages the economic development of UK coastal communities by giving them funding to create sustainable economic growth and jobs. The government has committed £27.8 million to support the CCF in 2013/14 with money generated by the Crown Estate's marine assets. The Big Lottery Fund is delivering the CCF on behalf of Government, operating under the name Big Fund.

Funding awards of over £50,000 are available for projects lasting up to two years. Many types of organisation can apply including charities, voluntary and community sector organisations, social enterprises, including cooperatives and community ownership initiatives, local authorities, development agencies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, local enterprise partnerships in England, private sector companies.

The Coastal Communities Fund is open for applications from Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales from 12 March 2013, dates for England will be confirmed shortly. You can download help notes and a stage one application form from the BIG website at:

<http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/global-content/programmes/uk-wide/coastal-communities>

### Budget 2013

A guide to the budget is available here: [http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about\\_budget.htm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about_budget.htm)

Some of the key issues covered:

#### Energy

- Two Carbon Capture and Storage projects, the White Rose Project in Yorkshire and the Peterhead project in Aberdeenshire, will be taken forward for government funding.
- A new tax arrangement will encourage early investment in the shale gas industry, with planning guidance to be published in the summer.
- Carbon floor price fixed - The Chancellor made no mention of the carbon floor price in his address, but the Budget confirms it will come into effect in April and announces that the government will "set 2015-16 carbon price support rates equivalent to £18.08 per tonne of carbon dioxide in line with the carbon price floor set out at Budget 2011". The rate is higher than initially expected, but the change is due to the collapse in the price of carbon in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, which has prompted the Treasury to increase the price support.

#### Planning

- Consultation on "allowing further flexibilities between use classes to support changes of use from certain agricultural and retail uses to residential uses to increase responsiveness within the planning system".
- Publishing "significantly reduced planning guidance" by the Summer.
- Following the recommendations of Lord Heseltine, the Government has agreed to consolidate regional funding in a single competitive regional growth fund.
- The Government has also indicated that in the wake of the review, new Local Growth Deals will be implemented to encourage regional growth.

#### Sustainable Housing

- The commitment to 'zero carbon homes' is accompanied by a commitment to publish a detailed plan setting out Government's response to the 2012 building regulations consultation on energy efficiency requirements.
- By the Summer Recess, the Government has committed to consult on the next steps for the zero carbon homes policy, including the means for delivering allowable solutions.

[Go back to the index](#)

## Adaptation & Resilience

### **'Be Climate Ready' Guide Published**

Climate week teamed up with the Environment Agency and Defra to create a quick guide to help businesses take action and be better prepared for climate impacts. The materials include simple, practical actions that businesses and organisations can take.

View here: <http://www.climateweek.com/2012/12/13/be-climate-ready-guide/>

### **The Economics of Climate Resilience (ECR) project**

The reports for both phases of the Economics of Climate Resilience (ECR) project, which is complementary to the Government's Climate Change Risk assessment, are now available online. Using an economic framework, the project assesses current and likely (future) adaptation actions by individuals and organisations. It outlines key barriers and enabling factors to the implementation of adaptation actions, and examines whether additional action by government, organisations or individuals is needed.

Find out more here: <http://bit.ly/VQIRsG>

### **Resources To Help Organisations Adapt To A Changing Climate**

Climate Ready have recently refreshed:

[The Adaptation Wizard's](#) simple five step process makes it ideal for organisations just starting to think about the impacts of the weather and our changing climate. The Adaptation Wizard helps assess the risks and opportunities and monitor the effectiveness of the actions taken.

[BACLIAT \(Business Areas Climate Impacts Assessment Tool\)](#) helps organisations complete step three of the Adaptation Wizard. Although it was originally designed for businesses, BACLIAT has been refreshed so that it can be used by other organisations to understand how changes in the climate could affect the delivery of their services.

The Adaptation Wizard and BACLIAT are the first of a suite of resources the rest of which will be available from Climate Ready later this year.

### **Online Survey: Environment Agency Climate Ready - Climate Resilience Case Studies**

The Environment Agency Climate Ready Support Service is working to improve the resilience of key sectors to climate risks across England. They are currently seeking to develop case studies to support climate change adaptation action for key sectors.

As part of this process, they are holding key stakeholder interviews to listen, discuss and explore stakeholders' views on these issues. They would very much value your response to this survey. Please complete the survey via the following link: <https://www.merseyinfoserv.com/mrlWeb/mrlWeb.dll?I.Project=CLIMREADY2013>

[Go back to the index](#)

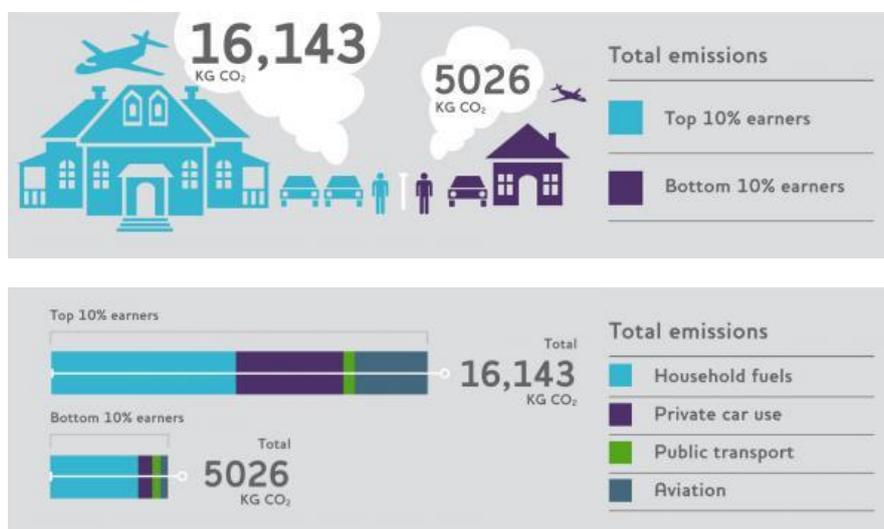
## Fuel Poverty & Climate Justice

### Distribution of Carbon Emissions In The UK Implications For Domestic Energy Policy

People who emit the least carbon in the UK are likely to suffer the harshest impacts of policies designed to cut the country's carbon emissions. This is the main finding from a pair of reports written by the Centre for Sustainable Energy for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF).

Launched in March 2013, the report entitled 'Distribution of carbon emissions in the UK: implications for domestic energy policy' revealed that low-income households face a 'triple injustice' in the wake of policies to cut carbon emissions and reduce fuel poverty.

Click here for the full report: <http://www.cse.org.uk/projects/view/1206>



In two blog responses to the report CSE's Simon Roberts explains why poorer households shouldn't foot the bill for UK carbon emission cuts. He says the "apocryphal little old lady" (or, more officially, "low income single pensioner household") really is subsidising those who are better-off to cut their emissions. <http://www.cse.org.uk/news/view/1723>

Also Ian Preston asks why we seem unable to shield the fuel poor from the impacts of policies to cut carbon emissions. <http://www.cse.org.uk/news/view/1724>

[Go back to the index](#)

## Planning Update

### PAS Publish Duty to Cooperate Crib Sheet

PAS have written a short crib sheet, on the duty to co-operate and strategic planning. Whilst the Government is revoking Regional Strategies the need to plan at sub national or the 'larger than local' level remains. Local authorities and strategic agencies are expected to plan strategically and determine what needs to be done at the strategic level, who they need to work with and how. Demonstrating this is via the Duty to Co-operate. Download a copy from here:

<http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/core/page.do?pagelId=2913231>

## £9.5 million Funding to Support Neighbourhood Plans

CLG has announced £9.5 million of funding over 2-years to support the creation of neighbourhood plans. Communities will be able to submit applications for support and grants for up to £7,000 of funding each to contribute to the costs of preparing their proposal from the 1st May 2013. Full details about the new 2-year programme will be available from 15 April on the My Community Rights website at <http://mycommunityrights.org.uk>

Further details can be found in the DCLG factsheet by clicking on the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-communities-in-neighbourhood-planning-2013-to-2015>

## Sustainable Heat

### District Heating – Future Policy Options

The UK Government plans to publish its Heat Strategy very shortly and CLASP recently attended a UK Local Authority District Energy Vanguard Workshop where DECC tested proposals.

Main Topics addressed were:

- The role of a database for high level identification of areas likely to be suitable for district energy
- Provision of an Advisory Service
- Financial support for project development
- Mechanisms for underwriting risk to lower the cost of investment finance
- Technical standards for heat networks
- Model commercial and corporate structures and contracts
- Model customer charter and customer protection standards, including transparency in heat pricing

Copies of the speakers' presentations, the agenda and attendance list, as well as the workshop report are now up on the Heat and the City website at:

[http://www.heatandthecity.org.uk/dh\\_vanguards\\_network/Vanguards\\_UKPolicy2013](http://www.heatandthecity.org.uk/dh_vanguards_network/Vanguards_UKPolicy2013)

### Non-Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive

Following consultation in July last year DECC have published a number of revisions to the Renewable Heat Incentive, they include:

**Tariff Change** - degression based approach similar to the regime adopted for the Feed-in Tariffs scheme. This will involve tariffs available to new applicants being gradually reduced if uptake of the technologies supported under the RHI is greater than forecast.

**Biomass Sustainability** – in order to be eligible for the RHI, biomass installations will be required to demonstrate, either through reporting or sourcing from an approved supplier, that their biomass meets a greenhouse gas lifecycle emissions limit target and (from no later than April 2015) land criteria.

**Air quality requirements** for new installations.

**Metering requirements** will be simplified.

More info here: <http://bit.ly/15PCvfV>

And here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/renewable-heat-incentive-providing-certainty-and-improving-performance>

[Go back to the index](#)

## Green Deal Update

### Green Deal Progress

The Government has announced funds of £244 million to help support businesses and homes through the Green Deal. The new funding will be distributed by the non-profit Green Deal Finance Company (GDFC), in addition to other Green Deal packages already on the market.

It has also been revealed that 1,803 assessments were carried out by the end of February. Nationwide 40 firms are already authorised as providers, with a further 629 registered to carry out installations and 619 individuals registered to offer assessments. The first monthly statistics are available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/green-deal-and-energy-company-obligation-eco-monthly-statistics-march-2013>

### Resources for Green Deal Pioneer Schemes

Are you planning to deliver a Green Deal Pioneer Places project by the end of the financial year? If so here are some useful resources compiled by the Centre for Sustainable Energy:

[Green Deal poster](#)

[Easy Prezi on the Green Deal customer journey](#)

[Green Deal information leaflet](#)

[List of Green Deal measures](#)

[Green Deal overview for communities - short film](#)

[Setting up local installer networks](#)

[Understanding your local area](#)

[Benefits of the Green Deal to the local community](#)

## Carbon Reduction & Energy Efficiency

### CRC League Table Published

Following a short delay, the Environment Agency has published the second and final league table ranking the performance of the 2,097 CRC participants.

The highest ranked public sector organisation was Manchester's City Council, which was ranked fourth, followed by the NHS Blood and Transplant service in sixth and the department for communities and local government, which cut its CO2 emissions by more than 70% year-on-year.

If you missed CLASP's exclusive seminar in (Feb 2013) with the Environment Agency's CRC team – looking at the changes to the CRC and the implications for the public sector – you can catch up via:

<http://www.claspinfo.org/resources/simplification-crc-energy-efficiency-scheme>

### Plugged In Fleets – Free Review

The Energy Saving Trust are offering (funded by the Office for Low Emission Vehicles) 100 organisations free analysis and a tailored review on how to use plug-in vehicles in your organisation.

Successful applicants will receive:

- an analysis of where and how plug-in vehicles could work in your business
- a whole life cost analysis, comparing existing vehicles with suitable plug-in alternatives
- infrastructure advice
- a tailored final report

For further information, visit: <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Organisations/Transport/Products-and-services/Fleet-consultancy/Plugged-in-Fleets-Initiative-100>

Or email [pifi@est.org.uk](mailto:pifi@est.org.uk) or call Caroline Watson, Knowledge Manager, on 0207 227 0310.

## Smarter Street Lighting Toolkit Launched

The Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) has launched a toolkit which will help local authorities to calculate the cost of undertaking an energy efficiency investment in street lighting, and the savings which may be generated in energy, maintenance and carbon.

It's also applicable to local authorities in England and you can access it at:

<http://www.scottishfuturestrust.org.uk/publications/low-carbon-and-energy-efficiency/>

The Toolkit includes:

- A Toolkit guide which provides background and sources of finance.
- A technical cost model which will calculate the cost of an energy efficiency upgrade and the operating and maintenance costs of both the status quo and following the upgrade.
- A financial model which takes the outputs of the technical cost model and adjusts for inflation, financing costs and allows various sensitivities to be run.

The Business Cases for East Dunbartonshire & West Dunbartonshire Council

[Go back to the index](#)

## CLASP Events

### Local Low Carbon Skills

**23<sup>rd</sup> April**  
**Wigan**

Wigan Council have been leading a CLASP funded project for the last 6 months investigating how best to support the development of local low carbon skills and their fit with the new education landscape. The research has been carried out in the Wigan area but is applicable across the NW, looking at influencing factors for employers and educators.

This event is to share, discuss, and take forward this work. The project has come up with a range of SMART interventions to act as catalysts for both greater take up of Low Carbon Skills by educators and greater valuing of Low Carbon Skills by employers.

The workshop will also be seeking to establish interest in forming an informal network of authorities, educators and employers. It provisionally will take place from 12pm – 4pm on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April (including lunch).

If you are interested in attending please email [ailsa@claspinfo.org](mailto:ailsa@claspinfo.org) for further details.

[Go back to the index](#)

## Partner Events

### The British Energy Challenge

**18th April**  
**University of Liverpool**

Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership are holding this event to better understand how we power the country and the Liverpool City Region, both today and in the future.

Hosted by the Department of Energy and Climate Change's Chief Scientific Adviser David MacKay and climate change author Mark Lynas, the discussion will highlight the scale of the energy challenge, how it can be tackled and the opportunities for change. Linking the national story to what is happening within the City Region, Amanda Lyne (Low Carbon Economy Chair) and Prof Werner Hofer (Stephenson Institute Director) will suggest how to respond locally to the challenge in Liverpool.

To book mail [events@liverpoollep.org](mailto:events@liverpoollep.org) or phone Carolyn Houghton on 0151 237 3927.

### Pollution Challenge Conference

**24<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Lowry Hotel, Manchester**

The Environment Agency are inviting Expressions of Interest in attending this event which will see students present ideas to tackle urban diffuse pollution. There will also be a dinner during which Lord Chris Smith will give an address and award prizes to students. The conference and evening dinner will be well attended by a range of stakeholders and academics and be a great opportunity to network. If this is of interest please send [Sam.billington@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Sam.billington@environment-agency.gov.uk) an e-mail before the 29th March. Places will be on a first come first serve basis.

### Local Renewable Energy

**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.

The events will be held in the following locations:

- **25th June**      **East - Chelmsford**
- **27th June**      **North West - Preston**
- **2nd July**        **Midlands - Birmingham**
- **4th July**        **Yorkshire & Humber - York**

The events will be of interest to local authority colleagues involved in planning, economic development, community engagement and sustainability as well as to Local Enterprise Partnerships and Local Nature Partnerships. Delegates from other relevant organisations are also welcome to join the discussion.

Places at the events are limited and we expect demand to be high. Save the date of an event near you. More information will follow shortly to all members of the CLASP mailing list.

## Energy UK and DECC Energy Efficiency Roadshows

Energy UK and DECC are co-hosting roadshows across the country which are to bring information about the Energy Company Obligation (ECO). The next events are:

Birmingham 9 April  
Sheffield 16 April  
Cardiff 18 April  
Glasgow 23 April  
London 25 April

CLASP has offered to host a NW session and we'll let you know if this can be set up.

To register your interest in any of the confirmed events, please RSVP by email as soon as possible to: [deccecoteam@decc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:deccecoteam@decc.gsi.gov.uk).

For more details, please contact [sofia.gkioursou@energy-uk.org.uk](mailto:sofia.gkioursou@energy-uk.org.uk) or [daisy.cross@energy-uk.org.uk](mailto:daisy.cross@energy-uk.org.uk).

## Other News and Resources

### SUDs - Maximising The Potential For People And Wildlife

RSPB and WWT have released a guide for local authorities and developers on Sustainable Urban Drainage. It includes design criteria and features necessary for delivery and long term management:

[http://www.rspb.org.uk/Images/SuDS\\_report\\_final\\_tcm9-338064.pdf](http://www.rspb.org.uk/Images/SuDS_report_final_tcm9-338064.pdf)

### Met Office Publish New Social Media Website

The Met Office have published a new climate social media website at:

<http://www.myclimateandme.com/>

My Climate & Me is dedicated to explaining climate change science. The site aims to provide an unbiased account of the scientific evidence around climate change, straight from the scientists themselves. The Met Office are keen to hear your view on what you'd like to see on My Climate & Me. You can post a reply on the website or send an email using their contact form.

### New Home Energy Advice Website

The Centre of Sustainable Energy has launched a new, improved Home Energy Advice website, full of useful information for householders, from the costs of using different heaters to how the Green Deal works. Explore the new site here: [www.cse.org.uk/advice](http://www.cse.org.uk/advice)

[Go back to the index](#)

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



**CLASP.**