

## October 2012 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

Welcome to October's Sustainability Update from CLASP.

The first item in this month's newsletter is about the last week's big news announcement - £40m available for local authorities to support action on fuel poverty, green deal and collective energy switching.

We strongly encourage authorities to consider an application (individually or jointly) into the 3 funding streams. CLASP is available to help with a little in-kind support if you would like to discuss your ideas or applications.

There's also an invitation from DECC on page 3 for authorities to host [Green Deal supplier events](#) for SMEs. If you'd like to do so and would like any advice or linking up with other authorities please get in touch as we may be able to help.

And as always, we have on the last pages a quite substantial list of [free training, seminars and conferences](#) coming up from CLASP and other organisations over the next two months.

So amongst much else this month's update contains:

- [£40m for Local Authority "Local Energy Bill Blitz"](#)
- [Green Deal – new guides, supported DECC events, cashback announcement](#)
- [Sustainable Heat – events, resources](#)
- [Resilience, Health & Adaptation](#)
- [Support for Council Members](#)
- [Planning Update](#)
- [Did You Miss...?](#)
- [Other news and resources](#)
- [CLASP events](#)
- [Other events](#)

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

## £40m Available to Local Authorities for “Local Energy Bill Blitz”

The Government has announced a £40 million competition for local authorities aimed at driving local initiatives to boost energy efficiency, reduce fuel poverty and encourage collective switching and purchasing.

The competition, run by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), has three strands, each with a separate pot of money. Full eligibility is set out in the [competition scheme guidance](#) but some basic points include:

- One application can be submitted for all 3 funds
- Local authorities can join together to enter a joint application
- The application form and process is relatively straightforward
- Key criteria include: value for money, impact on fuel poverty, & potential to generate further investment
- The closing date for applications is 30 November 2012
- Awarded funds must be spent by the 31st March 2013

**Full information, and the application form (1 form for all 3 schemes) can be found here:**

[http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/funding/funding\\_ops/lacomp/lacomp.aspx](http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/funding/funding_ops/lacomp/lacomp.aspx)

### **£25 Million**

#### **Fuel Poverty Fund**

This competition is aimed specifically at helping low income and vulnerable people keep warm this winter and aims to help cut heating costs by installing measures like efficient new and replacement boilers and loft and cavity wall insulation.

### **£10 Million**

#### **Green Deal Pioneer Places Fund**

£10million is available for Local Authority Green Deal ‘pioneer’ projects in England. This money can be used for a variety of schemes aimed at promoting the Green Deal, from whole house retrofits to demonstrate the benefits of energy efficiency to local residents, to community engagement events to raise awareness of what can be done.

### **£5 Million**

#### **'Cheaper Energy Together' Collective Switching Scheme**

Funding is also available to support the development of innovative collective switching schemes by local authorities or third sector organisations in England, Scotland and Wales, where consumers group together, through a trusted third party, and use market power to negotiate lower energy bills. This money is aimed at collective schemes which have a particular focus on encouraging participation by vulnerable consumers.

Further information on collective switching can be found on [the collective switching page of the DECC website](#).

One such recent scheme in the NW is [www.powerupyourcommunity.co.uk](http://www.powerupyourcommunity.co.uk) run by South Lakes District Council.

**Full information, and the application form (1 form for all 3 schemes) can be found here:**

[http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/funding/funding\\_ops/lacomp/lacomp.aspx](http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/funding/funding_ops/lacomp/lacomp.aspx)

[Go back to the index](#)

## Green Deal Developments

### Green Deal Supply Chain Events Free Assistance to Authorities Willing to Host

DECC would like to offer support to any local authority/authorities that wish to hold a Green Deal Supply Chain event in their area between now and the end of January 2013.

These events aim to help companies, particularly SMEs, find out more about the Green Deal, the opportunities it presents, and how they can take advantage of these and start gearing up.

Whilst DECC cannot guarantee a representative for events, they would like to share their format and can provide you with a tool-kit of materials and advice to assist you with the organisation. They can also advertise your event on the DECC website.

If you are interested in holding a supply chain event in your area, please contact [events@eepb.org.uk](mailto:events@eepb.org.uk) or 020 7831 9454. Or visit: <http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/tackling-climate-change/green-deal/6567-decc-offer-of-support-to-local-authorities-for-gre.pdf>

CLASP may also have a little in-kind resource available to assist you with setting up these events. If you are interested in hosting one, or looking for advice please let us know.

### Green Deal Cashback Offer Announced- £100s to be Made Available to Householders

The Government has announced that Cashback will be available to householders in England and Wales who make energy saving home improvements under the Green Deal, from January 2013. The Green Deal Cashback Scheme is a first-come, first-served offer.

Further details are available on the [DECC website](#) and [in this Quick Guide](#).



### Green Deal – Quick guides have been published

DECC have at last published a set of accessible Quick Guides on the Green Deal which includes:

- Residential Landlords
- Social Housing Tenants
- Social Housing Providers
- The Green Deal Assessment
- Moving Into a House With A Green Deal
- Green Deal Cashback

You can view all the guides here:

[http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/tackling/green\\_deal/gd\\_quickguides/gd\\_quickguides.aspx](http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/tackling/green_deal/gd_quickguides/gd_quickguides.aspx)

[Go back to the index](#)

## Sustainable Heat Update

### DECC Sessions on Renewable Heat Incentive

Following the publication on 20 September 2012 of two key consultations that lay out the Government's proposed expansion of both the non-domestic RHI, and the launch of a domestic scheme for individual households, DECC are hosting a series of events across Great Britain to support these proposals.

The purpose of these events is to answer your questions on the detail of the consultations and hear first-hand your views and comments on our proposals for both schemes.

Only short-notice has been given, but 3 of the events are in the NW:

#### Domestic RHI

<b>Thurs 25 October</b>	Penrith	1pm-3.30pm
<b>Tues 30 October</b>	Manchester	9.30am – 12pm

#### Non Domestic RHI

<b>Tues 30 October</b>	Manchester	1.30pm - 5pm
------------------------	------------	--------------

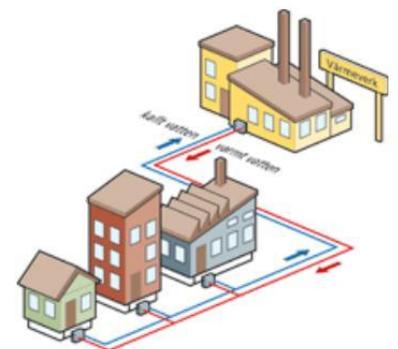
Email DECC via [RHI@decc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:RHI@decc.gsi.gov.uk) to confirm whether you or one of your colleagues would like to attend, and to find out other locations and times.

### Heat Networks “Essential” To Meeting The UK’s Carbon Reduction Targets

A report published by the domestic heating for the Electricity Networks Association has highlighted the essential role of heat networks in meeting the UK's carbon reduction targets, whilst keeping options open during a period of major transition.

Click here for more information:

<http://www.energynetworks.org/gas/futures/2050-pathways-for-domestic-heat.html>



### CLASP Heat Networks Resources Map

In response to requests from authorities on our recent training courses and site visits we have gathered together a map of key current resources, technical advice, case-studies and other sources of information on heat networks.

Click here to access the resource map:

<http://www.claspinfo.org/heat-networks-resource-map>

[Go back to the index](#)

## Resilience, Health & Adaptation

### Community Resilience

#### What is it? How do we build it? Why does it matter?

Whether the concept of community resilience is new to you or not this publication, from a 'Community of Practice' for rural activists and practitioners, makes for a really interesting and accessible read. It also contains sample formats and ideas for running community workshops:

<http://issuu.com/fieryspirits/docs/exploringcommunityresilience/1>

### Health Effects Of Climate Change – New Report

The Health Protection Agency (HPA) has published 'Health Effects of Climate Change 2012', which provides the HPA's latest assessment of climate change-related impacts on public health in the UK. It is written with the non-technical reader in mind, with helpful explanatory notes.

<http://www.hpa.org.uk/Publications/ClimateChange/0609HealtheffectsofclimatechangeintheUK2012/>

[Go back to the index](#)

## Support for Councillors

### New CLASP Support In Development

CLASP is currently consulting with a wide range of councillors as to what support, networking and training they would like to receive on delivering low carbon jobs, skills and prosperity, and on supporting safe, fair, healthy, resilient communities.

Further to last month's announcement, we have changed the plan from holding focus groups, to 1-2-1 phone interviews so we could discuss this with more members. If anybody else (member or otherwise) would like to inform our consultation please let [ailsa@claspinfo.org](mailto:ailsa@claspinfo.org) know asap.

### Video On Councils' Leadership Role On A Changing Climate

A number of councillors attended a recent LGA leadership academy to learn more about councils' leadership role on climate change. A film has been produced from that event features interviews with councillors and Lord Chris Smith the Chairman of the Environment Agency.

View the short film here: <http://youtu.be/Pp4GuD-CaJM>

## **The Low Carbon Economy in the Liverpool City Region Seeing is Believing Visit**

Liverpool City Region authorities have received a CLASP project grant this year to bring together public and private sector leaders to explore the growth opportunities in the low carbon economy and promote the uptake of low carbon and renewable energy installations.

The first stage of this work took the form of a study tour led by Robert Hough, Chair of the Local Enterprise Partnership on 20th September 2012. The day aimed to help delegates understand practical ways that they can promote the uptake and implementation of projects in their local areas and inspire them to take action.

If you'd like to find out more about this Seeing Is Believing Visit (run by Business in the Community), or if you're considering carrying out similar public/private engagement work in your area [take a look at this handy summary](#).

[Go back to the index](#)

## **Planning Update**

### **Allowable Solutions - Evaluating Opportunities and Priorities**

A new report has been published by the Zero Carbon Hub highlighting in principle support for the 2011 Allowable Solutions Framework proposals and responding to emerging issues and questions of detail that need to be addressed to ensure the framework is workable.

Accompanying this is a short Guide to Allowable Solutions for Tomorrow's New Homes -summarising the current debate. You can find both the report and guidance here: <http://www.zerocarbonhub.org/>

CLASP will be holding a special event on Allowable Solutions on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2012. [Click here for more details](#).

### **Government Publishes New Planning Bill**

New laws to speed up and simplify the planning system for major projects have been announced with the introduction of a new Growth and Infrastructure Bill. Specific announcements include:

- Local Planning Authorities' (LPA) performance
- Special Parliamentary Procedure (SPP)
- Awarding of costs
- Renegotiation of Section 106
- Penfold review measures

Click on the following link for more information:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/newsroom/2238653>

[Go back to the index](#)

## Did You Miss...?

### Green Deal - The Opportunity in Liverpool City Region

In preparation for the launch of the Green Deal, Envirolink, in partnership with the Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership hosted an event on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2012 to focus Green Deal and the opportunities that surround the initiative. Click on the following link to download a copy of the presentations:

<http://www.envirolink.co.uk/events/presentations-the-green-deal-how-can-i-benefit/>

### Social Inequality, Climate Change & Adaptation

On 16th October 2012 CLASP convened a seminar for local authorities and their partner organisations on social inequality, impacts of and adaptation to climate change.

All of the presentations that we saw on the day, and also links to the various full reports/studies that they related to, are now online on CLASP's website at: <http://www.claspinfo.org/socialjusticeevent2012>

[Go back to the index](#)

## Other News & Resources

### Improving Energy Efficiency in Buildings: Resources for Local Authorities

Government has published [Improving Energy Efficiency in Buildings: Resources for Local Authorities](#). It brings together tools, models, case studies and datasets to support local authority project planning and delivery on climate change mitigation in the built environment. It aims to help those preparing reports on measures they propose to take to improve the energy efficiency of residential accommodation in their areas as required by new guidance under the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995.

### BREEAM Communities 2012

BREEAM Communities 2012 is an updated version of BREEAM's well respected support scheme that significantly streamlines this methodology focusing on the process of masterplanning to achieve sustainable outcomes. BRE has updated the scheme based on pilot projects in the UK and Sweden and customer feedback.

Further information, including introductory guides and a technical manual can be found at:

<http://www.breeam.org/communities>

### Revealed: the UK's Wave Power Hot Spots

New research released by the Carbon Trust has taken the most detailed look yet into the most suitable locations to develop wave energy for the UK. The findings have resulted in a 'hot spotting' of locations around the UK where the best balance of wave resource versus the cost of exploitation can be found.

Click on the following link for more information:

<http://www.carbontrust.com/about-us/press/2012/10/revealed-the-uks-wave-power-hot-spots>

[Go back to the index](#)

## CLASP Events

### **Managing NW Bathing Waters in a Changing Climate**

**12<sup>th</sup> November**

**Preston**

As part of our series of training on “Water Management in a Changing Climate” CLASP and The Environment Agency invite you to join us for an introductory session looking at the interrelationships between local authority activity and the bathing water environment in the North West.

The session will also introduce the high-level commitments made recently at the Bathing Water Summit, signed up to by authorities across the NW. The session will explore what local leaders have signed up to, what it means in practice, and what you need to do.

This session is particularly aimed at sustainability officers, planning officers and members who may not be directly involved in water management but who would like to better understand this issue and its growing importance.

More information, agenda and bookings taken here: <http://12thnovclasp.eventbrite.co.uk/>

### **Developing Allowable Solutions**

**4<sup>th</sup> December**

**Warrington**

CLASP are holding a special event for local authorities and other public bodies that will look at approaches to developing allowable solutions as part of the zero carbon homes policy including NW led projects, the lessons learnt and how these could be applied to your local authority.

Speakers include:

- Rob Pannell, Zero Carbon Hub on the background to Allowable Solutions and the Zero Carbon Agenda
- DCLG (tbc) on the latest position on the Allowable Solutions debate and what the Government seeking to achieve through Allowable Solutions
- Marco Marijewycz, E.ON providing a detailed view of Allowable Solutions i.e. how do they work, the different types of models available and how to apply in practice
- Dave Worthington/Tim Kay, Verco on developing a framework for Allowable Solutions in Rossendale
- Adrian Smith, Rossendale Borough Council on implementing a framework for Allowable Solutions in Rossendale

There will also be an interactive session on the use of the framework that has been developed for Rossendale Borough Council including a panel discussion.

All local authority contacts on our mailing lists will receive an invite with full details shortly. They can also book right now via: <http://claspallowablesolutions.eventbrite.co.uk>

### **Heat Network Support Group**

**19<sup>th</sup> December 2012**

**Manchester**

The next heat network support group meeting is due to take place on 19<sup>th</sup> December in Manchester. Limited places are still available for authorities interested in joining this group and actively contributing to the discussion (this is not a seminar, the participants are the speakers!). For further information contact [krista@claspinfo.org](mailto:krista@claspinfo.org)

[Go back to the index](#)

## Other Events

### **CSE Webinar: Making The Best Use Of The National Heat Map**

**30th October  
6pm**

The National Heat Map is designed to identify locations where heat distribution projects like district heating schemes are likely to be viable. Free to use and publicly accessible, the National Heat Map was developed by CSE and is funded by DECC. It can generate high-resolution maps of heat demand for any geographical area in England and can be found here: <http://ceo.decc.gov.uk/nationalheatmap>

For more information on how to join the webinar see: <http://www.cse.org.uk/news/view/1683>  
And if you can't make it on 30 October, don't worry. A recorded version of the webinar will be on the CSE website very soon afterwards.

### **Free Events For Rural Renewable Energy Projects**

**Wednesday 07 November**

**10:00 - 14:30**

**Trafford Hall, Chester CH2 4JP**

**Monday 12 November**

**10:00 - 14:30**

**Blencathra Field Centre, Keswick, CA12 4SG**

Seven community scale projects received funding from Defra's Rural Carbon Challenge Fund. These projects are now at different stages of completion and offer real solutions to community energy generation. The Energy Saving Trust and Envirolink are holding a series of events for rural businesses and communities throughout the North West to gain inspiration and advice from these examples of community scale renewable energy projects.

These events will provide an opportunity to learn from the project teams, with short presentations highlighting the advantages to promote and the pitfalls to avoid. The projects include a range of technologies, including on-farm anaerobic digestion, solar PV, hydro-electricity and biomass. They also involve training and education, share schemes, eco-housing.

For more information or to register for any of these events please contact: [rccf@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk](mailto:rccf@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk)

### **DECC Sessions on Renewable Heat Incentive**

DECC are hosting a series of events to answer your questions on the detail of the recent RHI consultations and hear first-hand your views and comments on our proposals for both schemes. Only short-notice has been given, but 3 of the events are in the NW:

#### **Domestic RHI**

**Thurs 25 October** Penrith 1pm-3.30pm

**Tues 30 October** Manchester 9.30am – 12pm

#### **Non Domestic RHI**

**Tues 30 October** Manchester 1.30pm - 5pm

Email DECC via [RHI@decc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:RHI@decc.gsi.gov.uk) to confirm whether you or one of your colleagues would like to attend, and to find out other locations and times.

**ForeStClim**  
**14th November**  
**Liverpool**

ForeStClim is a EU-funded environmental project addressing forests and climate change. The project has brought together 21 partners with a wide range of experts from United Kingdom, Germany, France, The Netherlands and Luxemburg. The ForeStClim Final Conference is taking place at the Merseyside Maritime Museum on Wednesday 14th November 2012 with an optional Field Trip to Sefton Coast on Thursday 15th November 2012.

For more information: <http://www.forestclim-final-conference.co.uk>

[Go back to the index](#)

**www.claspinfo.org**



**CLASP.**