

07 May 2015

## 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 public sector sustainability support programme, formerly funded by the Environment Agency and NWIEP, and currently hosted by Climate UK

## WELCOME

We hope you have all had a good Easter break and bank holiday.

In this bulletin we've rounded up key announcements, resources and news from the last few weeks. The digest includes:

- [Fuel Poverty Funding - Central Heating Fund](#)
- [Sustainable Health Interventions](#)
- [Guides to Engagement in Local Flood Risk Management](#)
- [Community Energy – Strategy, Surveys and Events](#)
- [New SUDS Technical Standards](#)
- [Councillor Planning Briefings](#)
- [Sustainable Planning Updates](#)
- [Future Events](#)

## CLASP NEWS AND THANKS

As you may be aware from the letter you should have received in March CLASP's hosting and governance has changed. After 5 years of hosting by Liverpool City Council CLASP has moved on to become part of the Climate UK suite of programmes. We'd like to thank all at Liverpool City Council who have supported CLASP and allowed it to function in such an efficient and flexible way, especially Christine Darbyshire, Colleen Martin and Ian Theodore.

Climate UK supports local organisations to manage their climate risks and respond to opportunities via our national network of partnership organisations in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. You can find out more about them here: <http://climateuk.net>

CLASP bulletins, website and resources will be continuing for two years under Climate UK, and we are intending to re-introduce our popular series of training and networking events as funding allows. We are currently exploring new ways of funding these, including provision of venues. If your organisation would be interested in find out more about hosting or sponsoring a session please contact [ailsa@claspinfo.org](mailto:ailsa@claspinfo.org)

# HEALTH AND FUEL POVERTY

## FUNDING – Local Authorities Invited to Apply for Central Heating Fund

DECC is inviting local authorities, working with their local partners, to apply for a share of £25m capital funding to be used to improve the housing of those in fuel poverty living in their area. Local authorities are asked to come forward with developed proposals that meet the primary aim of the Central Heating Fund, to incentivise the installation of first time central heating systems in fuel poor households who do not use mains gas as their primary heating fuel.

Applications may be submitted up to 5th June 2015. Bids should be submitted electronically to: [chf@decc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:chf@decc.gsi.gov.uk)

More info: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/central-heating-fund-local-authority-guidance>

Application form: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/central-heating-fund-application-form>

## Infographic of Sustainable Health Interventions

March 2015's NHS Sustainability Day was a strong success and included the launch of a new infographic of sustainable health interventions. The graphic uses eight real life case studies and scales them up to show their potential - saving money, reducing carbon and improving health for people.

You can find the infographic at: <http://www.sduhealth.org.uk/delivery/engage/health-returns-infographic.aspx>

## Good Corporate Citizen Assessment

The NHS Sustainable Development Unit is encouraging health sector organisations to sign up to the Good Corporate Citizen assessment tool if they have not yet done so.

The free online process enables organisations to analyse and measure their progress on sustainable development through a series of questions. Find out more here: <http://www.sduhealth.org.uk/delivery/evaluate.aspx>

## Fuel Poverty and Health Boost

Two North West local authorities have secured funds through the "Fuel Poverty and Health Booster Fund" from DECC. Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council working with Royal Blackburn Hospital have received £50,000 to support their hospital discharge scheme installing measures in combination with ECO funding where possible. Wigan Council have also received £100,000 to support their Affordable Warmth Access Referral Mechanism.

More info at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-fuel-poverty-and-health-booster-fund>

# FLOODING & RESILIENCE

## Climate Ready Councils Videos

Climate Ready has produced two short videos to demonstrate the work going on in local authorities to adapt to climate change and severe weather. The videos have been developed with the Local Authority Adaptation Panel (LAAP) and they feature the work of LAAP and activity in the Greater London Authority.

[Why it's important for councils to be climate ready](#) (youtube link)

[Increasing London's resilience to severe weather](#) (youtube link)

## Flood Toolkit for Northamptonshire

Northamptonshire County Council has produced an excellent flood toolkit for local residents and businesses. It brings together relevant information in one location, including flood risk maps, step-by-step guides on what to do at different stages of flooding – from preparation to recovery, community resilience guides and education packs for primary schools.

You can view this at: <http://www.floodtoolkit.com/>

## Guides to Engagement in Local Flood Risk Management

CIRIA have launched new, free guidance to provide support for those working in local flood risk management.

The two guides, Communication and Engagement in Local Flood Risk Management (C751) and Communication and Engagement Techniques in Local Flood Risk Management, Companion Guide (C752) bring together experiences, as well as ideas that have been tried and tested.

The guides will be useful in identifying, engaging and working with people likely to be affected by flooding, or integral to its future management. Both are available at: [http://www.ciria.org/Resources/Free\\_publications/c751.aspx](http://www.ciria.org/Resources/Free_publications/c751.aspx)

## UKCIP Reports: Flurry of Activity in the House of Commons Before Recess:

### A) MPs on Climate Change Adaptation

The Environmental Audit Committee of the House of Commons has published its report into adaptation to climate change in the UK. The Committee's main conclusions relate to flooding, particularly concern about the continued construction of homes on floodplains. The report also calls for a clear strategic lead on adaptation from central Government, including the appointment of an adaptation champion. [Parliament UK: Climate change adaptation inquiry](#)

### B) MPs on Flood Defence Spending

The House of Commons Public Accounts Committee has published a report which raises concern about the sustainability of current levels of flood protection. The Committee praises the efforts of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in improving cost effectiveness, but believes that decisions about prioritisation need to be more transparent.

[Parliament UK: Strategic flood risk management report published](#)

You can sign up for UKCIP's briefings at: <http://www.ukcip.org.uk/news/subscribe-enews/>

# COMMUNITY ENERGY

## Community Energy Strategy Update

DECC have published the first update to the UK Community Energy Strategy. Announcements include:

- Almost £1 million to develop a best practice local authority community energy programme
- £1.3 million for the Big Energy Saving Network
- Commissioning of new research to build on our community energy evidence base
- Creation of a new Community Energy Efficiency Working Group
- Funding 17 Community Energy Savings Competition projects, above our original commitment of funding 5 projects
- Introducing a new innovation programme on solid wall insulation to help skill up community energy groups during the installation process

Find out more at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-energy-strategy-update>

## Local Authority Community Energy Survey

In association with the University of Derby Jez Tweed (Calderdale Council) is undertaking a research project into the views and activities of local authorities with regard to Community Energy. Jez would very much appreciate a moment of your time to respond to the survey located at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WTW589K>

All contact details will be held in strict confidence and study findings will be used to feedback to strategy development. Findings will not include source information unless specific permission has been granted by the respondent.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Jez on 01422 392250

## Did You Miss...? Powering Up North Community Energy Conference

Our 'Powering Up North' Community Energy Conference for public sector and community energy groups took place on Thursday 26th February 2015 in Manchester. Speakers from pioneering projects from around the UK shared their experiences and a programme of workshop sessions helped build a practical understanding of how more communities can work together for local energy.

The event also explored key issues around where to find funding, empowering the local community and building partnerships that bring about real social impact including presentations from Pure Leapfrog, Pier 11 C.I.C, ResPublica and Carbon Co-op.

All the power point presentations from the day can be found here: <http://claspinfo.org/powering-up>

The audio of the plenary sessions can be found here: <https://soundcloud.com/simon-bowens/sets/powering-up-north>

A summary of the key points raised on the day can be found here: <http://ontheplatform.org.uk/article/powering-north-changing-our-communities-energy-future>

## NEW SUDS TECHNICAL STANDARDS

Defra has launched the non-statutory technical standards for the design, maintenance and operation of SuDS to drain surface water

The standards apply to systems that drain surface water from housing, non-residential or mixed use developments for the lifetime of the developments.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sustainable-drainage-systems-non-statutory-technical-standards>

## PLANNING AND HOUSING

### RTPI Publish Resources on Planning Policy and the 2015 General Election

The RTPI have published a series of resources on planning policy and the 2015 General Election, including a review of what the seven main parties' manifestos are saying about planning.

Click on the following link to download a copy of the resources: <http://www.rtpi.org.uk/briefing-room/general-election-2015/>

### New Councillor and Committee Training

With a new term arriving and the need for induction and training programmes for new councillors, the Planning Advisory Service have updated and repackaged their councillor briefings. These presentations are designed for 'self service' delivery by officers or other trainers, which come with speaker notes and can be adapted to meet the needs of your organisation.

Click on the following link to download the resources: [http://www.pas.gov.uk/web/pas1/councillors-page/-/journal\\_content/56/332612/15306/ARTICLE](http://www.pas.gov.uk/web/pas1/councillors-page/-/journal_content/56/332612/15306/ARTICLE)

### Planning Update on Solar Permitted Development Rights

At the end of March the Government announced that it was relaxing the requirement to apply for planning permission for the installation of rooftop solar panels on non-domestic buildings. Previously, the threshold for permitted development rights was 50kW but from 6 April 2015 developments generating up to 1MW of electricity will now benefit from permitted development rights contained within the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015.

Click on the following links to find out more including a useful briefing from law firm Eversheds:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/planning-update-march-2015>

<http://www.eversheds.com/global/en/what/articles/index.page?ArticleID=en/Energy/uk-solar-rooftop-installations-on-non-domestic-buildings-150331>

## Planning Aid England Publishes Neighbourhood Planning Resources for Community Groups

Planning Aid England has produced a suite of resources to assist those developing a neighbourhood plan. The resources include practical tips and advice on various stages of the neighbourhood plan process from designating the neighbourhood area to submitting the plan for examination. Topics include:

- Project planning
- Resourcing your neighbourhood plan
- Engaging with landowners and developers
- Developing a vision and objectives
- Writing planning policies

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

<http://www.ourneighbourhoodplanning.org.uk/resources/documents/29>

## Landscape Issues: Decisions Without Local Plans

The Planning Advisory Service have published several case studies of recent appeal decisions where development has been refused Permission in the absence of an up to date Local Plan or five year land supply because it would conflict with national policy objectives. These cases are summarised with the full reasoning set out in relevant hyperlinked decision letters.

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

<http://www.pas.gov.uk/documents/332612/6363137/Sensible+decision+making+v2/ae85aa9f-908b-4dac-93f7-0c2b1addcd18>

## Arup and Landscape Architecture Publish New Report 'Rethinking Green Infrastructure'

The Report 'Cities Alive' aims to show how the creation of a linked 'city ecosystem' that encompasses parks and open spaces, urban trees, streets, woodland and waterways can help to create healthier, safer and more prosperous cities. Supported by the Landscape Institute and Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, Cities Alive Cities recommends five key requirements for the future design of cities.

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

[http://www.arup.com/Homepage\\_Cities\\_Alive.aspx](http://www.arup.com/Homepage_Cities_Alive.aspx)

## OTHER NEWS

### Climate Local Packs for Councilors

Four topic specific briefing packs aimed primarily at councillors were officially launched at the Climate Local conference in March. The councillor briefing packs cover how embedding climate change activities can support elected members deliver their councils other key priorities linked to delivering sustainable housing, growth and in ensuring healthier and more resilient communities.

The documents can now be found on the Climate Forum webpages: [http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/climate-local/-/journal\\_content/56/10180/5832363/ARTICLE](http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/climate-local/-/journal_content/56/10180/5832363/ARTICLE)

## EVENTS

CLASP will be in touch again soon with news of our new events series. Events coming up soon run by partners include:

### DECC Heat Pump Training Roadshows 2015

#### 7<sup>th</sup> July, Manchester

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) is running a series of free one day today training courses, designed to help potential heat pump customers in both the domestic and non-domestic sectors – such as businesses, developers and housing providers - understand how heat pumps can deliver lower energy costs, greater comfort and better buildings.

The roadshows are being held across the country with a North West event being held in Manchester on 7<sup>th</sup> July and places can be booked online at [www.deccheatpumptraining2015.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.deccheatpumptraining2015.eventbrite.co.uk) or by calling 020 8469 1333.

The roadshows are designed for potential heat pump customers, rather than installers or consultants. Priority will be given to target sectors when allocating places at each session.

### Water Source Heat Pumps: The Future of Heating?

#### 30th June, Central London

DECC is running a free event on water source heat pumps in Central London on Tuesday 30 June.

The event is part of a roadshow series which will help housing providers, developers, businesses, local authorities and communities understand more about heat pumps and the opportunities they provide for carbon reductions, fuel bill savings and safe, secure energy supplies.

You can book places and find out more at [deccheatpumptraining2015.eventbrite.com](http://deccheatpumptraining2015.eventbrite.com)

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