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[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.

## WELCOME

Welcome to August's round-up of news, policy updates, funding opportunities and events from CLASP. This bulletin covers a wide range of topics on environmental resilience, carbon reduction, sustainable planning including:

- [Financing & Setting up Local Authorities Renewable Energy Projects](#)
- [Community Energy 3D Model On Its Way](#)
- [Climate Change and Resilience Updates](#)
- [Safe Routes for Urban Flooding](#)
- [Energy Updates](#)
- [Funding Opportunity – Electricity Demand Reduction Projects](#)
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- [DCLG Confirmed as Speaker at CLASP Planners' Summit](#)
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## NEW RESOURCES FROM CLASP

### Guide to Financing and Setting up Local Authority Led Large-scale Renewable Energy Projects

Warrington Borough Council and CLASP have been working together to produce a briefing for you that explains the benefits, finance options and practical steps to take for Local Authority investments in renewable energy projects. The guide contains examples of a range of real-life recent projects led by Local Authorities across the UK covering

- Essential Background
- Making Your Project Happen
- Financing and Ownership Options
- FAQs
- Resources

You can download a copy of the report from: <http://claspinfo.org/financing-large-scale-renewable-energy>

You can also flip through the document online at: <http://www.claspinfo.org/flip-book-financing-large-scale-investment-renewable-energy>



## Sneak Preview – Community Energy 3D Model On Its Way

Many communities express an interest in looking at renewable energy generation and energy efficiency measures, but many struggle to know how to take these ideas forward, often finding the enormity of the challenge overwhelming.

CLASP is currently working with the Lake District National Park to pilot providing support and advice to progress through this initial stage, and help communities take ownership of their own energy futures.

Part of this has involved the building of a 3D architectural model, showing a typical rural setting and renewable energy opportunities. This will be used with communities to help them visualise what they could have in the future.

The model will also be made available in future for all other local authorities to borrow and use in a similar way. Notes and info on the approach to use are also being prepared.

For more information contact Samantha Hagon

[samantha.Hagon@lakedistrict.gov.uk](mailto:samantha.Hagon@lakedistrict.gov.uk)



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## CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCE

### Call for Case Studies on Promoting Flood Recovery Schemes

The LGA is keen to share ways in which councils have been promoting and encouraging an uptake of flood recovery funding schemes in communities, such as the business support scheme and Repair and Renew Grant. Please send your examples for inclusion on their website and future bulletins to [jo.allchurch@local.gov.uk](mailto:jo.allchurch@local.gov.uk)

### Severe Weather Impact on Voluntary Sector - Survey

The National Council of Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) are doing some research into how community and voluntary sector organisations are affected by severe weather, in terms of demand for their services as well as their ability to maintain services to their communities in times of flooding, heat, or other weather.

NCVO would be grateful if you would take a few minutes either to [complete the survey](#) (only 9 questions, shouldn't take more than 5 minutes!) or pass it along to your colleagues in the community sector who may be able to provide their views.

### Adaptation Indicators – Views Sought

The Adaptation Sub-Committee (ASC) of the Committee on Climate Change has prepared a draft set of indicators to be used in the preparation of the next National Adaptation Programme. The ASC is now seeking expert views on this draft indicator set, particularly on their relevance and completeness. The closing date for comments is 30 September 2014.

See: <http://www.theccc.org.uk/news-stories/ccc-launches-call-for-evidence-on-adaptation-indicators/>

*Above article from UKCIP newsletters*

## New Mapping Service For Live Shared View Of Incidents

Ordnance Survey has launched a mapping service that allows emergency and other response providers to access a live view of disruptive incidents, such as flood risk or coastal erosion. Users can add their own data to provide a flexible, bespoke set of information.

It is part of the Cabinet Office Resilience Direct tool which acts as a shared operating platform for organisations involved in responding to incidents. See: <http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/about/news/2014/os-mapping-service-launched-for-uk-resilience-professionals.html>

*Above article from UKCIP newsletters*

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## FLOODING

### Safe Routes For Urban Flooding

CIRIA have launched new free guidance on [Managing urban flooding from heavy rainfall - encouraging the uptake of designing for exceedance](#) (C738). This guidance was launched in April. The video presentations from the launch are now available on CIRIA's YouTube channel, and include:

- [Introduction to managing urban flooding - encouraging the uptake of designing for exceedance](#)  
Christopher Digman, MWH Global
- [Using a highway to channel flooding and gain community acceptance in St Blazey, Cornwall](#)  
Charles Richards, St Blazey and Par Community Flood Group
- [Retrofitting for exceedance flows at Witney, Oxfordshire](#)  
Gordon Hunt, Oxfordshire County Council
- [Safe routes for urban flooding - designing for exceedance](#)  
Panel discussion
- [Introduction to managing urban flooding - encouraging the uptake of designing for exceedance](#)  
Industry professionals discuss what exceedance is and why we should design for exceedance.
- [Designing for exceedance, making it happen](#)  
Industry professionals discuss managing drainage exceedance in St Blazey, Cornwall

### Flood Insurance Consultation

The UK Government announced in June 2013 that it was taking forward the Flood Reinsurance Scheme (Flood Re) as the preferred approach to addressing the availability and affordability of flood insurance.

The Flood Re Scheme will ensure that domestic property insurance continues to be widely available and affordable in areas of flood risk without placing unsustainable costs on wider policyholders or the taxpayer. Flood Re will provide transitional support to households at flood risk over a 25 year period as part of a gradual transition towards more risk-reflective prices; this will provide time for choices to be made and risk management action to be taken.

A consultation is now running on Flood Re until 16<sup>th</sup> September. You can find out more and feed-back views via an online survey at: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/flooding/floodreinsurancescheme>

# ENERGY

## CLASP Update Briefing on ECO and Green Deal

It's been a busy and slightly confusing time over at DECC recently with ministers coming and going, Green Deal Schemes being reduced, then ended, and the long-awaited conclusion to the ECO changes being announced.

In case you've not yet had chance to read up on the changes CLASP has produced a quick summary with links to further information covering:

- Consultation Outcome - The Future of the Energy Company Obligation
- Green Deal Home Improvement Fund Closure

You can download the summary from: <http://claspinfo.org/news/eco-and-green-deal-changes>

## Funding Opportunity – Electricity Demand Reduction Projects

DECC are currently inviting applications for an Electricity Demand Reduction (EDR) pilot scheme which will provide organisations with financial support to install more efficient electrical equipment that reduces electricity demand at peak times.

DECC are testing whether projects that deliver lasting electricity savings at peak times, like replacing old bulbs with LEDs or improving motors and pumps, could one day compete with generation, demand side response (DSR) and storage in the forthcoming [GB Capacity Market](#).

The scheme is now open to formal expression of interest and they have published a participant handbook which explains more at: [www.gov.uk/electricity-demand-reduction-pilot](http://www.gov.uk/electricity-demand-reduction-pilot).

## Smart Metering Info Leaflet

DECC have produced a new leaflet explaining how the smart metering system will work from late 2015, when a new shared smart metering national infrastructure is in place. More information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-smart-metering-system-leaflet>

From 2015 existing electricity and gas meters in consumers' homes will be replaced with smart versions. Unlike traditional meters, they automatically send meter readings to energy suppliers, and support new functions including enabling smart appliances and time of use tariffs.

Further information about smart meters can be found on the Government's website at: <https://www.gov.uk/smart-meters-how-they-work>



## ENERGY PLANNING

### Clarity on Protections for National Parks from Shale Gas Exploration Unveiled

As part of the launch of a new licensing round for onshore oil and gas the government have announced that all applications for licensing would need to include a Statement of Environmental Awareness to demonstrate applicants' understanding of the environmental sensitivities at the proposed site.

In addition, new planning guidance has been produced which states that applications for unconventional oil and gas developments in national parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), the Norfolk Broads and World Heritage sites is not to be ruled out completely, but should be refused "other than in exceptional circumstances and in the public interest".

Some environmental campaigners have welcomed the clarity on protection for national parks and AONBs but called for it to be extended. Others highlight concerns that a new "power of veto" appears to have been made, allowing the Communities Secretary the automatic right to overrule local authorities who reject an application.

Click on the following link for more information about the new licensing round:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-onshore-licensing-round-opens>

Click on the following link for more information about the new planning guidance:

[http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/minerals/planning-for-hydrocarbon-extraction/determining-the-planning-application/#paragraph\\_223](http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/minerals/planning-for-hydrocarbon-extraction/determining-the-planning-application/#paragraph_223)

### DCLG Confirmed as Speaker at CLASP Planners' Summit

Peter Ellis from DCLG has recently been confirmed as a speaker at the forthcoming CLASP and TCPA Planning Summit "Taking Stock of Planning for Sustainable Energy". This is taking place on the 10th September in Manchester. Peter will be joining other leading industry experts from TCPA, Limburg, Belgium and Hertfordshire County Council to explore the opportunities and challenges around planning for sustainable energy and what you can do.

A detailed agenda including confirmed speakers along with booking arrangements is available via the following link:

<http://www.claspinfo.org/events/special-planners%E2%80%99-summit-%E2%80%98taking-stock-planning-sustainable-energy%E2%80%99>

### Feed in Tariff Stats Update

Sub-regional, and local authority level, Feed-in Tariffs statistics showing the number of installations and total installed capacity by technology type (up to June 2014) are now available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/sub-regional-feed-in-tariffs-confirmed-on-the-cfr-statistics>



## HEAT NETWORKS

### Leeds Heat Planning Tool

The Leeds Heat Planning Tool is a district heating planning tool for England and Wales developed by Leeds University providing energy planners a quick and simple way to include social factors right from the early stages of district heating planning; offering an additional evidence base to support business cases for potential schemes and to open up discussions with stakeholders.

Click on the following link to access the tool and please note that you will need to register beforehand:

<http://sure-infrastructure.leeds.ac.uk/leedsheatplanningtool/index.html>

### Water Source Heat Map for Local Authorities

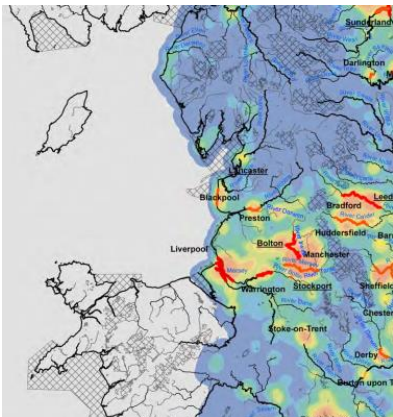
DECC have produced a high level water source heat map for local authorities, community groups and private developers to highlight the opportunities for deploying innovative heat pump technology at larger scales (i.e. for heat networks).

The map summarises the result of a high level assessment of around 40 urban rivers with the highest potential for water source heat pump deployment, for both heating and cooling purposes.

More information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-source-heat-map>

And remember, The [National Heat Map](#) is still available. It is a publicly accessible, interactive web-based map showing the level of heat demand across England. It includes residential, commercial, industrial, public buildings and total heat demands, and aims to support planning and deployment of local low-carbon energy projects in England. An updated version of the National Heat Map is currently being developed and will incorporate additional information, including the new water source heat pumps map.



# PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABLE BUILDING

## Housebuilders to Decide How to Deliver Zero Carbon Homes

The government has now published a formal response to its consultation on how homebuilders can meet the zero carbon homes standard, which closed in October 2013. As part of the response the government has confirmed that housebuilders will decide how to meet carbon mitigation requirements under the zero carbon homes policy rather than local authorities.

However, the government's advisory body 'Committee on Climate Change' has recommended in its annual progress report to Parliament that the government should abandon plans for the exemption of small sites from requirements to build zero carbon homes. The government has not yet defined what it means by a small site, leading to concern that a large number of new homes could fall under the exemption.

CSE have published an interesting analysis of what they call, the good, the bad and the ugly points from the government's response: <http://www.cse.org.uk/news/view/1851>

Click on the following link to download a copy of the full government response:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/next-steps-to-zero-carbon-homes-allowable-solutions>

## Opportunity to Join New Housing Task and Finish Group

Following the Housing Standards Review (HSR) 2013, the government is rationalising the number of housing standards and codes, consolidating material into Building Regulations and the accompanying approved documents.

As part of this review the Local Adaptation Advisory Panel (LAAP) are setting up a new Task and Finish Group on Adaptation in New Housing and are looking for local authority representatives to join this group. If you would like to join the Housing Standards group please contact [Sylvie.allan@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Sylvie.allan@environment-agency.gov.uk) who is the Local Government theme lead for Climate Ready.

## Cost of Sustainable Buildings Challenged

BRE and Sweett Group have published a report that challenges the view that sustainable buildings are more costly to construct.

It found that while building to the most challenging levels of sustainability under BREEAM may incur some additional costs, typically less than 2 per cent – these can be paid back within two to five years through energy and water bill savings.

Achieving the lower BREEAM ratings can incur little or no additional cost, the report added.

See: <http://www.ukgbc.org/news/new-report-challenges-views-over-cost-sustainable-buildings>

## RECENT RESEARCH

### Behaviour Change Research

Over recent months a number of interesting studies have emerged around environmental behaviours. The Scottish Sustainability Network has compiled a handy summary of 5 of these, with links to the full reports.

They include findings such as:

- Green 'nudges' – including making the greener option the default choice, and nudges that use the power of social influence – can be effective.
- Those who receive feedback on the amount of gas and electricity they use are more likely to reduce their energy use – and the most effective form of feedback is smiley face emoticons.
- Global warming' is associated with greater public understanding, emotional engagement, and support for personal and national action than the term 'climate change.'

You can read up on the reports here:

<http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/sustainability-climate-change/sustainable-scotland-network/news/behaviour-change-%E2%80%93-latest-reports-and-surveys/>

### Flooding Matters

There has also been some interesting research from Leeds University showing that flooding, more than heat-related weather events, influences UK residents' perception of the risks associated with climate change. A summary is here:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-27786642>

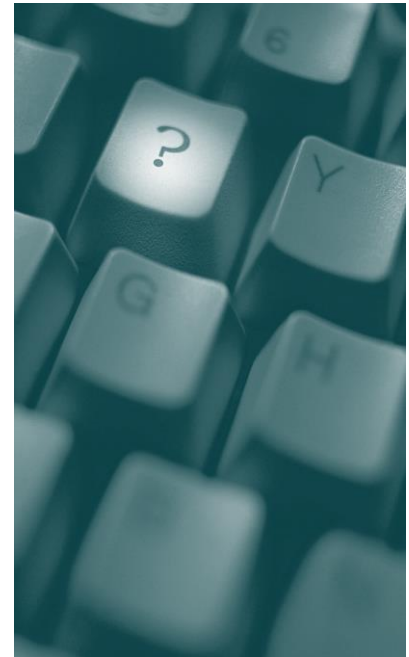
The full paper is available at:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/risa.12234/pdf>

### Understanding Low Carbon Behaviours

The Environmental Sustainability Technical Assistance (ESTA) project has recently published its research report into low carbon behaviour change. The report identifies successful evidence based behaviour change activities that can be implemented as an integral part of low carbon activities with businesses and households. The evidence reviewed covers a range of studies from pilot schemes to mass initiatives covering millions of people.

See: <http://www.enworks.com/ESTA-project-outcomes>





## CLASP EVENTS

### Planners' Summit: Taking Stock of Planning for Sustainable Energy (SPECIAL Project / CLASP)

**10th September**

**Manchester**

A CLASP and TCPA SPECIAL Planners' Summit for local authorities, public bodies and their partners designed to explore the opportunities and challenges around planning for sustainable energy and what you can do. Speakers confirmed include DCLG, TCPA, Limburg in Belgium and Hertfordshire County Council. There will be plenty of opportunity for Q&A as well as an interactive workshop exploring what kind of SPECIAL support/training would be best?

A detailed agenda including confirmed speakers along with booking arrangements is available via the following link: <http://www.claspinfo.org/events/special-planners%E2%80%99-summit-%E2%80%98taking-stock-planning-sustainable-energy%E2%80%99>

### Code of Conduct for Solid Wall Insulation Installations

**18th September, 10am – 12.30**

**Blackpool**

Come and meet with Blackpool Council and find out about their new Code of Conduct for solid wall insulation installations.

This work has been developed with funding from CLASP, and Blackpool Council are hosting this event in order to share these newly developed tools with local authorities and other interested parties who may wish to adopt or adapt them for their own use. Information and insights will be shared on:

- Contractors' Code of Conduct - for solid wall insulation (SWI) retrofit projects on traditional buildings.
- Decision making protocol - to help navigate planning issues than can delay start-up of SWI schemes.
- Approved list of installers – plans for a list of contractors who sign up to the Code of Conduct.

Find out more and book here: <http://www.swicode.eventbrite.co.uk>

### Building a Resilient Environment

**24th September**

**Manchester**

Climate Ready and Climate UK will be hosting a series of half-day Planners' events in the autumn of 2014. These will launch a new suite of resources that will support the crucial role Planning plays in delivering a resilient and well adapted built environment.

The North West Climate Change Partnership (which CLASP is part of) will be hosting an event in Manchester on the morning of Wednesday 24th September at the Mechanics Institute. This event will:

- Bring stakeholders up to date with the latest developments on guidance, statutory drivers and wider activity delivered by Climate Ready.
- Disseminate new and updated resources developed from the recent Climate Change Skills programme for Planners and Developers.
- Illustrate local good practice in action and strategic plans to increase resilience in the built environment.

You can find out about those and book places via: <http://building-a-resilient-environment.eventbrite.co.uk>

## OTHER EVENTS

### Inaugural Meeting of the Northwest Region of Community Energy England

**10<sup>th</sup> September**

**Liverpool**

An event for practitioners and professionals involved in community energy and renewable energy in the North West and also people who own/manage property that could be used to develop solar projects (schools, council buildings, churches). This will bring together people with different skills and expertise, technical knowledge of renewables, experience of setting up and running coops, finance and those people who have successfully delivered a project and those struggling to get one of the ground!

The evening will also include the official launch of Liverpool Community Renewables Ltd. For more information contact: [lcrenewables@yahoo.com](mailto:lcrenewables@yahoo.com)

### Behavioural Change

**2<sup>nd</sup> October**

**Birmingham**

Sustainability West Midlands are organising a Behavioural Change Conference aimed at the public sector. The conference will focus on how to deliver effective behavioural change campaigns to achieve sustainable practice within your organisation. They have some fantastic speakers lined up including:

- Shelley McIvor, behavioural change expert: 'Five steps to effective behavioural change'
- Leane de Laigue, Climate Outreach and Information Network (COIN): 'Promoting sustainable behaviour and engaging communities on climate change'
- Barts Health NHS Trust: 'Operation TLC: Award winning behavioural change in the healthcare sector'
- Charlotte Bonner, National Union of Students (NUS): 'Use of the Green Impact Tool'

The conference is being held at Innovation Birmingham, Faraday Wharf, Holt Street, B7 4BB. It will run from 9am – 2pm and will include lunch. Places are free but limited so if you'd like to join please contact: [anna.bright@swm.org.uk](mailto:anna.bright@swm.org.uk)

### Climate Local: Energy and Water Efficiency

**Online**

**18<sup>th</sup> September**

In light of increasing pressure on councils to realise carbon and cost savings, Climate Local is running a web conference event on Thursday 18th September between 2-3pm. The session which will be led by the Energy Saving Trust and will look to cover the following:

- The role of the Energy Saving Trust (EST) in supporting councils on their carbon reduction strategies
- Reducing carbon emissions, increasing cost savings and adapting to climate change through energy and water efficiency measures
- Best practice and exemplar projects

This event will be the first in a series of webinars being organised through Climate Local to share technical knowledge and best practice between councils, government bodies and industry on all things climate change. If you would like to take part in this free event please contact Mazvita Chari [mazvita.chari@local.gov.uk](mailto:mazvita.chari@local.gov.uk); 02076643175 for more details

## OTHER NEWS

### Climate Local Annual Report

The LGA's Climate Local programme, has published an annual progress report on the work councils are doing to tackle climate change. There are now 89 councils signed up to the programme, committing to over 1500 actions. The report highlights some interesting examples of councils' ongoing commitment to reducing carbon emissions, building resilience in a changing climate and the wider benefits this presents in delivering local priorities.

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

[http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/11309/Climate+Local+annual+report\\_FINAL.pdf/6b423606-800b-4917-9b4e-9adb7d20711d](http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/11309/Climate+Local+annual+report_FINAL.pdf/6b423606-800b-4917-9b4e-9adb7d20711d)

### Climate UK Update

Climate UK, has developed a brand new newsletter which provides the national picture on climate adaptation and mitigation policy and practice. To sign up, email [info@climate.uk.net](mailto:info@climate.uk.net) and [visit their website](#) to view their latest annual report.

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