

Early June 2014 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

Thanks to all who responded to our quick survey question in the last mail. We've listed the results of your votes in the article below and we'll try to cover your top 5 in the next few months. As always get in touch (ailsa@claspinfo.org) if you have any more requests.

This bulletin rounds up key developments, news and resources from the past 4 weeks. Things have picked up again after the Easter break so there's lots to cover, including:

- [Community Energy FiTs Changes](#)
- [Queen's Speech Summary](#)
- [Local Flood Risk Assessment Tool](#)
- [NHS Sustainability Results by Area](#)
- [Heatwave Plan 2014](#)
- [Climate Change and Health Impact Summary](#)
- [Adapting Building Design for Changing Climate](#)
- [Zero Carbon Homes standards handy summary](#)
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Our Survey Said...

Thanks to all who responded to our quick survey question in the last mail. The topics you voted as your priority for our workshops over the next few months were (in order):

- 1. Climate Change Adaptation, Building the Business Case**
- 2. SUDS and SABS**
- 3. Designing successful communications and engagement campaigns**
- 4. Current EU funding opportunities**
- 5. Whole plan viability and justifying Environmental Policies**
6. Supporting community energy projects
7. Facilitated meeting for LA and LRF representatives on local adaptation
8. Realising the potential for CHP in New Developments and Site Visit
9. Planning for unconventional gas (fracking)
10. Planning for unconventional gas (fracking)
11. Introduction to district cooling (COOLING, not heating)
12. Electric vehicles and infrastructure
13. Calculating Carbon Emissions Savings from Development Documentation
14. Improving bathing water quality

We've just done number 6 (there'll be a link to the presentations in next month's newsletter) and we'll look at covering the top 5 next. As always get in touch (ailsa@claspinfo.org) if you have any requests.

Community Energy

Community Energy FITs Consultation

The Community Energy Strategy set out the government's perception of the main barriers to community energy activity and the actions that needed to be taken to help realise the potential of community energy. A consultation is now open to take forward two actions in relation to renewable electricity generation under the Feed-in Tariffs Scheme. The consultation is made up of the following parts:

- Part A: Introduction and estimates of deployment
- Part B: Increasing the maximum specified capacity ceiling for community projects from 5MW to 10MW – It also includes consideration of the definition of "community organisation"
- Part C: Combining Feed-in tariffs and grants

The consultation is open until 7th July 2014. You can find out more and respond via:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/support-for-community-energy-projects-under-the-feed-in-tariffs-scheme>

Community Energy England Launched

Community Energy England is a not for profit company limited by Guarantee. It was established in May 2014 and held a formal launch in early June as an organisation, set up to provide a voice for the community energy sector and "help create the conditions within which community energy can flourish".

Find out more here: <http://communityenergyengland.org>

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Queen's Speech Summary

The latest Queen's Speech did not contain much of benefit to the sustainability agenda. New government proposals outlined include the introduction of a 5p charge on reusable plastic bags, a further watering down of the commitment to build zero-carbon homes, and changes to the existing law on trespass to support fracking operations.

- Construction firms will be able to "offset" the carbon emissions of new homes after they have been built, in order to meet zero carbon standards due from 2016. This is a weakening from the current situation where from 2016 new homes should not create any carbon emissions.
- A new infrastructure bill and plans to build thousands of new homes were announced. The plans are part of the coalition government's legislative agenda which they hope to pass before the May 2015 General Election.
- Fracking firms will be able to run shale gas pipelines deep under private land without getting prior permission.
- The Highways Agency will be turned from a quango into a government-owned company, while the process of applying for a development consent order (DCO) for building projects of national significance will be simplified and speeded up.
- A 5p plastic bag charge will be levied by supermarkets and larger stores from October with proceeds going to charities and good causes likely to be nominated by stores.

For the full text see:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/316702/Queens-Speech-2014.pdf

Flood and Coastal Management

Local Flood Risk Assessment Tool Launched

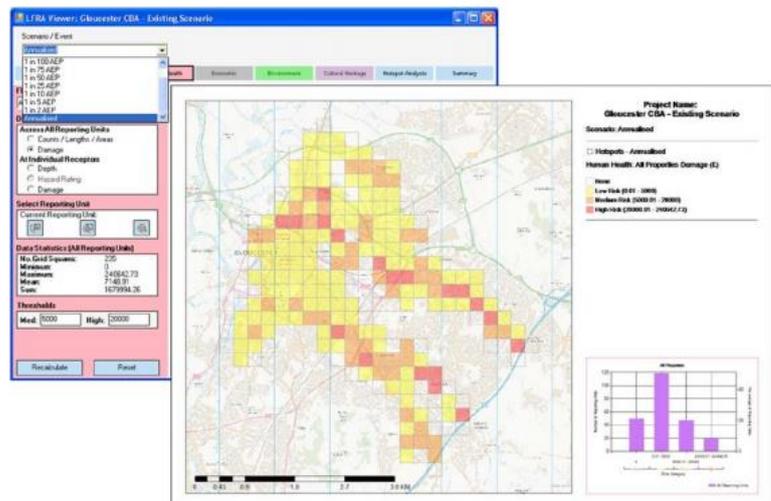
A new framework to help local authorities to better understand and manage flood risk in their area has been launched by the Environment Agency.

The framework recognises new statutory responsibilities for flood and coastal risk management in England and Wales and supports robust, consistent risk assessment across different spatial scales as part of Surface Water Management Plans, Local Flood Risk Management Strategies and Flood Risk Regulations related studies.

A prototype tool has been developed to show how the framework and methods can be delivered. The tool demonstrates a computer based implementation of the methodology which uses national and local datasets to calculate and display flood risk metrics which are user defined, within a consistent framework.

Find out more here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/framework-and-tools-for-local-flood-risk-assessment>



National Trust Update Document on Coastal Change

The National Trust has just updated its Shifting Shores document outlining their approach to coastal change. Which has become a critical issue for the National Trust as change has speeded up over the past winter. For example, in Formby in December 2013 there was 2 years worth of erosion in one afternoon.

Click on the following link for more information:

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/what-we-do/what-we-protect/coast-and-countryside/knowledge-bank/>

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Climate Change & Health

NHS Sustainability – Mapped Annual Results

The Sustainable Development Unit produces annual maps showing the progress of the NHS in meeting sustainability measures across the country. The measures cover a range of topics including carbon, waste and water reduction, and the percentage of organisations with adaptation plans.

Performance is variable across England and within the NW. You can see how well your area is doing by looking at the maps here:

<http://www.sduhealth.org.uk/policy-strategy/reporting/sdmp-annual-reporting.aspx>

Heatwave Plan 2014

Public Health England and NHS England have published their heatwave plan for 2014, alongside guidance for individuals and those working in the health and social care sector. The plan includes information on expected impacts on other sectors (such as transport and energy), key trigger temperatures and key public health messages.

You can find the plan at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/heatwave-plan-for-england>

Climate Change and Health: Synthesis of IPCC Findings

A summary on climate change and health has been produced by the Lancet, following the recent publication of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) report on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. The document highlights that human health is highly sensitive to weather patterns and other climatic impacts, and that adaptation will be required to reduce the risks associated with heatwaves, food insecurity, air-borne pollutants and food and water-borne diseases.

You can find the summary at:

[http://www.climateandhealthalliance.org/asset/download/130/S0140673614605766-1\[1\].pdf](http://www.climateandhealthalliance.org/asset/download/130/S0140673614605766-1[1].pdf)



Reminder: Climate Ready Health Adaptation Support

If you haven't read it yet already you can still download and read Climate Ready's adaptation toolkit to find out how the local health and social care system can introduce cost-effective ways to adapt to a changing climate. It's available at:

http://www.sduhealth.org.uk/documents/publications/Adaptation_Under_the_weather_24_02_14.pdf

Health Impact of Climate Change in UK – New Research Group

The Met Office has joined a new research partnership aimed at identifying the effects of climate change on health and wellbeing in the UK.

Along with a partnership of universities and Public Health England (PHE), the Met Office will identify emerging health effects of large scale changes to our environment and look at the policy changes and mitigation steps that may be needed.

Find out more here: <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/news/releases/archive/2014/health-hpru>

Credit:

Thanks to UKCIP News for many topics in this section <http://www.ukcip.org.uk/news/>

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Designing For a Sustainable Future

Building Adaptation into Construction and Refurbishment Projects

A 'Design for Future Climate' report and 46 case studies have been produced to encourage the incorporation of climate change adaptation in construction and refurbishment projects in the UK. Projects profiled include the new build and refurbishment of schools, offices, hospitals and universities. The case studies have been produced by Adaptation and Resilience in the Context of Change Network (ARCC) and can be found here: <http://www.arcc-network.org.uk/design-for-future-climate/>

Cycle Friendly Design Handbook

Sustrans has published its 'Handbook for Cycle Friendly Design', profiling the latest in best practice design for encouraging active travel. The Handbook is intended to provide easy access to the key information for transport professionals and practitioners, policy, health and planning directors and elected members, through to community and campaign groups and members of the public seeking increased influence over their local environment and public spaces. See: <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/news/new-handbook-cycle-friendly-design>

TCPA Publish Garden City Standards for the 21st Century

The Town & Country Planning Association (TCPA) recently launched 'The Art of Building a Garden City: Garden City Standards for the 21st Century' which consolidate the key lessons learned from the TCPA's previous research into the challenges of delivering Garden Cities.

Click on the following link for more information:

http://www.tcpa.org.uk/data/files/The_Art_of_Building_a_Garden_City_Pre_Pub_Version_For_Print_2_June_14.pdf

the art of building a garden city

garden city standards for
the 21st century



Zero Carbon Homes and Nearly Zero Energy Buildings

The Zero Carbon Hub have published this leaflet which includes a summary of both the Zero Carbon Homes and Nearly Zero Energy Buildings (NZEB) definitions, with examples of NZEB energy targets from five European Members States.

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

http://www.zerocarbonhub.org/sites/default/files/resources/reports/ZCHomes_Nearly_Zero_Energy_Buildings.pdf

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Planning Updates

CLG Select Committee Publish Responses to NPPF Inquiry

The CLG Select Committee has published the responses received to its inquiry into the operation of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in its first two years and the impact on planning for housing, town centres and energy infrastructure.

Click on the following link for more information:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/communities-and-local-government-committee/inquiries/parliament-2010/national-planning-policy-framework/?type=Written#pnlPublicationFilter>).

RTPI Planning Horizons

The RTPI is developing five Centenary 'Planning Horizons' papers, to be published during the Institute's Centenary Year in 2014. These will take a step back from immediate policy concerns and take a long term as well as global view of planning and the contribution it can make to some of the major challenges we face in the 21st Century.

The five Planning Horizons projects are:

- Future proofing society (climate change and demographic pressures)
- Planning for economic growth and enterprise
- Urbanisation and health
- Spatial thinking in policy
- Governance

Click on the following link for more information:

<http://www.rtpi.org.uk/knowledge/research/planning-horizons/>

Recent Awards

Cumbria Council Wins Environmental Fleet Award

Cumbria County Council has been recognised with a national award at the Fleet World Honours 2014 event, following its efforts to make business travel more environmentally friendly. The Fleet World Honours awards recognise innovation, quality and sustainability in fleet design and management, and are divided into a number of industry categories.

Click on the following link for more information:

<http://www.fleetworldhonours.co.uk/winners-2014/>

Bradford's City-wide Air Pollution Strategy

The City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council has pioneered an approach to minimise air pollution through the development management process. The council's low emission strategy, which was shortlisted for the 2014 Sustainable City Awards for sustainable travel and transport, aims to deal with the issue through measures ranging from using cleaner vehicles for its own fleet to encouraging greater take-up of non-car travel.

Click on the following link for more information:

<http://www.bradford.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/C997AE78-0CF7-4160-88DF-95B4B650071D/0/BradfordLowEmissionStrategy2013.pdf>

Other News

RHI – Quick Consumer Guide

DECC have produced a simple 2-sided guide to the domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) for customers. You can download it from here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-green-deal-guide-to-the-domestic-renewable-heat-incentive>



Tell Us What You Want - DECC HNDU Themed Sessions

Further to last month's CLASP / DECC / HNDU Supporting Heat Network Event the HNDU are interested in finding out what additional sessions local authorities will find useful. These sessions will be themed to specific topics and will:

- Allow HNDU to utilise its resources effectively;
- Support peer to peer learning and networking;
- Ensure solutions from across the country have an impact on local projects
- Identify additional common themes/blockages to network delivery

Please take a moment to answer just 1 quick question, identifying areas of interest, so future engagement will be right for your project (tick as many options as apply):

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3N365NK>

The deadline for completing the survey is the 13th June.

NW Leads on Climate Local Commitment

A new report from Climate Local has analysed councils' climate change action plans. The report reveals that 60 Climate Local councils have committed to deliver over 1,400 individual actions to tackle climate change.

44% of NW local authorities have signed up to Climate Local, a higher proportion than any other area.

You can view the report here:

<http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/49938/Analysis+of+Climate+Local+Actions+FINAL.pdf/56d48b4f-3d2b-4759-90ce-32c5cf04c83a>

First TransPennine Express - Forestry Commission Green Grant launch 2014

The Green Grants Scheme gives the opportunity for local community groups, charities and schools to complete their own environmental improvement projects. The project is run in partnership with First TransPennine Express and the total amount of money to be awarded is £40,000, with individual grants of up to £3,000 available to successful applicants. Applications to be submitted before 17th October 2014, the winning grants to be selected in November 2014.

Click on the following link for more information:

<http://www.tpexpress.co.uk/about-us/corporate-responsibility/environment/>

“Rationalising” Environmental Guidance

Defra is looking to rationalise all the guidance available on-line from a range of agencies and arm’s length bodies, including on access and engagement, chemicals and emerging technologies, and landscape. They have just published their plans for how they will do this and what it will entail.

The consultation closes on 7th July.

Click on the following link for more information:

<http://guidanceanddata.defra.gov.uk/smarter-guidance/>

CPRE Publish Report on Light Pollution

In early 2014 CPRE carried out a survey of English local authorities to find out how they approach lighting in their areas. The results presented in their report create a detailed picture of lighting issues in England through a number of local case studies. The report also makes nine recommendations to help local authorities reduce light pollution and protect existing dark areas while saving energy.

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

<http://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/countryside/dark-skies/item/3608-shedding-light>

Credit:

Thanks to NW Environment Link <http://www.vsnw.org.uk/networks/nwel> for many articles in this section.

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Did You Miss...?

Supporting Heat Network Delivery Event

CLASP and the DECC Heat Network Delivery Unit (HNDU) held a ‘Supporting Heat Network Delivery’ event on the 7th May 2014 in Preston. Presentations and discussion focused on the type of support that is available from HNDU, information and experiences about projects that have received HNDU funding, helping to gear up for future funding rounds and understand what HNDU are looking for in an application and preparing technical specifications.

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

<http://www.claspinfo.org/resources/supporting-heat-network-delivery-event>

Supporting Community Renewable Energy Projects

On the 9th June CLASP hosted a workshop and discussion focusing on the role of local authorities, housing associations and their partners in supporting the delivery of community renewable energy projects. This was followed by a site visit to the community PV and hydro scheme at Halton near Lancaster.

You can find all the presentations from the day at:

<http://www.claspinfo.org/resources/supporting-community-renewable-energy-projects>

Events

International Festival for Business 2014 and UK Trade & Investment

9 June to 22 July

Liverpool

The International Festival for Business (IFB) 2014 is the largest global concentration of business events during 2014. The 50-day festival runs across 7 weeks in June and July and will attract business delegates and trade intermediaries from around the world. There are seven broad IFB 2014 themes including Low Carbon and Renewables w/c 14th July.

Click on the following link for a quick guide to the IFB:

<http://www.ifb2014.com/Quick-Guide-to-IFB-2014-i25.html>

Wind Energy Seminar 2014

1st July

Lancaster

This summer RenewableUK and partners will be holding a free Wind Energy Seminar exclusively for local authority planners, councillors and representatives from statutory agencies. The event is designed to inform participants about the key drivers and benefits of wind energy development. The events will also explore in more depth noise and visual impact.

The event will also include a visit to Caton Moor Wind Farm for attendees to see first-hand an operating wind farm and allow them to learn more about the operational aspects of the technology from site managers.

Click on the following link for more information:

<http://www.renewableuk.com/en/events/workshops-and-seminars/index.cfm/wind-energy-seminar-lancs>

Improving the Resilience and Sustainability of Cumbria's Economy

14th July

University of Cumbria

Lakes Action on Climate Change - Towards Transition, and Sustainable Carlisle are hosting a seminar which will explore the potential for Cumbria of alternative currencies, such as mutual credit trading schemes, or a regional currency.

Click on the following link to book a place:

<http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/improving-the-resilience-and-sustainability-of-cumbrias-economy-tickets-11734003721?aff=eorg>

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