

Early May 2014 Sustainability Update

News, Policy, Resources, Opportunities & Events

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Join Us

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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 the latest sustainability, low-carbon and adaptation news bulletin from CLASP. We've rounded up key points for you in this bulletin from the last month, including amongst much else:

- [Tell us which workshops you'd like to attend next](#)
- [Update on CLASP funded projects](#)
- [Changes to Green Deal](#)
- [Flood support and best practice update](#)
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- [Presentations you may have missed](#)
- [Next CLASP workshop – Supporting Community Energy](#)
- [Other events in May/June](#)

Next CLASP Workshops

Invitations will be sent out shortly to our June CLASP event examining how local authorities can support community energy projects.

We're also looking ahead to the rest of the year's sessions and would like to know ***What would you like to attend?***

So please take a moment to answer **just 1 quick question:**
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CGRLNP5>

You can choose any topics you would be likely to attend from our list of:

- Designing successful communications and engagement campaigns
- Introduction to district cooling (COOLING, not heating)
- Electric vehicles and infrastructure
- Supporting community energy projects
- Improving bathing water quality
- Facilitated meeting for LA and LRF representatives on local adaptation
- Current EU funding opportunities
- Planning for unconventional gas (fracking)
- Calculating carbon emissions savings from development documentation
- Realising the potential for CHP in new developments and site visit
- SUDS and SABS
- Climate change adaptation, building the business case
- Whole plan viability and justifying environmental policies
- OTHER – You suggest

Thanks

CLASP Funding Projects

You might recall that earlier this year we announced 5 new local authority led projects that will be supported by CLASP this year. We'll be providing you with periodic updates, this month from Warrington Council and the Lake District National Park.

Helping Communities Take Their First Steps to Renewable Energy

Many communities in the Lake District National Park have already expressed an interest in looking at renewable energy generation and energy efficiency measures within their communities, but many struggle to know how to take these ideas forward, often finding the enormity of the challenge overwhelming.

The Lake District National Park Authority has been awarded funding from CLASP to undertake a project until January 2015, which will help to overcome these barriers.

This project will provide three communities in the Lake District National Park with the support and advice they need to progress through this initial stage, and help them take ownership of their own energy futures.

It will also build a physical 3D architectural model of a rural setting, showing renewable energy opportunities. This is similar to a more urban-focused model called [Plan LoCaL](#), and will be used with the communities to help them visualise what they could have in the future.

Each of the three communities will receive help to develop their ideas and overcome barriers. They will also each receive an action plan which identifies support and funding options to get their projects off the ground. **The model and training notes will also be available for use by other local authorities after the end of the project (at no cost other than transportation).**

For more information, contact Sam Hagon Samantha.hagon@lakedistrict.gov.uk Direct dial 01539 792659.

Financing Large-Scale Investment in Renewable Energy – Making it Happen in Your Local Authority

Warrington led a workshop on 28th March for local authorities, housing associations, and community energy groups to learn about large scale investment in renewable energy by local authorities. It covered what are the benefits, what options are available, where to get help and how to get started.

The event accompanied a CLASP Briefing researched by Quantum Strategy & Technology with Warrington Borough Council funded by CLASP. This will be published shortly.



The presentations are all available to download from: <http://claspinfo.org/resources/financing-large-scale-renewables>

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Green Deal Update

From June, households in England and Wales will be able to get up to £7600 back through a new Green Deal Home Improvement Fund (GDHIF).

Under the new incentive scheme, domestic energy customers can get:

- up to £1000 for installing two measures from an approved list; and/or
- up to £6000 for installing solid wall insulation; and
- up to £100 refunded for their Green Deal Assessment.

The scheme also entitles those who have bought a property in the 12 months prior to application to qualify for up to an additional £500 if they carry out energy efficiency improvements.

Householders will be able to receive GDHIF funding for solid wall insulation and/or any two of the following energy savings improvements:

- Condensing gas boiler (on mains gas)
- Double glazing (replacing single glazing)
- Secondary glazing
- Replacement doors
- Cavity wall insulation
- Floor insulation
- Flat roof insulation
- Room-in-roof insulation
- Replacement warm air unit
- Replacement storage heaters
- Flue gas heat recovery units
- Waste water heat recovery systems

Find out more at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/7600-to-make-your-home-more-energy-efficient>

Climate Change and Resilience

EU Delays 2030 Climate Action Plans

EU ministers have agreed to delay finalising Europe's climate and energy policy package for 2030 until "October at the latest", in a move that has been criticised by industry and green groups. The proposals include binding targets to reduce emissions by 40 per cent (based on a 1990 baseline) and to obtain at least 27 per cent of energy from renewable sources, by 2030. MEPs have also proposed a non-binding target for member states to improve their energy efficiency by 25 per cent, but all the plans need to be ratified by the European Council, before passing into law.

Click on the following link for more information: http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/2030/index_en.htm

Royal Society Report – 20 Questions about Climate Change

A new Royal Society report answers the 20 most commonly asked questions about climate change. Its aim is to make clear to policymakers and the public what is well established, where consensus is growing, and where there is still uncertainty.

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

http://royalsociety.org/uploadedFiles/Royal_Society_Content/policy/projects/climate-evidence-causes/climate-change-evidence-causes.pdf

UK Floods 2014: Government Response and Recovery

A full round-up of government information and advice about the recovery schemes and support available following flooding in parts of the UK has been published on the .Gov website. This covers a range of initiatives including:

- Council Tax discount to all flood victims for as long as they are unable to return to their homes
- Farming flood recovery fund
- Business rate relief

Click on the following link for more information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-floods-2014-government-response>

Best Practice Flood Alleviation Schemes

Following recent flooding events, members of the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport (ADEPT) have compiled examples of best practice across successful flood alleviation and defence engineering schemes.

Click on the following link to download a copy of the best practice:

https://knowledgehub.local.gov.uk/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=1bb816b1-2993-4d3b-afb1-d351117b87b2&groupId=5919398

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Energy Update

Eight Major New Renewables Projects

Eight major renewable electricity projects have been unveiled as part of the government's world leading electricity reforms, giving a massive boost to green growth and green jobs. Two of these projects are for offshore wind in the NW, including the Burbo Bank extension in Liverpool Bay (258MW) and the Walney extension off the coast of Cumbria (660MW).

By 2020, the projects will provide up to £12 billion of private sector investment, supporting 8,500 jobs, and they could add a further 4.5GW of low-carbon electricity to Britain's energy mix (or around 4% of capacity), generating enough clean electricity to power over three million homes.

Click on the following link for more information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-unveils-eight-major-new-renewables-projects-supporting-8500-green-jobs>

Government Publish New Solar Strategy

The government has published its new Solar Strategy, with a commitment to supporting the roll-out of solar installations on private and public sector buildings across the UK. It is designed to support the UK's commitment to sourcing 20 per cent of its energy from renewables by 2020.

The strategy contains plans to turn the Government estate as well as factories, supermarkets and car parks into "solar hubs".

Click on the following link to download a copy of the full solar power strategy:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-solar-pv-strategy-part-1-roadmap-to-a-brighter-future>

"Power To The Pupils" Solar PV Guidance For Schools

In conjunction with the Solar Strategy the government has produced a leaflet for schools explaining the benefits and energy savings that can be made through solar PV. It provides a checklist and practical information on finance, installation and where to go for further advice.

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/power-to-the-pupils-solar-pv-for-schools>

The “Disruptive” Potential of Solar Power

The new government strategy comes hot on the heels of a McKinsey report, which found that solar energy generation is getting more cost-effective every year and could have a “disruptive” effect on the current business model of utilities. Globally, installations have risen by 50 per cent a year since 2006.

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

http://www.mckinsey.com/insights/energy_resources_materials/the_disruptive_potential_of_solar_power

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Sustainable Heating and Cooling

Government Launch Renewable Heat Incentive

Phase 2 of the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) was launched on 9th April 2014 to increase the amount of heat generated by renewable technologies such as biomass boilers, solar thermal panels and heat pumps. The RHI will pay a subsidy to people installing these kinds of heating systems and applies to domestic and non-domestic systems (e.g. offices, factories and community buildings like village halls), though the details vary somewhat between them.

Click on the following links for find out more about the RHI”

<https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-programmes/domestic-renewable-heat-incentive>

<https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-programmes/non-domestic-renewable-heat-incentive-rhi>

District Heating Survey

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) is currently conducting a survey to build their evidence base for heat networks. The project is part of DECC’s overall goal to increase the evidence available to support policy makers. Specifically, this research will provide real data from existing heat networks for the first time and to capture an accurate understanding of the costs, characteristics and performance. The data provided will support the case for further support mechanisms for heat networks.

The survey can be found at

<http://www.decc-heat-networks-survey.co.uk/>

Intelligent Energy Europe District Cooling Project

An Intelligent Energy Europe funded project, RESCUE (Renewable Smart Cooling for Urban Europe), aims to address the key challenges for the further development and implementation of district cooling using low and zero carbon emitting sources. A series of workshops are planned as part of the project, and please email krista@claspinfo.org if you would be interested in attending a NW hosted event.

Click on the following links for more information about the project:

<http://www.rescue-project.eu/home/>

<http://www.thameswegroup.co.uk/general-news/rescue-renewable-smart-cooling-urban-europe-project/>

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Planning and Building Updates

Wind Turbine Appeals Recovery Criteria

On 10 October 2013 a change was made to the appeals recovery criteria for wind turbine planning applications, for a period of 6 months. In doing so Eric Pickles wanted to give particular scrutiny to planning appeals involving renewable energy developments and considers the extent to which the then new practice guidance was meeting the government's intentions.. In a statement on the 9th April 2014 Eric Pickles announced that this "temporary change" to the appeals recovery criteria has now been extended for a further 12 months. He notes in his announcement that "Since the guidance, more appeals have been dismissed than approved for more significant turbines."

The statement goes on to say that "For the avoidance of doubt, this does not mean that all renewable energy appeals will be recovered, but that planning ministers may recover a number of appeals."

For more information see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/local-planning-and-renewable-energy-developments>

Compulsory Pre-Application Consultation for Onshore Wind

Regulations have also come into force to make pre-application consultation with local communities compulsory for onshore wind development. This new measure will apply to applications for onshore wind development (under Part 3 of the Town and Country Planning Act) of more than two turbines or where the hub height of any turbine exceeds 15 metres.

A copy of the order is available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/uksi/2013/2932>

Amendments to EU Directive on Environmental Impact Assessment

The Council of the European Union has approved a directive amending the EU directive on environmental impact assessment (EIA). Among the key changes are a stronger screening process, and a move to allow mitigation measures.

Cumulative effects will have to be taken into account and EIA reports will have to be broader in scope, taking on board climate change, biodiversity, human health, vulnerability to accidents and disasters and resource use. The revisions will have to be transposed into national legislation by mid-2017.

Click on the following link for more information:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/envir/142193.pdf

WRAP Publish Database for Embodied Carbon in Buildings

The UK's first publically available database for embodied carbon in buildings has been launched today by resource efficiency experts WRAP in collaboration with the UK Green Building Council. The database will allow building professionals to benchmark their designs to a far greater extent and to access more detailed comparative data than was previously available to any single company or individual, and assist them in identifying where carbon reductions can be made.

Click on the following link to use the embodied carbon database:

<http://ecdb.wrap.org.uk/>

A round-up of a range of embodied carbon resources is available via the following weblink:

[http://pinpoint.ukgbc.org/resource.php?page_number=2&tag\[0\]=UKGBC-embodied-carbon-week](http://pinpoint.ukgbc.org/resource.php?page_number=2&tag[0]=UKGBC-embodied-carbon-week)

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Other News

LGA Warns Wasted Goods Worth Over £400 million

Households are binning far too many perfectly serviceable goods worth over £400 million every year, new research reveals.

The Local Government Association (LGA) is calling on the nation to join in a new reuse drive that can save taxpayers millions, help support local causes, and prevent unnecessary use of the country's landfill sites by finding new homes for unwanted but functional items.

A new report from the LGA highlights a range of methods and best practice in reuse including eBay, Freecycle, local projects, charities and social enterprises as well as informal arrangements between residents.

Click on the following links to download a copy of the full report and research documents:

<http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/5854661/LGA+Routes+to+Reuse+FINAL+FINAL.PDF/5edd19ba-7c13-47c5-b019-97a352846863>

<http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/49956/Executive+Summary+-+LGA+Reuse.pdf/f295d254-812e-484d-9fd2-135f9d19c8ab>

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Did You Miss...?

ECO and Green Deal Consultation

On the 7th April 2014 CLASP hosted a consultation day for DECC on ECO and Green Deal.

The workshop shared the latest plans for the ECO and the Green Deal, and provided an opportunity for delegates to meet with DECC officials and to participate in the development of these important policies as they move into their next stage.

The key presentations from the day are available to view and download from: <http://claspinfo.org/resources/eco-consultation>

Ecobuild 2014 Presentations

The Zero Carbon Hub have published copies of slides from their conference talks and seminars delivered as part of Ecobuild 2014 in March including:

- Bringing Design and Operational Performance Together in New Homes
- Design vs As-Built Evidence Review
- Mitigating Overheating in Dwellings
- Selecting & Designing Low Carbon Heat Systems - As Designed vs As Built Buildings
- Near-Zero Domestic Buildings - The Best Approach

Click on the following link for a copy of the slides:

<http://www.zerocarbonhub.org/news/ecobuild-2014-presentations>

LGA – Climate Local

The Climate Local initiative held a conference on 31st March. This brought together representatives from the 81 Climate Local councils, to hear the latest examples of council-led action, the real-world impact it is having locally as well as keynote speakers from partner organisations.

For the presentations, see:

http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/past-event-presentations/-/journal_content/56/10180/6077221/ARTICLE

CLASP Events

Supporting Community Energy Projects

9th June

Lancaster

A CLASP event focusing on the role of local authorities, housing associations and their partners in supporting the delivery of community energy projects: what are the benefits, what options are available, where to get help and how to get started.

As part of the session you will hear all about:

- Latest policy developments and funding available to community energy groups
- Types of projects that have been delivered and technologies supported
- How to set up projects including key challenges and opportunities

There will be plenty of opportunity for discussion and networking including a facilitated workshop session.

Invitations will be issued shortly

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Other 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>

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