

December 2014

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www.claspinfo.org

CLASP is the sector-led (NW focussed) public sector sustainability support programme, funded by the Environment Agency and NWIEP, and currently hosted by Liverpool City Council.

WELCOME

Hello and welcome to the final CLASP bulletin of 2015. It's a bumper Christmas edition(!) rounding up news, policy developments, resources and funding announcements from the last month.

This bulletin covers a wide range of topics on environmental resilience, carbon reduction and sustainable planning including:

[Green Deal Home Improvement Fund Update](#)

[Autumn Statement Summary](#)

[New Resilience Resources and Videos](#)

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Green Deal Home Improvement Fund Update

Last week you will have received our mailing about the re-launch of the Green Deal Home Improvement Fund. Once again take-up has been rapid and the fund has closed again for applications for Solid Wall Insulation (SWI). £24 million was allocated within c.24 hours. It will be interesting to see if lessons have been learnt since the first round, and how many of the allocated vouchers are redeemed by genuine householders.

Applications are still being taken for up to £1000 for installing two other measures from an approved list. The fund for SWI will be re-opening quarterly, with the next round in February 2015.

For more info see: <https://decc.blog.gov.uk/2014/12/11/green-deal-home-improvement-fund-update/>



AUTUMN STATEMENT SUMMARY

The Chancellor delivered his 2014 Autumn Statement to parliament on the 3rd December - full details are available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/autumn-statement-2014>

The 2014 National Infrastructure Plan was launched on the 2nd December – full details are available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-infrastructure-plan-2014>

The announcements included a £2.3 billion investment in flood defences, further reforms to the carbon price floor, as well as further funding for shale gas exploration along with the announcement that the government is working towards bringing private capital into the Green Investment Bank.

The key headlines, from the Autumn Statement and National Infrastructure Plan, include:

- Publication of a £2.3 billion six-year programme of investment in flood defences
- Reform of the carbon price floor from 1st April 2015 to exclude fossil fuels that are used by combined heat and power plants (CHPs) to generate good quality electricity that is self-supplied or supplied under exemption from the requirement to hold a supplier licence.
- A new £5 million fund for shale exploration to provide independent evidence directly to the general public about the robustness of the existing regulatory regime.
- £25 million of funding in 2015-16 for first-time heating systems in off-gas-grid homes in England.
- An additional £6 million of funding for the Oil and Gas Authority in 2015-16 to help establish the body as a new arms-length asset steward and regulator.
- A new fund to bring private capital into the Green Investment Bank for private investment in operational offshore wind assets and wider options.
- Closer discussions with Tidal Lagoon Power Ltd to establish whether a potential tidal lagoon project at Swansea Bay is affordable and value for money for consumers.
- HM Treasury has reached a cooperation agreement with Toshiba, GDF Suez and NuGen with the aim of issuing a statement of intent to provide a guarantee to assist the financing of a new nuclear power plant at Moorside, subject to due diligence and ministerial approval.
- DECC, with other government departments, will explore the technical, commercial and legislative feasibility of using the fibre cabling supporting wind farms for commercial communication services including broadband for rural communities.
- The government will work "with industry and local authorities to test whether more can be done to support the approval of small sites in the planning system".
- The government will also be publishing new data on local authorities performance in meeting their statutory duty to process smaller planning applications within 8 weeks".
- Plans to accelerate the planning system where applicants would only have to spend time on complex detail after the broad principle of development has been agreed by a local authority.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCE

New Resilience Resources From LGA

The LGA has recently published a number of new resources on flooding and winter weather resilience including:

- A good practice guide for councils communicating during periods of extreme weather
http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/publications/-/journal_content/56/10180/6724894/PUBLICATION
- New case studies on flooding resilience
http://www.local.gov.uk/flood-resilience/-/journal_content/56/10180/5894816

Increasing Kent's Resilience To Severe Weather

Working with members of the Local Adaptation Advisory Panel, Climate Ready has helped to develop a series of short films to share the work that councils are doing to build their resilience to a changing climate and the benefits it brings. Hear from Kent County Council about the measures that they are taking to increase the county's resilience to severe weather and climate change and how they are working with the Environment Agency to support coastal communities develop their own responses.

Watch the video at: <http://youtu.be/t9q7CmD8yhM>

Video Case Study - Cornwall Community Resilience Around Flooding

Climate Ready and partners have produced a short film about the town of Lostwithiel which explains the effects of the floods, how the community have developed a flood plan and how other communities can do similarly.

Watch the video at: <http://www.sduhealth.org.uk/areas-of-focus/community-resilience/lostwithiel-flood-plan-film.aspx>

The following articles are reproduced from the UKCIP briefing, that you can subscribe to here:
<http://www.ukcip.org.uk/news/subscribe-eneews/>

Royal Society Report On Resilience And Adaptation

The biggest UK adaptation story in recent weeks has been the launch of the Royal Society's report on resilience to global weather extremes. The report looks in particular at the impact of floods, droughts and heatwaves across the world. Seven recommendations are made, under the themes of planning and preparation, protecting people and assets, and evidence-based decision-making. As well as summary and full versions of the report, there is a wealth of supporting material available online.

- Royal Society: [Resilience to extreme weather](#)
- Royal Society blog: [The road to resilience](#)
- Climate News Network: [Warming world spells trouble for growing and ageing populations](#)
- BBC: [Risk from extreme weather set to rise](#)
- The Guardian: [Financial systems must consider extreme weather, or risk condemning millions to die](#)

New Resources From Innovate UK

Innovate UK (formerly known as the Technology Strategy Board), has published a new report on adapting buildings to climate change. Based on evidence from Innovate's Design for Future Climate programme, the new resource ('The business case for adapting buildings to climate change: Niche or mainstream?') is aimed at those working in building design, construction and associated policy and regulatory areas. Case study factsheets and detailed reports for the featured projects are available from the ARCC network website.

- GOV.UK: [The business case for adapting buildings to climate change](#)
- GOV.UK: [The business case for adapting buildings to climate change: Niche or mainstream?](#)
- ARCC network: [Design for Future Climate case studies](#)

Adaptation Sub-Committee Criticises Government On SuDS

The Adaptation Sub-Committee (ASC) of the Committee on Climate Change has expressed its serious concerns about new proposals on the promotion of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS). The government is proposing to use the planning system to promote the use of SuDS, in preference to implementing relevant sections of the Flood and Water Management Act (2010). The ASC describes this as a 'significant weakening' of the approach to SuDS which fails to address key barriers. Expect to hear more about this over the coming months.

- Adaptation Sub-Committee: ["Significant weakening" of plans to manage flood risk from new development](#)
- Adaptation Sub-Committee: [Letter from Lord Krebs to Elizabeth Truss MP](#)

Tourism Businesses Weathering The Storm

A practical guide to saving and making money in a changing climate has been produced for tourism businesses, by Climate South West. It is equally applicable to tourism businesses in the NW and you can find it at:

http://climatesouthwest.org/library/Weathering_the_Storm_-_Final_Version_email_4.pdf

ENERGY UPDATE



Smart Energy Meter Roll-Out

Smart Energy GB is the independent organisation tasked by government with consumer engagement during the national roll-out of smart meters. They are currently contacting all local authorities to offer you more information on this, in person or on the phone. If you have not received a letter inviting you to get in touch please contact Rebecca Yates on 020 3751 0742 or via Rebecca.yates@smartenergyGB.org

Urban Community Energy Fund Launches

DECC have just launched the urban counterpart to the Rural Community Energy Fund. The new £10 million Urban Community Energy Fund (UCEF) will give community groups in England the opportunity to bid for grants of up to £20,000 (for initial feasibility studies) and then loans of up to £130,000 to help start their projects.

There will be a series of application rounds/deadlines, starting in December 2014 and going through into spring 2015. Applications are accepted from any incorporated body (including CICs and Parish Councils). The scheme will be administered by CSE and Pure Leapfrog.

Click on the following link for more information:

<https://www.gov.uk/urban-community-energy-fund>

Building Mounted Solar PV To Be Transferable?

DECC are currently consulting on proposals to allow building-mounted solar installations with capacity greater than 50kW to transfer location and remain eligible for Feed-in Tariff payments.

We have clarified the wording of the consultation with DECC and they have confirmed that local authority owned installations would be eligible.

Find out more and respond at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/transferability-of-building-mounted-solar-pv-installations>

Changes to RHI For Social Landlords

Changes to the domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) mean that from Spring 2015 Registered Social Landlords will no longer be required to have a Green Deal Assessment in order to apply for the innovative RHI scheme.

If social landlords already have Energy Performance Certificates for their properties, and these are less than two years old, they will be able to apply to the scheme without requiring a Green Deal Assessment.

Find out more at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-households-can-benefit-from-renewable-heating>

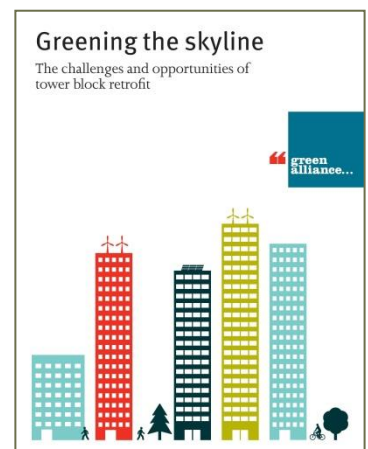
PLANNING AND HOUSING

Greening The Skyline – The Challenges And Opportunities Of Tower Block Retrofit

Local authorities and housing associations undertaking or considering tower block retrofit may find a new report from the Green Alliance useful. The report acknowledges the difficult funding climate and the growing fuel poverty crisis being suffered by tower block residents. It:

- Identifies five principles for successful tower block retrofit
- Includes case studies and ideas
- Suggests ways of developing robust business plans
- Examines the potential of smart meters and district heating

You can find the report at: http://www.green-alliance.org.uk/greening_the_skyline.php



Government Announce Small Site Exemption Consultation

The government has recognised that achieving the zero carbon standard could be particularly challenging for small builders and therefore announced earlier this year, that there would be an exemption from part of the zero carbon commitment for small sites. There is now a consultation exploring how the proposed exemption might work and to inform further development of the policy.

Click on the following link to respond to the consultation: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/next-steps-to-zero-carbon-homes-small-sites-exemption>

Labour Release 'An End To Cold Homes' Green Paper

Labour has recently released their Green Paper, which outlines six policies on how the party would improve the energy efficiency for both domestic and non-domestic building in the UK. The paper reaffirms a commitment to the Green Deal Scheme and designating energy efficiency as a national infrastructure priority.

Click on the following link for more information:

<http://www.yourbritain.org.uk/agenda-2015/policy-review/policy-review/an-end-to-cold-homes-labour-s-energy-efficiency-green-paper>

LGA Publish Lyons Housing Review: Briefing

Sir Michael Lyons published his review of housing on the 16th October 2014 which contains a raft of proposals covering a wide range of issues including planning for housing, large scale development, community engagement and quality and sustainability. The LGA have published a briefing note on the review, which provides a summary of the key recommendations for local government and the LGA's response.

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

http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/housing/-/journal_content/56/10180/6720877/ARTICLE#sthash.UvVHhbAG.dpuf

The full report can be downloaded here:

<http://www.yourbritain.org.uk/agenda-2015/policy-review/the-lyons-housing-review>

Nottingham City Council: Green Deal Case Study

DECC have published a case study about Nottingham City Council's work to install solid wall insulation to properties on the Clifton Estate.

A case study about how in 2013 Nottingham City Council used a street by street approach to install solid wall insulation to over 200 properties on the Clifton Estate with over £5mn funds awarded through DECC's Green Deal Communities (GDC) scheme. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nottingham-city-council-green-deal-case-study>

FUNDING UPDATE

2015 Calls Open for Horizon 2020 Energy Proposals

The following news article is from EU Energy Focus – UK National Contact Point for Horizon 2020 Energy. You can sign up for their mailings directly at: <http://www.euenergyfocus.co.uk>

Horizon 2020 Energy, with a budget of around €6bn over the next 7 years, is the EU's Research and Innovation funding Programme. The Commission is seeking proposals for a range of technology areas, including those listed in the table below. As you'll note there are significant budgets, up to €40m contribution from the Commission per project, for working collaboratively with other European organisations.

The table below includes hyperlinks to more information on the specific challenges, scope and expected impacts for each of the topics.

Topic areas and links to further information	Budget	Funding per project	Deadline
Energy efficiency technology demonstration in buildings and industry http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/calls/h2020-ee-2015-1-ppp.html	20M€	3 to 5 M€	4 th Feb 2015
Low Carbon Energy technology demonstration in buildings integrated PV, offshore wind, ocean energy, deep geothermal, solar heating and bioenergy http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/calls/h2020-lce-2015-2.html	80M€	5 to 20M€	5 th May 2015
Smart cities demonstration http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/calls/h2020-scc-2015.html	107M€	18 to 25M€	5 th May 2015
Smart grids and energy storage http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/calls/h2020-lce-2015-3.html	107M€	12 to 40M€	5 th May 2015
Energy efficiency – research, demonstration and addressing market barriers in buildings, heating and cooling, industry and products and finance for sustainable energy http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/calls/h2020-ee-2015-2-ria.html http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/calls/h2020-ee-2015-3-marketuptake.html http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/calls/h2020-ee-2015-4-pda.html	79M€	0.5 to 5M€	4 th June 2015

Our Environment, Our Future Portfolio Launched

Our Environment, Our Future is a Big Lottery-funded portfolio that will see £30m being invested across the UK to support young people (aged 11-24) to improve their local environments. As part of a consortium led by the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts, the programme is looking for 25-35 projects to make up the portfolio, each receiving funding of around £750,000 to £1 million. These projects must scale-up or replicate a previous successful approach. The deadline for applications is Wednesday 17 December 2014.

Click on the following link for more information: www.wildlifetrusts.org/ourenvironmentourfuture

**** Also see earlier article on [Launch of Urban Community Energy Fund](#) ****

OTHER NEWS

Grow Wild - A Tale of Two Cities

After an exciting campaign that attracted over 65,000 votes, Tale of Two Cities, which was a joint bid by Liverpool and Manchester cities, has been announced as the winning Grow Wild England flagship site. Led by Landlife, a charity based at the National Wildflower Centre at Court Hey Park, teams in both cities will use the £120,000 flagship award to transform prominent spaces into wild flower celebrations to connect the two historically-divided cities.

Click on the following link for more information:

<https://www.growwilduk.com/england-flagship-site>

NEA – Community Action Awards

Community Action Award Scheme will recognise best practice amongst those who are working to tackle fuel poverty and improve energy efficiency in their local communities. The scheme is open to community groups, charities, and other third sector organisations. Local authorities, health agencies, and other public and statutory organisations are also eligible to apply. Find out more at:

<http://www.nea.org.uk/campaigns-events/community-action-awards>

Low Carbon Behaviours

A Scottish resource, but applicable everywhere – the Low Carbon Behaviours section of the Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN) website is now live. It contains information on SSN's new behaviour change programme, including support available in using the Individual, Social, Material (ISM) approach.

To find out more see: <http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/sustainability-climate-change/sustainable-scotland-network/lowcarbonbehaviour/about-ism/>

DID YOU MISS...?

Whole Plan Viability & Justifying Environmental Policies

6th November, Warrington

CLASP held a 'Whole Plan Viability & Justifying Environmental Policies' event on the 6th November 2014 in Warrington. The event was attended by 35 delegates, including representatives from local authorities and local enterprise partnerships. Presentations and discussions focused on 'whole plan viability assessment' including:

- An overview of the role of whole plan viability and experience to date in justifying environmental policies
- Information and experiences about viability testing including examples from local authorities
- Exploring how and if these approaches could be applied to other areas and what type of support is available

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

<http://www.claspinfo.org/events/whole-plan-viability-justifying-environmental-policies>

3D Rural Renewables Model - Train-the-trainer Event

On the 26th November local authorities came together to meet with Cumbria Action for Sustainability, who have been running the CLASP funded Low Carbon Energy futures project, on behalf of the Lake District National Park.

A key part of the project was the design and build of a 3D architectural model of a typical Lake District community, showing a wide range of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures that could be considered in a rural location.



Attendees got to see the model, and hear about how it is being used to help engage community groups in discussions about energy.

The model is now available for anyone in the North West to hire for free and use with community groups. A “how-to” guide to assist users with facilitating sessions will be made available shortly.

In the meantime the following presentations are available:

[Set of slides to use when running community workshops – ready for tailoring to your event](#)

[Overview presentation showing the thought process behind the development of the 3D architectural model](#)

Other Community Energy Resources

A useful summary to the different forms of community benefit from a commercial renewables project can be found on the Community Pathways website, with a downloadable pdf at:

<http://www.communitypathways.org.uk/approach/452/summary-pdf>

Setting up a community’s own project – a great source of information at :

<http://www.lowcarbonhub.org/resource/how-to-set-up-a-community-benefit-society>

Manchester Low Carbon Study Tours

CLASP have just held a free study tour to find out more about Manchester City Councils low carbon projects including the tri-generation system at Manchester Town Hall, as well as the NOMA mixed use development.

A link to all presentations will follow in the first newsletter of 2015.

CLASP EVENTS

Climate Just

17th December, Manchester

The NW Climate Change Partnership and Climate UK, in partnership with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Environment Agency are hosting a series of half-day events during Winter 2014/15 to support the launch of a powerful new website and mapping tool called Climate Just, which aims to help practitioners in England address issues of social vulnerability to climate change. During this half-day workshop, you will have chance to:

- Hear about the evidence and resources available on the Climate Just website
- Learn how you can use it in your own role
- Find out how your area is affected by issues of social vulnerability and climate disadvantage

Click on the following link to find out more and book a place:

<http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/climate-just-manchester-tickets-14070397939>

Future Climate Forum: State Of The Climate Series

The NW Climate Change Partnership and Climate UK are holding a series of “State of the Climate” events bringing together practitioners and strategic thinkers from across the public, private and third sectors to consider some of the key climate change challenges that we face and identify innovative solutions for the future. These include:

What does the current climate change trajectory mean for our natural systems? 15th January 2015, Preston

What does the current climate change trajectory mean for our economic resilience? 26th January 2015, Warrington

What does the current climate change trajectory mean for our towns and cities? 9th February 2015, Manchester

To book your place visit: http://future_climate_forum.eventbrite.co.uk

Hold the Date!!

Flood Risk And River Basin Management Plans

13th January, Preston

CLASP will be hosting a workshop/consultation on the Flood Risk and River Basin Management Plans, on behalf of the Environment Agency. **Invitations will be issued shortly.** This will take place in the morning and close with lunch.

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