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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

Welcome to the latest CLASP information digest. We're afraid that the start of this month's edition does not make the most encouraging reading, as we give you a round-up of the significant negative changes made to renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives in the last few weeks. However we also have new of some interesting resources and tools for local adaptation and resilience, plus training opportunities with the TCPA and news of CLASP network events to follow in the autumn.

- [Changes and Closures Announced](#)
- [Lancashire Flood Resilience](#)
- [Tool for Assessing the Benefits of SuDS](#)
- [New Report into Health and Climate Change](#)
- [Building a Resilient Environment – Presentation Resource Pack](#)
- [July's Events and Training – Catch Up Online](#)
- [Other News](#) and [Events Coming Up](#)

CHANGES & CLOSURES

We have just seen an unprecedented week or two of announcements impacting on a number of key policies and instruments that have supported energy efficiency and renewables generation in the UK. Closures and changes have been announced to:

- Feed in Tariffs, Pre Accreditation Removal – Consultation
- Green Deal - Closed
- Solar Subsidy - Consultation
- Biomass Subsidy – Removal
- Zero Carbon Homes Target – In Doubt
- Allowable Solutions – Will Not Proceed

A summary follows:

Feed In Tariffs Consultation

A consultation has been launched on changes to the preliminary accreditation rules under the Feed-in Tariff (FIT) scheme followed by “a wider review of the scheme to drive significant further savings”.

This proposes “action to limit the risk to bill payers of a deployment surge under the Feed-in Tariff through the removal of pre-accreditation”.

The pre-accreditation scheme allows new projects that have received planning consent and a grid connection agreement to secure a guaranteed tariff level before construction begins. By ending this pre-accreditation scheme, developers will have no guarantee of the level of support they will receive until their application for accreditation is received by Ofgem. This is likely to increase the “risk” to all developers, including community energy groups.

Consultation here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-feed-in-tariff-accreditation> Note, it ends on 19th August.

Friends of the Earth example response here: <https://www.foe.co.uk/act/stand-renewable-energy-government-want-hear-from-you>

Closure of Green Deal

The Secretary of State today announced on the 23rd July that there will be no further funding to the Green Deal Finance Company and related schemes “in a move to protect taxpayers” after concern about low take-up and impact.

By the end of May 2015 there were nearly 15,600 Green Deal finance plans in progress, as well as over 27,000 energy efficiency measures installed in homes across England and Wales thanks to the Green Deal Home Improvement Fund. The total value of measures installed under the Home Improvement Fund is £114m.

In summary:

- There will be no further funding to the **Green Deal Finance Company**.
- They will also stop any future funding releases of the **Green Deal Home Improvement Fund**.
- This decision has no impact on existing Green Deal Finance Plans or existing Green Deal Home Improvement Fund applications and vouchers.
- The latest ‘two measures’ offer of the **Green Deal Home Improvement Fund** will close to applications on 30th September 2015 or when the remaining £4 million of funding run out – whichever happens sooner.
- Existing applications and vouchers will not be affected. Customers who want to redeem their voucher must complete the installation and submit the documents required to redeem their voucher to the Green Deal Home Improvement Fund Administrator on or before their voucher expiry date.
- Some Local Authorities still have funding available through **Green Deal Communities**. DECC say they will “ensure this remaining funding is put to the best possible use and provides energy efficiency measures to benefit energy inefficient households across England”. We have no further information on this at the moment.

You can find out more here: <https://decc.blog.gov.uk/2015/07/23/changes-to-green-home-improvement-policies-announced-today/>

Renewables Obligation – Solar Subsidy Consultation

A consultation has also been launched on controlling subsidies for solar PV of 5MW and below from April 2016. This is a year earlier than originally planned, and would apply both to new stations and to additional capacity being installed at existing sites with up to 5MW. The consultation closes on September 2nd. If the proposals are approved, the changes will take effect from 1 April 2016. Find the consultation here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-financial-support-for-solar-pv>

The Renewable Energy Association may be able to help with information and analysis to inform responses: <http://www.re-a.net/news/rea-comment-on-the-consultation-on-the-closure-of-the-ro-for-solar>

Renewables Obligation – Biomass Subsidy

The government announced on the 22nd July that they were removing the guaranteed level of subsidy for biomass conversions and co-firing projects for the duration of the Renewable Obligation, known as grandfathering, and this removal would be backdated to the start of its consultation, which was 12th December 2014.

You can find out more here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-grandfathering-policy-with-respect-to-future-biomass-co-firing-and-conversion-projects-in-the-renewables-obligation>

Allowable Solutions & Zero Carbon Homes – Ended

The 10th July saw the announcement that the government does not intend to proceed with the Allowable Solutions carbon offsetting scheme, or the proposed 2016 increase in on-site energy efficiency standards. (The announcement did not specifically mention proposals for zero carbon non-domestic buildings, but it has been widely interpreted by the industry as signaling that these have also been scrapped.)

See section 9.17 of “Fixing the foundations: creating a more prosperous nation”:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/443898/Productivity_Plan_web.pdf

Removal of Climate Change Levy

The Chancellor announced in his budget on 8th July that he was removing the exemption from the Climate Change Levy for renewable-sourced electricity which is supplied to business or public sector consumers under the terms of a renewable source contract.

The change is set to come into force for renewables electricity generated on or after 1st August 2015. Doug Parr, director of policy at Greenpeace, said the government was now taxing clean-power schemes as if they were fossil fuel. “This will make it more expensive for business to buy electricity from renewable power.”

More info here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/climate-change-levy-removal-of-exemption-for-electricity-from-renewable-sources/climate-change-levy-removal-of-exemption-for-electricity-from-renewable-sources>

Onshore Wind

All these changes are in addition to June’s announcement of the end of new subsidies for onshore wind. We reported on that last month and you can catch up again with DECC’s announcement at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/ending-new-subsidies-for-onshore-wind>

Future of ECO

At present DECC say that the ECO scheme will continue to run as normal until March 2017, and that the future of the ECO scheme from 2017 onwards will be part of discussions around a new, better integrated policy for home energy efficiency.

ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE UPDATE

Flooding Resilience in Croston

Lancashire County Council have been working with partners to assist Croston, a local village that is situated within a flood risk area. Croston village has been affected by flooding for decades, the most recent significant flooding event happened in June 2012 and September 2012 where over 70 properties were flooded.



This case study examines the partnership approach taken to secure funding for a village flood pump, warning system and volunteer training. You can download the case study from: <http://claspinfo.org/resources/croston-community-resilience-flooding>

Assessing the Benefits of SuDS

CIRIA have launched a new tool to assess the Benefits of SuDS (BeST). Developed to make assessing the benefits of SuDS easier, without the need for full scale economic inputs. It is free to use and works in Excel.

BeST provides a structured approach to evaluating a wide range of benefits, often based upon the overall drainage system performance. It follows a simple structure, that begins with a screening and qualitative assessment to identify the benefits to evaluate further. Then it provides support to help quantify and monetise each benefit. On completion of the evaluation, the tool provides a series of graphs and charts based on Ecosystem Services (ESS) and Triple Bottom Line (TBL) criteria. You can download it from here: http://www.ciria.org/News/CIRIA_news2/New-tool-assesses-the-benefits-of-SuDS.aspx

Building a Resilient Environment Presentations

Climate Ready in partnership with Climate UK has published an updated suite of adaptation to climate change training materials for local authority officers, elected members and communities involved in the Town and Country Planning process. Key additions include a new user guide and the inclusion of targeted case studies that illustrate how policy translates into on the ground delivery.

The resources can be found on the Climate UK website: <http://climateuk.net/resource/building-resilient-environment-%E2%80%93-sector-tools-and-resources> For further information email: Caroline.duckworth@environment-agency.gov.uk

Project Resilience – Local Authorities In The 21st Century

A new report from the local government think tank, LGiU, contributes to wider thinking about the concept of 'resilience'. Resilience is a term that is used with increasing frequency in local government, often to talk about how an area or a community might respond to a specific set of circumstances, like a flood or a period of rising unemployment or ongoing demographic change.

The report develops a view of how resilience might be applied to local government services and contribute to stronger democratic engagement. This report marks the start of a series of LGiU investigations into the nature of resilience.

See: <http://www.lgiu.org.uk/report/project-resilience/>

Lancet Report on Health and Climate Change

The Lancet Commission on Health and Climate Change have published their report on the dangers that climate change poses to health. The report gives a stark reminder of the severity of the situation saying that we could see the reversal of 50 years' worth of medical gains.

The full Lancet Commission Report on Health and Climate can be found here:

<http://press.thelancet.com/Climate2Commission.pdf>

OTHER NEWS

Wider UK Environmental Policy Consultations

The Environment Food and Rural Affairs Committee is calling for views about what it should try to address in this parliament. They say: "Tweet us @CommonsEFRA using #EFRAtopics – or send us 100 words via email to efracom@parliament.uk with the subject line: EFRA Topics."

The Environmental Audit Committee is having an [inquiry into the government's approach to sustainable development](#), looking for responses to some or all of the following questions:

- What key policies are needed over the course of this Parliament to adequately protect the environment, promote growth in the low carbon sector and improve wellbeing?
- Does the Government's current fiscal and legislative agenda accord with the action required and, if not, why not and where might it be improved?
- Where should responsibility lie in Government for ensuring the sustainable development approach is adopted by all Government departments?
- What metrics could the Committee use to monitor the Government's performance on sustainable development over the course of the Parliament?

The deadline for submissions is 2nd September 2015. The word limit is 1,500 words. You can find out more here:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/environmental-audit-committee/news-parliament-2015/the-governments-approach-to-sustainable-development/>

DID YOU MISS...?

Reporting on Climate Change 2015

On the 15th July we hosted an event to hear live from the Committee on Climate Change (CCC), the Government's independent advisory body. This Climate UK event took place in 5 locations across England and enabled participants to hear direct from the authors of the statutory report to Parliament about their latest analysis of the UK's progress in tackling climate change.



[See more about the event and view the presentation from 15 July](#)

[View the video recordings from the event on Climate UK's Youtube channel](#)

Lord Deben, Chair of the Committee, together with Lord Krebbs, Chair of the Adaptation Sub Committee and Matthew Bell, CCC Chief Executive presented and discussed their findings with MPs on 30th June at Portcullis House in London.

[See Lord Deben's 1 min summary video](#)

[See Lord Krebb's 1 min summary video](#)

[See the CCC news release from 30/6/2015 here](#)

The Business Case for Local Resilience

On the 21st July delegates from local authorities came together to meet with the Climate Ready team, Environment Agency and Warrington Council to discuss 'The Business Case for Local Resilience.'

This workshop was chaired by Steve Kent and showcased:

- [A new report produced by Climate Ready](#) for local authorities that aims to capture the economic and financial benefits of climate change adaptation.
- Some good practice case studies from authorities that have gained tangible results from implementing adaptation measures and projects.
- Opportunities that may arise from EU funding streams, related to adaptation.

In the afternoon there was the opportunity to visit Victoria Park in Warrington to view the recent flood protection scheme, with Warrington Council and the Environment Agency.



The presentations are available online at: <http://claspinfo.org/resources/business-case-local-resilience>

EVENTS

TCPA Training on Adaptation in Planning & Architecture

As part of the European Project CLIMCAP, the TCPA is offering planners and other built environment professionals the opportunity to take part in piloting a new training programme: Climate Adaptation in Planning, Architecture and Construction at the Local Level. The pilot course is free of charge and comprises three days of face-to-face training plus an assessment day, all held in Central London between late July and early September 2015.

To find out more and book visit: <http://www.tcpa.org.uk/events.php?action=event&id=141>

CLASP Events are taking a break in August but we'll be back in September with:

District Heating Masterclass

8th September, Manchester

Hold-the-date. Full details and invitations to follow.

Climate Action or Local Paralysis?

22nd September,

Hold-the-date. You are invited to join a workshop to discuss the effects of climate change policy on local authority action in a rapidly changing landscape. Full details and invitations to follow.

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