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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

Hello

Welcome to the CLASP Update for June. We've got a quick round-up of post-election news on Bills and Minister, plus changes to wind energy policy, news of funding, fuel poverty stats, community energy resources and a number of events taking place in July. Read on for:

- [Wind Energy Subsidy and Planning Changes](#)
- [Big Energy Saving Network Funding](#)
- [Post-election Update](#)
- [Free Support Opportunity for Adaptation in Local Authorities](#)
- [Overheating, Building-design and Air Quality](#)
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- [Events in July and Beyond](#)
- [Vacancy, and Other News](#)

WIND ENERGY CHANGES

Early Close of the Renewables Obligation

An announcement was made by the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change to the House of Commons on 18th June that the Government is proposing to close the Renewables Obligation across the U.K. from April 2016 - a year ahead of the planned phasing out of ROCs. It is thought that this policy change will have a significant impact on the renewables sector.

“To protect investor confidence in the wider renewables sector” up to 5.2GW of onshore wind capacity could be eligible for grace periods which the Government is minded to offer to projects that already have planning consent, a grid connection offer and acceptance, as well as evidence of land rights. DECC also say that they will look at options to continue support for community energy projects, as part of the Feed-in Tariff Review later this year.

Find out more here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/changes-to-onshore-wind-subsidies-protect-investment-and-get-the-best-deal-for-bill-payers> and: <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/ending-new-subsidies-for-onshore-wind>

Amber Rudd's reasoning (statement 22nd June): <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/statement-on-ending-subsidies-for-onshore-wind>

Giving Local People Greater Say Over Onshore Wind Farms

New planning changes from 18th June have been outlined in a Written Statement to Parliament suggesting that wind turbines should only get the go-ahead if they have been clearly backed by local people in a Local or Neighbourhood Plan. The new “One Nation” approach means that when considering a planning application for wind turbines in their area, councils should only grant permission if:

- the site is in an area identified as suitable for wind energy as part of a Local or Neighbourhood Plan; and
- following consultation, the planning impacts identified by affected local communities have been fully addressed and therefore has their backing

This second test will ensure the planning concerns of local communities are addressed – even if they give their backing for wind farms in their area through the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.

If a planning application has already been made for wind turbines in an area where the local plan does not identify suitable sites, the council will only be able to approve the application where it addresses the planning concerns of the affected community and therefore has local backing. More information can be found about this online at: <http://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-vote-office/June%202015/18%20June/1-DCLG-Planning.pdf>

COMMUNITY ENERGY & EFFICIENCY

2015/16 Big Energy Saving Network Launched

DECC has just launched the 3rd year (2015/16) of the Big Energy Saving Network - a £1 million programme to support eligible third sector organisations and community groups, to deliver help and advice to vulnerable consumers.

This funded outreach programme will run through autumn/winter 2015/16, with outreach activity concluding on 18th March 2016. The programme of outreach will be led by 170 specially trained Network Champions that will co-ordinate the training of further Volunteers and frontline workers. These Volunteers and frontline workers will in turn deliver proactive advice to consumers on energy issues via an assisted action approach.

Eligible third sector organisations and community groups are invited to make an application for funding by no later than 5pm on Friday 17th July. See: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/big-energy-saving-network-grant-offer-fund>

Community Hydro Workshops and E-Learning Modules

A series of workshops and e-learning modules have been developed by Members of [Esk Valley Community Energy Group](#) (EVCEG) and are available for other organisations to use. EVCEG set up ‘Esk Energy (Yorkshire) Limited’, an Industrial and Provident Society (for the benefit of the community) in 2008, to fund the installation of a 50 kw Hydro Electric Generator on the south side of the River Esk at Ruswarp, near Whitby.

You can access information on the 4 workshops and e-learning modules by following the links below which cover the following stages:

1. [Is it a goer?](#)
2. [Licences to operate and project planning](#)
3. [Contracts and finance](#)
4. [Building, commissioning and operating](#)

POST-ELECTION UPDATE

New Ministerial Appointments

Following the recent general and local elections held on the 7th May, most Government departments have now confirmed their ministerial portfolios. Those relevant to climate change and the environment include:

DECC

- Secretary of State for Climate Change and Energy, Amber Rudd
- Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth

Defra

- Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Liz Truss
- Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment and Rural Affairs, Rory Stewart (responsibilities for resource and environmental management)
- Adaptation Spokesperson, Lord Gardiner

DCLG

- Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Greg Clark
- Minister of State for Communities and Resilience and Minister for Portsmouth, Mark Francois (responsibilities include: coastal communities and Thames Gateway, fire and resilience, deregulation, lead minister on the Devolution Bill)
- Minister of State for Housing and Planning, Brandon Lewis (responsibilities include: housing (including Ebbsfleet), planning policy, lead minister on the Housing Bill, planning casework).

For further details on the outcome of the general and local elections, please visit the LGA's website:

<http://www.local.gov.uk/elections-2015>

Select Committees

Chairs of the influential House of Commons Select Committees have also been announced. Several key chairmen remain in post including Andrew Tyrie (Treasury), Keith Vaz (Home Affairs), Louise Ellman (Transport), and Sarah Wollaston (Health). Former EFRA minister Huw Irranca-Davies is chair of the Environmental Audit Committee. Ones of interest include:

Science and Technology – Nicola Blackwood (Con)

CLG – Clive Betts (Lab)

Transport - Louise Ellman (Lab)

Environmental Audit – Huw Irranca-Davies

International Development - Stephen Twigg (Lab)

Energy Bill Announced

The recent Queen's Speech setting out the government's policies and proposed legislative programme for the new parliamentary session included a new Energy Bill which will DECC says will do the following:

- Ensure there will be affordable and reliable energy for businesses and families.
- Give the Oil and Gas Authority the powers it needs to become a robust, independent and effective regulator, and enable it to maximise the economic recovery of oil and gas from UK waters.
- Change the law in line with the manifesto commitment to give local communities the final say on wind farm applications. (Some devolution of power re wind farm applications over 50MW.)

You can find more background on the Energy Bill in the Queen's Speech here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/queens-speech-2015-background-briefing-notes>

ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE

Free Targeted Adaptation Support For Local Authorities

The Environment Agency's Climate Ready support service is developing an exclusive opportunity for a local authority - or group of neighbouring authorities - to work directly with them to help improve its resilience to the impacts of climate change. This involves receiving targeted support across a range of local authority services such as health, planning, housing and transport. They want to work with a selected local authority – or group of neighbouring authorities - that has high ambition to ensure its services are more resilient to the impacts of climate change, but has so far lacked the strategic support necessary to take the next steps.

This unique project entitled TASC: Targeted Adaptation Support for Councils is taking place throughout this financial year (2015/16). The Environment Agency are inviting local authorities to submit initial expressions of interest by 5pm Friday 3rd July in order to take advantage of this offer.

For a PDF of further information, and any questions please contact jim.hodgson@environment-agency.gov.uk

Heatwave Plan 2015

The Heatwave Plan for England was released on 20th May 2015. The Met Office will issue Heatwave Alerts from 1st June to 15th September 2015.

A copy of the plan and its associated supporting documents is available on the PHE website

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/heatwave-plan-for-england>

No changes have been made to the plan this year, apart from some very minor edits. This plan will remain in place until further notice. Existing advice on looking after children in school and early year's settings is now in a stand-alone leaflet to improve accessibility.

Overheating in Homes – The Big Picture

The Zero Carbon Hub has just released its report 'Overheating in Homes – The Big Picture'

There is concern in the housing sector that as the climate changes, and we get better at building and retrofitting homes to prevent heat losses in the winter, we may inadvertently increase the risk of overheating in warmer months.

The report explore concerns, causes and preparedness:

<http://www.zerocarbonhub.org/sites/default/files/resources/reports/ZCH-OverheatingInHomes-TheBigPicture-01.pdf>

The Business Case for Adapting Buildings to Climate Change

A report examining the drivers in the business case for adapting buildings for climate change has been launched by the Technology Strategy Board . This was an industry led report providing a unique and valuable insight with key recommendations on how to exploit the business opportunity and develop the market for adaptation services. You can find it here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-business-case-for-adapting-buildings-to-climate-change>

Impact on Air Quality of Building Design and Energy Efficiency

Researchers at UCL suggest we may need to change the way we design, build and improve energy efficiency in our homes to reduce indoor pollutants. A study has found that low-income households are more likely to suffer from poor indoor air quality than high-income households. Find out more at: <http://www.arcc-network.org.uk/low-income-households-are-more-likely-to-suffer-from-poor-indoor-air-quality/>

New SUDS Case Studies

CIRIA have put 4 new case studies on their website that may provide ideas and inspiration:

[Redland Green School, Bristol](#)

At this school site, multiple SuDS techniques were used, including a green roof predominantly planted with sedum.

[Bristol University Auditorium, Bristol](#)

A blue roof was used to provide storage volume for attenuating storm events and a green roof was also fitted to reduce the rate of surface water runoff.

[Buckland House Car Park, Hampshire](#)

Trees and stormwater soil cells were integrated with gully pots, attenuation tank, soakaway, gravel bed, permeable surfaces.

[Aztec West Business Park, South Gloucestershire](#)

This case study uses retention ponds and detention basins, with fountains, to promote the aerobic degradation of hydrocarbons.

FUEL POVERTY UPDATE

2013 Fuel Poverty Statistics

At the end of May DECC published its latest Fuel Poverty report. The time lag in publication of official fuel poverty statistics, generally around two years between collection and publication, means that these estimates are for 2013 (not the current year, despite the “2015” report title).

The full data analysis can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fuel-poverty-statistics#2013-statistics>

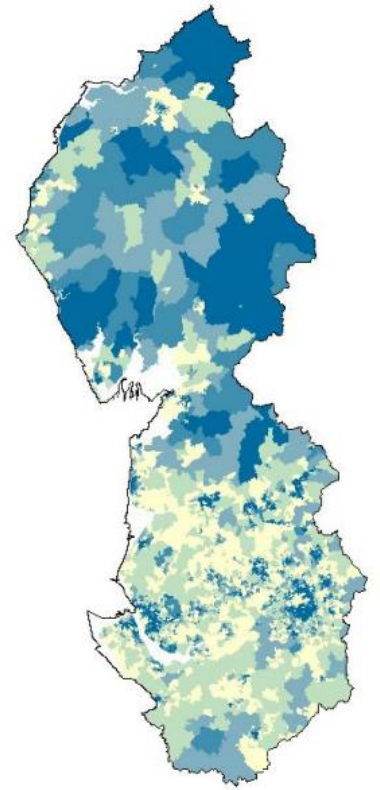
Sub-regional low income high costs indicator data can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/2013-sub-regional-fuel-poverty-data-low-income-high-costs-indicator>

A summary report, showing a slight improvement from 2012 to 2013, can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/429873/Fuel_Poverty_Annual_Report_2015.pdf

A further range of indicators that can provide a useful background to consider alongside the fuel poverty annual statistics report can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/fuel-poverty-additional-indicators-2015>



UK Fuel Poverty Monitor

The UK Fuel Poverty Monitor Report has also been launched by NEA. This report highlights that over the term of the UK Parliament (the next 5 years) domestic energy consumers will contribute over £14 billion to the Treasury (£11.82bn in England, £1.33bn in Scotland, £690m in Wales and £190m in Northern Ireland) through VAT and revenue generated from carbon taxes. With the UK Treasury expected to receive this significant windfall, the report concludes that the new UK Government must support the use of these funds (or alternative public infrastructure funds) to adequately resource initiatives that make homes warmer and healthier and in turn encourage economic growth.

The summary or full versions of the report can be found at: <http://www.nea.org.uk/monitor2015>

OTHER NEWS

Climate UK

Climate UK's latest newsletter is available at:

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs111/1120044853194/archive/1121076107995.html>

It contains news of their ongoing work, people profiles, examples of events, case studies, reports, resources and stories from around the UK from their family of climate partnership organisations and others (which now includes CLASP).

Vacancy: Energy Inspector – Blackburn with Darwen

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council is looking for an enthusiastic and motivated individual with experience in energy management to contribute to the Council's energy efficiency and carbon reduction targets. The post-holder will be working at building-level, reviewing and manipulating systems and supporting on-site staff to manage energy efficiently and effectively.

The post is part time (18.5 hours) and fixed term for 12 months

Job details can be found at [http://www.bwdjobs.co.uk/Job/Blackburn_Energy-Inspector_\(15982\).aspx](http://www.bwdjobs.co.uk/Job/Blackburn_Energy-Inspector_(15982).aspx)

CRC Conversion Figures Update

Under the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme, participants are obliged to measure the emissions from energy supplies for which they are responsible according to the relevant conversion factors. These relevant conversion factors are specified and different for 2014/15 and 2015/16. The new figures can be found at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/434762/CRC -
_Emissions_factor_for_webpages_-_150527.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/434762/CRC_-_Emissions_factor_for_webpages_-_150527.pdf)

CLASP EVENTS

The Business Case for Local Resilience

Tuesday 21st July, Warrington



In partnership with the Climate Ready team, the LGA and Warrington Borough Council, this workshop will showcase:

- A new report produced by Climate Ready for local authorities that aims to capture the economic and financial benefits of climate change adaptation.
- 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.
- Tools available to help you strengthen the business case in your authority.
- An opportunity to network and to contribute to a workshop discussion.

After lunch there will be the opportunity to visit Victoria Park in Warrington to view the recent flood protection scheme, with Warrington Borough Council and the Environment Agency.

If you would like to attend the free workshop and/or the site visit please register at: <http://21st-july-business-case.eventbrite.co.uk>

Reporting on Climate Change 2015

Wednesday 15th July, Manchester

Partnering with Climate UK we're pleased to invite you to participate in one of five events countrywide which will be 'live and direct' with the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) on Wednesday 15th July.



You'll get to hear the latest findings from the CCC's statutory reports to Parliament, on progress in tackling the causes and consequences of climate change. This will include discussion of how government and others are making progress on meeting the UK's carbon budgets, and assessing and managing the nation's climate risks. You will be able to hear from independent experts and put your questions to them.

This multi-event, web-broadcast format was tested last year and found to be popular with participants. It's cheaper and less time consuming than travelling to London and enables you to get together with other stakeholders to reflect collectively on the findings at a more convenient location.

The events are taking place in Manchester, Brighton, Exeter, Melton Mowbray and Wakefield.

You can find out more about the events at:

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eb3k1k6sfe88a834&llr=k5ja5dtab>

Climate UK need to make a small charge, to cover the venue and refreshment costs. If you have access to paypal, a credit or debit card you can book and pay online via the link above. If you need to be invoiced for a place, please book on by email instead, via carol.magras@climatesoutheast.org.uk

DID YOU MISS...?

Procuring Heat Networks – learning from the Swedish approach

On 9th June 2015 a one-day workshop was held to exchange competence and experiences on best practices and technologies between progressive local authorities in North West England and Swedish district energy operators and technology providers.

Peter Dahl, CEO of VÄRMEK presented the experiences and benefits of a municipality owned procurement co-operative, and information was given on DEPA, the recently launched UK counterpart to VÄRMEK. In addition a number of informative presentations were made by technology providers which have since long been major partners to VÄRMEK.

Most presentations are available to download as PDF from: <http://claspinfo.org/procuring-heat-networks-June2015>

Reducing Energy Costs With Combined Heat & Power

Not a CLASP event, but there's a good selection of presentations and case studies up online from a DECC introductory event on Combined Heat and Power that took place in Birmingham on 16th June. You can view them at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/chp-outreach-workshops-birmingham-2015>

OTHER EVENTS

DECC Heat Pump Training

DECC is organising another series of roadshows across the country that aim to train practitioners and others in the use and benefits of heat pumps.

The roadshows are designed to help businesses, developers and housing providers to understand how heat pumps can deliver lower energy bills, greater comfort and better buildings. They will offer participants the chance to learn more about why heat pumps make sense, build their technical knowledge of how best to ensure good performance and understand the financing of heat pumps.

Only a few places remain across the country, but they can be booked via: <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/decc-heat-pump-training-roadshow-2015-registration-15927483532>

NEA Fuel Poverty Forum

8th July, AM

Manchester

The next NEA Fuel Poverty Forum in Manchester will provide information on a wide range of issues affecting fuel poverty such as regulatory changes, policy information reports/guidance and funding opportunities.

If you would like to attend this Fuel Poverty Forum, please go to <http://www.nea.org.uk/campaigns-events/calendar> and complete the online booking form or email tracy.norris@nea.org.uk with your full contact details.

Tackling Overheating In Homes: Understanding, Prioritising And Addressing The Risks

23 July 2015, Online Event

12:30 - 13:30

Climate Local webinar run by the Zero Carbon Hub and Climate Ready Support Service on tackling overheating in homes.

Nicola O'Connor (Zero Carbon Hub) and Caroline Duckworth (Climate Ready) will go over some of the key challenges facing local authorities in tackling overheating in homes, including the support available to councils to effectively understand and address the risks. The webinar will also provide an opportunity for delegates to discuss what further support local councils would like to see on this agenda and to share best practice.

Please contact Maz Chari mazvita.chari@local.gov.uk for joining details

NEA Annual Conference

14-16 September

Sheffield

NEA are offering discounts for bookings made before 30th June. See: <http://www.nea.org.uk/campaigns-events/conference2015>

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