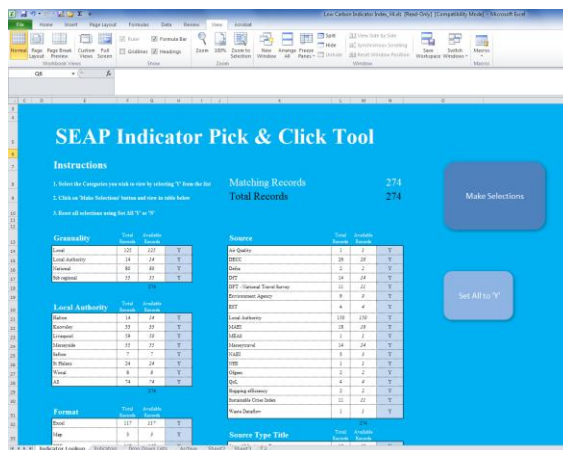


Local Project Support Fund 2011/12

Project Report:

Climate Change Adaptation & Low Carbon Indicators

- Detailed spreadsheet showing details of the sources and types of data available at any given time and how it is collected and updated and made available.
- Evaluation of all the potential types and sources of data
- 'Directory' of available data sources with a commentary on how they might be useful



Project Leads

Project proposed by Liverpool City Council and managed by Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service on behalf of the authorities of the Liverpool City Region. The work was conducted through a consultancy commission by Arup.

The Rationale for the Project

The City Region has the transformation to a low carbon economy as one of its key priorities. As such there is a Low Carbon Economy Action Plan in place and there also a move to develop an overarching Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) for the City Region. This is a formalised mechanism which is a requirement of the EU Covenant of Mayors and also widely recognised by private sector investors and other, including EU, sources of funding as providing a robust and evidence based direction of travel.

Delivery of an ongoing programme of intervention through a SEAP requires a thorough understanding and presentation of an evidence base, and a means of monitoring and reporting progress. This is known as the Baseline Emissions Inventory within the SEAP structure. This project was conceived as a means of reviewing and assessing the available sources of evidence and suggesting which might be useful and why. Although designed to directly support the development of the SEAP, the evaluation of data sources was also intended to be of use to others working in the low carbon field.

Approach

The project undertook a broad and thorough review of available data from a range of sources, looking at the methodology behind it, the frequency of collection and publication, its comparability, and its likely future life, among other things. The relevance of the data to key elements of the low carbon agenda was considered and recommendations made as to the most useful and available sources of information into the future, taking account of the resource restrictions that were considered likely to apply for the foreseeable future, making bespoke data collection difficult.

The project involved discussions with project partners and others to assess potential requirements and sources of data, such as the former National Indicators and the new Single Data List, together with reporting mechanisms such as the Carbon Reduction Commitment and Environmental Permitting regulations. An assessment was made of the data collected and used by specialist organisations such as the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority, Merseytravel and the Merseyside Atmospheric Emissions Inventory.

Discussions were also held with the national emissions reporting teams at DECC, which emerged as the most likely reliable source of robust and comparable data for the foreseeable future.

Category	Source	Method	Update Frequency	Notes
Retail	Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC)	Annual survey of retail sales	Annual	Used for retail sales data in the SEAP baseline inventory.
Manufacturing	Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC)	Annual survey of manufacturing emissions	Annual	Used for manufacturing emissions data in the SEAP baseline inventory.
Transport	Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC)	Annual survey of transport emissions	Annual	Used for transport emissions data in the SEAP baseline inventory.

Outputs

- **Report** which set out an evaluation of all the potential types and sources of data, drawing conclusions about how it might be used, in particular to support the baseline emissions inventory of a SEAP but also potentially for other purposes.
- **Detailed spreadsheet** showing details of the sources and types of data available at any given time and how it is collected and updated and made available. The spreadsheet is designed as a tool that can be readily interrogated and updated to allow for a developing understanding of the data resource over time.

Separately, the work on baselines and indicators was used to underpin the design and development of a Baseline Emissions Inventory for the Liverpool City Region Sustainable Energy Action Plan, which was under development in parallel with this work and for which a complete draft was first available as of 31 January 2012 and which has been further developed since that time. A robust baseline is seen as a critical pillar supporting the prioritization of SEAP interventions and their subsequent monitoring, and so this work was extremely important in that respect.



Broader Application and Further Work

Other authorities may find this work useful as a source material when considering for themselves how to obtain reliable data on low carbon issues at low cost for a particular purpose.

The work provides a ‘directory’ of available data sources with a commentary on how they might be useful for a range of purposes and at a range of scales, from super output area to agglomerations of local authorities at a more strategic level.

This work has the potential to be built on, using similar methods, to consider other types and sources of environmental, and potentially economic and social, data – though it is not the intention of the LCR project team to move further in that direction at the moment.

In this project it was not possible to evaluate data availability at very small scales for community-based projects. This was clearly something of importance to many working in the field who are developing and implementing projects that do not fit standard reporting boundaries and yet which need cost effective means of monitoring progress. Because of this there is a need for additional project work to look in more detail at this particular aspect of the topic, and the LCR project team will seek to support any such proposal that is brought forward for further CLASP, or other, funding support.

To View The Report

<http://www.claspinfo.org/resources/climate-change-adaptation-low-carbon-indicators>

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