

02 March 2015

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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 latest CLASP bulletin. We've lots to share this month so have split the bulletin up into 3 parts:

1. Resource, news and policy update (You're reading it!)
2. Events Update
3. Funding and Awards

If you have only been passed this update then you can download the other parts from our website at: <http://claspinfo.org/news/events-funding-and-resource-update>

This update includes new resources, policy and views on:

- Climate Change and Resilience
- Flooding and SUDS
- Energy Efficiency
- Planning and Housing
- Catch-up on Past Events

CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCE

Met Office Data confirms 2014 as Warmest Year on Record

With 2015 being a key year in reaching a new agreement on climate change, the Met Office has produced further information on the likely changes to our climate. Met Office data suggests that the likelihood of extremely hot summers in Europe has increased significantly from 1:1000 years at the start of this century to about 1:100 years, with the prospect of increasing to every other year by the mid-century. The Met Office data for 2014 also indicates that this was the warmest year on record for the UK – 1.1°C above the long-term average and also means that 8 of the UK's 10 warmest years have been since 2002.

The findings come at the same time that NASA scientists, working with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), released fresh data that shows 2014 to have been the warmest year since records began in 1880. Click on the following links from UKCIP and NASA for further information:

<http://www.ukcip.org.uk/hotter-european-summers-more-likely-2014-uks-warmest/>

<http://www.nasa.gov/press/2015/january/nasa-determines-2014-warmest-year-in-modern-record/#.VL97xXZC9el>

Refreshed Climate Projections Website

As the Met Office produces further information on the likely changes to our climate, the UKCP09 climate change projections website has been refreshed and updated so that it is easier to use, particularly for those new to climate change impacts and adaptation.

A summary of the changes as well as the opportunity to feedback any further suggestions are available via the following link: <http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/>

Climate Just Website Maps England's Climate Disadvantage 'Hot Spots'

Climate Just, a powerful new website with mapping tool, has been launched by Climate UK and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, in partnership with the Environment Agency and the University of Manchester. The website aims to help practitioners in England to address issues of social disadvantage and climate change. It provides detailed mapping of 'hot spots' across the country, and a huge amount of supporting information, tools and resources to support fairer decision-making and policy creation.

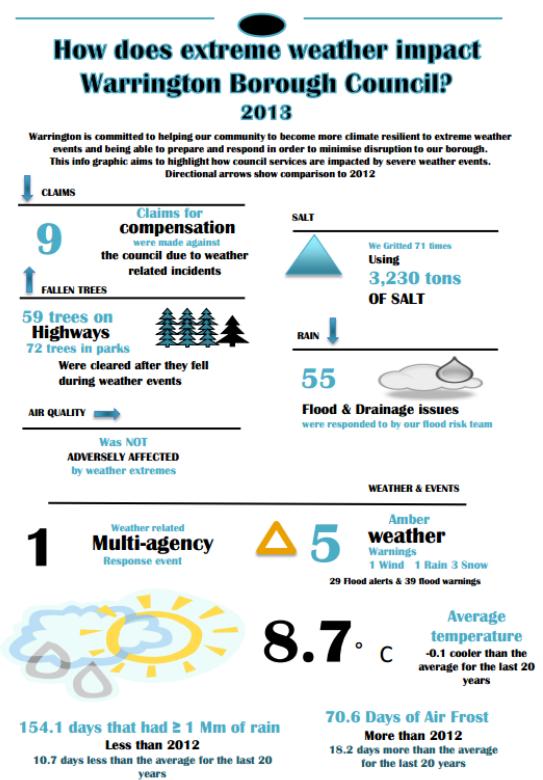
A series of half-day events were held during Winter 2014/15 to support the launch of the new tool. The first was hosted by the NW Climate Change Partnership, in central Manchester, on the afternoon of the 17th December, at the Mechanics Institute.

Click on the following link to access the new website:

<http://www.climatejust.org.uk>

Infographic of Weather Impacts on Warrington Council

Warrington Council have developed an infographic for internal use, to raise awareness of the impact extreme weather had on the authority in 2013 and show the importance of being resilient. This is now being shared with their extreme weather task group and other teams. There are gaps – for example they would have liked to include information on the impact it has on social care teams but this information isn't yet recorded. For more information contact Laura Stanley, lstanley@warrington.gov.uk



IPPR North Publishes Report Featuring Good Practice on Developing Resilient Local Economies

This report examines case studies of good practice amongst local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) in relation to their 'LEP resilience framework', which assesses key areas of policy that promote economic resilience within local areas, and makes recommendations for reform. Both Cheshire and Warrington and Greater Manchester are featured as case studies within the report focussing on assessing climate risks across key sites, key sectors and supply chains, and developing adaptations and good integration between local authorities within the city region.

Click on the following link for further information and to download a copy of the report:

<http://www.ippr.org/publications/developing-resilient-local-economies-good-practice-among-local-enterprise-partnerships>

Communicating Climate Change Adaptation – New Guide

Adaptation Scotland has published a short guide to communicating climate change adaptation to the public sector, which has been written by the Climate Outreach and Information Network. Whilst the guide is intended for use in a Scottish context, it can be also be used more widely making it a useful adaptation communications tool for other Local Authorities.

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

<http://www.adaptationscotland.org.uk/10/16/508/Communicating-climate-change-adaptation-%E2%80%93-new-guide.aspx>

FLOODING & SUDS

Public Perception of Climate Change after Flooding

A team from Cardiff University have produced an assessment of public opinion on climate change, including a study of people who had been recently flooded. The study showed that people who had experienced flooding were more likely to view climate change as a major, near-term threat.

Click on the following link for further information and to download a copy of the report:

<http://psych.cf.ac.uk/understandingrisk/reports/URG%2015-01%20WinterFlooding.pdf>

A number of interesting reviews including key findings from the report are available via the following weblinks:

<https://www.ipsos-mori.com/researchpublications/researcharchive/3522/Public-perceptions-of-climate-change-in-Britain-following-the-winter-201314-flooding.aspx>

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/jan/29/british-belief-in-climate-change-at-highest-level-in-past-decade-survey>

Healthy, Resilient Communities: The Lostwithiel Flood Plan Film

In November 2010 extremely heavy rain and gale-force winds resulted in a major flood in Lostwithiel, Cornwall. Since then the local community has developed a community group to support local residents in preparing for future flooding. This short film explains the effects of the floods, how the community developed a flood plan and how other communities can do this too. Click on the following link to view the film: <http://www.sduhealth.org.uk/areas-of-focus/community-resilience/lostwithiel-flood-plan-film.aspx>

Flood Risk Data Open to All

Environment Agency data on flood risk from rivers and sea is being made freely available to encourage the development of new digital services. It is hoped that these services will allow individuals and businesses to understand their flood risk, and take steps to protect themselves.

The data can be accessed via the data.gov.uk website and click on the following link for more information:

<https://environmentagency.blog.gov.uk/2014/12/16/sharing-our-data-on-flooding/>

Much Greater Flood Resilience Needed

Following the Government's announcement to invest in further flood defences the Committee on Climate Change has stressed that "flooding is here to stay" and that alongside this investment there is a continuing need for new defences alongside maintaining existing structures. It goes on to say that "Even if investment is pushed to the upper limit of what is worthwhile in the coming decades, and all cost-effective flood and coastal defence projects are delivered, the number of properties at high flood risk is still expected to increase over time. The projections are worse still if global greenhouse gas emissions do not peak in the next decade and then fall away rapidly."

Click on the following link to read more: <http://www.theccc.org.uk/blog/new-long-term-investment-scenarios-point-to-the-need-for-much-greater-flood-resilience/>

Affordable Flood Insurance One Step Closer

After ongoing negotiations with the Association of British Insurers (ABI) and Flood Re, an agreement has been reached regarding how Flood Re will operate. It is estimated that Flood Re will benefit between 300,000 and 500,000 households in the highest flood risk areas. The latest agreement will enable legislation to be laid in Parliament next year and, once approved by the financial regulators, will enable Flood Re to operate as a reinsurer. This comes at the same time as the government publishes its response to the public consultation carried out in the Summer.

Click on the following links for further information and to download a copy of the Governments consultation response:

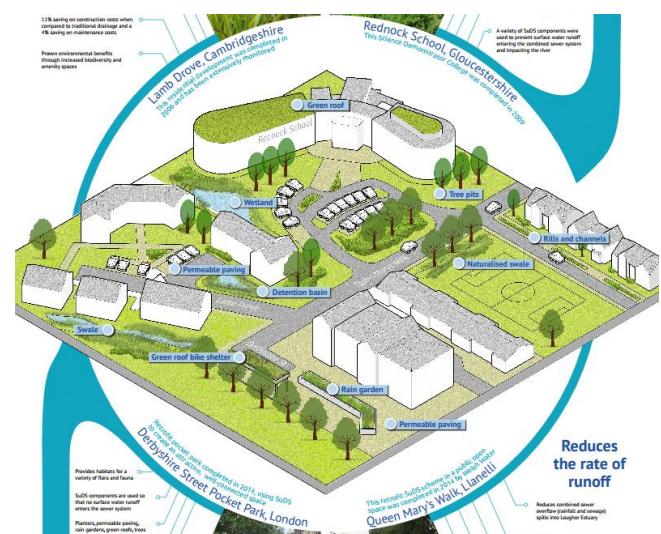
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/affordable-flood-insurance-one-step-closer>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/flood-insurance-regulations-for-the-flood-reinsurance-scheme>

SUDS Infographic

Recognising that Spring heralds major changes in the delivery of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), CIRIA have launched an engaging new infographic on SuDS that provides a simple overview of the drivers and benefits for SuDS.

The ‘Going with the flow’ infographic details some of the key objectives and outcomes from a sustainable drainage approach, such as improvements to local flood risk management, water quality, landscape amenity, and biodiversity.



You can view the infographic here:

http://www.susdrain.org/files/resources/ciria_guidance/susdrain_going_with_the_flow_infographic.pdf

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Green Deal Home Improvement Fund

Funding (up to £1,000) is still available under the Green Deal Home Improvement Fund for certain improvements, including boilers, glazing, floor, flat-roof and room-in-roof insulation. In order to qualify you will have to install two improvements, have a recent EPC or Green Deal Advice Report and use a Green Deal Provider or installer that is registered with the scheme.

Click on the following link for more information: <https://www.gov.uk/green-deal-energy-saving-measures/get-money-back-from-the-green-deal-home-improvement-fund>

DECC is extending vouchers from the first release of the Green Deal Home Improvement Fund (GDHIF) until Tuesday 31 March 2015, this includes vouchers that may have expired. Find out more in the DECC press release here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/gdhif-release-1-vouchers-to-be-extended-to-31-march-2015>

A Guide to Financing Energy Efficiency in the Public Sector

The Government's guide to financing energy efficiency in the public sector has recently been updated and outlines some of the ways in which public sector budget holders can secure funding for energy efficiency measures. The guide is intended to help public sector organisations better understand the benefits of energy efficiency, and help them to overcome the barrier that access to finance can sometimes present.

Click on the following link to download a copy of the guide: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-guide-to-financing-energy-efficiency-in-the-public-sector>

Research to Assess the Barriers and Drivers to Energy Efficiency in Small and Medium Sized Enterprises

As an action identified in the 2012 Energy Efficiency Strategy, DECC commissioned a research project to better understand the barriers and drivers to energy efficiency faced by individual firms, particularly SMEs. The research shows the wide range of motivations and barriers cited by businesses although there are no simple explanations for businesses behaviour around take up of energy efficiency.

Click on the following link to download a copy of the report: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-to-assess-the-barriers-and-drivers-to-energy-efficiency-in-small-and-medium-sized-enterprises>

Solid Wall Heat Losses and the Potential for Energy Savings

DECC commissioned BRE to undertake research to improve understanding of the performance of solid wall properties in the UK housing stock and the effect on energy post-insulation. The first output of this research project is a literature review of existing research and knowledge on Solid Walls and Solid Wall Insulation in the UK and other countries, where relevant.

Click on the following link to download a copy of the literature review: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/solid-wall-heat-losses-and-the-potential-for-energy-savings-literature-review>

What is ECO and Green Deal?

YES Energy Solutions and APSE have developed a handy 'how to' guide for Local Authorities to learn about the benefits of introducing ECO and Green Deal initiatives. The main purpose of the Guide is to strip down all the confusing technical jargon and simply explain how ECO and Green Deal work [at present!] what each scheme is trying to achieve and how Local Authorities can get involved. It can be found here: <http://www.apse.org.uk/apse/index.cfm/research/current-research-programme/what-is-eco-and-green-deal-a-guide-for-local-authorities/what-is-eco-and-green-deal-a-guide-for-local-authorities/>

PLANNING AND HOUSING

Infrastructure Act Becomes Law

The Infrastructure Act became law on 12th February 2015 and includes a range of new measures. Key changes relating to the planning system and sustainability include:

- Changes to the provisions for zero carbon homes to allow developers to pay into a pot instead of delivering carbon-cutting measures onsite.
- Measures to boost the UK's shale gas industry, including changes to the planning system and land access rights.
- The creation of a "Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy" for England and Wales intended to help the delivery of cycling infrastructure.
- A right for local communities to buy a stake in renewable energy infrastructure projects.

Prior to the Bill receiving royal consent both the Solar Trade Association, WWF and the Renewable Energy Association, with support from Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace, released a joint statement expressing disappointment in the UK Government's decision to reject the carbon standards recommended for new homes by its own advisers; the Zero Carbon Hub.

A copy of the statement is available to download from the following weblink: <http://www.solar-trade.org.uk/media/Statement%20to%20MPs%20Infrastructure%20Bills%20Zero%20Carbon%20Homes%20230115.pdf>

Further information on the Infrastructure Act is available via the following websites:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/7/contents/enacted>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/infrastructure-act-will-get-britain-building>

DECC Publishes Updated Aviation Plan for Wind Turbines

The Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has published an updated plan to mitigate the impacts of wind turbines on radar and aviation.

The plan, which was first published in 2008, is intended to "identify, develop and enable the implementation of mitigation measures to reduce the impacts of wind turbines on radar and aviation to acceptable levels", according to DECC. It aims to maximise renewable energy capacity "whilst maintaining aviation safety".

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

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/397208/Aviation_Plan_Update_2015_FINAL.pdf

Neighbourhood Planning Support

CSE is running a 2-year project, giving support to neighbourhood planning groups who are keen to integrate climate change and fuel poverty objectives into their neighbourhood plans. Help can also be given to groups who are looking to use other parts of the Localism Act, such as Neighbourhood Development Orders or Right to Build, to pursue low-carbon and broader sustainability objectives. CSE is aiming to work with up to 10 groups and if you think they can help then contact Harriet.sansom@cse.org.uk or 0117 934 1428.

Cornwall Council Releases Draft Planning Guidance Prioritising Community Energy

Cornwall Council has published its draft Renewable Energy Supplementary Planning Document for consultation. The guidance, which also includes siting and design guidance on a range of technologies, is the first of its kind to prioritise community ownership of renewable energy and provide clarity in relation to the decision-making process.

For more information and to view the documents, please visit the renewable SPD webpages:

<http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/renewablespd>

DCLG Publish Plain English Guide to the Planning System

DCLG have published a new plain English guide to the planning system, which includes a quick and easy explanation of how the new planning system works, how local and neighbourhood plans are written and adopted locally, and how to go about obtaining planning permission.

Click on the following link to download a copy of the new guide:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/391694/Plain_English_guide_to_the_planning_system.pdf

RTPI Report Calls for Greater Devolution of Planning Powers

A new report published by Newcastle University for the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) suggests that devolving more strategic planning powers away from Whitehall could provide opportunities for the planning process to tackle challenges including the ageing population and climate change. The report, 'Success and Innovation in Creating Public Value Planning' says that planning and planners can be innovative when given the "opportunity, freedom and resources".

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

www.rtpi.org.uk/media/1191762/rtpi_research_report_success_and_innovation_in_planning_full_report_8_november_2014.pdf

Ministerial Statement on SuDS

In December, the Government made a ministerial statement to say that they still have an expectation that SuDS "will be provided in new developments wherever appropriate". The statement suggests that the local planning policies and decisions on planning applications relating to major development (10 dwellings or more, or the equivalent) should ensure that SuDS for the management of runoff are put in places, unless demonstrated to be inappropriate.

Click on the following Susdrain link for more about the statement and the Governments consultation summary:

http://www.susdrain.org/news/articles/ministerial_statement_suds_suds_planning.html

Research Summary: How to Improve Cycling Rates in Cities

A study commissioned by Transport for London, and carried out by Phil Jones Associates and Urban Movement, provides ideas for how to create better conditions for urban cycling in the UK. The study ‘International cycling infrastructure Best Practice’ is based on evidence from 14 cities around the world where mass cycling is established or a clear policy goal.

Click on the following link to download a copy of the study: <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/cdn/static/cms/documents/international-cycling-infrastructure-best-practice-study.pdf>

Positive Planning – NPPF and Plan-led Development

The National Trust has launched a new research report ‘Positive Planning – the NPPF and plan-led development’ on how the planning system is working in England. The research looked at 27 councils with significant areas of countryside and found that “councils who have Local Plans in place are still coming under pressure to release unallocated land for housing development, largely due to the way the NPPF’s land supply rules work in practice”.

Click on the following link to download a copy of the research: <https://ntplanning.files.wordpress.com/2014/12/nt-positive-planning-report-dec-2014.pdf>

OTHER NEWS

ESTA Leaves Legacy for Local Enterprise Partnerships

The Environmental Sustainability Technical Assistance (ESTA) project closed in December 2014. ESTA was established in 2012 to provide participating Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and their partners with technical assistance to maximise environmental sustainability opportunities associated with their economic development priorities. Published ESTA project resources include:

- Developing an Environmental Sustainability Checklist
- Change Matters: Understanding Low Carbon Behaviours
- Mapping The Low Carbon And Environmental Goods And Services (LCEGS) Sector
- Supporting The Low Carbon And Environmental Goods And Services (LCEGS) Sector.
- Understanding water innovation capacity
- Utilising ERDF for Energy Efficiency in Social Housing
- Strategic Growth Sites: Assessing Climate Risk and Opportunities
- Integrating Environmental Sustainability into ERDF Projects
- Wedges Approach to Carbon Emissions Reductions
- FoodPrint: Low Carbon Food Report

All the resources can be found on the Project Outcomes page: <http://www.enworks.com/ESTA-project-outcomes>

DID YOU MISS...?

Manchester Low Carbon Projects - Study Tour

11th December 2014, Manchester

CLASP held a 'Manchester Low Carbon Projects - Study Tour' event on the 11th December 2014 in Manchester which was attended by 20 delegates. The afternoon commenced with a tour by The Co-operative Group of the £100m One Angel Square building. The main session included a briefing on Manchester City Council's low carbon projects including the refurbishment of the town hall, extension and library as well NOMA. This was then followed by a tour of the Town Hall and the new tri-generation system.

Click on the following link to download a copy of the presentations: <http://www.claspinfo.org/resources/manchester-low-carbon-projects-study-tour>

Flood Risk and River Basin Consultation Event

13th January 2015, Preston

CLASP held an Environment Agency "Flood Risk and River Basin Consultation" Event on Tuesday 13th January 2015 in Preston. The event was attended by 41 delegates and included Presentations and discussions focused on the Environment Agency's consultation on draft Flood Risk and River Basin Management Plans.

Click on the following link to download a copy of the presentations: <http://www.claspinfo.org/resources/flood-risk-and-river-basin-consultation-event>

CLASP Wirral Resilient Parks Project

28th January 2015, Warrington

On the 28th January Local Authorities came together to meet with Wirral Council, who have been running the CLASP funded Climate Resilient Parks project. Wirral Council's Parks and Countryside team and environmental consultants TEP have been looking at how to adapt the way Wirral's parks are managed to cope with changes to the climate, for example more rainfall in Winter and hotter weather in Summer. The project has been looking at the five 'pilot' parks sites.

The slides from the workshop are available via the following weblink: <http://claspinfo.org/resources/climate-resilient-parks-workshop>

The full report and a summary toolkit will be available later in Spring 2015.

Future Climate Forum - State of the Climate Series

As part of the Future Climate Forum 'State of the Climate' Series more than 139 delegates, including representatives from local authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships, Government departments, academics, environmental and sustainable development organisations attended three events in January and February 2015. The events explored what the current climate change trajectory means for us including the latest climate science, what are the impacts, how are we responding, what are the challenges and opportunities and what kind of support is required in the future?

Click on the following links to download a copy of the agendas and presentations for each of the events:

State of the Climate: Natural Systems Event on 15th January 2015 in Preston::

<http://www.climatechangenorthwest.co.uk/resources/future-climate-forum-state-climate-series-natural-systems-event>

State of the Climate: Economic Resilience Event on 26th January 2015 in Warrington:

<http://www.climatechangenorthwest.co.uk/resources/future-climate-forum-state-climate-series-economic-resilience-event>

State of the Climate: Towns and Cities Event on 9th February 2015 in Manchester:

<http://www.climatechangenorthwest.co.uk/resources/future-climate-forum-state-climate-towns-and-cities-event>

Powering Up Community Energy Conference

26th February 2015, Manchester

CLASP supported a community energy conference for the public sector and communities; exploring how we can encourage and capitalise on the fast paced growth of the community energy sector throughout the UK, to harness and expand this growth in the North. There was plenty of opportunity for discussion and networking including facilitated workshop sessions.

Click on the following link to download a copy of the presentations: <http://www.claspinfо.org/resources/powering-north-changing-our-communities-energy-future>

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