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www.claspinfo.org

CLASP is the sector-led public sector sustainability support programme, initially funded by the Environment Agency and NWIEP, and currently hosted by Climate UK.

WELCOME

Welcome to the latest news and resources round-up from CLASP. As COP21 Paris Climate Conference gets underway, aiming to establish an international legally binding agreement on climate we bring you a UK focused bulletin including, among much else:

- [Autumn Statement Headlines](#)
- [Our new Briefings on Cost-Effective Sustainability](#)
- [UK Energy Policy “Re-set”](#)
- [Local Authority Energy Index 2015](#)
- [Climate Change Threatening UK Financial Stability](#)
- [Financing Adaptation Measures & SUDS News](#)
- [Community Energy Changes & Resources](#)
- [Focus on District Energy](#)
- [Municipal Energy News](#)
- [CLASP Events Coming Up](#)

MAKING THE CASE FOR (COST-EFFECTIVE) SUSTAINABILITY

Recent changes continue to threaten to push climate change, carbon reduction and sustainability off the priority list, as authorities handle the cuts agenda, tackle public sector reform and fight to deliver critical services with fewer resources.

In response to this CLASP have produced our latest set of briefings to support actively addressing sustainability. This series of briefings, demonstrates how many local authorities are benefitting from actively considering sustainability in their operations and services.

The briefings are 2-sides, suitable for policy-makers across the public sector, with case-studies and contacts that you can follow-up.



1. [Save Carbon – Save Money](#)
2. [Generating Energy and Income](#)
3. [Decent Affordable Housing, Health & Fuel Poverty](#)
4. [Improving Public Health](#)
5. [Travel Choices](#)
6. [Transport Infrastructure](#)
7. [Economic Development](#)
8. [Supporting Communities](#)
9. [Reducing Risks](#)

Or view them all at: <http://claspinfo.org/cost-effective-briefings>

NATIONAL HEADLINES

Autumn Statement

On Wednesday 25th November George Osborne MP, delivered his Autumn Statement and Comprehensive Spending Review to the House of Commons. Headlines included:

- Replacement of ECO from April 2017 with a new scheme which will run for 5 years. A new scheme (currently being developed) will run for five years with an annual budget of £640m (a reduction from the £800m p.a. currently spent through ECO)
- £300 million of funding for up to 200 heat networks will generate enough heat to support the equivalent of over 400,000 homes and leverage up to £2 billion of private capital investment.
- Extension of the Warm Home Discount scheme to 2020-2021 (This currently gives certain low-income households a one-off reduction of £140 on their electricity bill)
- Reform for the Renewable Heat Incentive. (Contradictory announcements have been made re funding for RHI but this may be increased up to £1.15 billion in 2021.)
- End of the £1bn fund to commercialise carbon capture & storage (CCS)
- Defra budget cut 15% in real terms by 2019-20
- DECC budget cut 22% by 2019-20
- £295 million over 5 years to improve the energy efficiency of schools, hospitals and other public sector buildings
- Continuing support and funding for development of heat networks
- Spending on national parks, AONBs and the Public Forestry Estate, totalling £350m ringfenced until 2020
- Protection of flood defence funding, including the £2.3 billion 6-year capital investment programme
- Support reiterated for shale gas and nuclear energy
- Up to ten per cent of tax revenue from shale gas extraction could also be reinvested in communities hosting shale gas developments through a 'Shale Wealth Fund'
- Plans to relax restrictions on developing brownfield sites in the Green Belt by allowing them to be developed in the same way as other brownfield land, providing it contributes to Starter Homes, and subject to local consultation ... such as through neighbourhood plans

For the full breakdown see:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/479749/52229_Blue_Book_PU1865_Web_Accessible.pdf

New Direction for UK Energy Policy?

On the 18th November Amber Rudd made a speech entitled “New Direction for UK Energy Policy” which had been eagerly awaited as a “policy re-set”.

It received a mixed response. The proposed switch from coal to gas was akin to “trying to go dry by switching from vodka to super strength cider” according to Green MP Caroline Lucas. The future emphasis was firmly on government support for gas and nuclear, with explicit cost ultimatums for offshore wind and other renewables. This gas and nuclear “cost-effective” route to decarbonisation is yet to be proven.

However the UK is now the first country to propose a phase out date (2025) for unabated coal power, and commitment was reaffirmed to the Climate Change Act and the next carbon budget.

Read it all here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/amber-rudds-speech-on-a-new-direction-for-uk-energy-policy>

57% Emissions Reduction by 2030 "Required"

The Committee on Climate Change has announced that the Government should continue on the lowest-cost path towards the legal requirement to reduce UK emissions by at least 80% in 2050 on 1990 levels, and it should commit to an emissions reduction of 57% by 2028-2032.

[The fifth carbon budget](#) marks the half-way point from the first carbon budget period (2008-2012) to 2050. The scientific evidence confirms that without action to limit warming to the globally agreed level of 2°C, climate change will pose serious risks to the UK and around the world. The UK's contribution – as set by the 2050 target – is in keeping with, and helps to promote, wider international climate action.

The UK has made good progress to date. Emissions have reduced by 36% on 1990 levels and if current policies are effective will be down by 43-46% in 2020. In order to meet the legislated fourth carbon budget (2023-2027) emissions must fall by 52%.

The proposed fifth carbon budget continues along that trajectory, and would continue to cut emissions at lowest-cost to UK businesses and households. These are steady emissions reductions equivalent to 2% per year from 1990-2014, 3% per year from 2014-2030 and 4% per year from 2030-2050.

Find out more at: <https://www.theccc.org.uk/tag/5th-carbon-budget/>

Local Authority Energy Index 2015

The Local Authority Energy Efficiency Index is a tool allowing officials, councillors and other interested parties to measure their energy efficiency efforts against other areas, and find ways to overcome barriers they may be facing. The index is sponsored by Knauf Insulation with support from the Green Investment Bank and GE lighting.

This report, published on 19th November, scores 103 Local Authorities in England on a number of indicators, including energy efficiency in the community and housing, as well as energy management within their own buildings and the energy infrastructure that they oversee.

There is some debate over the methodology used, but it does provide some interesting comparisons.

See: <http://laenergyindex.co.uk/>

FINAL RANKINGS 2015 TOP 50		
#	Local Authority	Score
1	Coventry	77.05
2	Peterborough	75.54
3	Southampton	74.55
4	Bristol	71.01
5	Stockton on Tees	70.68
6	Leeds	70.59
7	Tower Hamlets	67.74
8	Westminster	66.06
9	Leicester	65.43
10	City of London	65.34
11	Manchester	63.84
12	Rochdale	63.33
13	Sutton	63.22
14	Woking	63.16
15	Sefton	62.04
16	Ealing	61.62
17	Camden	61.19
18	Islington	60.86
19	St Albans	60.69
20	Hammersmith & Fulham	60.66
21	Bromley	60.29
22	Southwark	59.61
23	Haringey	59.60
24	Plymouth	59.51
25	Cornwall	59.48

UK'S CHANGING CLIMATE

Future Flooding Challenge Warning

New research commissioned by the Adaptation Sub-Committee of the Committee on Climate Change suggests that much greater investment in the UK's flood defences will be needed in future.

The report looks at future projections of flood risk in the UK, alongside a number of adaptation scenarios. The study suggests that at current levels of adaptation and with a 2°C temperature increase, there would be a 50% increase in annual flood damages by 2080s.

Find out more at: <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/sayers-for-the-asc-projections-of-future-flood-risk-in-the-uk/>

Bank Of England Governor Speaks Out On Need To Respond To Climate Change

The Governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney, recently highlighted the threat the climate change poses to financial stability, grouped around the physical risks to insured assets, liability risks that may arise in future for carbon extractors and emitters, and the financial risks associated with the transition to a low-carbon economy. His comments came as the Prudential Regulation Authority published a report on the impact of climate change on insurers, and he suggested that while insurers are well-placed to manage near-term risks, the longer-term risks of climate change will require further attention.

- Bank of England: [Breaking the tragedy of the horizon – climate change and financial stability – speech by Mark Carney](#)
- Bank of England: [The impact of climate change on the UK insurance sector](#) (pdf, 2.5 MB)
- BBC: [Bank of England's Carney warns of climate change risk](#)

(Above summary from: UKCIP newsletter)

ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Financing Public-sector Led Adaptation to Climate Change

Leeds University have published a high-level review of finance mechanisms for public sector adaptation projects. Led by Dr Katy Roelich this report provides a useful overview of available: capital grants, loans, revenue funding, bonds, crowd-funding and investment funds.

Find it online at:

http://www.climateexchange.org.uk/files/8714/4663/2824/Financing_adaptation_to_climate_change_web_version.pdf

Community Resilience to Climate Change

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation have published a report and four new case studies exploring community resilience to climate change. The consequences of climate change in the UK (which include flooding, heatwaves, and food and energy price rises) are considered, along with how community action is building resilience in practice.

The report and a summary can be found at: <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/community-resilience-climate-change>

Health Services' Adaptation Report Finds Climate Change Already Impacting

A first ever system wide report from the health sector has shown progress is being made to prepare organisations and communities for the effects of climate change but more is needed to protect people's health.

The Adaptation Report for the Healthcare System 2015 is the first adaptation report submitted by NHS England, Public Health England and the Department of Health. As well as highlighting climate risks, the report emphasises the linked benefits to public health gained through effective adaptation action. Recommendations include ensuring climate change is included in risk registers and sharing information between services.

You can download the report from: <http://www.sduhealth.org.uk/areas-of-focus/community-resilience/adaptation-report.aspx>

Climate UK Autumn Round-up

CLASP's host Climate UK have put their latest newsletter online at: <http://climateuk.net/resource/cuk-e-news-autumn-2015> This includes a look at recent projects and forthcoming events led by climate change partnerships across the UK.

SUDS

New SuDS Manual

CIRIA have just released their new SuDS Manual (C753). The new Manual is the UK's most comprehensive SuDS guidance and focuses on the cost-effective planning, design, construction and maintenance of SuDS.

The updated SuDS Manual (C753) incorporates the very latest research, industry practice and guidance. New chapters include: Designing for amenity, Designing for biodiversity, Designing for specific site conditions, Designing for roads and highways, Designing for urban areas, Trees and Materials.

The SuDS Manual (C753) is available to download freely and physical copies can be bought from CIRIA. Download from: http://www.ciria.org/Resources/Free_publications/The_SuDS_Manual_C753_Chapters.aspx

More SuDS Standards Guidance

LASOO is the Local Authority SuDS Officer Organisation, formed recently, and active on the LGA Knowledge Hub. They have just produced a useful piece of guidance - Non-Statutory Technical SuDS Standards - to assist Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs), developers and consultants in the inclusion of sustainable drainage within development proposals and considerations for planning applications.

You can find it at: <http://www.lasoo.org.uk/non-statutory-technical-standards-for-sustainable-drainage>

SUDS Apps

CIRIA have produced a short blog entry looking at what Apps are available which could make life designing, assessing, choosing and implementing possible SuDS a little easier or help with Flood risk Management in general.

<http://www.susdrain.org/community/blog/what-are-the-most-useful-apps/>

COMMUNITY ENERGY

FiT Changes Impact on Community Energy Schemes

Last month Community Energy England and Quantum carried out a survey to estimate the impact of the proposed changes to Feed-in Tariffs on community energy. The results have been startling with 90% of the 80 respondents said their developing projects are completely (67%) or partially (23%) at risk due to the FITs review. This represents a capital investment of £127 million that is now not likely to happen. The report also assesses the additional value that community energy projects bring through generating revenue to the local economy, community benefit funds, energy savings and sharing expertise.

See: <http://communityenergyengland.org/members-area/data/community-energy-generating-more-than-community-energy/>

Changes to Tax Relief for Community Energy

It seems not a month goes by without another change to the support for community energy. Recently it has been announced that community energy projects will in future be excluded from the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) and Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme (SEIS) from 30th November 2015. It was also announced that community energy schemes will be excluded from Social Investment Tax Relief (SITR).

Earlier this year the Treasury gave repeated written assurances as part of the final stages of the Finance Act that it would give the community energy sector 6 months notice of the removal of Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) tax relief, which is vital to the success of many community energy projects, however this has not been the case.

More details [here](#) and [here](#).

New Community Energy Hub

In September, the brand new [Community Energy Hub](#) was launched as an online network. The site was developed by Project Dirt in partnership with Energy Savings Trust and the Department of Energy and Climate Change. There are useful guides, toolkits and links.

[Signing up](#) is a really simple process, but if you have any questions about how the site works, please contact communityenergy@projectdirt.com

COMMUNITY ENERGY: THE BENEFITS SO FAR



HOW COMMUNITIES BENEFIT FROM COMMUNITY ENERGY SCHEMES:



MUNICIPAL ENERGY GENERATION

New Municipal Energy Company

Nottingham City Council has launched Robin Hood Energy Ltd. the first wholly owned not for profit local authority power company that has operated in the energy market since nationalisation of the industry in 1948.

<https://www.robinhoodenergy.co.uk/>

Local Authority Green Energy Tariffs Prove Competitive

A recent article on the Good With Money website shows that the average green tariff is £100 cheaper each year than the average big six standard tariff for a medium user, according to figures from USwitch '[Plans With Green Energy](#)' compiled exclusively for Good-with-money.com. In the review Peterborough Energy and Southend Energy, at £839 were just £8 off the very best buy on the whole of the market for a medium user, which was GB Energy, at £831. These suppliers are local council-operated in partnership with Ovo.

You can read more about this at [It's official: green energy tariffs can be MUCH cheaper than Big Six](#)

CLASP FOCUS ON: DISTRICT ENERGY & HEATING

You may have noticed CLASP working with external partners to provide you with free access to district heating Masterclasses, and knowledge exchanges with Scandinavian companies over the last few months. We're doing this as:

- A study commissioned by DECC on '[The Potential and Costs of District Heat Networks](#)' (2009) found that district heat projects cost 20% more in the UK than in mainland Europe.
- A second DECC study on the '[Barriers to deployment of district heating networks](#)' (2013) found that the actual cost of conducting procurement exercises was a barrier in itself. Additionally, it found that local authority procurement personnel needed up-skilling on the technological and market knowledge of district energy.
- District heating was one of the few areas to receive a truly additional boost in funding in the Autumn Statement, and will see a gain of over £300 million of funding for up to 200 heat networks over the coming years.

To that end we have a full programme of District Heating Masterclasses in planning for 2016, kindly sponsored by Nordic Heat, plus we'll be supporting the set-up of the UK's District Energy Procurement Agency (DEPA). DECC has decided to fund the initial stage of DEPA development and an agreement with the lead local authority (Manchester City Council) has been reached.

We'll keep you up to date with developments on both.



OTHER NEWS

Pocket Parks Funding

A £1.5 million programme of support for communities to establish pocket parks in urban areas has launched. The [prospectus](#) invites communities, with the support of their local authority, to make an application for up to £10,000 capital and up to £5,000 resource funding per project. The application form and frequently asked questions can be [found here](#). The deadline for applications is 5:00pm on Thursday 10th December. Contact pocketparks@communities.gsi.gov.uk

First Steps Enterprise Fund

Launched on 19 Oct, the Social Investment Business' [First Steps Enterprise Fund](#) is a £300,000 pilot fund offering loan-grant packages to charities and social enterprises working in communities in England. Small community-led organisations can apply for up to £30,000 to help them grow their services and become more sustainable. The investments are the first steps towards accessing the wider social investment market and more financing options. The deadline for applications for the next investment panel is 11th December 2015.

(Thanks to CPRE's Green Bullet newsletter for the summary of the above two opportunities)

Heat Pumps Online Training

A consortium of energy industry partners have launched a new online portal to help build knowledge and understanding of heat pumps. The training resource – available free of charge at <http://www.heatpumpstraining.org/> - is designed to provide reliable, independent advice for prospective heat pump purchasers. Ground source, air source and water source heat pumps are already widely used across the country, helping to reduce energy costs for householders and tenants, schools, businesses and hospitals.

The training covers specification, budgeting, good installation practice and insurance. It features online learning modules, quizzes, videos and a rich set of resources for both the domestic and non-domestic sectors.

ECO and Green Deal Annual Report

By the end of June 2015 over 1.5 million energy efficiency measures had been installed under the Energy Company Obligation and the Green Deal. Measures installed under the Green Deal and carbon obligations of ECO are estimated to have saved 21.1 – 22.2 MtCO₂ in lifetime carbon savings. It is estimated that ECO measures installed in properties occupied by low income and vulnerable consumers are estimated to achieve £6.8bn worth of notional lifetime bill savings. Installing energy efficiency measures in these properties is to support people at greater risk of living in fuel poverty. In 2014, household energy bills were estimated to be around £90 (6%) lower on average, due to DECC policies including ECO and Green Deal. In total, there were 15,408 Green Deal Finance Plans in the system for unique properties at the end of August 2015.

Full report here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/476863/UnAct_GreenDeal_Accessible.pdf

DID YOU MISS...?

Catch-up with last month's CLASP events:

UK – Danish District Heating Exchange

3rd, 4th, 5th Nov (Leeds and Manchester)



In early November CLASP hosted a visit from the Danish Board of District Heating and a consortium of Danish technology companies. This involved two open seminars, in Leeds and Manchester, 1-2-1 business exchange meetings, a Danish embassy event at Manchester Metropolitan University, plus numerous meetings between CLASP member organisations and the Danish visitors.

District Heating Masterclass

17th & 19th Nov (Manchester and Edinburgh)



Last month we delivered two more of the very popular district heating technology masterclasses, in conjunction with Nordic Heat and various Scandinavian technology providers.

We'll be continuing this series in 2016, working with Nordic Heat and HEATNET, and will be covering the financial models for district heating, investment cases and commercialisation.

If you couldn't attend either of these events, but would like to find out more, or catch up on the presentations please contact aisla@claspinfo.org

CLASP EVENTS COMING UP

Climate Just – Free Training

- Manchester Metropolitan University - 15th December
- Nottingham (University of Nottingham) - 16th December
- Birmingham (University of Birmingham) - 7th January
- Leeds Beckett University - 8th January
- Brighton (University of Brighton) - Jan/Feb, date tbc

One hour webinars (all from 2 - 3pm):

- 6th January
- 1st February

Climate Just is a website that enables you to identify groups in your area that are socially vulnerable to extreme weather. It was developed last year by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and Climate UK and is now being used by a wide range of organisations to analyse local vulnerability and plan to counter this. <http://www.climatejust.org.uk/>

A new series of free training events are being held over the next few months and CLASP is hosting two in Manchester, on 15th December. You're welcome to attend either, or both, of:

AM Training - 3hr introductory session - learn how to use the tool - An introduction for anybody new to Climate Just tool, its aims and uses.

PM Training - 3hr intermediate session - explore applying the tool in practice - Ideal for those of you who attended the initial workshops last December, or have already been exploring the website.

More info here: <http://climateuk.net/sites/default/files/Training%20flyer2.pdf>

Book places for any date/venue at: <http://climatejust.eventbrite.com>

Healthy Homes: Managing Health Risks from Climate Impacts in Housing

Tuesday 3rd December

Wakefield

Climate Ready and Climate UK are hosting a half day workshop in Wakefield on the 3rd December, to explore the relationship between health and wellbeing, housing and climate change. The event is free and aimed at officers and elected members in local authorities and officers working at housing associations.

For more details and booking see: <https://healthy-homes-climateuk.eventbrite.co.uk>

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