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www.claspinfo.org

CLASP is the sector-led (NW focussed) local authority sustainability support programme, funded by the Environment Agency and NWIEP, and hosted by Liverpool City Council.

WELCOME

Welcome to CLASP's look back on October's news, policy updates, funding opportunities and events. This bulletin covers a wide range of topics on environmental resilience, carbon reduction and sustainable planning including:

[New EU Target for Greenhouse Gas Reduction](#)

[Wirral Climate Resilient Parks Project](#)

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[New Round of Heat Network Funding](#)

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New EU Greenhouse Gas Reduction Target

The European Union has reached a historic deal to cut greenhouse gasses by at least 40% domestically by 2030.

The target is part of a package of measures to make Europe's energy system more secure, sustainable and competitive, announced on the 24th October by European leaders at the European Council meeting in Brussels.

Key elements of the package include:

- A binding domestic EU Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reduction target of at least 40% by 2030.
- A 27% EU level renewables target and 27% non-binding energy efficiency target that cannot be binding on Member States.

Find out more at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/eu-agrees-historic-deal-to-tackle-climate-change>



CLASP PROJECTS UPDATE

Wirral Climate Resilient Parks Project Workshop

This project is looking at the implications of changing climate on how park sites can be managed in the future. CLASP is providing funding for environmental consultants to survey and develop options for the following five 'pilot' sites on the Wirral:

- Brookhurst Park, Bromborough
- Central Park, Wallasey
- Coronation Park, Greasby
- School Lane, Wallasey
- Whitfield Common, Heswall

So far environmental consultants TEP have surveyed these sites, looking at a number of aspects, including plant species, drainage, topography and climate.

Workshops are now ongoing with local "Friends" groups to discuss initial findings, look over draft site plans, discuss ideas about future management of the site and possible ways for Friends and other volunteers to get involved in climate change adaptation for the site.

The workshops have highlighted local interest in:

- More tree planting where appropriate e.g. for shading
- Diversifying planting
- Exploring the potential to increase the capacity of lakes, ponds and/or storage tanks to retain water
- Introduce more lighting e.g. for more park use on warmer evenings, solar powered if possible
- Improved pitch drainage for address waterlogging
- Restoring heathland
- Increasing links with local schools to work on climate change projects.

For more information please contact williamcooper@wirral.gov.uk



FLOODING UPDATE

NW Flood Ready

A new website has been developed to help communities understand more about flooding. It provides practical advice and resources for families, schools, community groups and businesses about what to do before, during and after a flood. Its main aim is to raise awareness and support more resilient communities. The website has been produced by the NW Flood and Coastal Committee and Sefton Council. There are case studies and information.

See: <http://www.floodready.co.uk>

Environment Agency Flood Action Campaign

The Environment Agency's flood action campaign will run from 3rd November to 16th November to encourage people and businesses to prepare for flooding. The campaign will include targeted postcards and mobile messages to encourage sign up for warnings and remind people of the flood warning codes. They would like local government departments and organisations to join in with the campaign by downloading and using their promotional pack which can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/floodsdestroy>



Flood and River Management Plans Consultation

The Environment Agency is seeking your views on proposals to improve the water environment and protect communities from flood risk in England. They would like your input on updates to river basin management plans and flood risk management plans. Once agreed, these plans will shape decisions, direct investment and action and deliver significant benefits for society and the environment.

River basin management plans set out long term objectives for the quality of the water environment. They identify the condition of rivers, lakes and coastal waters and the pressures on them. The plans provide evidence that will help those with an interest in the water environment to agree where improvements can be made.

Flood risk management plans describe the risk of flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water, groundwater and reservoirs. They set out how the Environment Agency, local councils and water companies will work together, with communities, to manage flood risk.

You can respond to the river basin management plan consultations at:

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/update-to-the-draft-river-basin-management-plans

You can respond to the flood risk management plan consultations at:

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/draft-flood-risk-management-plans



Insights From COIN Flood Workshops

The Climate Outreach and Information Network (COIN) website now has an article on it that provides some reflections on how communities respond to flooding and issues associated with climate change. COIN held three community events in areas that experienced flooding in winter 2013/14. While communities welcomed the opportunity to discuss these issues, they also acknowledged that this sometimes meant opening difficult discussions, with implications for finding solutions.

See: <http://www.climateoutreach.org.uk/insights-from-our-flooding-workshops-across-the-uk>

Low Carbon Behaviours

A Scottish resource, but applicable everywhere – the Low Carbon Behaviours section of the Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN) website is now live. It contains information on SSN's new behaviour change programme, including support available in using the Individual, Social, Material (ISM) approach.

To find out more see: <http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/sustainability-climate-change/sustainable-scotland-network/lowcarbonbehaviour/about-ism/>

ENERGY UPDATE

Opportunity to Join RE:FIT - Improve Energy Efficiency in Public Sector Buildings

RE:FIT is a growing national scheme that improves the energy efficiency of existing public sector buildings, to cut costs, achieve energy savings (typically about 28 per cent a year), and reduce carbon emissions. "Local Partnerships" (DECC, LGA and Treasury) is keen for other organisations to join the scheme and you can find out more here:

<http://localpartnerships.org.uk/our-work/growth/re-fit>



National Grid - North West Coast Connections

A 12 week public consultation on the North West Coast Connections project was launched on 4 September 2014. The project proposes how National Grid will connect a new power station at Moorside (near Sellafield) and offshore windfarms in the Irish Sea to the rest of the national grid i.e. through major new high voltage powerlines through Cumbria and Lancashire. National Grid are holding 33 public information events at venues across Cumbria and Lancashire throughout the consultation period.

Click on the following link for more information:

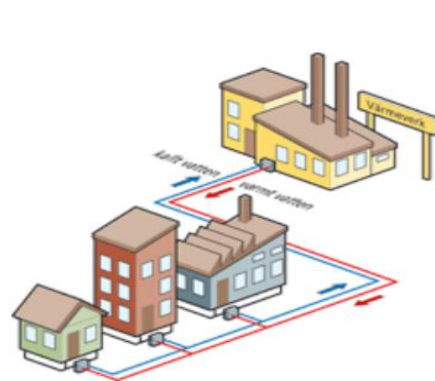
<http://www.northwestcoastconnections.com/>

Farming Subsidies to be Cut to Stop Spread of Solar Panels

The government has announced that new rules will be introduced to ensure more agricultural land is dedicated to growing crops and food solar panels on farmland. The change, which will come into effect from January 2015, will mean that farmers who choose to use fields for solar panels will not be eligible for any farm subsidy payments available through the Common Agricultural Policy for that land.

More information is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/subsidies-for-solar-farms-to-be-cut-to-help-safeguard-farmland>



4th Round of Heat Network Funding Available

A further opportunity has been announced for Local Authorities to seek Heat Network Development Unit funding and support. Interested local authorities in England and Wales are encouraged to bid. Local Authorities can apply for funding to support several projects and/or project development stages. Support can be awarded for initial heat mapping when initially investigating opportunities, all the way to detailed commercial and legal work for more established projects. If it can be demonstrated that the support will move the project closer to delivery, then HNDU can consider an application for funding.

Round 4 is now open and will close on 27th November 2014 at 5pm.

Find out more at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/heat-networks-funding-stream-application-and-guidance-pack>

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

2014 Cold Weather Plan

The 2014 Cold Weather Plan has been released for England, with some significant changes made from last year's plan. The plan reiterates that cold weather continues to be a threat – with approximately 25k deaths attributed each year to cold weather in England. Those over 65, the very young, and those with pre-existing health conditions are at particular risk i.e. same as with heat.

Notably, the indoor temperature guidance has controversially been reduced to reflect emerging literature and has been set at 18 degrees instead of the previous guide of 21degrees (for the main room being inhabited).

For more info on the plan, please see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cold-weather-plan-for-england-2014>

Free On-line Climate Change Course

The University of Reading is running a free on-line climate change course (coordinated by the Walker Institute), which starts on the 10th November. The course involves a whole range of academics from Reading and covers the impacts of climate change on food, water and cities as well as physical science. The final week (which coincides with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - UNFCCC COP 20 in Lima) is on climate change policy.

Click on the following link for more information:

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/our-changing-climate>

PLANNING AND HOUSING UPDATE

Planning is Critical to a Healthy Urban Future

'Promoting Healthy Cities' is the third in a series of five 'big picture' papers (branded 'Planning Horizons') published by the RTPI. It is global in scope but contains messages for policy-makers at every level of governance and states that planners have an important role in the battle against 'lifestyle diseases'.

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

<http://www.rtpi.org.uk/knowledge/research/planning-horizons/promoting-healthy-cities/>

CPRE Publish New Report on the Impact of Planning Policies

CPRE have published a new report 'The Countryside Generation Game', which considers the impact of changes to planning policies on the countryside since they were introduced one year ago, and puts forward a series of recommendations for further changes to protect the countryside while delivering renewable energy.

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

<http://www.cpre.org.uk/what-we-do/energy-and-waste/climate-change-and-energy/update/item/3690-better-planning-nee>

National Character Area Profiles: Data for Local Decision Making

Natural England has published the National Character Area (NCA) profiles document which explains how you can access environmental evidence and information about a specific NCA. The NCA profiles case studies provide examples of how these profiles have been used in different circumstances. They have helped:

- Encourage community engagement
- Inform land use planning
- Guide investment, grant applications and partnership working
- Inform landscape planning
- In research and education

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making>

OTHER NEWS

Job Opportunity

Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue are advertising for a Sustainability Officer, based in Swinton, to help drive sustainability across the Fire Service. See: <http://manchesterfire.gov.uk/media/1973/sustainability-officer-advert.pdf>

Climate UK News

Have you signed up for newsletters from Climate UK? Climate UK is a CIC national network of twelve climate change partnerships in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. It brings together knowledge and technical expertise from every part of the UK to tackle the challenges and opportunities we face. You can sign up via: <http://climateuk.net/>

2015 Manifestos

In the run up to the General Election in May a number of environmental groups have started to publish their manifesto's setting out the priorities they want the political parties to pledge to take forwards in the next Parliament. Here is a round up of some of these:

The Wildlife Trust's fifth Green Standard report 'A Greener Britain'

<http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/news/2014/09/01/leading-environmental-groups-challenge-politicians-build-greener-britain>

The Campaign for National Parks' Better National Parks'

<http://www.cnp.org.uk/manifesto-national-parks>

CPRE's 'A Charter for the Countryside'

<http://www.cpre.org.uk/how-you-can-help/take-action/countryside>

The Wildlife and Countryside Link's 'Marine Charter'

<http://www.wcl.org.uk/whatisthemarinecharter.asp>

DID YOU MISS...?

Climate Change: 1% of your money or your life?

On 22nd October New Economy held a briefing to consider the work undertaken by ARUP on C40 Climate Action in Megacities, looking at global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve urban resilience to climate change. The briefing also focussed on what cities, including Greater Manchester, are practically doing to make a difference.

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

http://neweconomymanchester.com/stories/1880-presentation_slides



Building a Resilient Environment

On the 24th September Climate Ready and Climate UK hosted a half-day launch for a new suite of resources that will support the crucial role Planning plays in delivering a resilient and well adapted built environment.

You can find presentations from the day AND download the resource packs from here: <http://climatechangenorthwest.co.uk/resources/building-resilient-environment>

CLASP.

CLASP EVENTS

Whole Plan Viability & Justifying Environmental Policies

6th November, Warrington

CLASP and PAS are holding a special workshop event for local authorities, local enterprise partnerships and their partners to:

- Provide an overview of the role of whole plan viability and experience to date in justifying environmental policies
- Share information and experiences about viability testing including examples from local authorities
- Explore how and if these approaches could be applied to your area and what type of support is available



This event is aimed at officers and members in planning, building control, sustainability and other local authority departments involved in the planning and plan viability process.

Click on the following link for more information:

<http://www.claspinfo.org/events/whole-plan-viability-justifying-environmental-policies>

If you have not yet booked but wish to attend please email directly to krista@claspinfo.org

HOLD THE DATE

Helping Communities Shape Their Energy Futures

Wed 26th November

10.30am - 1pm/1.30pm with lunch

The Lake District National Park will be hosting an afternoon workshop where they will introduce their recent CLASP-supported work looking at renewable energy generation and energy efficiency measures within communities.

They will also be introducing CLASP's new 3D model which is available for all local authorities to borrow, free-of-charge, and explaining how it can be used in practice.

Invitations will follow shortly.



OTHER EVENTS

SuperHomes Green Open House Events

Dates in November, Manchester and Chester

A number of Green House Open events are being held around the UK as part of the SuperHome programme. The events will provide an opportunity to find out how to make an old home energy efficient and meet eco-retrofit pioneers. There are a number of events planned for the North West including:

- Manchester, Salford, Hersey Street on Saturday 1st November 2014
- Manchester, Salford, Hersey Street on Sunday 2nd November 2014
- Chester, Louise Street on Saturday 8th November 2014

Click on the following link to find out more and book a place: <http://www.superhomes.org.uk/get-inspired/events/>

Climate Change Adaptation Workshop

4th November, Preston

Natural England and the Environment Agency Climate Ready support service, in collaboration with the Wildlife Trusts, RSPB and National Trust, will be running a series of workshops in early November. These events, based around the Climate Change Adaptation Manual, are aimed at conservation managers, particularly reserve managers. One of the events is being held in Preston on 4th November and registration is at <http://doodle.com/4idctz7hsvdetm7g>

Click on the following link to download the Climate Change Adaptation Manual:
<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5629923804839936>

APSE Climate Change and Renewables Advisory Group

12th November, Manchester

Attendance is limited to those local authorities who are members of APSE. Contact Phil Brennan for more information:
pbrennan@apse.org.uk

NHS Sustainability Day

13th November, Liverpool

Part of a series of roadshows allowing NHS staff around the country to participate in the national campaign whilst minimising their travel time and carbon footprint. Each roadshow will identify key aspects of sustainable development within healthcare practise addressing the challenges and achievements along the way.

The roadshows are free to attend for NHS staff, see:

<http://www.nhssustainabilityday.co.uk/roadshows/>

NEA North West Fuel Debt Advice Network Meeting

8th December, Manchester

The meetings are free to attend and are for practitioners and advisers from the advice sector, energy agencies and voluntary groups. They enable participants to consider issues that affect the provision of fuel debt advice and seek to progress initiatives that can support this work through sharing of good practice and valuable networking with other organisations working in the field of fuel debt advice. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

If you would like to attend the next meeting please email Tracy Norris at tracy.norris@nea.org.uk

Renewable Heat Incentive Roadshows

There will be a series of regional events to take place in November for people to find out more about the Renewable Heat Incentiv scheme. See: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/renewable-heat-incentive-roadshows>

- Cumbria November 19
- County Durham November 20
- South Wales November 25
- West Midlands/Mid Wales November 26
- North Wales/Cheshire November 27

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