

Review of September 2014

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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 hosted by Liverpool City Council.

WELCOME

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

- [Solid Wall Insulation Code of Practice](#)
- [SUDS and SABS Changes](#)
- [New Sustainable Energy Planning Resources](#)
- [Fuel Poverty Consultation](#)
- [Community Energy Funding Coming Soon](#)
- [Housing Standards Review](#)
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- [CRC Penalty for Non-qualifying Councils?](#)
- [Two interesting job opportunities](#)

NEW RESOURCES FROM CLASP

Solid Wall Insulation – Code of Conduct and Decision Making Protocol

Blackpool Council have developed a new Code of Conduct for solid wall insulation installations, with CLASP project funding, and the outputs are available for all to use.

This Code of Conduct has been created in order to give Blackpool Council and its residents confidence for those suppliers offering solid wall insulation in partnership with the Council. Residents using suppliers that have signed up to this code can rest assured that these suppliers:

- § provide competent people to do the work;
- § have internal processes that provide them with the latest information;
- § have a proven track record of doing this work to a high level;
- § have insurance and guarantees to provide cover in the long term;
- § use sales techniques that meet appropriate Government standards;
- § manage quality effectively;



There are a number of documents available for other authorities and housing associations to make use of. These include:

[Contractors' Code of Conduct](#) - for Solid Wall Insulation retrofit projects on traditional buildings

[Decision Making Protocol](#) - to help navigate planning issues than can delay start-up of SWI schemes

This work has been developed with funding from CLASP and these tools are available to Local Authorities and other interested parties who may wish to adopt or adapt them for their own use. Please explore the documents via the links above and if you have any questions about them contact Maggie.Hayes@blackpool.gov.uk or Christine.Smith@blackpool.gov.uk

CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCE

Better Growth, Better Climate Report

Tackling climate change can be a boon to prosperity, rather than a brake, according to the latest study headed by Lord Stern. *"Reducing emissions is not only compatible with economic growth and development – if done well it can actually generate better growth than the old high-carbon model,"*

The report admits that coordinated effort, from rich and poor countries, that prioritises sustainability and penalises high-carbon growth (e.g. through a price on carbon) will come at a price. However this should be far outweighed by the benefits in economic growth and improvements in health. For instance, reducing the world's dependence on coal and other dirty fuels will cut air pollution and remove a key source of strain on healthcare systems.

You can find the report "Better Growth, Better Climate" from the Global Commission on the Economy at: <http://newclimateeconomy.net/>

RTPI Publish 'Future Proofing Society' Paper

The RTPI has published its second paper in the Planning Horizons series, titled 'Future-Proofing Society: Why planners need to be at the forefront of responses to climate change and demographic change'. The paper focuses on climate and demographic changes and considers the impact on planning systems. It presents suggestions as to how planning can help and why it is important that our societies respond to these challenges.

Click on the following link to download a copy of the report: <http://www.rtpi.org.uk/knowledge/research/planning-horizons/future-proofing-society/>

Sustainable Drainage Systems: changes to the planning system

DEFRA and DCLG are consulting on proposals to change the current planning system to increase sustainable drainage systems in England. The consultation 'Delivering Sustainable Drainage Systems' includes proposals for delivering sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) through changes to the current planning regime, which is an alternative approach to the one envisaged in the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

The consultation is open until 24th October and you can click on the following link for more information and to respond online: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/water/delivering-sustainable-drainage-systems>

UK Green Building Council Review of Adaptation Resources

The UK Green Building Council have published a helpful review of a selected number of resources to enable organisations across the built environment sector to get up to speed with adaptation issues.

Click on the following link to view their selection: <http://www.ukgbc.org/news/pinpoint-focus-climate-change-adaptation>

ENERGY

CPRE Issues Solar Energy Guidance Document

CPRE has published a Policy Guidance Note for solar energy, which helps to evaluate and shape solar farm proposals. The policy guidance does not rule out solar farms, but it does say they should meet important criteria including protecting landscape and heritage, amenity, the best agricultural land and maximise biodiversity.

Click on the following link to download a copy of the Guidance Note:

<http://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/policy-guidance-notes/item/3708-policy-guidance-note-solar-energy?highlight=WyJzb2xhciJd>



Research into the Environmental Impacts of Fracking

The University of Manchester has published new research into 'fracking', which reveals that greenhouse gas emissions from the use of shale gas would be comparable to conventional natural gas. However, the research also highlights the need for tight regulation of shale gas exploration.

Click on the following link to download a copy of the paper, 'Life cycle environmental impacts of UK shale gas' www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0306261914008745

New Sustainable Energy Planning Resources For Local Authorities

Kent County Council, as part of a project called COOPENERGY (cooperating on sustainable energy), has developed two new resources to support local authorities to deliver energy initiatives in partnership. The resources include:

- [A database of 60 case studies](#) – demonstrating how authorities across Europe are already working well in partnership to deliver energy initiatives.
- [A guidebook on multi-level governance](#) – a step-by-step guide designed to help local authority officers build stronger partnerships to deliver on their energy targets.

The case studies and guidebook are both available on the COOPENERGY website (www.coopenergy.eu). Authorities can also become a member of the COOPENERGY collaboration platform for free (<http://www.coopenergy.eu/content/get-involved>). For more information please contact climate.change@kent.gov.uk.

FUEL POVERTY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Cutting The Cost Of Keeping Warm: A New Fuel Poverty Strategy For England

The Government has laid draft Regulations before Parliament to put in place a new long term fuel poverty target and have launched “Cutting the cost of keeping warm” – a consultation that will help to prepare for a new fuel poverty strategy setting out how the government intend to achieve the new target of ensuring that as many fuel poor homes as is reasonably practicable achieve a minimum energy efficiency standard of Band C by 2030.

The closing date is 7th October and you can find out more and respond via:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/cutting-the-cost-of-keeping-warm-a-new-fuel-poverty-strategy-for-england>

CERT and CESP Final Evaluation

An independent evaluation has been carried out of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) and the Community Energy Savings Programme (CESP) which ran from 2008-2012.

It contains some useful facts and figures about the extent and nature of measures delivered, the types of customers reached by the initiatives, impacts, costs and new approaches for the future.

You can find it here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/evaluation-of-the-carbon-emissions-reduction-target-and-community-energy-saving-programme>

COMMUNITY ENERGY

Urban Community Energy Fund On The Way

The UCEF is a £10 million fund from DECC that will support non-rural communities in England with grants (up to £20,000) and loans (up to £130,000) to develop renewable energy projects that provide economic and social benefits to residents in the area. This complements the existing Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF), which was launched in 2013.

The launch date for the scheme has not yet been confirmed, although it is envisaged that this will be by the end of the year.

If you wish to receive alerts about the launch of the scheme email your name and contact details to communityenergyunit@decc.gsi.gov.uk

Final Review of Projects from the Community Energy Challenge

CSE has published a final review of projects from the Community Energy Challenge led by the Co-operative which supported seven community groups looking to develop sizeable renewable energy projects - e.g. valued at £1m to £3m and/or rated in excess of 500kW. The groups were given 18 months of support across a range of renewable energy technologies and locations, including a wind farm on a Scottish island to solar-enabled motorway noise barriers in Oxfordshire. Click on the following link to find out more and download a copy of the report:

<http://www.cse.org.uk/projects/view/1178>

PLANNING AND BUILDING

Government Publishes Further Details on Housing Standards

The Government has published further details on its revised policy on housing standards and is seeking views on draft technical standards and other practical matters of implementation. Click on the following link to view the consultation and supporting documents:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/housing-standards-review-technical-consultation>

Note: We understand that changes relating to energy standards will be implemented when the zero carbon policy is brought into force in 2016. Until then local planning authorities will continue to be able to set and apply policies in their local plan requiring development in their area to comply with energy efficiency standards that exceed the energy requirements of building regulations until the zero carbon home policy has been put in place, which will be set at a level equivalent to Code Level 4. Until then the government expect local planning authorities to take the statement of the Government's intention into account in applying existing policies and not set conditions requiring energy efficiency requirements above a Code Level 4 equivalent.



Love Your Old Home: The Workbook

CSE are currently working with the National Trust and English Heritage to produce a range of guidance on how to improve energy efficiency while preserving a home's heritage, both for local authorities and planners, and for people who live in older, traditional homes. They have just developed a 'Love Your Old Home' workbook for homeowners, which includes a four-step process to find out what makes their home historically significant, and what that means for the types of energy efficiency improvements they could make.

Click on the following link to download a copy of the workbook:
www.loveyouoldhome.org.uk



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Round 3 HNDU Funding Workshops

If you are interested in finding out more about the 3rd Round of Heat Network funding, and how the Heat Network Delivery Unit (HNDU) can support your local authority then do please attend one of DECCs forthcoming workshops. HNDU can support local authorities in the development stages of heat networks up to the development of an investment grade proposal.

The events will be similar to the ones CLASP hosted for rounds 1 and 2, and are this time in Leeds, Cambridge and London. See: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/heat-networks-funding-stream-application-and-guidance-pack>

Community Enterprise

Power to Change (a BIG Lottery initiative) will invest up to £150 million to support the development of sustainable community-led enterprises across England. In advance of the initiative's launch, Locality are offering a free roadshow event and community support network to provide support and inspiration on to help you make a success of community enterprises. See: <http://locality.org.uk/projects/power-change/>

Veolia Environment Trust Grants

The Veolia Environmental Trust is committed to supporting community and environmental projects across the UK, for example improving community halls, creating new play areas and skate parks, and restoring green spaces. Projects must restore derelict land, prevent pollution, provide public amenities or encourage biodiversity. Deadline for applications: 21st November. Average grant: £20,000 - £25,000, although grants may be made for up to £100,000.

<http://www.veoliatrust.org/funding/>

Electricity Demand Reduction

As we reported last month - The Department of Energy and Climate Change is inviting formal applications from organisations – to be submitted by 31 October 2014 - for a £10m auction under the Electricity Demand Reduction (EDR) pilot scheme.

The scheme will help support projects that deliver lasting reductions in electricity demand – for example, through the installation of a more efficient lighting system or electric pump. See: <https://www.gov.uk/electricity-demand-reduction-pilot>

DID YOU MISS...?

SPECIAL Planner's Summit 'Taking Stock of Planning for Renewable Energy'

CLASP and TCPA held a SPECIAL Planner's Summit on the 10th September 2014 in Manchester focussing on the opportunities and challenges around planning for sustainable energy and what can be done to support delivery. A number of solutions were referred to from across the UK, Germany and Sweden as well as a presentation from the Award-winning Limburg region in Belgium on the transformation of an ex-mining area from a carbon economy to a green economy. There was also an interactive workshop exploring what kind of SPECIAL support/training would be best.

Click on the following link to download the presentations from the event: <http://www.claspinfo.org/resources/special-planners-summit-taking-stock-planning-renewable-energy>

SWI Code Launch Event

On the 18th September 2014 over 40 representatives of local authorities and housing associations came to meet with Blackpool Council to find out about their new Code of Conduct for solid wall insulation installations.

This work has been developed with funding from CLASP, and Blackpool Council hosted this event in order to share these newly developed tools with Local Authorities and other interested parties who may wish to adopt or adapt them for their own use. See: <http://claspinfo.org/resources/swi-code-launch-event-180914>

FUTURE EVENTS

Invitations will be issued shortly to CLASP's next events. You can find a sneak preview of the topics at: <http://claspinfo.org/events/winter-schedule-coming-soon>

In the meantime why not attend:

SuperHomes Green Open House Events

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:

- Chester, Louise Street on Saturday 11th October 2014
- 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/>



Sustainability West Midlands Health and Climate Adaptation Workshops

4 November, Birmingham

Two half-day events will focus on adaptation in the health sector. The morning will consider how to manage overheating in hospital buildings, and is for NHS and hospital estates managers. The afternoon is for public health practitioners and will concentrate on adaptation, resilience and health and wellbeing strategies. It will also mark the launch of the new West Midlands Sustainability and Public Health Network. See: <http://www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk/events/swm-health-and-climate-adaptation-workshops-41114/>

Destination Coast!

3rd & 4th November, Grange-over-Sands

Registration is now open for the North West's biennial coastal conference - Destination Coast! - 3rd November in Grange-over-Sands, with a field trip to Morecambe Bay on 4th November. The theme of Destination Coast! is based around the coastal visitor economy, exploring the benefits and opportunities for coastal tourism and recreation for businesses and communities along the length of the North West coast.

Click on the following link for more information: <http://www.nwcoastalforum.org.uk/2014/09/04/diary-date-destination-coast-3rd-4th-november-grange-over-sands/>

OTHER NEWS

CRC Penalty for Non-qualifying Councils?

The eagle-eyed may have noticed that there was a proposal in the local government finance settlement 2015 to 2016: technical consultation regarding how changes to the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) may affect local authorities - in particular those who no longer qualify for the CRC scheme since the withdrawal of school buildings.

It was proposed that local authorities who previously qualified for participation in the CRC (in Phase 1), but who no longer qualify due to the withdrawal of schools from the scheme, will receive a reduction in funding to compensate for the loss of tax revenue to the Exchequer (calculated as £6.4m).

The consultation closed on the 25th September, but the Local Government Information Unit have responded on behalf of many authorities, and if you wish to be kept in touch with this issue please contact karen.lawrence@lgiu.org.uk

Job: ECO Framework Project Manager

Recruitment is taking place for an ECO Framework Project Manager to develop and successfully deliver the Liverpool ECO Framework Programme. The closing date is Thursday 2 October and you can find out more at: <http://lccjobs.liverpool.gov.uk/details.aspx?id=P1LFK026203F3VBQBV77VF6FT&nPostingID=3273&nPostingTargetID=6243&mask=lccext&lg=UK>

Job: ARCC Network Knowledge Exchange Officer

UKCIP, based in Oxford, are recruiting for a new post to manage the ARCC network which aims to enhance the uptake and impact of research on adaptation and resilience to change. The closing date is 17th October and you can find out more at: https://www.recruit.ox.ac.uk/pls/hrisliverecruit/erq_jobspec_version_4.display_form

The Ecosystem Approach Handbook

The Ecosystem Approach Handbook has been developed by Natural England and Countryside to help landscape scale partnerships benefit from the ecosystem approach. It builds on partnership projects that Natural England has supported in Bassenthwaite and the South Pennines to help shape future management in these areas. The handbook also draws on experience of members of the Ecosystems Knowledge Network. Click on the following link to download a copy of the handbook: <http://ecosystemsknowledge.net/handbook>

Biomass Suppliers List for RHI

The Biomass Suppliers List (BSL) is now publically available at www.gov.uk/find-fuel-supplier The list provides a simple way for Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) participants to comply with the biomass sustainability criteria announced in February 2013 and due to become mandatory in Spring 2015.

Further information on the BSL, including guidance for consumers, is available on <http://biomass-suppliers-list.service.gov.uk/>. There are also two information leaflets on the DECC website, about the overall sustainability requirements and how this impacts on domestic RHI participants:

[New biomass sustainability requirements: Information sheet](#)

[Domestic RHI: New biomass sustainability requirements](#)

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