





















April 2009 Climate Change Update

Key to icons used

Sector					
Transport		Waste		Local Government	
Finance		Planning			
Energy		Economic Development		Climate Change background text	
Region of the UK					
Scotland		North West England		East of England	
Northern Ireland		Yorkshire and Humber		South East England	
Wales		East Midlands		South West England	
North East England		West Midlands		Greater London	

Budget 2009

Budget 2009 - LGiU briefing



The Chancellor of the Exchequer made his Budget speech to the House of Commons on Wednesday 22nd April. Announcements relating to Climate Change and a Low Carbon Economy included:

- a legally binding level of 34 per cent reduction in emissions by 2020
- an additional £375 million to support energy and resource efficiency in businesses, public buildings and households over the next two years, and £70 million for decentralised small-scale and community low-carbon energy, saving households and businesses money on bills;
- a funding mechanism to support at least two carbon capture and storage demonstration projects, and £90 million to fund detailed preparatory studies;
- £405 million to support low-carbon industries and advanced green manufacturing, such as wind energy;

- £100 million of new funding for local authorities to deliver new social housing at higher energy efficiency standards

The LGiU has consistently argued that community level carbon reduction initiatives are an invaluable tool for tackling climate change and we welcome this additional commitment. We would like to see more detail on how the £405 million energy efficiency fund is to be delivered as we believe it is vital that this is channelled down through councils and local businesses and not administered through central government.

The £100 million directly to local authorities for greener housing is a positive step but at say £50k per house this is only 2000 houses - which is little more than a symbolic gesture though it may act as a catalyst.

<http://www.lgiu.gov.uk/briefing-detail.jsp?&id=2161&md=0§ion=briefing>

Carbon budgets now require an ambitious roadmap to meet them



Baroness Wilcox, Opposition Spokesperson for Energy and Climate Change chaired a lively seminar event this morning (24th April), where delegates discussed how the ambitious targets set in the Carbon Budgets this week, will be met. Keynote speaker David Kennedy, Chief Executive of the CCC, set out the committee's recommendations, which if met by Government action, will see the UK leading globally in the fight against climate change. He said that it was crucial that real action occurs soon to prevent global warming, which would have devastating impacts both in the developing world and the UK.

David Kennedy's presentation can be downloaded here. The full transcript of the seminar will be available online from the Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum.

<http://www.theccc.org.uk/news/headline-news/286-carbon-budgets-now-require-an-ambitious-roadmap-to-meet-them>

The CCC is currently working on its second report to be published in September 2009. The report will assess the Government's progress so far in meeting the carbon budgets. The focus of the report will be lead indicators against which future progress reducing emissions can be assessed. In setting out indicators, the CCC will assess the policies required to deliver deep cuts in emissions from agriculture, transport, buildings and homes and the power sector.

Waste management measures to help hit carbon budget



The Secretary of State for Environment Hilary Benn today welcomed the measures in the 2009 Budget which encourage investment in low carbon jobs and energy generation using organic waste.

The Chancellor announced additional funding of £10 million for anaerobic digestion and waste infrastructure and a continued increase of £8 per tonne per year to the standard rate of landfill tax up to 2013. These measures will encourage investment in sustainable waste management and will enable over 850,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent savings to be made each year, which will help towards achieving the Government's carbon budget.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2009/090422b.htm>

A Sustainable New Deal - LGIU Breifing



The Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) is tasked by the Government to act as a UK watchdog, advocate, and advisor on sustainable development.

This report sets out the SDC's position on the potential scope and scale of a 'green stimulus' - an economic recovery package aimed at investment in a low-carbon economy. It draws on reports from a wide range of sources, including the Green New Deal Group (published by the New Economics Foundation), HSBC, the Grantham Institute (with the participation of Nicholas Stern) and Defra. Some of these reports are available in this briefing via links.

The report was produced in anticipation of the budget, which was announced on April 22. By investing in a sustainable future, it is argued governments can engineer a lasting recovery that creates jobs and new businesses and capitalises on the economic potential of environment-friendly technologies.

<http://www.lgiu.gov.uk/briefing-detail.jsp?id=2154&md=0§ion=briefing>

Publications

Final version of NI 188 reporting guide published



The final version of the LRAP guidance for local authorities on National Performance Indicator 188 – Planning to Adapt to Climate Change is available from the DEFRA website.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localgovindicators/ni188.htm>

Reducing CO₂ emissions - new NI 186 guide launched



The Energy Saving Trust has developed an online guide to help support work to reduce per capita carbon emissions for National Indicator 186. The resource identifies how your authority can ensure it is strategically ready to tackle carbon emissions and highlight key action areas across domestic, non-domestic and transport emissions. It also provides suggestions for maintaining an evidence base of activity taken under NI 186, and helps you to demonstrate how NI 186 aligns with other national indicators and corporate objectives.

The guide is available at www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/NI186.

To coincide with the launch of the guide the Energy Saving Trust is developing a reporting tool for local authorities to collect data on the actions they take to reduce carbon emissions and meet their NI 186 targets. The TrACE (Tracking Action on Carbon Emissions) tool will provide not only a data collection mechanism but also a structured guide to planning for, monitoring and reporting on various types of local measures. It will be able to capture a range of activities being undertaken by local authorities which may be having an impact on carbon emission reductions and which cost money. It is expected to be available in Summer 2009. For more information contact the Energy Saving Trust on 0844 84 888 30.

[http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/nottingham/Nottingham-Declaration/Resources-events-links/News-Items/Reducing-CO2-emissions-new-NI-186-guide-launched/\(energysavingtrust\)/214549](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/nottingham/Nottingham-Declaration/Resources-events-links/News-Items/Reducing-CO2-emissions-new-NI-186-guide-launched/(energysavingtrust)/214549)

TUC - Employers must do more to protect staff from climate change



Damage done to the environment by past and present carbon emissions is forcing companies to think about adapting their products and services to a changing climate, but few have considered what such a dramatic change in the UK's weather will mean for their staff and the jobs that they do, says the TUC in a new report out this month. Changing Work in a Changing Climate was published to coincide with a TUC conference on climate change, and says that over the next few decades wetter winters, hotter summers and more frequent storms and floods will become the norm.

More information and a copy of Changing Work in a Changing Climate is available at <http://www.tuc.org.uk/extras/adaptation.pdf>

Investing in a Low Carbon Britain



The UK has begun the transition to a low carbon economy. The transition will change every aspect of our lives, our work, and our society.

Building on the Government's vision for a Low Carbon Industrial Strategy published earlier this year, the document sets out a programme of targeted investment to provide real help now for businesses and households, creating and sustaining the jobs that will contribute to the UK's prosperity in a new low carbon world.

For more information please visit:- <http://interactive.berr.gov.uk/lowcarbon/>

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/090423_low_car/090423_low_car.aspx

New report on building business resilience to inevitable climate change



IBM and Acclimatise have launched a report that reveals how UK FTSE 350 companies are adapting to minimise the risks and maximise the opportunities resulting from climate change. The report, 'CDP6 (2008): FTSE 350 - Building business resilience to inevitable climate change', is based on responses to the Carbon Disclosure Project 2008 and it explores the business implications of inevitable climate change, recognising that adaptation is an increasingly critical issue for businesses, investors and the financial markets. Guidance is provided on the actions needed to adapt and build business resilience. The launch will be on 28 April at 3-4pm. For more information about the report go to <http://www.acclimatise.uk.com/news/cdp6-2008-ftse-350-web-launch>

New report highlights the impacts of climate change across the marine ecosystem and coastal communities



Climate change is having a significant impact on our seas, according to a new report, as many small effects are being magnified through important links within the marine environment.

The Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership (MCCIP) 'ecosystem linkages' report card highlights just how much climate change is affecting the UK marine environment and shows how impacts as wide ranging as melting sea ice and shifting species relate to each other, with potentially important consequences for us.

Key findings from the report include:

- CO₂ and ocean acidification. In the last 200 years, ocean acidity has increased by 30% and at a rate much faster than anytime in the last 65 million years. This has serious implications for marine ecosystems and climate regulation.

- Arctic sea-ice. In the last decade there has been a 35% decrease in summer sea ice extent and a 15% reduction in winter sea-ice, leading to changes in habitats and ecosystems.
- A view from above: changing seas, seabirds and food sources. Climate change has already caused changes in plankton, fish distribution and species composition in the seas around the UK. Declines in some seabird populations such as black legged kittiwakes, terns and skuas may continue as a result.
- Non-native species. Most introductions of non-native species arrive via human intervention, intentional or otherwise. The likelihood that they will establish and flourish in the UK marine environment could be greater due to climate change.
- Coastal economies and people. Many of our coastal communities will face both challenges (e.g. increased flood and erosion risks, declining traditional fisheries) and opportunities (e.g. new tourism patterns, new fisheries) through climate change.

The full report is available from <http://www.mccip.org.uk/>

Consultations

Consultation on draft Flood and Water Management Bill



The government has launched a consultation on the draft Flood and Water Management Bill. The LGA encourages local authorities to respond to the consultation. The LGA would also welcome comments ahead of the consultation deadline. These will help to ensure the LGA response accurately reflects the views of member authorities. The deadline for consultation responses is 24 July 2009.

[Details of the draft Bill and consultation are available on the Defra website](#)

[Read the full LGA briefing on the consultation on the draft Flood and Water Management Bill \(PDF, 2 pages, 69KB\)](#)

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelid=1828490>

Households across the country will be left at risk from flooding if action to protect homes isn't made a priority, council leaders have warned.

A survey of local flood risk management has revealed that:

- 60 per cent of councils lack the necessary funds to fulfil their flood risk responsibilities
- Around a quarter are struggling to recruit and retain the specialist staff needed to improve drainage systems and plan properly for flooding
- 55 per cent do not have partnership arrangements to work with water companies to combat flooding

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelid=1821968>

Modernising landfill tax legislation: A consultation



The Government has launched a consultation on the modernisation of landfill tax legislation. Given the central role of the tax in supporting waste policy, including 0.7 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions saved a year, and given the changing EU regulatory context (i.e. EU Landfill Directive) as well as waste industry practices (i.e. structural change has meant that landfill sites in the UK are now fewer and larger), the Government thinks it is time for a review of existing landfill tax arrangements.

<http://www.lgiu.gov.uk/briefing-detail.jsp?id=2174&md=0§ion=briefing>

News

UK Climate Projections – update on launch



UKCIP are aiming to launch the UK Climate Projections in the early summer, when Parliament is in session. The launch has moved from spring due to the normal restrictions on parliamentary business relating to upcoming local and European elections. Please note that an independent peer review of the methodologies used in the UK Climate Projections was successfully concluded in January.

To help you understand how to use the new forthcoming UK Climate Projections, Defra and UKCIP have developed the Projections in Practice (PiP) programme. This will provide a series of training and workshop events along with a suite of online learning packages. More details on the events can be found at www.ukcip.org.uk/pip and to register your interest in attending please go to www.tinyurl.com/ukcip14.

New Yorkshire and Humber adaptation study



The Climate Change Partnership for Yorkshire and Humber has launched its Regional Adaptation Study, commissioned to look at what climate change impacts the region may face and also what needs to be done to tackle those impacts. As well as considering sectoral impacts, some common themes were identified, as were potential issues that could block progress on adaptation. A website at <http://www.adaptyh.co.uk/home.htm> provides background information on the project, as well as a pdf of the executive summary.

The Partnership has also recently updated its Climate Change Action Plan, which sets out how the region should address climate change from both mitigation and adaptation perspectives. This is available from

<http://www.yourclimate.org/cb.aspx?page=312992EB-8EBA-45AC-84B2-1C88227D5CA6>

Policy integration is route to success in tackling climate change



Specific measures to tackle climate change, such as emissions trading, will only be successful if they are supported by other government policies addressing economic and social issues, says a new report by the Partnership for European Environmental Research (PEER). 'Climate Policy Integration, Coherence and Governance' assesses the degree of climate policy integration in six different European countries (including the UK), at national and local levels, as well as within key sectors such as energy and transport. The report concludes that climate policy integration and coherence will be essential in order to bring together the environmental, economic and social impacts of both adaptation and mitigation policies. Information about the report, including links to the downloadable documents, is at <http://peer-initiative.org/html/obj459.html>

Community Based Adaptation Exchange – online resource



CBA-X is the Community Based Adaptation Exchange, providing a portal where members can share information about community-based adaptation, including news, events, case-studies, tools, policy resources, and videos. CBA-X is hosted by the Eldis website, in collaboration with the International Institute for Environment and Development.

<http://community.eldis.org/.59b70e3d/>

CCC to investigate aviation emissions for Hoon



Transport Secretary Geoff Hoon has asked the CCC to conduct an independent review into aviation emissions, following on from his announcement supporting the construction of a third runway at Heathrow Airport. The building of an additional runway at Heathrow has attracted controversy from green groups and others concerned that it will contribute to rising greenhouse gas emissions. The CCC will investigate whether UK aviation emissions can be limited to below 2005 levels by 2050 if airport expansions continue.

The committee will assess how far biofuels or hydrogen fuel could be used in the future in planes as an alternative to fossil fuels. The aviation review will be published by December 2009.

<http://theccc.org.uk/news/ccc-newsletter/275-ccc-to-investigate-aviation-emissions-for-hoon>

Carbon floor price may need to be considered



Calls for a “floor price” on carbon allowances have been backed by CCC Chairman Lord Turner, who recently suggested that the issue may need to be reviewed, particularly given recent developments in the carbon market.

The price of carbon credits under the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EUETS) have collapsed from €31 last summer to about €8 last month, prompting calls for a “floor price” to be imposed that would provide firms with greater confidence that investments in low carbon infrastructure will deliver long term returns.

<http://theccc.org.uk/news/ccc-newsletter/273-carbon-floor-price-may-need-to-be-considered>

Eco town approach 'bypassing local democracy'



Council leaders have today called on the government to reconsider proposed eco town developments where there is strong local authority opposition.

The call was made after independent legal advice revealed the government's approach to building eco towns could be subject to judicial review. The Local Government Association asked John Steel QC to refresh opinion he gave in July 2008 on the eco town proposals, in which he concluded that 'the government is bypassing local democracy and planning processes to impose the schemes on the public'.

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelId=1781813>

EU considers proposals which could force more bin collections on householders



The EU is considering proposals which could force thousands of extra bin collections on British householders, council leaders will warn today.

The European Commission recently unveiled a series of ideas for reducing the carbon emissions that are created from people's left over food and garden waste. These include measures which would force new targets on councils for collecting so called 'bio-waste' and result in extra bin collections for thousands of householders. Town halls say they must not be forced to impose separate bin collections on people. It should be up to councils to decide what rubbish collections people need based on local circumstances.

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelId=1781815>

Hotter, drier summer forecast



A hotter and drier than average summer is expected this year, according to the Met Office seasonal forecast. Ewen McCallum, Met Office chief forecaster, said: "The last two summers were wet for many but featured near-average temperatures. This summer's forecast predicts a change, with below average rainfall and above average temperatures. We expect a trend of warmer summers in the decades ahead because of climate change."

The economics of climate change



Economic assessments of the cost of climate change are being underestimated and are misleading the Government, according to Professor Sir David King, former UK chief scientific advisor. He says the current models used to predict the financial costs, which originate from the 2006 Stern Review, do not take into account the scale of problems the world could face due to climate change.

See more on this story <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/8019940.stm>

EU's climate policy gets final go-ahead



The European Union has today given the final approval to its ambitious climate change and energy policies, agreed by EU ministers back in December 2008.

The highlights of the package includes:

- Use of 300 million EU ETS allowances, worth billions of pounds, to part-fund up to 12 Carbon Capture and Storage Demonstration plants.
- Commitment to a 20% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels, rising to 30% if a global deal is reached.
- European wide commitment to 20% of all energy to come from renewable sources by 2020 – with a UK target to source 15% of all energy by 2020.

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/090406_eu_climate/090406_eu_climate.a.spx

Ed Miliband on the G20 summit



Summing up his thoughts on the conclusion of the G20 summit, Energy and Climate Change Secretary, Ed Miliband said:

“The Summit communiqué makes building a green and sustainable economy one of the six core commitments of economic recovery made by the G20 countries, and 'accelerating the transition to a green economy' one of the goals of fiscal expansion.

“The leaders also agreed a strong commitment to achieving a deal at Copenhagen - the first time all major countries have collectively done so.

“This provides an excellent platform for discussions at the upcoming Major Economies Forum. The Prime Minister welcomed the decision by President Obama to re-establish the forum including a Leaders' Summit to discuss climate change.

“These are good outcomes, establishing the central role of climate change in economic policy even in the midst of this financial and economic crisis.”

<http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/pn041/pn041.aspx>

Stirling 'to be first carbon-neutral city'



The city of Stirling is confident of becoming the first carbon-neutral city in Scotland. Since the launch of the Going Carbon Neutral Stirling (GCNS) plan a few weeks ago, businesses across the city have backed the initiative.

So far, 29 separate groups and organisations, including council departments, have pledged their support.

[http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Resources/Daily-news/Climate-change2/Stirling-to-be-first-carbon-neutral-city/\(energysavingtrust\)/214313](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Resources/Daily-news/Climate-change2/Stirling-to-be-first-carbon-neutral-city/(energysavingtrust)/214313)

House gets energy efficiency upgrade



An abandoned house has been converted into a 'green' home by a local authority. Energy efficiency measures and renewable energy devices have been installed at a disused caretaker's house at Richardson Dees School, North Tyneside.

Comprehensive insulation, underfloor heating connected to an airsource heat pump and rainwater harvesting systems were installed by North Tyneside Council to see if older homes could be made greener.

[http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Resources/Daily-news/Moving-home-and-energy-efficiency/House-gets-energy-efficiency-upgrade/\(energysavingtrust\)/213098](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Resources/Daily-news/Moving-home-and-energy-efficiency/House-gets-energy-efficiency-upgrade/(energysavingtrust)/213098)

Green lights could cut vehicle carbon dioxide emissions



Traffic lights could encourage traffic flow to reduce carbon emissions following the government's decision to allow local councils to use "green wave" systems.

Roads that use the systems, which are billed as reducing vehicle carbon dioxide emissions, would use a system of sensors to allow cars travelling at a certain speed to navigate their way through a series of crossings without facing a red light.

The Department for Transport (DfT) had previously opposed such measures but has changed its position in its new guidance to councils.

[http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Resources/Daily-news/Travel-Plan/Green-lights-could-cut-vehicle-carbon-dioxide-emissions/\(energysavingtrust\)/211504](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Resources/Daily-news/Travel-Plan/Green-lights-could-cut-vehicle-carbon-dioxide-emissions/(energysavingtrust)/211504)

Council to help residents cut energy costs



A council is to help residents get access to insulation and small scale renewable energy in a bid to help reduce energy consumption and bills.

Reigate and Banstead Borough Council has launched a plan for consultation that includes helping residents access subsidised insulation and microgeneration schemes.

The public is being asked to express its views on the plans which are designed to reduce energy consumption as well as carbon emissions.

[http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Resources/Daily-news/Energy-bills/Council-to-help-residents-cut-energy-costs/\(energysavingtrust\)/211501](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Resources/Daily-news/Energy-bills/Council-to-help-residents-cut-energy-costs/(energysavingtrust)/211501)

Eco-driving to help council cut carbon



Eco-driving techniques that help reduce fuel consumption and bills are to be taught to a London council's fleet drivers as part of a carbon dioxide emissions reduction plan.

Tower Hamlets has set targets of cutting council carbon emissions by 60 per cent by 2020 compared with 2007 levels, reports 24dash.com.

Under the new Carbon Management Plan, the council will teach fleet drivers eco-driving techniques to reduce their fuel use and vehicle carbon dioxide emissions.

[http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Resources/Daily-news/Travel-Plan/Eco-driving-to-help-council-cut-carbon/\(energysavingtrust\)/211497](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Resources/Daily-news/Travel-Plan/Eco-driving-to-help-council-cut-carbon/(energysavingtrust)/211497)

Events

LGiU Good Practice Event - Getting ready for the Carbon Reduction Commitment



Date: Wednesday 13 May 2009

Time: 10:00 - 15:30 (Lunch provided)

Venue: Central London - venue TBC

Many local authorities are already playing their part in tackling climate change by reducing carbon emissions. But with the Carbon Reduction Commitment starting in April 2010 you need to change your approach to make sure you are prepared for the UK's first mandatory carbon trading scheme.

If your local authority uses over 6,000 MWh electricity per year then you will be required to take part. That means you will need accurate records of all your core energy use; you will have to purchase carbon allowances to cover all of the organisations carbon emissions; and you will be responsible for carbon emissions from schools. These are just a few of the challenges that local authorities need to start preparing for.

Visit the LGiU website for more details

Joint LGiU & CSN Good Practice Event - Delivering sustainable schools - linking children's wellbeing and the environment



Date: Wednesday, 20 May 2009
Time: 10:00 - 15:00 (Lunch provided)
Venue: LGiU, 22 Upper Woburn Place, London

Every school should be a sustainable school by 2020. To meet this government target children's services need to be working now to integrate sustainability into all aspects of school life. Sustainable schools can contribute to a range of local authority programmes to deliver sustainable communities. In addition, reports from the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Sustainable Development Commission show that sustainable development provides a powerful mode of delivery for the five Every Child Matters outcomes.

This seminar will help you to understand how sustainable schools can both prepare children for the future and support school improvement. It will introduce the government's National Framework and self evaluation for sustainable schools, which will help you identify ways that schools can develop sustainability practices.

Visit the LGiU website for more details

Selecting sustainability: the LGA Sustainable Communities Act conference



Date/Time: 10 June 2009 10:00 - 16:00
Venue: Local Government House Conference Centre, Smith Square, London
Cost: (ex VAT) £345.00 Member organisation rate: £219.00

The Sustainable Communities Act 2007 offers an opportunity for councils and communities to put forward new thinking on how to meet the challenges of sustainability. It starts from the principle that local people know best what needs to be done to promote the sustainability of their area, but that sometimes they need central government to act to enable them to do so. It provides a channel for local people and the councils that represent them to ask central government to take such action.

This one day conference will provide delegates with an opportunity to discuss the potential of the Act, share ideas for proposals and hear from the LGA on the process and principles it will use when discharging its role as the Selector.

[Conference programme \(PDF, 4 pages, 157KB\)](#)

To reserve your place at this conference please complete an online booking form by clicking on the book online now link below.

For further information, contact events@lga.gov.uk

Book a place at <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/events/display-event.do?id=1713380>