



















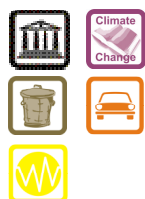


June Update

Key to icons used

Sector					
Transport		Waste		Local Government	
Finance		Planning			
Energy		Economic Development			
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	
General					
Climate Change background text					

Toolkit helps councils turn up the heat on climate change



LACORS is marking World Environment Day on Thursday (5 June) with the launch of its updated Climate Change Toolkit which highlights how councils are reducing their community's carbon footprint and adapting to the impacts of climate change. The toolkit is a particularly useful source of information for councils which have included national performance indicators related to climate change in their local area agreement (LAA) (in a recent speech the DEFRA minister Joan Ruddock said that 'an overwhelming majority' of councils had at least one climate change indicator in their LAA). The toolkit is comprehensive and includes sections on a whole range of council activities including housing regulation, air quality, social marketing, parking and transport, and waste and packaging. You can download an online version [here](#). For more information contact Katherine Smith, katherine.smith@lacors.gov.uk

Greening the UK



Councils should ensure new developments include plants says the Horticultural Trade Association. Green planting and landscaping in urban areas are an important part of any good environmental strategy. Not only does green planting help to reduce the heat island effect in urban areas, but it is important as a means of flood defence. The problem council's face is that developers have traditionally seen horticulture as an expense rather than a commercially marketable investment. Research by the Horticultural Trade Association reveals that there has been a 50% drop in the planting requirement appearing in planning applications for new developments in urban and rural areas. For more info go to:

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelD=724444>

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelD=660368>

Flooding



The LGA is calling for a change in the law and a new statutory framework which would compel water companies and others to co-operate with councils, share information and prepare flood prevention plans. Any organisation that failed to co-operate would be penalised. See our response to the Environment Commission report.

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelD=702027>

Be aware, be prepared, take action



Adapting to climate change is one of the most important issues facing local government, and the time to act is right now. This guidance developed by the Local Government Association, the Environment Agency and UKCIP aims to signpost the tools and resources which local authorities can draw upon in developing their own climate resilience and adaptation strategies. Go to the 'Small change big difference' website

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelD=269299> for more details.

A climate for behaviour change



WWF has published a report looking at the tricky issue of promoting environmentally-friendly behaviour change. Weathercocks and Signposts reassesses current approaches to motivating environmentally-friendly behaviour change, and offers new thinking. The report can be downloaded at http://www.wwf.org.uk/core/ge_0000004945.asp.

Plant diversity and climate change



Botanic Gardens Conservation International has recently published an assessment of the impact of climate change on the world's plant diversity, and includes recommendations for action. It is available to download at http://www.bgci.org/files/Worldwide/climate_change.pdf.

C-Plan



The Energy Centre for Sustainable Communities has launched web based software for local authorities that can help them to demonstrate and verify compliance with targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As well as this the software – called C-Plan – can help to:

- Improve communication between planners and developers during the compliance process
- Simplify the process for planners to report on performance targets
- Assess new developments against clear carbon reduction criteria and the feasibility of sustainable energy design options

For an online demonstration go to www.carbonplanner.co.uk/for-localauthorities/for-localauthorities.html

Events

Eco-towns: Can we build truly sustainable new places?



10 June 2008, Local Government House

This is the first of a series of debates hosted by the LGA as part of the Putting People First campaigns. These will highlight some of the key challenges facing the country, both today and in the future. The debates will provide the opportunity for members and stakeholders to engage with key influencers, including ministers and parliamentarians, academics and journalists. Speakers include Caroline Flint, minister for housing (invited); David Adam, Guardian environment correspondent; and Mairi Johnson, CABI's director of enabling.

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelId=659867>

EAS web event – Low Emission Zones – Which flavour do you fancy?



11 June 2008, 11am – 12.30pm

LEZs are one of the most effective measures that can be taken at a city-level towards meeting the air quality objectives. Well over 70 cities and towns in eight countries around Europe have, or are preparing LEZs. Lucy Sadler, who runs a Europe-wide LEZ support network, will be online to answer any questions you might have on LEZs.

<http://www.eas.local.gov.uk/WebEvents.asp?id=SX9452-A7821B10>

Legislation – UK

Floods and Water Bill



The Environment Agency is to take the lead in providing a more co-ordinated response to all forms of flooding, under plans to deal with future floods. Until now the agency has been responsible for river flooding and, since 1 April, coastal floods. But under the Floods and Water Bill, it will have an overview role, with local authorities taking responsibility for surface water in their own communities. Under the plans, councils will be given the powers, if necessary, to ensure that landowners and organisations fulfil their obligations to maintain drains and tackle surface water flooding. Environment Minister, Phil Woolas has commented that “local authorities have a vital role to play and under the agency’s overview, they will be supported to take the lead on the ground”. The draft bill, which was announced in the draft legislative programme last month, is set to be put out to consultation next spring.

Legislation – EU

Update on the progress of legislative proposals published but not yet agreed

Proposal for a Decision on the effort of Member States to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to meet the Community’s greenhouse gas emissions reduction commitments up to 2020 (the so-called ‘Effort-Sharing’ Decision)



Description



This proposed Directive lays down the rules by which Member States will contribute to the EU’s ambition to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It only concerns emissions from sources not covered by the Emissions Trading Scheme, for example buildings, transport, agriculture and waste. Each Member State is given a target to achieve. The UK’s target is to achieve a 16% reduction on 2005 levels by 2020.

Update

This Decision is to be agreed between the European Parliament and the Member States. Awaiting EP first reading.

A proposal for a Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources



Description

The directive sets mandatory national targets for renewable energy in final energy consumption by 2020, to achieve the EU-wide target of 20% agreed by heads of state and government in 2007. The UK target has been set at 15%; its share in 2005 - the baseline year - was 1.3%, the lowest of all EU countries bar Malta and Luxembourg, which have minimal generation potential. The

directive requires countries to set national action plans detailing how they will reach their target. It standardises “guarantees of origin” (certifying the renewable origin of electricity or heat) and enables the transfer of these to provide flexibility to Member States. It requires countries to reduce administrative and regulatory barriers, improve the provision of information and training, and improve renewables’ access to the electricity grid. It also sets out a sustainability regime for biofuels.

Update

This proposed Directive must be agreed between the European Parliament and the Member States. Awaiting EP first reading.

A proposal for a Directive designed to amend the current EU ETS Directive so as to improve and extend the EU greenhouse gas (GHG) emission allowance trading system



Description

The Commission’s proposal for this revision of the existing Emissions Trading System proposes a number of changes which it hopes will provide more predictability to industry. These changes will apply for the period beyond 2012. Some of the key changes proposed include:

an EU-wide cap on the number of emission allowances instead of 27 national caps.

a number of new industries and sectors will be included in the ETS. They include CO₂ from emissions from petrochemicals, ammonia and aluminium;

two further gases (nitrous oxide and perfluorocarbons) are to be added (currently only CO₂)

Member States will be allowed to exclude small installations from the scope of the system, provided they are subject to equivalent emission reduction measures.

Update

This proposed Directive must now be agreed between the European Parliament and the Member States. Awaiting EP first reading.

A proposal for a Directive on the geological storage of carbon dioxide (CO₂)



Description

This Directive aims to ensure both that CO₂ storage in the EU is regulated but also that barriers in existing legislation to CO₂ storage are removed. It introduces the need for storage permits, details obligations relating to the operation, closure and post-closure of storage sites and suggest amendments which should be made to existing EU legislation in the light of this new Directive.

Update

This proposed Directive must now be agreed between the

European Parliament and the Member States. Awaiting EP first reading..

Directive on Industrial Emissions



Description

The European Commission has published a proposal for a Directive on industrial emissions. The proposal seeks to bring under one Directive, 7 existing Directives that deal with industrial emissions, including the IPPC Directive. The proposal also introduces some new aspects including:

extending the scope of the Directive to include amongst others combustion plants of between 20 and 50 MegaWatts, the production of wood-based panels and the preservation of wood introducing minimum provisions on environmental inspections of installations, the review of permit granting conditions, and reporting of compliance and soil protection.

Including incentives for the development and promotion of environmentally-friendly technologies.

Update

The proposal must be jointly agreed between the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament. Awaiting first reading.

Revised proposal for a Directive on the promotion of clean and energy efficient road transport vehicles



Description

This revised proposal requires (from 1st January 2012) the inclusion of operational lifetime costs of energy consumption, CO₂ emissions, and pollutant emissions as award criteria in the procurement of road transport vehicles by contracting bodies or as criteria for the purchase of such vehicles by operators under contract, licence, permit or authorisation granted by public authorities. The European Commission also sets out a methodology for calculating energy and environment costs as award criteria.

Update

This revised text must now be agreed by the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament.

Proposal for a Directive on the protection of the environment through criminal law



Description

This proposal aims to secure a minimum level of protection of the environment through obliging Member States to treat serious environmental infractions as criminal acts. The proposed Directive includes a list of 'offences' and also sets out the sanctions for those crimes.

Update

The European Parliament and Council have agreed on an amended text of the Directive, which must now be formally adopted. In light of a European Court of Justice ruling of October 2007, it now leaves to individual countries the type and level of sanctions to apply. Text agreed is available here: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2008-0215+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN#BKMD-4>

Consultations

Consultation on offshore wind (deadline: 20 June 2008)



In preparation for an action plan that it will draw up later in 2008, the European Commission has launched a consultation on the barriers to large-scale uptake of offshore and coastal water wind energy. The technology to build offshore wind farms is widely available, and the potential enormous, especially in the North Sea and Atlantic. Even so, their development has been lagging behind that of onshore developments. The Commission is seeking answers from stakeholders on the barriers and bottlenecks to offshore wind farms and grid connections, and how these should be addressed, especially at EU level. The consultation closes on 20 June. The action plan is due to be presented end October/early November 2008. Participate in the consultation at:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/consultation/offshore_wind_energy_en.htm

Consultation on Energy Performance of Buildings (deadline: 20 June 2008)



The Commission has opened a consultation on the recasting of the Energy Performance in Buildings Directive (2002/91/EC), to inform future development of policy in this area. The aim will be to close the gap between the potential energy savings of buildings and the realisation of these savings, which the directive has so far failed to do. (Energy use in buildings is responsible for around 40% of final energy consumption in the EU and the efficiency potential savings are estimated at 28% by 2020, translated to a reduction in overall energy use of 11%.) The online questionnaire is available here:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/demand/consultations/buildings_dir_en.htm

ICT for energy efficiency (deadline: 21 July 2008)



The European Commission has launched a public consultation to prepare work on measures to promote the use of ICT (Information and Communications Technologies) to improve energy efficiency throughout the economy, starting with buildings, lighting and the power grid. Find the public consultation document at: <http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=ICT4EE>

Funding Opportunities

Intelligent Energy Europe II



The 2008 call for proposals under IEE opened in March, with a deadline of 26 June 2008. IEE supports projects that seek to improve market conditions for renewable energy and energy efficiency by addressing 'soft' barriers to energy policy and implementation. It does not support technical R&D, hardware investment or demonstration projects. For more info, see the IEE website: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/index_en.html

Eco-Innovation



A call for proposals on eco-innovation was published on 21 April 2008 (deadline for applications: 11 September 2008). Designed to help business projects get off the ground, the Eco-Innovation 2008 call has the following priorities: materials recycling, buildings, food & drink, greening business and smart purchasing. €28 million worth of funding will be available covering up to 60% of eligible costs. See website: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/etap/ecoinnovation/index_en.htm

CONCERTO



A new call for proposals under the CONCERTO initiative has been launched, with an October deadline for submissions. Concerto supports community projects that aim for the sustainable and efficient self-supply of energy, with a strong pilot and research focus. See Concerto website: <http://concertoplus.eu/CMS/content/view/135/421/>

Other Info

New award for 'Greenest' City in Europe



The European Commission has launched an annual 'European Green Capital Award', to promote and reward best-practice in environmentally-friendly urban living. Cities with a population of 200,000 or more can apply via an online application form to win the award in 2010 or 2011, both of which awards will be judged according to 10 criteria later this year, and annually from there on. The deadline for the 2010 and 2011 applications is 1 October 2008. For more info, see <http://www.europeangreencapital.eu/>

Survey of public opinion on the environment



The results have been published of a European Commission public opinion survey (Eurobarometer) to measure the opinions, attitudes and behaviour of Europeans towards the environment. The survey was conducted in late 2007 and published in March 2008. Key findings include:

- 96% of Europeans say that protecting the environment is important for them personally.

- 78% would accept increased EU funding for environmental protection even if it came at the expense of other areas
- Europeans position the state of the environment (80%) almost on a par with economic factors (84%) as issues which influence their quality of life.
- However, they rarely see their consumption habits as an environmental concern and are not likely to take actions that are directly related to their lifestyles and consumption habits such as using their cars less or purchasing green products (17% both).

A 40-page summary of the special EUROBAROMETER 295 "Attitudes of European citizens towards the environment", is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/barometer/pdf/summary2008_environment_en.pdf

Commission Launches Energy-Efficient Driving Campaign



Leaflets for drivers with tips on how to save fuel, reduce CO₂ emissions and responsible driving will be distributed at petrol stations in 29 European countries as part of a campaign organized by the EC and petroleum industry federation Europaia.

<http://www.savemorethanfuel.eu/>

EU CO₂ emissions up in 2007



News that CO₂ emissions from businesses participating in the EU emissions trading scheme rose 0.67% in 2007 compared to 2006 has reinforced the European Commission's resolve to set stricter emissions controls for the scheme's 2008-12 trading period. UK emissions rose nearly 5.5 million tonnes in a year, a rise of over 2%, placing it among the four worst offenders in Europe. See Commission press release and figures:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/787&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>