





















November 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					

Further Information on UKCIP08 Delay



In response to questions about the reasons behind the delay to UKCIP08, Defra, the Met Office and UKCIP are providing further information. Please go to:

http://www.ukcip.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=569

for more details. Given the delay in finalising the projections, Defra has decided to use this extra time to conduct further review of the project in addition to that already completed. The exact launch date will not be known until this process is completed but we will send more information on this when it becomes available; probably in early 2009 when the review results are known.

Climate change impacts on cider-making



The National Association of Cider Makers (NACM) has launched a report on the impact of climate change on the cider industry. The report, 'A Changing Climate for Cider' was developed with the support of UKCIP. The NACM took a 30-year view of the potential impacts on orchards, production and the market place. Challenges for the industry may include: summer drought leading to tree stress, leaf drop, smaller fruit size and poor quality juice, and prolonged wet winters giving rise to root loss. To obtain a copy of the report, contact the Nick Bradstock on nickbrads@btinternet.com.

Adaptation actions for the home



The Welsh Assembly Government has produced a guide for householders, describing how home improvements can help to mitigate and adapt to climate change. It includes popular home improvements (e.g. building an extension) and how to incorporate measures to reduce energy consumption and prepare for a changing climate. An English language version can be downloaded via the links at <http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/planning/policy/guidance/ccguide/?lang=en>.

Historic environment plays vital role in tackling climate change



The historic environment can play a vital role in tackling climate change, according to heritage organisations. In particular, the sensitive re-use of historic buildings is crucial if the UK is to meet the new tougher target of cutting 80% of all carbon emissions by 2050.

At the launch of *Heritage Counts 2008*, the annual report of the historic environment, heritage organisations called on the Government and local authorities to recognise that the historic environment is part of the solution to tackling climate change and that its share of carbon emissions can be reduced by sensitive improvements. Statistics shows that houses in England built before 1919 account for approximately 5% of all the country's carbon emissions. (Extract)

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.14852>

Heritage Counts 2008 is the seventh annual survey of the state of England's historic environment. This year's report includes a focus on the challenges facing the historic environment as a result of climate change. Alongside this national report, a suite of regional reports provides further detail on the state of the historic environment in each of the nine government office regions. *Heritage Counts* is prepared by English Heritage on behalf of the Historic Environment Review Executive Committee and the Regional Historic Environment Forums and all the components, can be viewed on-line at www.heritagecounts.org.uk (Extract from the Introduction)

Link to document

http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/hc/upload/pdf/HC08_National_Acc.pdf

Draft eco-towns PPS is "ill-advised"



The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) has launched a consultation on a [draft Planning Policy Statement \(PPS\) on eco-towns](#). The draft PPS defines:



- what constitutes an eco-town
- what environmental, social, and economic standards these developments should achieve and
- how eco-towns relate to the planning system.

The Local Government Association has said that [the PPS's approach is "ill advised" and may be unlawful](#) because it creates a bias towards the government's eco-towns scheme rather than a plan-led system of development control.

The closing date for the consultation is 19 February 2009.

One eco-town site 'suitable'



Only one of the 12 short-listed eco-town sites is currently suitable for development, the government has revealed.



Housing minister Margaret Beckett has announced a second round of formal consultation on the proposed locations and standards for the controversial developments, and a draft planning policy statement has been published.

The government wants to build 10 eco -towns by 2020, with five planned for 2016.

The LGA has warned that the government's approach to delivering the eco-towns may be unlawful. Lawyers representing the association said there are "sound grounds" for seeking judicial review of the plans and that promoting eco-towns via a new planning policy statement was contrary to the principle of development through plans drawn up by local authorities.

(Extract)

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelId=1181577>

Local strategic partnerships can't afford to ignore benefits of sustainable development



A new report published by the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) today, Tuesday 11 November, suggests that the new performance framework governing local authorities and their partners on local strategic partnerships (LSPs) reinforces the responsibility to deliver sustainable development to the point where it cannot be ignored.

It also highlights the potential and actual benefits gained by those local authorities and LSPs which are already adopting a sustainable development approach. These include saving money, improving the local economy, improved partnership working and more joined-up service delivery. (Extract)

<http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/presslist.php/87/local-strategic-partnerships-cant-afford-to-ignore-benefits-of-sustainable-development>

[Local Decision-Making, and Sustainable Development](#) is available to download, along with [11 good practice case studies](#).

LGA response to RCEP study on Adapting the UK to Climate Change



The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution (RCEP) is conducting a study on adapting the UK to Climate Change and has issued an invitation to submit formal written evidence in support of that study. The LGA welcomes the opportunity to comment on the study, our response covers the key issues expressed by our members, and therefore concentrates on the points most relevant to local authorities.

[LGA response to RCEP Adaptation study \(PDF, 10 pages, 114KB\)](#)

Japan assumes G8 leadership, pledges climate action



Japan has assumed the G8 presidency of advanced countries and declared her intention to give more leadership on climate change. The country will host the annual summit in July near Lake Toya in the north of the country.

Prime minister Yasuo Fukuda will focus on combating global warming, stabilising the world economy and dealing with nuclear proliferation. Environmental issues will be "a big agenda" item at the forthcoming summit, Mr Fukuda said in a new year message.

"Japan hopes to lead the worldwide discussions in order to hand over clean skies to our children."

January 1st marks the start of a five-year programme to cut greenhouse gas emissions for industrialised nations. Japan is obliged under the 1997 Kyoto protocol to cut emissions by six per cent from the 1990 level of 1.26 billion tonnes between 2008 and 2012.

But experts said emissions in the world's second-biggest economy after the US increased by over six per cent in fiscal 2006.

Japan is planning a global climate change summit before G8 leaders meet and has invited China, India, South Korea and Indonesia, according to news agencies.

TUC offers advice on eco-workplace



The Trade Unions Congress (TUC) has set out new advice on how workers can cut carbon emissions in offices and factories.

The TUC said average workplaces produce ten times more CO2 emissions than homes. This is in addition to CO2 levels produced by driving to work. While energy consumption in homes has been cut by five per cent in the last year, it continues to grow in the nation's workplaces.

The union body is detailing how offices should recycle more, use video conferencing instead of travelling to meetings, and use more low energy bulbs. Other pro-environment measures include working at the right temperature and turning off lights and PC equipment at the end of the day.

TUC general secretary Brendan Barber said: "When it comes to tackling climate change, people tend to look towards international agreements or what they can do at home.

"But more than half of the UK's carbon emissions are produced at work or through work-related transport. There's a lot more we can all do to reduce our workplace's carbon footprint."

ETS second phase launched



The European Union on Wednesday [12 November] launched a new, more robust emissions trading scheme (ETS), which analysts said could lead to a significant increase in the per tonne price of carbon.



Prices could rise to 35 euros per tonne of carbon under the new regime, analysts said. Carbon emission trading was worth around 70 billion euros in 2007.

The EU commission is toughening up the ETS scheme after the first phase, launched in 2005, was roundly criticised for being too lax and inefficient, leading to a plethora of permits granted by member states to individual polluters.

A spokeswoman for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs said the new regime would lead to a more functional market.

The value of trading in carbon emissions across the planet could reach £50 billion this year, according to the International Emissions Trading Association (IETA).

The second phase of the scheme is set to run until 2012.

Local authorities encouraged to "utilize flexibility" of landfill scheme to meet waste diversion targets



The unique flexibility of England's Landfill Allowances and Trading Scheme (LATS) will help local authorities to meet EU landfill targets, despite the sudden fall in demand on the recyclable materials market.

A new Environment Agency report released today shows three years into the LATS scheme, England is already within the 2010 target of a 25% reduction (against 1995 levels) in biodegradable household waste going to landfill.

During 2007/08, local authorities had a target to landfill no more than 13.6 million tonnes of Biodegradable Municipal Waste (BMW). In fact they sent only 10.6M tonnes to landfill and all 121 local authorities in England stayed within their landfill allowance for 2007/08, with none liable for penalties. (Extract)

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/news/2156937>

1,500 flood-hit families to receive help with council tax bills



Floods Recovery Minister John Healey today [7 November] announced that 25 councils helping over 1,500 flood-hit families pay their council tax bills will share over £1.2 million Government funding.

While many of these families affected by last summer's floods are now back home, this step - in recognition of special circumstances - will help councils giving council tax discounts so families do not face bills for homes they could not live in. (Extract)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/localgovernment/1053825>

Energy efficient Victorian home wins eco-prize



A home which features energy efficient measures to help cut its carbon dioxide emissions by 80 per cent has won an environmental award. The Victorian Home of the Future in Camden won Inside Housing's award for buildings that have been refurbished or improved.

Work carried out for Camden Council and University College London, included installing a high degree of insulation and making the building draught proof. Many of the improvements focused on generating or keeping heat, since it is a major source of domestic energy use.

As well as the insulation, the building was fitted with solar thermal water heating panels, a heat recovery ventilation system and double glazing.

Councillor Chris Naylor, executive member for homes and housing strategy, told 24Dash: "The EcoHome is a pioneering project and is amongst only a handful of houses in the country that has been refurbished to achieve such high reductions in emissions – possibly the highest."

All new homes built from 2016 onward will have to meet 'zero-carbon' standards.

UK first to auction carbon



The Government today [19 November] held Europe's first carbon allowance auction in Phase II (2008 - 2012) of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS). Four million allowances were sold at a total value of £54m excluding VAT, or £13.60 per allowance, Euro/Sterling exchange rate 0.8428.

The EU ETS puts a cap on emissions from around 12,000 installations throughout the EU, including the energy and heavy industrial sectors. These sectors are collectively responsible for close to half of the EU's emissions of carbon dioxide.

Bid to cut UK transport emissions



UK transport emissions could be cut by a quarter by 2020 if the government shifted its policies, a report claims.

The Campaign for Better Transport study urges ministers to focus on the biggest possible savings - by tackling lorries, vans, and long-distance commuters. It also proposes an extra tax on air passengers, with proceeds redistributed among the entire population.

The government says it is moving freight off roads, and helping people make greener local travel choices. The report says that by 2020, the government could achieve emissions cuts of 26% on 2006 figures. (Extract) <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/7742917.stm>

Link to report:

http://www.bettertransport.org.uk/campaigns/climate_change/whats_needed

New development gives residents electricity



Residents of a new development will benefit from free electricity generated from the river that runs alongside their buildings.

The Chudleigh Mill project in Somerset has the capacity to generate 20 kilowatts using micro-hydropower to harness the power of the river Yeo.

According to developer TST properties, this is twice the amount of electricity needed to run the ten two-bedroom homes built into the mill and extension. For the first ten years residents will be given free electricity and thereafter will be expected to pay a fee to cover the cost of running the generator.

Geogg Grant of TST Properties told the Guardian: "We wanted to create properties that had lower running costs. People are concerned about rising prices - you just don't know how high bills will be in the next few years and the prospect of using renewable energy like this is appealing."

The development also has rainwater recycling tanks and the natural local materials used in its construction mean it has good thermal performance.

Greater south east England unites against expansion of Heathrow airport



Representatives of the London, South-East and East of England regional planning bodies today (21 November) released a joint statement that expresses their unified position on aviation and opposes further expansion of Heathrow airport.



At the Advisory Forum on Regional Planning, the Mayor of London and leading members of the South-East and East of England Assemblies agreed that airports are vital to the success of south east England's economy and development of the wider region. They unanimously accept that aviation will continue to grow in the greater south east.



But all regions are critical of Government policy, which they believe fails to set out and justify the balance that should be struck between the economic, social and environmental factors and agree Heathrow airport can't bear the weight of expansion proposed by the Government. (Extract)

http://www.london.gov.uk/view_press_release.jsp?releaseid=19798

Residents must carry on recycling



An action plan has been unveiled by the Local Government Association to help councils deal with the fall in the price of recycled materials caused by the global economic downturn.



The LGA has today [24 November] written to every council leader in the country to set out the key ways in which local authorities can tackle the problem caused by a dramatic fall in demand. While many councils have agreed fixed price contracts for recyclable materials with private companies and are not currently affected by the market prices, there are some whose recycling firms are now refusing to take recycled material because of the collapse in market prices. (Extract)

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelid=1227336>

Climate change: UK takes legal lead



The UK was set to make history last night [26 November] when the climate change bill received royal assent and brought into law the world's first legally binding targets for a nation to cut its greenhouse gas emissions.

This and future governments will be committed to cutting emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases by 80% by 2050. Progress towards this target will be laid out and monitored by a new independent climate change committee, which on Monday will recommend the first three five-year "budgets".

The committee will not be able to hold ministers to account if they miss the targets, but will make an annual report to parliament on progress towards the budgets. Other countries have announced similar or deeper emissions cuts, but none have committed themselves by law.

At the same time the energy bill, which includes measures to enable energy companies to pay "feed-in tariffs" to homeowners, community groups and businesses who export spare low-carbon energy to the national grid, was also approved.

Environment campaigners are angry, however, about elements of the planning bill, the third "green" bill on the schedule, which will set up a national committee to decide on big developments, leading to accusations that it will be used to push through big infrastructure schemes such as the expansion of Heathrow.

Energy



The recast of the 2002 Energy Performance of Buildings Directive was recently published. The European Commission is using the revision as an opportunity to simplify and clarify parts of the original Directive and to extend its scope. LGA is seeking views to inform its position on the potential implications for local government.

More information on the [LGA briefing](#).

Environment



New waste laws will have to take effect in the UK on 12 December 2010 after national governments reached agreement in the EU Council of Ministers to finally sign off the [revised Waste Framework Directive](#). The new law, which Member States will have two years to transpose, sets out recycling targets of 50% by 2020 which is in line with the domestic strategy.

Media news

More than half of councils 'spying' for suspected bin crimes



Seventy-seven of the 151 councils who responded to a Freedom of Information request admitted using the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) to crack down on "domestic waste, littering or fly-tipping offences" in the last three years. An LGA spokesman is quoted: 'The LGA has written to councils to say that surveillance should not be undertaken unless it is absolutely necessary and proportionate to the crime that's being investigated.'

Daily Mail p1 & p6, Telegraph p2 – 1 November

Recycling piles up as prices collapse



Thousands of tonnes of recycling waste collected from household bins may have to be stored in warehouses and former military bases to save them from being dumped after a collapse in prices. Collection companies and councils are running out of space to store recycling waste as prices are so low that the materials cannot be shifted.

Times p20 – 6 November

Council criticised over bin fine



A council has been criticised by magistrates for taking a householder to court for dumping rubbish after his bin fell over. Blackburn with Darwen Council issued a resident with a £60 fine.

Telegraph p8, Express p21, Sun p11 – 11 November

People don't trust councils to introduce pay as you throw



Almost half of all homes wouldn't trust councils to introduce a fair 'pay-as-you-throw' rubbish collection service, according to a survey by the BBC. The majority of people thought that they should be rewarded financially if they create less waste.

Telegraph p7 – 27 November