





















October 08 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					

Department of Energy and Climate Change established



The new Department of Energy and Climate Change was established on 3rd October bringing together activities previously residing within BERR and DEFRA.

Ed Miliband, the new Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change said “I am looking forward to the responsibility of running the new Department of Energy and Climate Change and working with colleagues across government, including in particular Hilary Benn, who has led Britain’s work on climate change with skill and dedication.

“The new department reflects the fact that energy policy and climate change are directly linked.”

More details, including the department’s ministerial appointments and latest news can be found at www.decc.gov.uk

UK leads world with commitment to cut emissions by 80% by 2050



New Energy and Climate Change Secretary Ed Miliband has committed the UK to cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 80% on 1990 levels by 2050 as a major contribution to a global deal on climate change.

Other proposed amendments to the Climate Change Bill, which underwent its third reading in the Commons this month, include the addition of emissions on international aviation and shipping. Read Ed Miliband's first Commons statement as the new secretary of state at:- <http://nds.coi.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=381477&NewsAreaID=2>

Visit the new Nottingham Declaration Website



The Nottingham Declaration Partnership is delighted to announce the launch of their new website designed for:



- Councils that are thinking about signing the Nottingham Declaration
- Elected members who want to drive action on climate change
- Officers who are developing and implementing climate change plans
- Service managers who want to know how their services can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the impacts of climate change

Visit the new site at:- www.nottinghamdeclaration.org.uk

New research has revealed detailed breakdowns of local authorities' carbon footprints for the first time



The latest data released from the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) measures CO₂ emissions at district level, and categorises the amounts produced through different aspects of people's lifestyles including transport, housing, and consumption of food and other goods.

The information shows great variation between local authorities, namely a marked tendency for more affluent areas to produce higher emissions, and a north/south divide. Aside from some parts of London and the south east, areas of high 'carbon stress' are primarily in the south west and parts of Norfolk, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Essex, while the best performing areas are largely in the north east, north west and Wales.

Find out more at:-

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelid=1151798>

And view the footprint data at SEI's new REAP website:-

<http://www.resource-accounting.org.uk/>

New guidance on waste facilities



Local authorities, architects, planners and builders will be helped to produce high quality and locally appropriate waste facilities thanks to new expert guidance released on 28th October.

The new guidance, produced by Defra in partnership with the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE), is aimed at all bodies involved in developing and building waste facilities, offering various approaches to design.

Access the guide at:-

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/pdf/designing-waste-facilities-guide.pdf>

The Sustainable Communities Act



The *Sustainable Communities Act* is aimed at providing local communities more power over the decisions that are made for the environmental, economic or social sustainability of their area. The Act sets out a process, which in brief, involves:

- ideas being generated by the community to improve local sustainability, the ideas may involve the transfer of roles and/or functions from other organisations
- local authority bringing together a community panel of local representatives to try to reach agreement on the proposals to take forward
- the proposals being put forward by the local authority to central government through the LGA
- LGA shortlisting the proposals in its role as the "selector"
- Secretary of State deciding which of the shortlisted proposals should be implemented based on a consultation with the LGA.

On the 14 October the Secretary of State sent a formal invitation to local authorities to submit their proposals. Local authorities may have also been approached by the campaigners Unlock Democracy (who championed the Act through parliament) to "opt in" to the Act. There is no formal requirement for local authorities to send a proposal, but it is an opportunity to influence policy that affects your area. The deadline for proposals is **31 July 2009**. The timescale for when decisions will be made or when the invitation will be repeated has not yet been finalised.

Read the full LGiU Local Sustainability Briefing at:-

<http://www.lgiu.gov.uk/briefing-detail.jsp?id=1997&md=0§ion=briefing>

And further information in the LGA's "The Selector: News about the Sustainable Communities Act" Issue 2 October:-

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelId=1007116>

An energy generating democracy



In the current economic downturn, the LGA is urging government to press ahead with bold measures to tackle climate change. To act now makes economic sense - now is the time to offer people help with their energy bills and to help people cut their carbon emissions too.

Building on its proposals for a national insulation programme, the LGA is calling for radical action to enable people to generate their own energy and make older homes energy efficient. Councils have a key role to play. Read the publication at:-

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/publications/publication-display.do?id=1152161>

Survey of LAs' capacity to manage flood risks



The Pitt Report into the summer 2007 floods proposed that local authorities should lead on the management of local flood risk. To establish the current and future capacity and expertise of local authorities to undertake this lead role, the Local Government Association and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) are conducting a survey of all local authorities in England. An email with details of how to take part in this survey was sent to all Chief Executives in England on 23 October, with a request to pass the survey access details quickly to officers responsible for flood risk management. The deadline for responses is 7 November.

Climate change: projections show EU on track to meet Kyoto emission targets



The EU and most member states are on track to deliver on their Kyoto Protocol commitments for reducing or limiting emissions of greenhouse gases, the Commission's annual progress report on emissions shows. The latest projections from member states indicate that the EU-15 will achieve its 8% reduction target through a combination of policies and measures already taken, the purchase of emission credits from projects in third countries, and forestry activities that absorb carbon from the atmosphere. Additional measures under discussion in a number of member states would bring a further 3.3% reduction, enabling the EU-15 to do better than its target requires.

The progress report is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/gge_progress.htm

Building 50 local power plants in London 'would cut CO2'

Building up to 50 local electricity plants in London to decentralise the energy supply could cut the capital's [emissions](#) by 3.5 million tonnes, according to a report.



The study by London First recommends building power plants near users of energy such as housing estates, amenities and hospitals.



Moving these users 'off the grid' would reduce [energy waste](#), claims London First, as heat and electricity is lost along the miles of cables used to connect centralised power plants to consumers.

[http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/business/Resources/Daily-news/Renewable-energy2/Building-50-local-power-plants-in-London-would-cut-CO2/\(energysavingtrust\)/84244](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/business/Resources/Daily-news/Renewable-energy2/Building-50-local-power-plants-in-London-would-cut-CO2/(energysavingtrust)/84244)

Logging off

One council worker has come up with a way of saving his employer thousands of pounds a year – as well as cutting the council's carbon footprint



Peter Kear, an IT infrastructure planning analyst from Staffordshire county council has pioneered an IT program that scans all of the council's 7,500 computers and automatically switches off any that have been left on after the user has gone home for the night. The so-called 'patch management' program has cost the county council absolutely nothing and the technology is thought to be one of a kind.

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelId=1141452>

Riding out the storm



As storms, cold snaps and heat waves disrupt council services with ever greater frequency, Alison Shepherd looks at how councils can prepare for extreme weather; and Cllr David Lloyd, deputy leader of Hertfordshire county council, explains what can be done to combat climate change.

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelId=1080403>

Webcast - Developing low carbon economies - 10 October



At this recent conference, part of its "Small change, big difference" campaign, the LGA launched ground-breaking research on the impact of climate change on the local economy. Watch presentations and discussion from this conference at:-

<http://www.lga.ukcouncil.net/site/#pp18411>

Energy suppliers giving consumers a poor deal - LGA



Responding to Ofgem's investigation into energy price rises, Cllr Paul Bettison, Chairman of the Local Government Association Environment Board, said:

"Ofgem's report only shows what we already know - that the energy suppliers aren't giving consumers a good deal. Their solution of more red tape completely misses the point. The best way to cut everyone's energy bills year after year would be to insulate every home in the country.

"Energy suppliers have been passing on the costs of making homes more energy efficient to consumers – to the tune of £35 per household every year. They need to make the same contribution as hard working families. The Government has announced a £1 billion package to insulate more homes, and the suppliers must commit to meeting the costs."

Urban areas at risk from overheating



At the Tokyo Conference for Climate Change, representatives from the so-called C40 cities warned that crowded urban areas were particularly susceptible to the Planet's rising temperatures. The group of cities, whose members include Berlin, Beijing, Hong Kong, Johannesburg, London, Paris, Sao Paulo, New York and Toronto, pledged to fight climate change by taking measures ranging from promoting renewable energy to introducing new building regulations designed to reduce the consumption of natural resources including water.

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelId=1157232>

Events

the future risk of flooding: reflections on The Pitt Review – Places still available.



Date/Time: 18 November 2008 09:00 - 16:00
Venue: America Square Conference Centre, London

The flooding last summer was a timely reminder of just how vulnerable communities can be if the critical infrastructure that we rely on is compromised and how vital it is to ensure that plans are in place to minimise the negative impact of flooding, to inform and support local communities as well as to sustain business continuity.

The LGA is staging a one day conference, in London, at which Sir Michael Pitt will address the conference and set out the findings of the Pitt Review. The conference will also hear from central government on their response to the findings of the Review and also from local authorities and other key stakeholders

More details at: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/events/display-event.do?id=919753>

LGA/EST conference and exhibition 2009: in the eye of the storm: councils at the heart of tackling climate change



Date/Time: 21 January 2009 09:00 - 22 January 2009 - 15:40

Venue: Lowry Hotel, Manchester



Over the last year, many councils have demonstrated their commitment to tackling climate change by adopting targets through the new performance framework. The Local Government Association and Energy Saving Trust conference will focus on the opportunities and challenges in meeting those targets. Councils are uniquely placed to deliver change but cannot do it alone, so the conference will also look at mobilising communities and businesses to take action.

More details at: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/events/display-event.do?id=1063985>

'Communities Cutting the Cost of Carbon'



This year's CAfE conference "Communities Cutting the Cost of Carbon" takes place in Oxford on Tuesday 11 November. This event is free to all CAfE members. This year's national conference will bring together the country's most exciting community-based energy projects. It will provide opportunities to share your experiences develop your ideas and find out about support you can access.

More details at:-

<http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/business/Community-Action-for-Energy/How-we-help/Training-and-Events/Annual-Conference-Communities-Cutting-the-Cost-of-Carbon>

Media News

People power can beat climate change



If it becomes law, the UK's climate change legislation will be the toughest of its kind in the world, says Lord Puttnam. However, in this week's BBC Green Room, he says the government is still failing to make the most of an untapped resource - local communities.

Read more at:- <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/7693973.stm>

New electric fleets for councils



A new generation of electric fleets of vehicles for public sector organisations will be unveiled today by the Government. Around £20m will be made available to provide electric and low carbon vans to the police, councils and the Royal Mail.

Guardian p3 - 28th October

U-turn on street lighting



Residents in Powys, Wales, have forced the council to switch on street lights for fear of crime. The council said the lights had been turned off to cut energy bills and reduce pollution.

Daily Express p32 – 22nd October

Blueprint for greener homes



Ed Miliband, the new Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, is to draw up plans this week for tough new targets for cutting energy in the country's 26 million homes.

Independent on Sunday pp8&9 – 20th October

Lights switch off "puts lives at risk"



The AA is expected to warn today that switching off street lights to save money is putting lives at risk. The motoring organisation fears an increase in crashes and rise in crime. Dave Williamson from East Riding council's lighting department said: "The cost of energy has doubled over the last few years. Street lighting is a very efficient user of energy but the quantity of lights means that it costs nearly £900,000 every year to keep them lit."

Mail p24, [Telegraph p8](#) – 14th October

Wind farm bribery



The Campaign for the Protection of Rural England has said that wind farm developers are offering "goodwill" gestures such as paying for health clubs for pensioners and children's play parks in order to get planning approval.

Daily Telegraph p7, Daily Mail p4 – 8th October

Energy efficiency tests on public buildings



Around 18,000 buildings, including town halls, schools and job centres, are being tested on their energy efficiency. Those with the worst ratings so far include the Palace of Westminster and Bank of England, while the Jobcentre Plus building in Goole on Humberside is one of the best. [Guardian p11](#) – 2nd October

Dustbin rules a shambles



WRAP, the government's waste experts, yesterday said that households are confused about recycling and bin collections. It said that councils shouldn't fine residents and instead should make waste collection and recycling user-friendly.

Daily Express p11 - 2nd October

Find the right street bin for your rubbish



Throwing your litter into the wrong street bin will risk an on-the-spot fine and criminal conviction, ministers said yesterday. Town halls have been given the power to hand out punishments for misuse of public recycling bins. An LGA spokesperson is quoted: "Councils will not be fining people left, right and centre for putting their rubbish in the wrong bin. The aim is to encourage people to recycle more but if people are too worried about being fined for making a mistake, they will be more

likely to just drop their rubbish on the street, which is the last thing councils want.”

Mail p37 – 1st October