





















September 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					

Delay to launch of UKCIP08 announced



30 September 2008

Defra, Met Office Hadley Centre and UK Climate Impacts Programme have taken a decision to delay the launch of the UK 21st Century Climate Change Projections (2008) project (UKCIP08). This decision has been taken based on information provided by the Met Office Hadley Centre which needs more time to consolidate the climate projections. The Met Office is using ground-breaking science to produce the new climate projections – combining information from the widest possible range of global climate models. This complex process requires further analysis which will unfortunately take more time than initially expected. The projections are now likely to be published in Spring 2009. Further information will be available as soon as possible.

Climate change and water



Ofwat (the Water Services Regulation Authority), has launched its policy statement on climate change and the water sector. The policy addresses both adaptation to unavoidable climate change and the need for the sector to contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. 'Preparing for the future – Ofwat's climate change policy statement' is available at:

[http://www.ofwat.gov.uk/aptrix/ofwat/publish.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/pap_pos_climatechange.pdf/\\$FILE/pap_pos_climatechange.pdf](http://www.ofwat.gov.uk/aptrix/ofwat/publish.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/pap_pos_climatechange.pdf/$FILE/pap_pos_climatechange.pdf)

YouTube, climate change and risk management



A US science teacher takes 10 minutes to explain how taking a risk-based approach to climate change might just save the planet. In a hat.

Go to http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mF_anaVcCXg.

National Risk Register



The Cabinet Office has published its national risk register. While the threat of an influenza pandemic remains top of the list of risks, climate change related risks (flooding, heat waves) also feature. More information is at http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/reports/national_risk_register.aspx

National Trust says some coastline will succumb to rising sea levels



Rising sea levels will change the face of Britain's coastline, with some famous landmarks under threat, the National Trust has said. Coastal defences in some spots are expensive to maintain, can have knock-on effects for other parts of the coastline and have a limited lifespan. The Trust says that coastal change is inevitable.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/aug/24/angeredhabitatconservation1>

London launches draft adaptation strategy



The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, has launched London's draft adaptation strategy for consultation. This draft strategy identifies the key risks to London and prioritises the actions necessary to manage those risks. For links to copies of the summary and also the full report, go to

<http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/publications/2008/08/climate-change-adapt-strat.jsp>.

The accompanying news release is at http://www.london.gov.uk/view_press_release.jsp?releaseid=18576.

Energy firm's payouts boost LGA campaign



New research showing that energy suppliers increased their dividend payments to shareholders by £257m in a year has 'torpedoed' the companies' claim that they cannot afford to contribute to the nation's insulations costs, according to council leaders.

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageld=988440>

Switch off, switched on 2



This report looks at ways to help householders manage rising fuel costs, address the rise in fuel poverty and cut carbon emissions.



<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/publications/publication-display.do?id=971070>

The Selector: News about the Sustainable Communities Act



September 2008: This is the first issue of our Selector newsletter about the implementation of the Sustainable Communities Act.

The Sustainable Communities Act 2007 will be implemented from October 2008 onwards. In October, the Secretary of State will invite local authorities to make proposals under the Act. Councils will in turn be discussing ideas and proposals that come forward from organisations and individuals within their local communities. The Local Government Association will be acting as the Selector body under the Act, assessing and short-listing proposals in discussion with the Secretary of State.

The newsletter explains the LGA's current thinking on how the Act will work in practice, including the Selector role.

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

Small Change, Big Difference Campaign – Letters sent to all council chief execs



In August the leaders of the Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat and Independent Groups at the LGA wrote collectively to the Leaders of every council in England and Wales in a call to action for councils to join the LGA campaign for a national home insulation scheme. The LGA believes that the announcement made by the Government on 11 September which echoed part of this campaign was a step in the right direction and will help families deal with the rising cost of domestic fuel through a solution which will cut their energy bills year on year. The announcement by the Government makes it clear that these plans cannot be delivered without local authorities, however we must now ensure that energy suppliers do not pass on the costs to the consumer, as the average household is already contributing £33 a year extra to their bill towards energy efficiency schemes. [Find out more about the campaign](#)

LGiU Local Sustainability Briefing

<http://www.lgiu.gov.uk/briefing-detail.jsp?&id=1964&md=0§ion=briefing>

Flooding



Local Government Flood Forum

In summer 2007 unprecedented rainfall across England led to major flooding in several urban areas. There have been a number of reviews since this flood event, notably the [Pitt Review](#), which suggest ways of improving the preparation, response and recovery to major flooding of this kind. The Local Government Flood Forum is intended to be the grass roots voice of local government, it will be working to ensure that the Draft Floods and Water Bill due in Spring 2009 gives local government a fair deal. The LGFF was launched on July 14 in Gloucestershire and an invite has been sent to all local authorities to take part in this medium task and finish group. The first event will be held on 14 October at the LGiU's London offices, if you have any queries contact andy.johnston@lgiu.org.uk

Towards a new National Flood Emergency Framework

Defra have published an outline of a framework for national flood emergencies. The aim of the National Flood Emergency Framework (NFEF) is to provide a framework for future emergency planning and response policy. In the interim report from the Pitt Review there was concern that flood risk planning was currently fragmented. An NFEF should provide a national strategic approach that would bridge this gap. It should be the

foundation for a co-ordinated response to flooding by bringing together information, guidance and key policies that will be a resource for all involved in emergency planning at national, regional and local levels. The draft Framework should be published for consultation by the end of 2008.

Planning and Regeneration



[Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for town centres \(PPS6\) - consultation](#)

PPS6 continues the government's planning theme of 'town centres first'. This consultation proposes changes to planning policy that should further strengthen town centre development and protecting high streets and small shops. The 'sequential test' that requires the most central town centre sites to be developed first is maintained, but the 'need test', which has led to some perverse outcomes, has been removed. Instead there will be a more detailed 'impact test'. This test will require councils to examine a number of factors when considering new developments such as retail diversity, consumer spending, loss of trade or the impact on town centre investment.

[Councillors guide to creating public spaces](#)

This guide provides a series of themes and relevant case studies to show how the new powers and responsibilities for councillors in the Local Government White Paper 2006 and Empowerment White Paper 2008 can be used to create quality public places. Each case study provides advice for councillors about the actions they can take themselves and in influencing others to shape public spaces. The thread through all of this seems to be to embrace innovation.

[Low Carbon Development Guide for Planners and Councillors in the East of England](#)



Although this guide has a regional focus it usefully signposts ways the planning system can be used to reduce carbon emissions. There have been a number of changes to both planning policy and climate change policy, which are summarised with examples of how planning officers, councillors and developers can work together to deliver national and local targets.

Reducing Carbon Emissions



[Greening UK cities' buildings](#)

This report by the All Party Urban Development Group aims to shift the focus on reducing buildings carbon emissions from new build to existing buildings. Commercial property is responsible for 17% of the UK's CO2 emissions and will be a significant factor in local authority performance indicators on per capita carbon emission (NI 186). The Group's report identified an overly

bureaucratic approach to policy by the government as part of the problem. To that end the recommendations focus on streamlining the policy framework, including the 160 different bodies that are involved in delivering the green agenda and introduce one single measurement framework for energy use in commercial buildings, so that businesses can compare one building with another. There is also a need for simpler advice on how to reduce energy use; how to make easy savings; and tighter building regulations.

[Cutting through the green tape: the powers councils have to tackle climate change](#)

The LGA has published a report outlining the existing powers that local authorities could be using to tackle climate change. They argue that although the raft of environmental legislation can be confusing, local authorities could make more effective and diligent use of their existing powers. The guide outlines some of the most significant legislation and gives examples of how it has been used. For instance, Watford Borough Council used wellbeing powers to initiate a scheme with Powergen Retail Ltd to provide substantial discounts for loft and wall insulation in all properties in Watford. Not all of the powers are included, but this is a good starting point for anyone looking to find a way of delivering an innovative climate change project.

[Climate Change Bill - amendments](#)

The Climate Change Bill, which sets out legally binding targets for the UK to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by at least 60 per cent by 2050, continues to make its way through parliament. The latest government amendment to the Bill adds a section on charges for single use plastic bags. Budget 2008 promised that if retailers did not voluntarily bring in charging for plastic bags then the government would have to set it in legislation. There have been some headline grabbing changes - Marks & Spencers started charging 5p per plastic bag earlier this year and have handed out 70 million fewer bags than in the same period in 2007. This legislation sets the powers in place for the government to introduce regulations for mandatory charges for plastic bags. Local authorities may want to think about how they work with local businesses to help them make the move voluntarily and find viable alternatives.

Sustainability Indicators



[Sustainability development indicators in your pocket](#)

Each year Defra publish an update on a range of indicators to show the country's progress in tackling key economic, social and environmental issues. They provide a useful guide to judge where change for the better or worse is occurring at the national, regional and local level. Of the indicators nationally just over half (53) show improvement, but 11 show a deterioration. Worryingly those that have deteriorated are central to the priorities of local authorities trying to tackle local sustainability, such as household waste

arisings; range of life expectancy between local authorities; walking and cycling; ozone pollution in urban areas; and households living in temporary accommodation.

Transport



[Gallagher Review into biofuels](#)

The Renewable Fuels Agency's Chair Ed Gallagher was tasked with reviewing the indirect effects of biofuels. There have been concerns that biofuels impact on food prices, causes increases in greenhouse gas emissions and harm biodiversity. The conclusions of the Gallagher review seems to support this view and recommend that the introduction of biofuels should be slowed until effective controls are in place. Nonetheless, there is still seen to be a future for biofuels in the right sustainable policy framework. Gallagher suggest targeting idle and marginal land and the use of wastes and residues to avoid indirect land use change and reduce competition with food.

In June the Renewable Fuels Agency publishes its [first monthly report](#) on the supply of biofuels under the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO). Biofuels accounted for 2.14% of UK road fuel against a target for the year of 2.5 %. They found that the market is dominated by imports and only 19% of biofuels met environmental standards, compared to a target for the year of 30%.

[Streets for all: case studies](#)

English Heritage have published a number of case studies to show how local authorities have improved streets to the benefit of the community - making them more accessible, safer and enhancing their historic character. For instance by removing unnecessary signs, poles, bollards, barriers and road markings businesses have reported better trade. There are ten practical worksheets that are aimed at providing detailed advice on different elements of streetscape management from traffic calming to reducing sign clutter.

Waste



[Waste Reduction Report: Science and Technology Committee](#)

This report brings together evidence and recommendations for the waste industry as a whole, suggesting changes in policy and practice for consumers, business, local authorities and government. Local authorities are seen to have both direct (recycling and collection) and indirect (business support) responsibilities for waste reduction. The Committee suggests that the lack of disposal facilities, fragmented approach across local authority boundaries and the emphasis on waste targets hinders

the attempts of business to reduce waste. While there is pressure on local authorities to co-ordinate their service, there is also pressure on Defra to except new approaches to waste reduction through fiscal incentives

DEFRA News

Local Authorities Take Up The Fight Against Climate Change



18 September



The Government today published statistics for the 2006 Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) emissions at Local Authority and Government Office Region level.



The figures represent all UK emissions allocated to Local Authority areas on an end-user basis, incorporating all business, household and transport emissions, so that they are distributed according to the location of energy consumption.

Up until now these statistics have been “experimental” but this is the first year that allows a meaningful year on year comparison of CO₂ emissions in local areas.

Local Authorities have risen to the challenge of climate change as demonstrated by the widespread commitment to include climate change targets in their Local Area Agreements (LAAs). Significantly, the majority of LAAs contain targets against National Indicator 186 on reducing per capita emissions of CO₂ in their areas, of between four and 15 per cent of the 2005 baseline.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2008/080918b.htm>

Forestry as a renewable energy source: Scoping project launched



17 September

Around £1.5 million of funding for a three year research project to examine the feasibility of short rotation forestry as a viable renewable energy source was announced today by Defra.

The project will establish a number of sites where intensive research will be carried out and operational-scale plots will be planted. The species will include both native and naturalised broadleaved trees along with other species with the potential to be used for biomass, such as eucalyptus.

The plots will be monitored to establish the environmental impacts and sustainability of short rotation forestry as a renewable energy source. Forestry Commission England will work closely with Defra to set up the project which will provide ongoing monitoring and scientific data on hydrology, carbon balance, economic viability,

biodiversity, and possible environmental risks such as the impact of the project on landscape and biodiversity

Monitoring and evaluation will also be linked to the results of short rotation forestry trials in Scotland which are currently being established

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2008/080917b.htm>

Helping councils clean up: Local Environment Quality Survey is complete



16 September

The final part of a two year survey that assesses the quality of the local environment across England has been published today.

The Extended Local Environment Quality Survey of England provides in-depth information for each local authority on their performance in managing key street-level environmental problems in their area, including litter, fly-posting and graffiti.

The survey was carried out to provide local authorities with the detailed information they need to target their resources effectively in tackling these issues

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/latest/2008/enviro-0916.htm>

Waste pilots – consultation on draft recycling service guidance



15 September

The Government is seeking further views on draft guidance for local authorities wishing to pilot schemes to cut household waste through financial incentives.

Defra consulted informally on six pieces of guidance in June this year, covering application and designation, technical issues, finance, coverage and disadvantaged groups, fly tipping prevention, and recycling service.

Further formal [consultation is now taking place on the recycling service guidance](#). This has a different legal status to the other guidance, since the legislation makes it a precondition that any authority running an incentive pilot has a “good recycling service” in place. The definition of a ‘good’ service proposed in the guidance applies only to the incentive pilots, and is not intended as a more general definition.

Comments and any queries should be sent to waste.incentives@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Updated versions of the guidance will be published once the Climate Change Bill has received Royal Assent.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2008/080915a.htm>

Save Money, Save Energy: Government takes action on family fuel bills



11 September

Households in the UK can now get help to save up to £300 every year on energy bills, thanks to new energy saving measures which form part of a £1 billion package announced by the Government today to help people cope with rising fuel prices.

The Home Energy Saving Programme provides assistance to householders to make their homes more energy efficient. For those most at risk of fuel poverty, including all pensioners, it will give help with their bills this winter through the winter fuel payments and lower energy company tariffs

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/latest/2008/climate-0911.htm>

Revised nitrate regulations and maps published



4 September

'Nitrate vulnerable zones' in England will be extended from 55% to around 70% under new regulations published by Defra.



From January 2009, farmers in NVZ's will have to step up action to cut the amount of nitrates from fertiliser and manures that get into rivers. The revised Action Programme will include restricting the times of year that fertiliser can be spread on land and storing excess manure.

Innovative technology which turns organic matter into biogas – a renewable source of energy and a transport fuel – could play an important part in helping farmers meet these new environmental rules.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/latest/2008/environ-0904.htm>

Action in the UK – Combined heat and power



2 September

Combined Heat and Power (CHP) is a fuel-efficient energy technology that, unlike conventional forms of power generation, puts to use the by-product heat that is normally wasted to the environment. CHP can increase the overall efficiency of fuel use to more than 75%, compared with around 50% from conventional electricity generation. Furthermore, because it often supplies electricity locally, CHP can also avoid transmission and distribution losses. CHP is an important element in the Government's new energy policy, as set down in the Energy White Paper. The bold ambition is to set the UK on the path to achieving a 60% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2050. The Strategy confirms the Government's belief that CHP has an important role to play in meeting the White Paper aims.

CHP Focus is a new Defra initiative to support the development of CHP in the UK. It consists of a website containing comprehensive

information on all aspects of CHP, whether users are new to CHP or looking for specific information. There is also free helpline support available on 0845 365 5153, where experts can provide guidance to those who require it.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/energy/chp/index.htm>

Funding

Funding for low carbon technologies: the Environmental Transformation Fund



The Environmental Transformation Fund (ETF) is a new initiative to bring forward the development of new low carbon energy and energy efficiency technologies in the UK. The fund formally began operation in April 2008, and is jointly administered by Defra and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR).

A [Strategy for the Environmental Transformation Fund](#) (PDF 655 KB), setting out how the fund will operate, was published on 12 September 2008.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/energy/fund/index.htm>

Events

Smith Square Debates – Autumn Season about to begin

Is a Nudge Enough? Can Climate Change be Tackled Without Government Intervention?



As part of the Putting People First Campaigns the LGA are hosting an Autumn series of Smith Square debates. As with the Summer series these events are free and 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. Each debate is expected to last 75 minutes and will be followed by a small reception. One such debate is:

Is a nudge enough? Can climate change be tackled without government intervention? 22 October from 6pm

If you would like to join us any of the events please email confs-organisation@lga.gov.uk detailing which debate you would like to attend. [Find out more about the debates](#)

Local Environment Skills Meeting



Local Environment Skills - Use this free web resource at a Breakfast Meeting at Manchester Town Hall - 14 November 2008 9.30 -11.30 a.m.

Localenvironmentskills.org is a new and exciting web resource that enables organisations to assess and improve their workforce. Its benefits include: skills improvement, the development of career paths and access to training, all of which contribute to increased efficiency and excellence in local environmental services. The IDeA would like to invite you to a free breakfast briefing to hear more about the benefits of this effective and easy-to-use tool. You will also have an opportunity to see a demonstration and sign up to use the resource in your organisation free of charge.

Who is it for?

Localenvironmentskills.org is for everyone working within the local environmental services. That is everyone from frontline staff to strategic directors working within street cleansing, environmental education and campaigning, enforcement, and all other roles associated with improving the quality of the local environment.

How to book a place

To reserve your free place email Lucy.Law@idea.gov.uk or to find out more, please contact Helen Sinclair-Ross, email:

Helen.Sinclair-Ross@idea.gov.uk telephone: 01249 463730.

To find out more about Local Environment Skills and to sign up, visit www.localenvironmentskills.org

Europa

High marks for EU energy policy



4 September 2008

International Energy Agency issues first report on EU energy policy, praising EU moves on climate change and energy market liberalisation. The [International Energy Agency](http://www.iea.org) (IEA) has largely endorsed the comprehensive package of energy measures put forward to meet the EU's ambitious targets on climate change. In its first review of EU energy policy, the agency praised the measures as a coherent approach to [energy and global warming](#). The measures will also reduce dependence on imports of gas and oil, and help shelter the economy from the effects of rising energy prices and uncertain supplies.

http://ec.europa.eu/news/energy/080904_1_en.htm

Commission and stakeholders discuss water scarcity and droughts at Zaragoza World Expo



Brussels 4 September 2008

At a one-day conference in Zaragoza stakeholders will discuss ways to use water more efficiently in the European Union. The conference follows the Communication on water scarcity and droughts presented by the European Commission in July 2007 and contributions will feed into the report the Commission is due to publish at the end of 2008 as a follow-up to its Communication. The report will tackle implementation and monitoring aspects of the policy options presented in the Communication.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/1291&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Climate Change: Strong public support for EU targets on climate change



Brussels 11 September 2008

Europeans are highly concerned about climate change and clearly willing to take action against it. A majority of Europeans believes that the European Union's targets for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and increasing the share of renewable energy by 2020 are about right or even too modest. However, a significant proportion of people feel poorly informed about climate change and ways to help fight it. These are the main conclusions of a special Eurobarometer survey of public attitudes about climate change commissioned by the European Parliament and the European Commission which was published today.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/1314&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

The full report is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm

Green Mobility



12 September 2008

Hundreds of towns and cities are closing some of their busiest streets to cars for one day to discourage people from driving.

Car-free day is part of a week-long EU campaign to promote more environmentally friendly forms of transport.

http://ec.europa.eu/news/transport/080912_1_en.htm

Environment Committee insists on 2012 target for reducing CO₂ from new cars



25 September 2008

The Environment Committee backed a target for emissions from passenger cars of 120g of carbon dioxide per kilometre from 2012 in a vote on Thursday. It also opted for a new long-term target of 95g CO₂/km for 2020. Committee MEPs rejected proposals for transitional measures for the car industry until 2015. From 2012, car manufacturers exceeding the targets will have to pay fines - "excess emissions premiums" - for every excess gram of CO₂.

The vote, based on a report drawn up by Guido Sacconi (PES, IT), concerned a draft regulation which sets emission performance standards for new passenger cars (the "M1" category) registered in the EU. These account for 12% of overall EU emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂), the main greenhouse gas, according to European Commission's figures. The new regulation is part of the EU's effort to reduce CO₂ emissions by 20% by 2020.

The Commission had proposed that the targets should only be applied to cars with a reference mass of less than 2 610 kg, but the Environment Committee voted to include heavier cars as well.

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/064-37756-269-09-39-911-20080922IPR37755-25-09-2008-2008-false/default_en.htm

LGA EI Updates

Climate Change



19 September 2008

The European Commission has published its [Eurobarometer survey](#) showing UK attitudes to climate change versus those in the EU as a whole. The survey found that 59% of people in the UK find climate change to be 'a very serious problem' against 75% EU wide.

Covenant of Mayors



19 September 2008

The Covenant of Mayors was launched by the European Commission as a local level response to global warming and energy efficiency. The ratification process is now open for those wishing to be in the first group of cities to join and formally adopt the Covenant. All information and documents are available here: [Covenant of Mayors](#)

Consultations

Consultation on the preparation of a report on requirements for a sustainability scheme for energy uses of biomass (deadline 30.09.2008)



This questionnaire seeks your views on key principles and criteria/indicators to be developed at EU level to ensure that the biomass for energy purposes comes from sustainable sources. The Commission has undertaken to report on such requirements by 2010 in its proposal for a Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (COM-2008-19)

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

Media

Tories to end fortnightly bin collections



27 September 2008



David Cameron will next week pledge to force councils to return to weekly bin collections and pay local authorities an extra £121million to do it. Mr Cameron is quoted as saying that Alternate Weekly Collections are 'a disaster when you have got an increase in flytipping all over the country.'



Mail p2, Express p11, Telegraph p1

Councils slammed by Tories for zero waste challenge



27 September 2008



Local authorities have devised a "council cook book" featuring such culinary delights as beans and egg on toast, lentil salad and home-made muesli, which can be made without buying anything in throwaway packaging. It has been produced as part of Zero Waste Challenge Week, in which four councils in the West Country are challenging residents to go for a seven days without producing any rubbish. Last night the Conservatives criticised the plans. Eric Pickles, the shadow local government secretary, said: "This is bureaucratic convenience, without any public benefit."



Telegraph p10

Eco Town Dwellers may be monitored for Green Habits



26 September 2008



Residents of planned eco towns in England could face strict monitoring of their travel habits, home insulation and even wasted food, measure the extent to which they are really living a 'green' lifestyle. Experts yesterday called on ministers to toughen environmental standards for the developments in order to ensure that people living in eco towns have a carbon footprint three times small than the British average.

Guardian p9

Councils Need to Push ahead with Incinerators



25 September 2008



Councils must push ahead with new incinerators to meet long-term targets to cut landfill and avoid landing taxpayers with millions of pounds of fines, the Audit Commission said today. LGA Environment Board chairman, Paul Bettison, is quoted: "Councils are pulling out the stops to deliver projects that will deal with waste. But the reality is the Government has hit the council taxpayer with a £1.5 billion bill over the next three years by going back on its undertaking to refund money raised through landfill tax to local authorities."

[Telegraph p1](#), FT p6, Times p4

Loopholes in insulation plans will mean millions lose out



22 September 2008

Doubt has been cast on the £1billion home insulation plan announced by Gordon Brown two weeks ago after it has emerged that many families facing fuel poverty will not be eligible for the scheme as, due to technicalities, their homes will be judged to already be "insulated" sufficiently. The majority of fuel-poor families in the UK reside in council-owned or housing association properties which have already technically been insulated through government schemes in the past 15 years.

[Times p14](#)

Waste Food Bins



18 September 2008



Every family will keep a bucket for left over food and scraps according to plans for the future of rubbish collections published by Government advisers yesterday. The idea moved a step closer after the recycling agency WRAP declared an initial trial a success. The pilot scheme found that those with fortnightly collections are more likely to be in favour of the new food waste collection but those with a weekly collection are less likely to use

the new food bin. Cllr Paul Bettison from the LGA is quoted: "Recycling food waste is not something that can be done on the cheap. Specialist equipment is required to collect and dispose of it, which can be very expensive."

[Mail p25](#), Guardian p12

Eco-Town Benefits Exaggerated



17 September 2008

The Government has admitted exaggerating the environmental benefits of a planned eco-town. In an advert for the project near Lichfield in Staffordshire, CLG claimed the development would be built on a brownfield site but later admitted most of the development would be on open countryside. The Advertising Standards Agency has upheld a complaint about the Government's claims.



[Independent p9](#)