





















August 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	

News

Ofgem unveils plans for £500 million Low Carbon Networks Fund



Energy regulator Ofgem is proposing a £500 million fund to support large-scale trials of advanced network technology, which it says could help the electricity network accommodate growth in micro-generation and electric vehicle use.

The proposal, announced today (August 3 2009), is for a Low Carbon Networks Fund worth £100 million a year as part of Ofgem's energy price control review for 2010 to 2015. This is now out for consultation with a decision at the end of the year.

This fund, said Ofgem, could lead to a "world where millions of householders producing electricity for home use and selling surplus output while more and more small wind farms and other renewable plant connect to the regional networks is in prospect."
(Extract)

http://newenergyfocus.com/do/ecco.py/view_item?listid=1&listcatid=32&listitemid=2879§ion

Climate change



The European Environment Agency (EEA) has called on European cities to do more on climate adaptation claiming that urban design and management must be reformed to enable cities to face up to climate impacts.

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/articles/cities-of-the-future-2013-how-will-european-cities-adapt-to-new-climate-conditions>

Energy knowledge network developed to drive innovation



A new network has been set up by the Technology Strategy Board to aid the development of innovative energy technologies in the UK with renewables at the forefront.

The network - which will be known as the Energy Generation and Supply Knowledge Transfer Network (KTN) - will act as a forum for energy stakeholders to network, form partnerships and focus on funding opportunities.

The KTN has been set up to help promote collaboration and sharing between developers as part of the Government's Low Carbon UK Transition Plan. (Extract)

http://newenergyfocus.com/do/ecco.py/view_item?listid=1&listcatid=32&listitemid=2881§ion=Bioenergy%20%26%20Waste%2CCarbon%2CElectricity%2CHeat%2CHydro%20%26%20Marine%2COn-site%20%26%20Micro%2CPolicy%2CSolar%2CWind

Green travel plan funding offered to schools



Twenty-three schools across Worcestershire have been granted funding to promote their uptake of green transport.

The schools have received grants of between £4,000 and £10,000 in order to boost cycling, walking and car-sharing programmes.

Made by the Department of Energy and Climate Change, the investments will support the development of on-site cycling facilities, racks and lockers. Their aim is to encourage children to become more environmentally conscious and help reduce vehicle carbon emissions. (Extract)

[http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Resources/Daily-news/Travel-Planning-Infrastructure/Green-travel-plan-funding-offered-to-schools/\(energysavingtrust\)/271113](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Resources/Daily-news/Travel-Planning-Infrastructure/Green-travel-plan-funding-offered-to-schools/(energysavingtrust)/271113)

Engage with workplaces to tackle climate change says union



UNISON, the UK's leading public sector trade union, is calling on employers in both the public and private sector to work with staff to cut carbon emissions. The call comes in the wake of a report showing that Whitehall departments were missing their carbon reduction targets, which could leave taxpayers liable to pick up the bill for heavy fines.

Full press release:

http://www.unison.org.uk/asppresspack/pressrelease_view.asp?id=1530

NI188 workshop outputs now online



UKCIP recently hosted a workshop in Birmingham to explore the next steps for making progress on the National Performance Indicator 188 (NI188 – Planning to Adapt to Climate Change). Over 30 participants shared their experience so far on this work. The workshop mainly examined the assessment criteria for level 2 of the Indicator, and there was also some discussion on the application of UKCP09 material for local authorities.

Thanks are due to all those who participated, and anyone who missed the workshop and would like more information can access the detailed presentation on the UKCIP website at:

http://www.ukcip.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=625&Itemid=9 .

A short report covering the main points of the day can also be accessed from the same page.

Scottish Climate Change Bill receives Royal Assent



The Scottish Climate Change Bill this week becomes enshrined in law as an Act of Parliament after being granted Royal Assent.

The Scottish Climate Change Act, which became law on August 6 2009, comes as part of the country's attempt to become a 'world-leader' in the global action to mitigate the effects of climate change and ties the Scottish Government to achieving an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. (Extract)

http://www.newenergyfocus.com/do/ecco.py/view_item?listid=1&listcatid=32&listitemid=2890§ion=

Green light for Cheshire waste fuelled power station



A new 95 Mega Watt power plant capable of turning 600,000 tonnes of waste each year into electricity and heat, to be built at Ince in Cheshire, was approved by the Government today [11 August].

The waste, which would have otherwise gone to landfill, will instead be used to generate electricity to power a new Resource Recovery Park. Excess electricity will also be exported to the National Grid.

The approval follows a public inquiry held into both the power plant and the Resource Recovery Park, which recommended that consent should be granted for the construction and operation of the plant and also that planning permission be given for the Resource Recovery Park. (Extract)

Full press release: <http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/pn091/pn091.aspx>

Northern Ireland adopts new planning policy for renewables



A new policy statement outlining Northern Ireland's plans to encourage the development of renewable energy projects in the country has been published by environment minister Edwin Poots.

The document unveiled yesterday (August 11), entitled Planning Policy Statement 18 (PPS18), explains Northern Ireland's attempts to develop renewable energy projects at "suitable locations" throughout the country.

The statement sets out the main considerations that the Department of Environment (DOE) will take into account in assessing proposals for renewable energy and heat generating facilities.

Full story:

http://newenergyfocus.com/do/ecco.py/view_item?listid=1&listcatid=32&listitemid=2910§ion=Policy

£16 million for local community flood protection



Local communities across England will benefit from £16 million funding to help them tackle surface water flooding, Environment Secretary Hilary Benn announced today [18 August].

£9.7 million has been awarded to 77 local authorities for areas where the evidence shows that the risk and potential impact of surface water flooding could be highest. Local authorities for all other areas will also be able to bid for a share of £5 million to help them deal with known local flooding problems.

Defra is also spending £1 million on making training, data and other tools available to help all local authorities manage flood risk.

Full press release: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2009/090818a.htm>

Next round of low carbon projects confirmed



Details of the successful schemes for the second round of funding from the Homes and Communities Agency's (HCA) low carbon infrastructure initiative, totalling £8.80m, were announced today.

The initiative, a partnership with the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and Communities and Local Government (CLG), will provide funding for schemes across the country to benefit from new and existing low carbon energy plants by creating the infrastructure needed to link them up.

Full press release: <http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/next-low-carbon-projects-confirmed>

Almost half of LSPs achieve NI 188 level 1 or better



The first results for national indicator NI 188 (planning to adapt to climate change) have been published on CLG's [Places Analysis Tool](#).

The majority of LSPs (76 or 51%) reported that at the end of March 2009 they were at level 0. Another 64 (43%) had reached level 1.

Special praise must go to the 8 LSPs that have reached level 2 - Bexley, Islington, Kingston-upon-Hull, Kirklees, Leicester, Middlesbrough, Staffordshire and Trafford.

Finally huge applause for Stockton-on-Tees which was the only LSP to report that it had achieved level 3.

You can download the results for all LSPs on our [NIs results](#) page.

[http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/nottingham/Nottingham-Declaration/Events-resources/News-Items/Almost-half-of-LSPs-achieve-NI-188-level-1-or-better/\(energysavingtrust\)/285729](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/nottingham/Nottingham-Declaration/Events-resources/News-Items/Almost-half-of-LSPs-achieve-NI-188-level-1-or-better/(energysavingtrust)/285729)

Publications

Energy Performance of Buildings - new proposals



The European Commission has proposed strengthening the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. CLG is consulting on the UK Government's response and has questioned some key proposals.

The Commission are proposing that the Directive should be implemented by 31 December 2010 where proposals affect the public sector and 31 January 2012 for other buildings. (Extract)

[http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/nottingham/Nottingham-Declaration/Resources-events/News-Items/Energy-Performance-of-Buildings-new-proposals/\(energysavingtrust\)/269210](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/nottingham/Nottingham-Declaration/Resources-events/News-Items/Energy-Performance-of-Buildings-new-proposals/(energysavingtrust)/269210)

To view the report go to the [CLG web page](#).

Energy security analysis welcomed



The UK is on track to meet the challenge of securing energy supplies both internationally and domestically, a new report commissioned by the Prime Minister Gordon Brown concluded today [5 August].

The report - 'Energy Security: a national challenge in a changing world' report - by the Prime Minister's Special Representative on International Energy, Rt. Hon. Malcolm Wicks MP complements the actions set out in the recently published UK Low Carbon Transition Plan. It finds that many of the actions being taken to reduce climate risk also need to be sustained to tackle energy security.

Full press release and link to report:

<http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/pn090/pn090.aspx>

Report highlights Government's poor progress on cutting carbon



An Environmental Audit Committee report published today [5 August] warns that the Government is not on track to meet targets for cutting its own emissions and could have to pay money to large private sector firms – who may have done more to reduce their emissions – in a new carbon trading scheme due to begin in April 2010.

- [Report: Greening Government](#)

- [Environmental Audit Committee](#)

The Committee's latest report on Greening Government also shows that the proportion of renewable energy used by Government departments has dropped in the last year.

The report welcomes improvements in some areas, such as on government road vehicles, where emissions have been cut by 10.3 per cent. But MPs are concerned that the Government is not doing enough to reduce energy use in its buildings – which account for the bulk of emissions – and will therefore fail to meet its target of a 12.5 per cent reduction in carbon dioxide by 2010/11. (Extract)

<http://news.parliament.uk/2009/08/report-highlights-governments-poor-progress-on-cutting-carbon/>

New guide on managing adaptation in organisations



The Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment has published its latest 'Practitioner' guide on 'Adapting to Climate Change: a guide to its management in organisations'. It has been written by Kay Johnstone, Alastair Brown and Mark Goldthorpe of UKCIP. The guide is free to IEMA members, or £15 to non-members. More information is at the IEMA website – www.iema.net.

Eco-towns - allocations from the eco-towns fund: Consultation



Published 17 August 2009
Closing date 25 September 2009

This consultation paper sets out proposals for local authorities and their delivery team partners on how the £60million announced to support locations identified with the potential for an eco-town published in the PPS on 16 July 2009 over the 2009-11 period might be allocated. It also includes guidance on the preparation of an Eco-town Programme of Development to support bids for funding.

Link to consultation:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/allocationfundecotowns>

Scottish Government seeks views on 25% energy from waste cap



Guidance on a proposed 25% cap on the amount of municipal waste which can be used to generate energy in Scotland by 2025 has been launched for consultation.

The Scottish Government yesterday (August 20) published a draft Zero Waste Plan in which it sets how it plans to realise its Zero Waste ambitions, and asks stakeholders for their views.

The Zero Waste Plan proposes that energy from waste should only be used after all efforts have been made to prevent waste, re-use materials and recycle. And, it says that any energy from waste facilities that are utilised should attempt to maximise environmental benefits, and increasingly look to take single stream, rather than mixed material. For instance, plants should look to take certain materials, such as wood over plastics, and endeavour to include heat recovery.

Full story and link to consultation document:

http://newenergyfocus.com/do/ecco.py/view_item?listid=1&listcatid=32&listitemid=2941§ion=Bioenergy%20%26%20Waste

Miliband takes action on queue to connect new power generation to the grid



New rules to revamp the way power plants get connected to the UK's power grid are proposed today by Energy and Climate Secretary Ed Miliband.

The shake-up will help new projects waiting to get a date to feed electricity into the grid to get out of the queue, and will in particular help renewable energy projects such as wind farms.

There is currently over 60 GW of new generation capacity – around 200 projects – that are waiting to be connected to the grid, including around 17 GW from renewable sources.

Full press release and link to consultation:

<http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/pn093/pn093.aspx>

Mayor sets out plan to protect London's water supplies in a changing climate



The average Londoner uses nearly 160 litres of water a day - saving just 10 per cent of this total, through easy measures, would fill an incredible 48 Olympic-sized swimming pools every day. With rising population, climate change and leaky Victorian pipes all

putting pressure on our supply, the Mayor of London has today set out his plans to ensure our water resources for generations to come.

The Mayor's draft water strategy outlines the many challenges that London faces: our population is expected to rise from 7.56m to 9.11 million by 2031, we face hotter summers due to climate change and our Victorian sewers overflow due to heavy rain, sending sewage gushing into the Thames up to 60 times each year.

Link to full press release and Mayor's draft water strategy:

http://www.london.gov.uk/view_press_release.jsp?releaseid=23418

Events

Dates for regional UKCP09 events announced.



The Projections in Practice (PiP) programme is a series of free events organised by Defra in partnership with the UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP), Government Offices, and sector stakeholders. The events aim to equip delegates to use the UK Climate Projections 09 to assess the risks and opportunities for their organisation from a changing climate.

The PiP programme is split into two strands: regional and national. There will be week long events in each English region targeted at local authorities and other organisations. For more information on the regional events see our [Events page](#).

For more information about the full programme visit Defra's [Projections in Practice](#) site.

[http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/nottingham/Nottingham-Declaration/Events-resources/News-Items/Dates-for-regional-UKCP09-events-announced/\(energysavingtrust\)/286229](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/nottingham/Nottingham-Declaration/Events-resources/News-Items/Dates-for-regional-UKCP09-events-announced/(energysavingtrust)/286229)

Research

Population transience: why cities fail to meet recycling targets?



The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) - funded project SUE-WASTE has undertaken a broad study of kerbside recycling performance in Portsmouth to understand why UK authorities are failing to meet their recycling targets. These failings predominantly arise in cities where medium and high density housing causes problems for collections that rely on householder segregation of waste. A recycling participation survey of 62,299 households was carried out in June–July 2005 and repeated in June–July 2007 in Portsmouth, one of the most densely populated

cities in Europe. For more information visit <http://www.suewaste.soton.ac.uk/> or contact Dr Ian Williams I.D.Williams@soton.ac.uk .

Improving social technologies for recycling



The EPSRC-funded project SUE-WASTE has undertaken a study of the recycling habits of two dense housing areas to investigate why these areas have particularly low recycling participation rates.

Although kerbside recycling participation rates have been well studied, little consideration has been paid to dense housing, especially high-rise estates, despite a generally poor recycling record in these areas. Dense housing estates often present infrastructural difficulties for recyclates storage and collections and as such a reduced service often results.

SUE-WASTE investigated two sites: an inner London estate and Portsmouth, one of the most densely populated cities in Europe. Both sites were found to have minimal storage space either within the home or in external private, communal or public areas. Both areas have high churn rates.

The researchers found that although new build offers the possibility for more carefully thought through integrated waste collections, this is not always being realized because of conflicting pressure to increase housing density in urban areas.

For more information on the improvement of waste collection procedures and infrastructural design for high- and low-rise dense housing visit <http://www.suewaste.soton.ac.uk/> or contact Dr Catherine Alexander c.alexander@gold.ac.uk

Industrial and social ecology of urban resource flows - energy footprint of waste management methods



The SUE-WASTE consortium has produced an energy footprinting model to compare different waste recycling and disposal techniques with respect to their energy use. A number of leading UK university groups were brought together to investigate problems of waste resource management in urban environments. For more information contact Professor Charles Banks at: c.j.banks@soton.ac.uk or visit: <http://www.suewaste.soton.ac.uk/>

Local Area Resource Analysis (LARA) and waste input–output model



SUE-WASTE has designed a tool that estimates household resource use and waste arising in small geographical areas. Local Area Resource Analysis (LARA) is a top down model of material and energy flows in households. It uses expenditure data from the national statistics and household data from the Census to model materials and energy consumption at a high level of socio-economic and geographical detail. For more information visit: <http://www.suewaste.soton.ac.uk/> or contact Angela Druckman at a.druckman@surrey.ac.uk

Media

More recycling is sent to incinerators



The amount of rubbish intended for recycling that is instead being burned by councils is rising, new figures have indicated. Data released this week by the Department for the Environment showed that as households have increased the amount they send for recycling, local authorities are burning more waste. The LGA estimates that 97 per cent of all recycling waste actually gets recycled.

Telegraph p6 – 8 August

Wales will ban free plastic bags



Wales is to become the first part of Britain to ban free carrier bags after deciding that efforts by supermarkets to cut waste have been ineffective.

Times p14 – 10 August