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www.claspinfo.org

CLASP is the sector-led public sector sustainability support programme, initially funded by the Environment Agency and NWIEP, and currently hosted by Climate UK.

WELCOME

Welcome to a short December bulletin from CLASP, highlighting key information, resources and developments from this last month.

We have exciting news about a new rural-focused SME resilience guide that we've just published with the Cumbrian local authorities. This is available for other areas to make use of too.

There is also the regular round-up of national news, data and resources including new statistics (and useful infographics) for UK energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, plus case studies and opportunities for charging grants and fully funded UN resilient city-partnerships.

CLASP events will continue in 2017, starting with a district heating technology focused event with our regular Scandinavian partner Nordic Heat.

So read on for:

HIGHLIGHTS

- Supporting Local SME Resilience – Guides and Workshops
- Local Plans - Criticised re Preparedness for Climate Change
- Statistics Update – New 2014 GHG Data and Updated 2015 Energy Consumption
- Low Carbon Transport – Workplace Grants
- District Heating Updates
- Retrofitting Traditionally Built Buildings for a Changing Climate
- Health and Greenspace Updates
- CLASP Events in 2017



SUPPORTING LOCAL RESILIENCE

Business Resilience Guide for SMEs Rural and Urban versions now available

CLASP's handy guide to climate resilience for small and medium sized businesses has been updated into two new versions in 2016. The latest is a rural-focused document produced for Cumbria, with all-new casestudies. You can download both versions here:

- [SMEs in Urban Areas](#) (focus on Liverpool City Region)
- [SMEs in Rural Areas](#) (a focus on Cumbria)

It is full of ideas and new examples of how businesses can make simple changes that can help them suffer less from problems, and recover quicker, particularly from flooding.

Both guides can also be downloaded from: <http://claspinfo.org/smeadapt>

CLASP is able to tailor this guide, at cost-price, to other individual local areas. This includes insertion of local case studies and contacts. It is available as a 30page A4 guide, or a smaller leaflet, or 2-sided checklist for mass mailing/distribution. For more information contact ailsa@claspinfo.org



SME Resilience Workshops

We are also still working with local authorities to deliver workshops for small groups of SMEs. These include an introduction to our changing climate, and the potential impacts on businesses. Delegates are then introduced to the Business Resilience Health Check tool which is a simple, yes/no high level risk audit:

<http://businessresiliencehealthcheck.co.uk>

Last week was 1 year on from Storm Desmond which caused immense damage to Cumbria and other areas. We worked with the Lake District National Park Authority and Eden Council to hold workshops in Keswick and Penrith with a range of local SMEs.

If you are interested in holding a workshop in your area please contact ailsa@claspinfo.org



LOCAL PLANS CRITICALLY UNPREPARED FOR CLIMATE CHANGE?

Research carried out by the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) has found that the majority of new local plans in England are failing to cut carbon emissions and to plan for the scale of severe weather predicted over future years.

The study, which examined the most recently prepared plans in England, found that 70% had no carbon reduction targets or any way of monitoring their progress with carbon reduction. While plans did reflect current flood risk, they were generally poor at dealing with future climate impacts such as sea level rise and increased surface water flooding. Only a fraction of plans had recognised the impacts of heat stress or linked climate change with human health. This is despite national policy having firm commitments on climate change.

The full report is available online: [Planning for the Climate Challenge? Understanding the performance of English Local Plans](#)

A summary is here: <https://www.tcpa.org.uk/news/critically-underprepared>

BREXIT & BEYOND

- Doubt has been cast on the Prime Minister's recent assurance that a Great Repeal Bill will transfer the body of EU law into UK law, leaving [environmental protection in doubt](#): the Wildfowl and Wetlands trust highlight the specific risks and gaps.
- The newly-formed Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Committee launched a new inquiry examining the implications of Brexit on the Britain's [energy sector and its national climate change commitments](#). The deadline for written submissions is 16th December.
- A coalition of major UK environmental NGOs are calling on all MPs to support a [Pledge for the Environment](#) in the wake of the EU Referendum. Check to see if your MP has signed up.

*These items are from North West Environment Link (NWEL) - a partnership of environmental voluntary sector organisations. Subscribe directly via: andyuille@gmail.com

UK Ratifies Paris Agreement

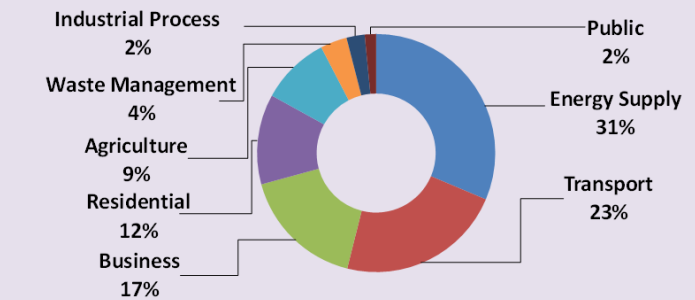
The Paris Agreement has now entered into force and has been ratified by the UK "as a sign of the continued commitment to climate action across the world" (BEIS). The Paris Agreement provides a framework for governments as well as business and investors to keep global warming below 2°C, and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C.

STATISTICS UPDATE

2014 UK Green House Gas Emissions Data Released

2014 GHG statistics have just been released, showing that emissions have decreased by 35% since 1990. CO₂ remains the dominant GHG emitted, accounting for 82% of emissions in 2014, and more than half of emissions in 2014 are from the Energy Supply and Transport sectors.

Total Emissions by Sector, 2014 (excluding LULUCF)



Source: UK GHG Inventory (UNFCCC coverage) (Ricardo, 2016)

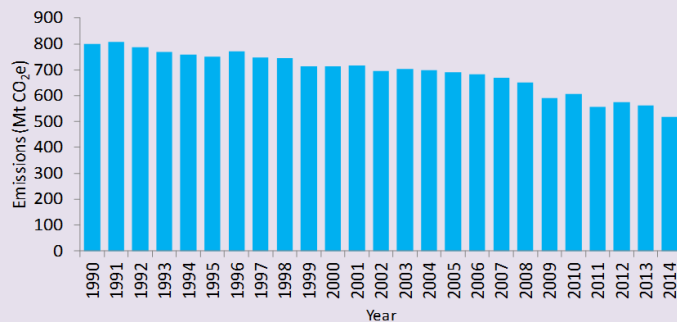
You can find summaries broken down by sector, with graphics that may be useful for your own work, at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-greenhouse-gas-inventory-summary-factsheets>

Total Net GHG Emissions, 1990-2014

Source: UK GHG Inventory (UNFCCC coverage) (Ricardo, 2016)

Note: Net emissions include all sources and sinks of GHGs but excludes impact of traded allowances.



Energy Consumption in the UK - Updated

'Energy Consumption in the United Kingdom' (ECUK) is an annual statistical publication from BEIS. An update has just been made to the 2015 report (originally released in July 2016) to improve on some data tables.

Overall trends remain unchanged by the update. Final energy consumption in 2015 was 2,291 ktoe (1.7 per cent) higher than in 2014, reflecting a lower mean temperature for the year. The majority of this increase was from natural gas, a key fuel in providing space heating and hot water. A decrease in coal consumption largely offset an increase in petroleum consumption. The domestic sector showed the biggest increase in both absolute and percentage terms; this sector is the most responsive to fluctuations in temperatures as a bigger proportion of household consumption is for space and water heating.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/energy-consumption-in-the-uk>

AUTUMN STATEMENT BOOST FOR LOW CARBON TRANSPORT

Announcements on low carbon transport were seen by many 'green' commentators as the best news in the budget. There will be £390m invested into low carbon cars, buses, fuels, navigation and charging points by 2020.

Workplace grants

The government will use £80 million of this fund to provide grants through the new Workplace Charging Scheme. Launched on 21st November, the voucher-based scheme offers companies (including many public sector organisations) up to £300 per charging socket installed, up to a maximum of 20 per site.

In addition to the grants, the government has also put a new tax break in place for companies installing chargepoints with immediate effect.

Find application forms and info at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-grants-for-low-emission-vehicles#workplace-charging-scheme>

DISTRICT HEATING

Can You Help? - Feasibility Frameworks

Martin Budd from Hull would like to know what existing Frameworks any other authorities have used to procure District Heating technical feasibility studies. He has used a HCA one previously but that no longer seems to be available, and those that are still available through the HCA don't cover the knowledge and skills required. Ideas and suggestions to Martin.Budd@hullcc.gov.uk Thanks!

Related to this -CLASP is currently supporting the development of DEPA – the District Energy Procurement Agency, which is being led by Manchester City Council. In the longer term DEPA's frameworks will be available for all authorities to access for District Heating services (feasibility, design etc) and hardware (pipes, HIUs etc), but they will not be available for use until 2017.

District Heating News in Focus

The latest information bulletin from the Vanguard District Heating Network (for LAs and housing associations) is freely available online at:

http://www.heatandthecity.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/216732/DEVN_41_-_November_2016_-_updated.pdf

RESILIENCE IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

City-To-City Learning Exchange Opportunities

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) are offering three fully-funded city-to-city learning exchange opportunities, with two local authorities taking part in each exchange. The aim is to build greater institutional and human capacity required to accelerate progress towards disaster resilience, and further information can be found at: <http://www.preventionweb.net/rcc/en/services/offer/50315>

Casestudy - Building Resilient Hospitals

Hurricane Katrina had devastating effects across the New Orleans area and beyond, taking many healthcare facilities out of action – some due to only a few feet of water – but often that water was in crucial locations such as basement generator rooms. In the New Orleans area, 7 of 16 hospitals with acute care centres remained closed two years after the storm.

Architects tasked with rebuilding the facilities were posed with the challenge: rebuild the hospitals so that in the event of a similar, or even stronger, storm, the buildings remain fully functional and self-sufficient for days on end.

An interesting case study is now online highlighting a potentially “disaster proof” hospital design that has been implemented on one key site. Read all about the project at: <https://www.fastcodesign.com/3065826/designing-a-disaster-proof-hospital>

Climate Change Adaptation for Traditional Buildings

Produced by Historic Environment Scotland, but the principles are relevant across the UK - This guide describes the key aspects of the external envelope of a traditional building that provide protection against the elements, and considers how these can be improved or adapted to increase a building’s resilience to extreme weather events. It also considers the internal environment within older buildings, and how this can be managed to cope with changing environmental conditions. This guide is aimed at homeowners, building professionals and landlords wishing to maintain and improve the buildings in their care.

See: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=16b9f744-1203-4119-bf0e-a6a3009de9f0>

Factsheet: Refitting Your Traditional Building To Cope Better With Flooding

An eight-page guide from Cumbria Action for Sustainability to help home or business owners to choose building materials and methods that will make a difference to getting their building back into use quickly if they are flooded in the future.

The practical tips also encourage changes that will improve the building’s energy efficiency.

See: <http://www.cafs.org.uk/resources/factsheet-refitting-home-cope-better-flooding/>



HEALTH & GREEN SPACES

NHS Sustainability Progress Mapped

The NHS Sustainable Development Unit have launched a new suite of interactive maps showing progress on sustainable development across the country. The maps show how the health and care system is performing across a range of areas including energy, water, waste, planning and reporting. You can compare regions' performance (both NHS and PHE) and see how things have changed over time.

The maps are online at: <http://www.sduhealth.org.uk/policy-strategy/reporting/interactive-maps.aspx>

Health and Greenspace Highlights

The following items are from North West Environment Link (NWEL) - a partnership of environmental voluntary sector organisations. Subscribe directly via: andyuille@gmail.com

- The Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology has published a briefing which summarises the evidence for [physical and mental health benefits](#) from contact with nature, and the challenges for urban green spaces.
- The Ecosystems Knowledge Network has updated their resource page on [linking health with the natural environment](#). It includes Natural England evidence briefings and a review for The Wildlife Trusts on 'wellbeing benefits from natural environments rich in wildlife'.
- In the North West the '[Natural Health Service](#)', coordinated by the Mersey Forest, is being made [ready for GPs](#) to prescribe to people who they think will benefit. There will be five different Natural Health Service treatments available for prescription – health walking, mindful contact with nature, Forest Schools, horticulture therapy and practical conservation.

LOTTERY SUPPORT FOR A FLOOD RESILIENT CUMBRIA!

The Big Lottery Fund has announced a £1 million package to help Cumbrian communities become more resilient. This comes in the wake of December 2015's devastating floods, and will help local people, communities and organisations to prepare for similar events in the future.

The 'Rebuilding Together' programme will take place over the next 3 years, led by Cumbria CVS and delivered in partnership with Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CAFS) and Action with Communities in Cumbria (ACT).

CLASP will be working with this project to deliver a range of information and training to local organisation and community groups, on planning for a resilient and energy efficient future.

More information will follow shortly and all training events will be advertised on the CLASP website and via our newsletter.

CLASP EVENTS

Meet the Technologies - District Heating Comfort and Control

Stoke-on-Trent

20th January 2017

The installation of what will over time become a district-wide heat network in Stoke-on-Trent will begin in 2017. By 2019 it is planned that some 40 km of pipes will have been installed annually distributing close to 50 GWh of heat to public, commercial and residential buildings in the southern parts of Stoke-on-Trent. Risk evaluations have been completed and financing has been secured for this first 3-year phase. Procurement will begin in 2017.

Nordic Heat and CLASP are supporting Stoke in their development of this network and are hosting a technology session on 20th January in Stoke.

This will focus on design practices and technologies for connecting buildings to heat networks and for controlling and administrating heat deliveries - securing maximal comfort and perceived value to end-users at a competitive cost.

Places at this session are available free to any public-sector organisations who are developing heat networks, and would like the opportunity to hear from and meet with Consultants and Suppliers of technologies and Services, Contractors, Investors.

Book your place via: https://de_tech_day.eventbrite.co.uk

OTHER EVENTS

Greater Manchester Natural Capital Group

Manchester

1st February 2017

Greater Manchester Natural Capital Group (formerly known as the Local Nature Partnership) are hosting a conference to discuss how we can understand the multiple benefits and opportunities which can be delivered from natural solutions. The conference will bring together leading practitioners from across the public, private and third sectors to consider 'What can Natural Capital do for our urban environments'. The Lowry, Salford Quays, Wednesday 1 February from 9.30-4.30pm. Please note that this event is free to attend and places are limited so early booking is advisable. . To reserve your place, book online at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/greater-manchester-natural-capital-group-annual-conference-tickets-28943222959>

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