

lowcarboncities



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The Low Carbon Cities Programme is co-managed by Carbon Trust and Energy Saving Trust

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Welcome to Issue 2

Welcome to Issue 2 of the LCCP newsletter. In this edition we provide a summary of the results from the State of Play audit, update you on progress in two of our Core Cities: Manchester and Bristol, provide details of updates to the LCCP website and carbon calculator, and announce the forthcoming LCCP conference on 22nd May 2008.

If you have any queries regarding the LCCP, visit the website at www.lowcarboncities.co.uk or email us at lccp@aeat.co.uk.

State of Play audit

To develop an understanding of the low carbon projects and initiatives that are taking place across the eight cities, a telephone-based audit was carried out. So far 26 interviews have taken place across the eight cities. The interviewees came from the NHS, Universities, regional government bodies, local government and the private sector.

The internal performance of the organisations interviewed was plotted on the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Matrix. So far the results for all of the cities

except Manchester have been plotted and all seven cities fell between three and four out of five on the matrix, indicating that climate change issues are being addressed and a reasonable amount of resource is being allocated to doing this.

Internal funding mechanisms varied greatly between the organisations, with some stating that there was no specific pot of money allocated to energy initiatives and bidding was required for each initiative. Some other organisations provided match funding for Salix schemes, which were the most cited form of external funding. However a number of interviewees highlighted the match-funding requirement of such schemes as a barrier to obtaining finance for projects. The time taken to apply for grants was also listed as a barrier.

A wide variety of in-house project examples were provided by interviewees. Overall building related projects and heating projects were the most popular, especially in Newcastle and Liverpool. Sheffield contacts favoured heating and renewable energy projects. Renewable energy projects were also popular with Leeds interviewees.

Unlike the internal projects, awareness-raising initiatives were most popular for engaging with communities, especially within organisations in Sheffield and Newcastle. Examples included Energy Efficiency Advice Centres, Community Warmth projects, open days for members of the public, and an environment themed fair.

Key problems encountered when planning and implementing projects included poor administration of grant programmes, low levels of understanding by local authorities on planning issues, energy being a low priority in the eyes of tenants/ occupiers of rented properties, the low cost of electricity, and technologies not meeting anticipated performance criteria.

For rejected projects the barriers included: long payback periods for renewable energy technologies, low political support, lack of available finance and a lack of awareness and interest in climate change issues by members of the public.

Further results from the audit will be available from the LCCP website in the near future.

Cities update - Manchester

NHS Contribution to the Low Carbon Cities Programme – April 2008

The NHS in Greater Manchester is already making a significant contribution to the objectives of LCCP. This contribution is essential because of the influence that the NHS has on the region's economy (10% of GDP), through its role as a major employer, the scale of its investment in estate and facilities, its impact on transport and as a procurer of goods and services. The NHS contribution to the LCCP is being undertaken through the leadership of the ten Greater Manchester Primary Care Trusts (PCT) as part of their existing participation in the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities' Environment and Health Commission and their commitment to the North West Climate Change Charter.

As part of the LCCP, PCTs and NHS Trusts in Greater Manchester are working, in the first instance, in four areas.

- 1) Sharing information on the comprehensive baseline assessment of Trust action using the Corporate Citizenship Self Assessment Toolkit which has been developed jointly by the NHS and Sustainability Commission. This assessment and any agreed action plans are part of the current NHS North West performance management arrangements.
- 2) Establishing mechanisms to roll out the lessons from the 6 Trusts involved in the NHS Carbon Management Programme to the wider NHS audience.
- 3) A series of interviews with key organisations across Greater Manchester health organisations including, for example, the Health Protection Agency and the Greater Manchester Procurement Hub.
- 4) Engage and build on the existing network of Greater Manchester sustainability/corporate citizen leads through workshop events.

Upcoming LCCP activities in other areas include:

- A dedicated climate change session hosted at the Quarterly Council of the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce.
- A climate change senior management away day to put in place the core design of a climate change agency and governance framework.
- Strategic priority and action mapping.
- A pilot of the LCCP toolkit.
- A major, high profile event featuring Chief Executives and Leaders from businesses, all authorities and public agencies to launch Manchester's 'mini – Stern' review and update key leaders on LCCP progress and outcomes.

Cities update – Bristol

In Bristol, face-to-face meetings have now been held with a range of public sector organisations in the city to discuss the state of play with regard to action to tackle climate change. Through the meetings and building on the workshop in January we now have some excellent examples of best practice, a good idea of where support is needed and a list of areas for further investigation for working in partnership.

To make this knowledge work for Bristol we will be running six 'pick and mix' workshop sessions to explore how organisations can benefit from working together to take forward action.

On the 30th April there will be sessions on:

- Green ICT.
- Energy Management.
- Communicating with the Public.

On 7th May the sessions are:

- Sustainable Procurement.
- Carbon Footprinting.
- Communicating with and Engaging Staff.

Each workshop session is designed to provide an introduction to the topic, allow participants to share experience, highlight good practice in Bristol and elsewhere and explore the benefits of joint working. Speakers will come from organisations including Connecting Bristol, Forum for the Future, Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE), Trades Union Congress (TUC) and the Combined Heat and Power Association (CHPA.).

In addition, the first meeting of the Steering Group has taken place and a commitment has been made to work across the city to deliver an effective carbon reduction plan led by the Bristol Partnership. To help ensure the plan is truly citywide, a network is being built, engaging a wide range of organisations including the Green Commuter Club, Business West, VOSCUR (Voluntary Organisations Standing Conference on Urban Regeneration) and other umbrella organisations.

Cities update – Leeds

Over 100 responses have been received following the consultation on the city-wide Leeds Climate Change strategy. All parts of the community (business, public sector, voluntary sector, individuals and environmental organisations) were engaged in the process and were largely very positive about the partnership approach and content of the strategy. In particular, there were calls to increase the 2050 target to an 80% reduction in CO₂ emissions and an overwhelming majority of organisations are keen to sign up to the climate change charter.

A number of suggestions are being incorporated into a revised strategy, particularly a more detailed action plan for each area, development of the transport, education & awareness and planning & development strategies, and assisting organisations with their carbon footprints

Alongside this consultation process, a number of themed workshops and strategic discussions helped to develop some positive steps towards both the strategy itself and a few key action points. In particular, the following short term actions which enjoyed a high degree of consensus are currently being pursued:

- a centre of excellence on providing trusted advice and solutions for Leeds stakeholders,
- an emerging energy managers group to share knowledge and experience in developing low carbon solutions for their estates and buildings;
- a club of public sector procurement officers to share contracts and specifications of sustainable energy equipment and other low carbon technologies; and
- an outline climate change communication plan drawing together consistent messages from a number of key 'communicators' across the city.

Further details will be provided within a summary report to be published by the Leeds Initiative in May 2008. The Leeds climate change strategy will be developed through the theme groups for a launch in Autumn 2008.

Toolkit and website update

The new LCCP website (www.lowcarboncities.co.uk) is being further developed to include a City Members area.

This will include:

- An updated version of the Carbon Trust Carbon Management toolkit to support the work of the Low Carbon Cities Programme.
- The new LCCP carbon calculator.
- A database of resources for Cities to draw on, including case studies and links to other tools for decision-making.
- A forum for teams across the Core Cities to discuss issues.
- LCCP outputs – the State of Play Audit, carbon footprint data and Carbon Reduction Plans.

Carbon Calculator

The LCCP Carbon Calculator has been disseminated to the teams in Bristol, Leeds and Manchester to obtain feedback. The calculator is based very closely on the tool developed for the new National Indicator 185 (CO₂ reduction from local authority operations).

The LCCP calculator requires detailed energy use and transport activity data to be collected across an organisation. The intention is that baselines should be assembled for each participating organisation, each of whom can then report to an overall city-wide co-ordinator to allow an overall picture to be developed.

The key difference between this new tool and the NI 185 tool is the additional facility to extract data from the calculator and upload this to the LCCP website for aggregation of data to city level. This will allow the tracking of emissions and savings across the participating organisations in the city and to compare these emissions with the full carbon footprint of the City. This latter data is available from the local authority level statistics published by Defra (<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/globalatmo/galocalghg.htm>).

Low Carbon Cities Conference

Supporting the development of citywide carbon reduction strategies.

Thursday 22nd May 2008
The ICC, Birmingham

To celebrate progress made to date within the Low Carbon Cities Programme, we are hosting a high profile event to share good practice between all eight of the core cities. A Minister has been invited to address the opening plenary (details to be confirmed). As well as overviews from the Carbon Trust and Energy Saving Trust, each of the three cities will update delegates on their experiences of the programme, and there will be opportunities to find out and discuss how you can work with your city partners to move closer towards the low carbon goal. Senior representatives from a wide range of stakeholders from each of the eight core cities have been invited to attend this event, including City Councils, the Local Strategic Partnership, Universities, the Health Sector, Housing Associations, Businesses and Voluntary Sectors.

The Low Carbon Cities Conference has been timed to coincide with the second leg of the 'Sustainable UK Cities tour' - a UK Business Council for Sustainable Energy initiatives supported by Shell. This series of events aims to bring together business leaders, local government, and the community to help identify emerging priorities to tackle climate change, and explore the partnership opportunities that will be needed to deliver a low carbon economy.

A programme for the event is available to download from the LCCP website.

