



SEPN NEWSLETTER MARCH 2007

Welcome to the March 2007 SEPN newsletter. Recent developments include:

Publication of the draft Climate Change Bill

The Government's blueprint for tackling climate change was published on 13 March.

The draft Climate Change Bill, the first of its kind in any country, and accompanying strategy, set out a framework for moving the UK to a low-carbon economy, demonstrating the UK's leadership as progress continues towards establishing a post-2012 global emissions agreement.

Key points of the draft bill include:

A series of clear targets for reducing carbon dioxide emissions - including making the UK's targets for a 60 per cent reduction by 2050 and a 26 to 32 per cent reduction by 2020 legally binding.

A new system of legally binding five year "carbon budgets", set at least 15 years ahead, to provide clarity on the UK's pathway towards its key targets and increase the certainty that businesses and individuals need to invest in low-carbon technologies.

A new statutory body, the Committee on Climate Change, to provide independent expert advice and guidance to Government on achieving its targets and staying within its carbon budgets.

New powers to enable the Government to more easily implement policies to cut emissions.

A new system of annual open and transparent reporting to Parliament. The Committee on Climate Change will provide an independent progress report to which the Government must respond. This will ensure the Government is held to account every year on its progress towards each five year carbon budget and the 2020 and 2050 targets.

A requirement for Government to report at least every five years on current and predicted impacts of climate change and on its proposals and policy for adapting to climate change.

The draft bill will be subject to a full public consultation alongside pre-legislative scrutiny in Parliament.

[Defra website: Draft Climate Change Bill](#)

Budget

The budget, announced on 21 March, includes the following green measures:

a competition to develop the UK's first full-scale demonstration of carbon capture and storage, the result of which will be announced next year; [see

item below]

an increase in fuel duty rates of 2 pence per litre (ppl) from 1 October 2007, and increases in the next two years of 2ppl and 1.84ppl respectively;

announcing car vehicle excise duty rates for the next three years, including rates for the most polluting cars rising to £400 and rates for clean cars in band B falling to £35;

a review to examine the vehicle and fuel technologies which over the next 25 years could help 'decarbonise' road transport;

a package of measures to support biofuels including extending the 20 pence per litre biofuels duty differential to 2009-10;

a rise in climate change levy rates from 1 April 2008 in line with current inflation;

that from 1 October 2007 all new zero-carbon homes costing up to £500,000 will pay no stamp duty, with zero-carbon homes costing in excess of £500,000 receiving a reduction in their stamp duty bill of £15,000;

an intention that, by the end of the next decade, all householders will have been offered help to introduce energy efficient measures with the aim that, where practicably possible, all homes will have achieved their cost-effective energy efficiency potential;

increasing funds available through the Low Carbon Buildings Programme to a total of over £18 million to help meet the demand from households for microgeneration technologies; [see item below] and

a £800 million international window for the Environmental Transformation Fund to finance overseas development projects that deliver both poverty reduction and environmental benefits in developing countries. Deforestation accounts for 18% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

[HM Treasury website: Budget 2007](#)

Carbon Capture and Storage Demonstration Plant

The UK could be the birthplace of the world's first full scale Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) demonstration plant, as announced in the Budget on 21 March.

More detail about the competition will be announced in the Energy White Paper in May and the result will follow next year.

Carbon Capture and Storage is a process by which the carbon in fossil fuels is captured either pre-combustion or post-combustion and committed to long-term storage in geological formations such as depleted North Sea oil and gas fields.

The UK Government is already at the centre of efforts at home and internationally to build understanding of the potential of CCS and to remove barriers to its development:

The Stern Review estimates that CCS has the potential to contribute up to 20% of global CO₂ mitigation by 2050. Furthermore, the Stern report

estimates that to achieve stabilisation at 550ppm without CCS will increase costs by more than 60%.

[Press Release](#)

Increased funds for the Low Carbon Buildings Programme

A 50% increase in funding for householders to install small scale renewables such as micro wind turbines and solar panels was announced in the Budget on 21 March.

It will take the total available under the Low Carbon Building Programme to more than £18million. At the same time the scheme is to be re-shaped to make best use of the extra funding. Proposals will be brought forward in May.

DTI Ministers will be meeting with industry to discuss how best to operate the new scheme and will announce the way forward in May.

[Press Release](#)

The Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership (LowCVP) launches 'Cars NOT Carbon' greener motoring marketing competition

On March 5 The Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership launched the Cars NOT Carbon marketing challenge to promote greener motoring, including 'smarter driving' and greener transport choices. The competition is designed to engage marketers, students and industry stakeholders in the production of compelling creative concepts based on 'real world' cars and fuels and on greener travel behaviour. The winning work will be viewed by senior industry executives from the motor, fuels and related industries and will be showcased at the LowCVP's annual conference on June 28th.

With nearly a quarter of all the UK's carbon emissions being produced by road transport and with the prospect of new European regulation for low carbon cars and vans, as well as UK proposals for a biofuels obligation, there is strong pressure on car and van makers and fuel suppliers to respond to the low carbon agenda. The Cars NOT Carbon competition is an opportunity to develop appropriate communication strategies.

[Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership: Cars NOT Carbon website](#)
[Press Release](#)

Sustainable Development UK Annual Conference 2007 Global Challenges - Local Change

This year's conference will take place on Thursday 5th July 2007 at the QEII Conference Centre in Westminster. The target audience will be all directors, senior delivery chiefs and project managers in the public sector, including:

Chief Executives and Directors, Advisors on Energy, Environment, Sustainability, Transport Climate Change Advisors Environmental (Policy) Directors/Officers Estates and Facilities Directors/Managers Procurement Directors/Managers Sustainable Development Directors/Managers Waste Management Directors/Managers.

The theme of this year's event is 'Global Challenges - Local Change'. Confirmed speakers are: Sir David King, the Government Chief Scientist; Justin Rowlatt, BBC Newsnight (conference chair); Matthew Farrow, Head

of Environment, CBI; Cllr Michael Edwards, Nottingham City Council, and Richard Ellis, Chair, East of England Development Agency (EEDA).

[SDUK Annual Conference website](#)

Finally

If there is anything you would like to see mentioned in the SEPN newsletter, please:

[Contact us](#)

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