

Comisiwn Cymru ar y Newid yn yr Hinsawdd Climate Change Commission for Wales

Commission members' update, December 2011

Introduction

This paper provides an update from Commission members to highlights key areas of work or forthcoming events.

The Chair of the Climate Change Commission and the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development will provide an oral update at the meeting on 8 December also.

The Carbon Trust (represented by **Mike Batt**)

Delivering Carbon Savings Now

Business

- Carbon reduction (energy efficiency and generation) projects with many businesses including Axiom, Waldon, Court Coleman Manor, Castel Oak, Glatfelter, AB InBev, SWALEC Stadium, Admiral Group, Atlantic Enviroparks Ltd;
- Supporting biomass energy from waste and heat network project with Potters in Welshpool. Assessing heat load demand for potential recipients of heat;
- Developing 3-year support plan with Visit Wales for tourist sector;
- Developing awareness training packages for Tata's "Sustaining our Future" initiative at Port Talbot focussing on compressed air, VSD's, steam and motors;
- Delivering energy management training and on-going project support to GE;

Public Sector

- Local authority carbon management review ongoing. All 22 authorities have received 1 to 1 interviews, regional workshops planned for January / February;
- Proposals submitted for a NHS Wales carbon management review. This will be delivered in partnership with NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership;
- Energy efficiency / generation projects with many public sector organisations including National Library of Wales, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg LHB, Aneurin Bevan LHB, Vale of Glamorgan Council and Caerphilly Council;
- Working with Ceredigion Council and the Welsh Government to utilise excess heat from the new biomass energy centre for adjacent public sector buildings;

- Providing technical support to Mon a Menai regeneration;
- Started Carbon Management project with Swansea Local Service Board - 'a low carbon Swansea initiative'.

Third Sector

- Working with Gwynedd LSB to provide support to the voluntary sector;
- Working with Gwynedd Council to provide support to provide advice on Climate Change issues to communities.

Carbon Future

- Commercial advice provided and a R&D grant offered to Ecotech Energy Systems to develop rapid, energy saving battery chargers for the electric fork lift industry;
- Planning permission granted for 2 x 2.5MW turbines at Pen y Fan industrial Estate. Build due to start late 2012, local businesses able to buy electricity;
- In partnership with Bangor University, held a workshop aimed at SMEs, start-ups and spin outs focusing on understanding the investment and financing process.

Information Sharing / Collaboration

- Range of events throughout Wales including carbon footprinting, carbon effective lighting, making a financial case, renewable energy and voltage management / building controls for consultants and Carbon Trust annual conference;
- Workshops for SMEs delivered at Torfaen Council sustainability week and Caerphilly Council business breakfast;
- Published new case studies including Celsa, Cardiff;
- Working with the Welsh Government to raise the profile of decentralized energy as an efficient and economically viable low carbon solution;
- Presented the findings of the Hwyl Dda LHB new build design advice project at NHS Wales SSP conference.

Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA)

(represented by **Graham Benfield / Jess McQuade**)

- The Third Sector Climate Change Leadership Group inputted into the Climate Change Commission's Annual Report. Extending membership to have representation from across the third sector. Working with the Third Sector Partnership Council to include climate change in its work programme.
- Information Sheets on climate change action for the third sector. These will include impacts on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.

- -Member of the Living Wales Reference Group and working Welsh Government to support community engagement.
- -In partnership with the Welsh Government, holding events across Wales in January on the Sustainable Development Bill and the Natural Environment Framework. The key audience is non environmental organisations.
- -Inputted into Welsh Government's workshop on developing the business case for the third sector to take action climate change action
- Facilitated the Third Sector Partnership Scheme bi annual meeting between the Minister and third sector network representatives in October.
- Continue to play an active role on the advisory panel of the Welsh Government's Pathfinder project.
- -Supporting Environment Wales and Wales for Africa work programmes and grants

Wales Environment Link (WEL) (represented by Peter Jones)

National Trust

The National Trust in Wales has reduced its energy use across a range of properties by 46% in the last year. Measures undertaken in the last three years to achieve this outcome have included:

- Heating insulation of farms, domestic homes, mansions and castles.
- Installation of renewable energy systems, including heat pump systems, biomass heating systems, solar thermal and PV systems, hydropower systems and one wind power system.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

The RSPB published in November 2011 the following report:

Meeting Europe's Renewable Energy Targets in Harmony with Nature. The report addresses the challenge of protecting the natural environment whilst enabling the deployment of renewable technologies across the EU 'at the scale and pace required'. Examples in Spain are noted of where wind farm developments without environmental assessments have caused harm to bird and bat species.

The RSPB has also launched its 'Stepping Up for Nature' campaign, which addresses how the EU target for halting the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services by 2020 can be met, with addressing climate change impacts one of the key considerations.

Along with others, RSPB Cymru has supported the Stop Climate Chaos Cymru campaign asks for the Durban global inter-governmental conference:

- A second commitment period beyond 2012 for the Kyoto Protocol.
- A new legally binding global emissions reduction agreement, informed by the science, to be introduced in 2015.
- Progress leading to the introduction of a full REDD+ mechanism to limit the future destruction of tropical forests.
- Action to close the land use and forestry carbon accounting loopholes.

Jointly with WWF and Natural England, the RSPB hosted a one-day conference at the Royal Society in London on the theme:

Climate Change: Biodiversity and People on the Front Line

Professor Bob Watson noted in his presentation that global emissions in 2010 had risen by nearly 6% from the 2009 level and were running at 45% above the UNFCCC baseline year of 1990.

World Wildlife Fund for Nature

WWF published in November 2011 the following report:

Positive Energy: how renewable electricity can transform the UK by 2030.

The report seeks to answer the question: 'Can the UK achieve a secure, sustainable and decarbonised power sector by 2030 by shifting away from polluting fossil fuels and nuclear power to an energy efficient system built around clean and inexhaustible renewable energy?'. The report suggests that the UK can meet >60% of its electricity needs by 2030 from renewable sources, with the balance made up by decarbonised natural gas and supply inter-connection with the rest of the EU.

UK Committee on Climate Change (UKCCC)

(represented by **Laura McNaught**)

- 7th December: The Committee's bioenergy review, considering the role of bioenergy in carbon budgets, will be published on 7th December. The full report will be available on the CCC website on the 7th.
- 24th November: The Adaptation Sub-Committee published its first report to Scotland. This report provides an independent assessment of Scotland's preparedness for climate change, based on the ASC's 'preparedness ladder'. The aim of the report is to help inform the development of Scotland's first statutory Adaptation Programme and to provide a baseline to measure future progress. Available from:
<http://www.theccc.org.uk/reports/adaptation/asc-scotland>
- 3rd November: The Committee's review of shipping was published. This report sets out analysis on what UK shipping emissions out to 2050 could be, recommendations on how emissions might be apportioned to the UK, and on whether the UK might include shipping emissions in carbon budgets and the

2050 climate change target. Available from:

<http://www.theccc.org.uk/reports/review-of-uk-shipping-emissions>

- 2nd November: The Committee wrote to Northern Ireland's Environment Minister in response to a request for advice on the appropriateness of a Northern Ireland Climate Change Act or legislation to provide for legally binding targets.

The report considers the current emissions profile in Northern Ireland and recent trends, the existing legislative and policy framework and opportunities and challenges in reducing emissions. It concludes that legislation could be helpful in driving the emissions reductions in Northern Ireland.

The letter and report are available at:

<http://www.theccc.org.uk/reports/appropriateness-of-a-northern-ireland-climate-change-act>

Environment Agency Wales(EA)

(represented by Chris Mills)

1. CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme

The first Performance League Table (PLT) was published on the 8th November 2011. The first rankings are based entirely on the **Early Action Metric (EAM)**. The EAM is calculated from two measures:

- The percentage of a participants' electricity and gas supply that is measured through smart meters (automatic meter reading devices - or AMRs). AMR systems allow for better real time energy monitoring and management, reduces staff time in taking readings at remote sites and results in accurate billing by our energy suppliers.
- How much of the organisation is covered by carbon management certification (Carbon Trust Standard certification of equivalent) for 'good energy management'.

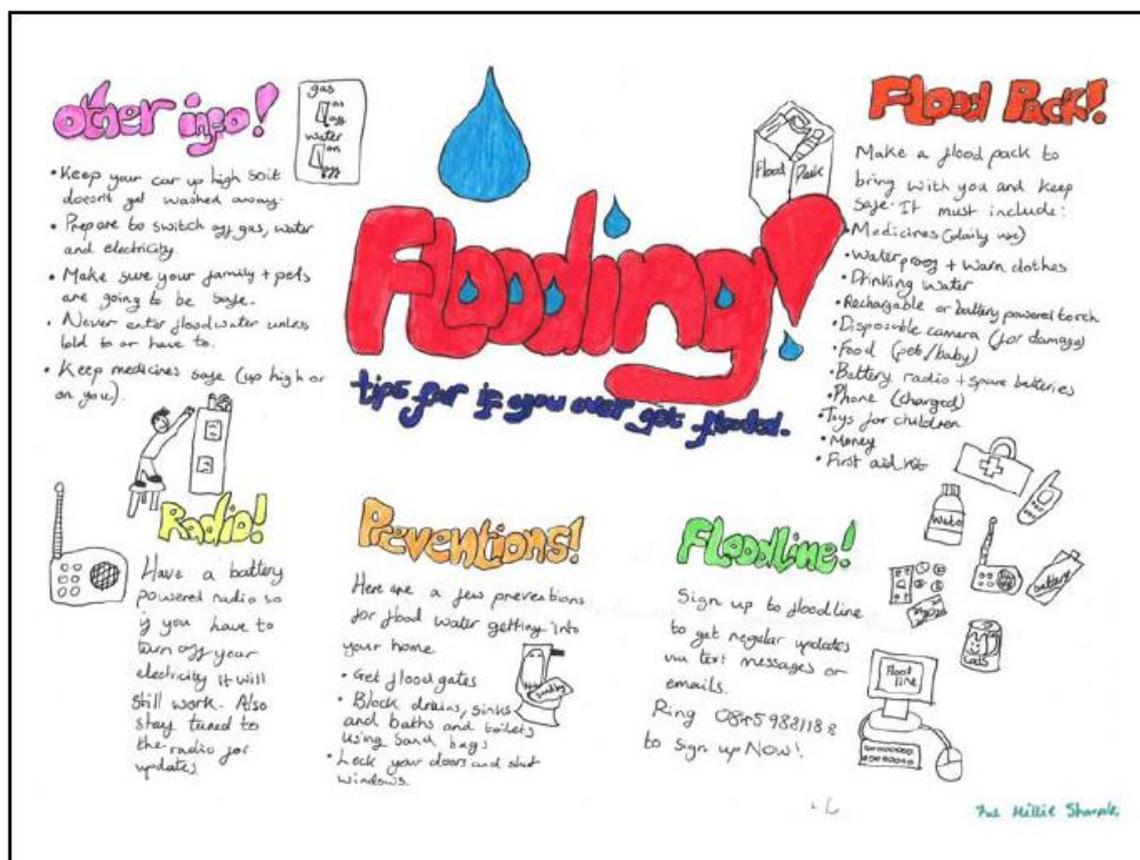
In future years rankings will be based on changes in emissions (**Absolute Emissions Metric**) and energy intensity (**Growth Metric**) and will better differentiate between the performance of organisations:

- **Absolute Emissions Metric:** The annual percentage change in CRC emissions.
- **Growth Metric:** The percentage change in CRC emissions per unit turnover (private sector) or revenue expenditure (public sector).

All relevant Welsh organisations have complied with the scheme. Sixty-one appear in the PLT, including all local authorities except Ceredigion, Gwynedd, Anglesey and Merthyr Tydil.

2. Flood Awareness Wales

The Flood Awareness Wales programme aims to increase awareness of personal flood risk, whilst creating more 'resilient' self supporting communities who know what to do and where to seek help in the event of a flood. Part of this programme involves raising flood awareness through education at both the primary and secondary school levels. This is likely to be very effective in promoting practical approaches, both in the classroom and through take-home messages. As an example, the poster below was prepared by a group of primary school children involved in the project.



We have worked with Welsh Government, teaching experts and local authority representatives to develop a range of educational materials, which have been placed on the National Grid for Learning Cymru (NGfLC). We held a follow-up session with these stakeholders on 9 November 2011 to discuss further methods of promotion and evaluation.

3. Shale Gas Fracking

The use of hydraulic fracturing (or “fracking”) to extract gas from shale deposits has generated high political, media and public interest nationally and internationally. The Environment Agency’s key role is in preventing pollution of surface and ground waters, to protect the environment and drinking water. We are also a consultee in the planning process and provide advice to local planning authorities on individual applications.

We provided the Vale of Glamorgan Council with our considerations on a planning application to drill a single exploratory borehole at Llandow Industrial Estate. We also gave evidence to the Vale of Glamorgan’s Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee, which met on 17 October 2011 to discuss, and better understand, the generic issue of shale gas exploration and extraction prior to a decision on the planning application.

We have also provided responses to a UK Parliamentary Question on how we might approach fracking in areas of redundant mine workings in South Wales, and to the House of Commons Energy and Climate Change Select Committee in relation to the planning application at Llandow.

The Tyndall Centre has invited us to work with them to investigate the implications of fracking.

Transport Remit (represented by Dr Lorraine Whitmarsh)

- Cardiff University is hosting an Electric Vehicle (EV) Summit with ENEVATE and BRASS next year.

The Summit will be on the 27th June (in Cardiff, venue tbc) with a workshop on the 28th. The First Minister has agreed to give the opening address. More details will be available in the New Year.

- Researchers from Cardiff University (Wouter Poortinga, Lorraine Whitmarsh) are leading a WG-funded research project to examine the impact of the carrier bag charge on behaviour. This will include taking own bags to shops, but also a range of other waste and environmental behaviour to explore the potential for ‘behavioural spillover’.

- A UKERC-funded project on Smart Grid Scenarios started in October 2011, with Cardiff University a lead partner. The project aims to advance understanding of SG deployment and utilisation through a programme of novel empirical research, developing and evaluating a number of socio-technical scenarios. Further details: <http://www.smartgridscenarios.org.uk/>

Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) (Represented by Clive Walmsley)

- Following a successful initiation meeting between CCW, WG and other key stakeholders, work is now underway to produce detailed guidance to ensure that the Natural Environment Framework maximises opportunity for climate

change adaptation. Guidance is being drafted, building on the WG adaptation guidance, the BAP adaptation principles and a green infrastructure approach.

- The Cambrian Mountains Adaptive Landscapes project which explored how landscape-scale biodiversity adaptation might be planned and delivered in the context of other ecosystem services, has been greeted with enthusiasm by funders - Defra. The work is now being used as the basis for a desk-top study for the NEF and the project is seeking further funding from Sciencewise.

- Mandatory eco-driving training across CCW has achieved an average fuel consumption improvement of 16% - with consequent progress towards CCW's emissions reductions targets.

Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) (Represented by Paul Allen)

- The next phase of ZCB2030 research has now been defined. Climate Change is humanity's most pressing issue, but we have yet to take the big steps needed to cut our carbon emissions. There is a global recognition that if we don't keep average global temperature rise to below 2 degrees we will trigger global climate chaos. Key aims include: answering questions raised by the first report, including new and emerging technologies also exploring the relation between rapid decarbonisation and needs of the current economic situation. Our last ZCB2030 report was primarily focused on policy-makers and Government. Although we must continue to make this work available to policy makers, if we are to encourage them to make the bold steps required, there must also be a pull from civil society. We have received a great many demands to engage this work to a much wider audience, but to do this we need to explore new techniques and new delivery methods.
- Funding is now confirmed for the 4th Wales Emergence conference in 2012 at CAT in WISE. A partnership between Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) and Volcano Theatre supported by Arts Council of Wales, the Emergence Summit will form an inspiring, creative, emergent space to bring together key thinkers and change makers 'representing specific constituencies' both from the sustainability movement and from the arts sectors. The focus and intention of the Summit will be re-thinking how we can work together to 'co-create the future'.
- WISE now in full operation, and CAT is now seeking to explore collaborations to develop events and new courses from a wide range of organisations to help meet the future needs of Wales.
- CAT has held a number of engagement meetings exploring the re-design of the visitor centre to better meet needs of today's users. We

are actively seeking links with organisations across Wales that would like to participate / collaborate in this.

Low/zero Carbon Hub (LZCH)(represented by Sally Sudworth / Chris Jofeh)

Wales Low Zero Carbon Hub

1. The WLZCH has 5 workstreams (New Residential buildings; Existing Residential Buildings; Non Domestic Buildings; Sustainable Living; Skills & Training) and each of these has agreed on a number of new projects for delivering low carbon. These include desk studies, workshops, pilot studies and demonstration projects. These have been prioritised by the steering group and the first tranche of projects is currently being commissioned. Please contact Sally.sudworth@cewales.org.uk for more information. The LZCH is looking for people to review and steer as well as deliver these projects.
2. Part L Building Regs business breakfasts have been held in Cardiff, Ammanford and Llandudno and these have been well attended. The LZCH has also been supporting Welsh Government in preparing for the formal consultation for the devolved Building Regs that will take place in 2012.
3. Linking to industry. We have delivered a number of presentations to various groups and conferences including the Chartered Institute of Housing, Newport Construction Forum, The Local Authority Public Sector Collaborative Works Group and CLAW.
4. Workshops and events. We are working with colleagues in the Environment Agency, Energy Saving Trust, Fform BREEAM, Cynnal Cymru and BRE to deliver a number of planned workshops in the coming months on BREEAM, Water and energy efficiency and the Green Deal. For more information contact Sally or the CEW database.

A link to the strategy can be found at:

<http://www.cewales.org.uk/cew/wp-content/uploads/Hub-strategy-document-final-August-2011.pdf>

Climate Change Commission Secretariat
December 2011