

The Lancashire Climate Change Strategy and Key Actions

The Lancashire Leaders have agreed to work in Partnership to develop a Climate Change Strategy for Lancashire. The draft Strategy sets out the vision to cut Lancashire's carbon emissions by 30% by 2020.

The Consultation on the first draft (earlier in 2008), identified the need for more research into where the most carbon savings could be made, and the need for actions to have identifiable carbon savings. As a result, redrafting of the strategy was delayed to allow for these issues to be addressed.

Lancashire has recently played a key role in a study to assess the range of potential carbon savings that could be achieved by the North West and its 5 sub-regions by 2020, the results of which have been used to inform the re-drafted Lancashire Climate Change Strategy and Key Actions document.

The research suggests that current activity in Lancashire, if fully maintained should take us very close to our target (30% reduction in CO₂ by 2020).

A comprehensive activity audit of all existing measures is being conducted. This aims to identify the risks and timescales for delivery, to ensure that plans are put in place to improve and extend existing projects, before developing new actions.

To download the Strategy and Action Plan see:
www.lancashire.gov.uk/climatechange

The consultation period ended on 10th November, and the Strategy is expected to be launched at the beginning of 2009.

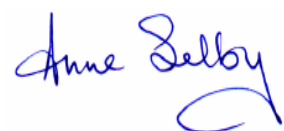
For further information please email:
Environmentalpolicy@lancashire.gov.uk

Welcome... to the Autumn edition of 'essence', the newsletter for the Lancashire Environment Forum.

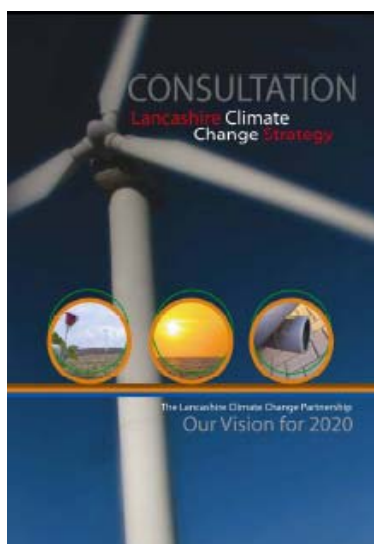
It is pleasing to see the progress that has been made on the Lancashire Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

It is encouraging that current activity in Lancashire will take us very close to meeting the 30% carbon reduction target. However, we must ensure that this activity is fully maintained.

I look forward to the launch of the Strategy next year.



Anne Selby, Chair of the Lancashire Environment Forum



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National Updates

2006 Carbon Emissions Data

Estimates were published this September of Carbon Dioxide emissions for 2006, and revised estimates for 2005 for all UK Local Authorities and Government Office Regions.

A summary, together with the full report and data tables are available from:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/globalatmos/galocalghg.htm

River Quality Improves for the 18th Consecutive Year

Data released by the Environment Agency this October shows that the quality of water in rivers in England and Wales continues to improve. Figures from the Environment Agency's annual General Quality Assessment (GQA) show that 76% of English rivers achieved 'very good' or 'good' status in terms of chemical quality, (up from 55% in 1990), and 72% achieved this standard for biological quality, (up from 55% in 1990).

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/news/2139090>

Climate Laws to include Aviation and Shipping

The government has agreed to redraft the Climate Change Bill which sets a target to cut carbon emissions by 80% by 2050. An amendment has been accepted that will require ministers to take into account projected emissions from aviation and shipping when setting budgets for carbon reductions in the future.

Once agreed, the Climate Change Bill would make the UK the first country to have legally binding targets for the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions.

www.bbc.co.uk/news

Regional News

Turning to Wind Power in Liverpool



Four giant wind turbines have arrived at Liverpool docks this November to be assembled as part of a £15 million renewable energy project. Each turbine will be able to produce up to 2.5 megawatts of low carbon electricity, which is enough power to meet the needs of 5,500 homes.

Calm weather permitting, all four structures are expected to be in place within four weeks and generating electricity for the National Grid by early next year.

<http://www.merseybasin.org.uk/press.asp?action=view&id=35286>

New Sustainable Framework for the North West

A new regional strategy that directs long-term housing, economic growth and environmental protection in the North West was announced this October.

The Regional Plan provides a policy framework for major transport, waste and environmental issues in the North West. It puts tackling climate change high on the agenda to support national targets, and sets out how growth will be brought forward sustainably. This includes promoting development at locations well served by public transport, the re-use of land and buildings, and targets for electricity to be generated from renewable sources.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/980009>

Lancashire Updates

Lancashire Green Infrastructure Action Planning Event

A Green Infrastructure Action Planning Workshop is taking place on 27th November at the Globe Centre, Accrington. The purpose of the day is to populate the action plan and prioritise the actions over the next 3 years. The invitation extends to people from the following disciplines: Economists, Health Sector, Planners and Tourist Sector.

For further information contact Naheed Mann on: nmann@lancashire-ep.org.uk or visit www.lancashire-ep.org.uk/events

Go Green without costing the Earth



Lancashire County Council has launched a new renewable energy fund for small businesses. The project, run by LCC's Lancashire County Developments Ltd, will fund 50% of the cost and installation of renewable energy technology.

The project aims to help businesses save money on energy bills, whilst cutting CO₂ emissions and reducing reliance on fossil fuels. Any SME business within Lancashire County Council's administrative area can apply for funding as long as they have carried out an energy efficient audit. Lancashire Business Environment Association (LBEA) can carry out the audit for free.

For more information contact LCDL on 01772 536600 or visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/lcdl

This year's annual Environmental Business Awards hosted by Lancashire Business Association took place in November. Over 200 guests representing many environmentally-minded businesses attended. Eric Bond gives a brief summary of the winners.

9 different awards were made on the night.

The New Environmental Business award went to Blackburn based Banner Bags. They manufacture fashion bags from recycled advertising banners which are notoriously difficult to recycle. Banner Bags has a 3 year rolling contract to recycle all the banners from the Liverpool Capital of Culture events into eye catching bags. This has helped to divert 8 tonnes of waste from landfill.



Green Vale Homes Housing Association, Rossendale won the **Business in the Community** award for its commitment to developing sustainable communities within the region. Future plans include developing fun activity projects to encourage young people to think about recycling, energy and carbon saving and also providing family learning sessions for residents to find out more about financial savings, cooking, home maintenance and gardening.

The **Water Management Award** went to Fort Vale Engineering, who manufacture a range of safety and discharge valves. They have saved 215 cubic metres of water and £19,000 per year by installing a new coolant management system and new acid dips.

Malkin Tower Holiday Cottages won the **Environmental Management in a Small Business Award**. The cottages were developed from a barn conversion ensuring re-use of the original materials, high levels of insulation, energy efficiency and water management.



Senator International Ltd won the **Environmental Management** award in a **large business**. They make a wide range of office furniture. Senator has achieved accreditation to the environmental management standard ISO 14001, and is working to make year-on-year environmental improvements. Senator is on target to recycle 85% of all waste generated in 2008. Increasing customer packaging returns for re-use, and purchasing a second wood boiler (to replace gas heating) are next on the list. Senator expect to make savings of over £0.5 million this year.

The Waste Minimisation in a Small Business award went to Burnley based Learoyd Packaging Ltd, who have diverted 300 tonnes of waste from landfill, made £19,985 in cost savings and generated £42,620 of revenue. Using wheeled bins and balers they are able to segregate and recycle different waste streams.

The **Waste Minimisation in a Large Business Award** went to Speciality Coatings in Darwen. The company have saved 93.7 tonnes of raw materials, diverted 530 tonnes of waste from landfill and generated total annual cost savings of over £128,000. They achieved this by developing new methods to recycle waste plastic and rationalising the number of products.

Skelmersdale based Turtle Wax Ltd. won the **Energy Efficiency in a Small Business** award. They have been working with LancsBEA and the Carbon Trust to implement projects to reduce energy use. A staff energy campaign, sensor controlled lighting, and energy efficient motors have cut electricity consumption by 25%.

The Energy Efficiency in a Large Business Award went to Rossendale-based kitchen and bedroom furniture manufacturers J&J Ormerod. Following work with LancsBEA and the Carbon Trust they have saved 6,220,000 kWh of gas and electricity, 1805 tonnes CO₂, and £314,000 cost savings per year through energy efficiency measures including: an automated monitoring system to identify high energy users and target inefficient areas.



The Winners

For more information on the Lancashire Business Environment Association contact: 01254 676747
Resource.efficiency@groundwork.org.uk
www.lancsBEA.co.uk

Hesketh Outmarsh

In this article, Laura Travers from the Environment Agency explains the work that has been taking place at Hesketh Outmarsh to recreate the saltmarsh at the site.

The Environment Agency has been working with the RSPB, and other partners, to recreate 168 hectares of saltmarsh as part of a managed realignment project at Hesketh Outmarsh West along the Ribble Estuary.

The Ribble Estuary is one of the most important estuaries for birds in the United Kingdom. It is designated a Special Protection Area (SPA) for its over-wintering waterfowl and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for estuary habitats and birds.

Hesketh Outmarsh is on the southern shore of the estuary, approximately 7km to the west of Preston. A private sea embankment was built around Hesketh Outmarsh in the early 1980's so that landowners could use the land for farming. This has been the unofficial defence since then. However, the publicly-owned sea embankment, which is further inland, still continued as the 'official' sea defence.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) bought the western half of Hesketh Outmarsh in 2006. Since then, the Environment Agency has been working with them, and other partners, on a project to recreate saltmarsh on this land while at the same time upgrading the original sea embankments.



The Environment Agency used half a million tonnes of soil for the repairs and construction of the sea embankments. The soil came from the pools and creeks they excavated at the site. Using this soil, rather than importing it from outside, reduced the impact of the Environment Agency's work on the villages and farming communities of Tarleton, Hesketh Bank, and Banks.

Using on site material also reduced the scheme's 'carbon footprint' by avoiding transporting material. In addition, it reduced the cost of the project by £2million.

The Environment Agency breached the private sea embankment in September 2008 to start the process of recreating the saltmarsh.



Breaching of the private embankment

For more information, please contact Laura Travers:

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If you have any project news or forthcoming events you would like to publicise in *essence* then please contact us by telephone on: 01772 531257 or by email on: environmentalpolicy@lancashire.gov.uk

Editorial

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