

Local Sector-led Low-Carbon Support

An Introduction to CLASP April 2012

CLASP is the local authority and public sector sustainability support service for the NW of England. A not-for-profit service, providing free support for Local Authorities and Local Strategic Partnerships, on dealing with the challenges of environmental resilience, reducing energy use, and renewable energy planning issues.

Our website, vast range of resources and monthly national news digests are also freely available to all of the public sector and European partners at www.claspinfo.org.

Since 2008, CLASP has steadily grown its services from its NWIEP funded base attracting support from NWDA, and in 2010/11 hosting the £1m NW Climate Change Skills Fund. The programme is sector-led, the accountable body is Liverpool City Council.

To continue the work of the programme in 2012/13 Liverpool City Council has entered into a collaborative agreement with The Environment Agency who wish to support and develop local activity on climate change.

The programme is highly valued by North West Local Authorities, who particularly appreciate its technical support, and the unique opportunity it provides for knowledge exchange between authorities, and to/from national organisations.

Whether you are familiar with CLASP, or not, we invite you to make use of the resources we have developed, and to get in touch to find out more about our future plans.

For all enquiries please contact Ailsa Gibson, ailsa@claspinfo.org 01942 702812, or Krista Patrick, krista@claspinfo.org 07880 685221.



CLASP.



CLASP workshop with Bury Local Strategic Partnership, one of a series freely available to NW LSPs

CLASP Services

CLASP is a responsive programme, serving local authorities, run from a very low-cost and flexible base. CLASP provides free support services, information and training to local authority employees, members, and their communities who are seeking to address the low-carbon, renewables, and service adaptation agendas.

Since 2008 this has included:

- Wide range of technical support briefings and guidance documents
- Support services accessed by over 800 local authority officers
- Over 4000 person-hours of training and workshop sessions for LA & other public sector officers
- Training, exhibitions and information provision to support community led renewable schemes
- Over 200 hours of development sessions for LA members
- £110,000 of small grants for LA led, innovative demonstration projects (not capital)
- £500,000 of sub-regional programme grants for community engagement work, renewable feasibility studies, community roadshows, and locally specific LA training
- LSP briefing sessions available to all NW LSPs
- Climate Leader Awards (peer judged) to celebrate and share LA and partner achievements
- LA orientated NW wide network, including peer learning groups for planners
- Website knowledge hub & monthly news digests
- Development of new LA led Green Finance models
- Technical advice and support services including technology site visits

CLASP's core funding provides all the above support free of charge to all local authorities in the NW of England, however our services are available on a cost-basis to any public sector organisation and we can, and do, deliver support across the UK.

From anonymous survey of LA officers in 2012

"Newsletters and bulletins provide extremely helpful updates on matters that I might otherwise miss or have to spend a lot of time searching out on a number of web sites."

"Training and events are pertinent and tailored to my immediate needs."

"Very helpful and you have listened to what we need-could never have learned as much without CLASP help."

"Good news to see CLASP has continued support into 2012/13. CLASP is great for distilling information that is relevant to local authorities in the North West region and sharing practice."

"Keep up the good work! CLASP has become more vital in the work to tackle climate change, not just because of its good work but because other support mechanisms are rapidly depleting."

"I have used CLASP over the last 3 years with immense benefit, especially around information that is available and assistance that can be provided as part of a hub."



In the 2012 evaluation of CLASP core services 98% of respondents felt that the technical support provided including website (www.claspinfo.org), newsletters, training, events and workshops were "very useful" or "useful".

CLASP Resources

All CLASP resources and training materials are free to access, share & adapt for non-profit use. The CLASP website provides a clear and easily navigable knowledge-hub and resource library which can be accessed via:

<http://www.claspinfo.org>

There is a full map of the key resources that CLASP has developed here: <http://www.claspinfo.org/resource-map>

The full search engine, with over 300 indexed resources can be found here: <http://www.claspinfo.org/resources>



A Selection of Key Resources

Adaptation Risk Assessment Resource Pack

Guidance and templates to help Local Authorities make the business case for, and carry out, climate risk assessments for key services. Tested and developed with pilot NW Local Authorities:

<http://www.claspinfo.org/adaptation-risk-assessment-pack>

10 Briefings for Carbon Reduction

Our popular easy-to-read factsheets full of case-studies, links and ideas for Local Authority action:

<http://www.claspinfo.org/greatest-hits>

LSP-wide Sustainable Procurement Criteria & PQQs

<http://www.claspinfo.org/low-carbon-procurement-pack>

Event & Training Course Archive

A selection of courses delivered since 2008 complete with presentations and materials:

<http://www.claspinfo.org/resources>

The CLG/NWIEP Climate Change Skills Fund work has now concluded, providing a range of additional resources, including:

Low Carbon Planning Support Pack - Strategic and technical reference guides and case studies:

<http://www.claspinfo.org/planners-support-pack>

Community Resources - Factsheets, case studies, checklist, presentations and literature

<http://www.claspinfo.org/community-engagement-pack>

Low Carbon Procurement - rationale and business case for sustainable procurement; key steps and 'good practice' guides for a number of key procurement areas.

<http://www.claspinfo.org/low-carbon-procurement-pack>

Looking To The Future

CLASP will continue to deliver the work of the programme in 2012/13 focussing on:

- Pan-authority networking events and facilitated knowledge exchange
- Training and skills development of local authority officers and members
- Information provision - newsletters and refurbished knowledge transfer website
- Applying for European funding support to identify and share transferrable productivity approaches from the private sector (with Business in the Community)
- Technical advice and support services (briefings, consultancy support)
- Assistance with sub-regional engagement, informing and assisting emerging structures & LEPs
- Leadership and Member Development
- Advocacy including representation to national and regional stakeholders



Looking To The Future

The CLASP Board wishes to explore new partnerships and roles for CLASP across the UK and beyond around the low carbon and sustainability agendas. If you would like to find out more about CLASP, accessing our resources and making use of our services please contact:

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Local Authority and national agency representatives judge the Climate Leader Awards 2010

