

Partnership Activities August – October

This paper provides an update on LowCVP activities since the last Bus Working Group meeting. It is provided for information only.

The following highlights are identified:

- Board approves Strategy to 2010
- Party conference fringe activity “Biofuels – more good than harm?” generates vigorous debate
- LowCVP organises seminars for King Review
- RTFO Carbon & Sustainability Reporting consultation and piloting completed
- LowCVP inputs to HMT AMAP Consultation
- LowCVP guides the development of Public Procurement Programme
- Commercial Vehicles Working Group meetings to be discontinued and replaced by bi-annual seminars.

1. Board approves Strategy to 2010

The LowCVP Board has agreed its Strategy for 2007-10 following wide discussions across the Partnership. The Strategy recognises the Partnership has grown significantly in both members and influence a developed a track record in adding value through both voluntary initiatives and effective input to policy development. It highlights the wide and increasing range of opportunities to assist market transformation to low carbon vehicles and fuels; and need for the Partnership to expand its resources and remit in response to the growing agenda if it is to remain responsive and influential. The Strategy has three principal elements:

1. **An expanded work programme**, continuing to focus on facilitating market transformation to low carbon vehicles and fuels through practical initiatives and policy advice, but including specific new initiatives concerned with:
 - a. Developing stronger guidance on responsible marketing
 - b. Supporting the DfT Act on CO2 campaign
 - c. Expanding information to drivers on smarter driving, appropriate vehicle maintenance and tyre choice and pressures
 - d. (If possible) aligning communications activities with the Low Carbon Knowledge Transfer Network
 - e. Developing new programmes of work with local authorities and major fleets
 - f. Active input to the development of appropriate EU initiatives and policy development
 - g. Supporting UK businesses benefit from the shift to low carbon vehicles and fuels.
2. **Increasing and diversifying funding and staffing**. In addition to maintaining the value of Government core funding to:

- a. Generate £100k+ through members contributions to fund two new posts concerned with increasing demand and supporting supply of low carbon vehicles and fuels
 - b. Attract funding for specific projects and undertake other income generating activities, develop a fund of £150pa to support the work programme
3. **Implement a secure ownership structure**, from April 2009, specifically establish LowCVP as a company limited by guarantee owned by its members (subject to a range of outstanding issues being resolved).

The arrangements for future member contributions are subject to consultation through the autumn.

2. Party conference fringe activity “*Biofuels; more good than harm?*” generates vigorous debate

LowCVP has arranged a series of fringe meeting at each of the three autumn party conferences on the subject "Biofuels; more good than harm?" The events took place on the Tuesday evening (7.30pm) at each conference in the 'Climate Clinic' venue which is dedicated to discussions about climate change and have generated vigorous debate.

The events attracted leading figures includes Shadow transport ministers Susan Kramer (LibDems) and Theresa Villiers (Conservative). Nia Griffiths (PS DEFRA) participated at the Labour event. Other panellists were varied for each event and included Phil New (President, Biofuels) BP, David Pugh (General Manager, Biopower), Doug Parr (Chief Scientist, Greenpeace) and other leading figures from the transport, energy and NGO communities.

The LowCVP also co-ordinated a 'greener vehicle display' at the Labour Conference on behalf of the Climate Clinic. The display will be outside the Climate Clinic, immediately opposite the BICC, was visited by amongst others by Secretary of State Ruth Kelly and Minister Jim Fitzpatrick.

This was the Climate Clinic's second year and provided a centre for discussion for all aspects of the problem of climate change. The Clinic is the result of collaboration between 30 NGOs, government bodies, trade and other associations, including the LowCVP.

3. LowCVP organises seminars for the King Review

Following a suggestion from the Secretariat LowCVP has organised three seminars for the team undertaking the King Review of Low-carbon Cars.

The seminars that provided LowCVP's response to the request for information addressed:

- Hybrid and electric vehicles – focused upon the current state of technology and anticipated future trends including battery technology.

- Advanced biofuels - focused upon the likely development of biofuel products for road transport from 10 – 15 years from 2017
- Car purchase attitudes and behaviour – outlined car buyer attitudes and behaviour drivers from the perspective of both private and fleet purchasers. It also identified the underlying barriers to increasing consumer demand for low carbon vehicles and levers to address these.

Each seminar of 3 hours duration involved a series of expert presentations followed by wider discussion. The seminars were small and therefore attendance was by invitation only. Julia King attended each event and the King Review team was pleased with the outcomes.

4. LowCVP inputs to public procurement initiative

The Partnership has finalised its input to a DfT consultation on the shape of its proposed public procurement initiative. Development of the position included two workshops to develop a response followed by a round on written drafts. The Secretariat also attended a technical summary run by DfT on detailed design issues and priorities. Whilst supportive of the programme LowCVP remains concerned by the lack of ambition and drive to use a forward commitment mechanism.

The Partnership's work has built upon previous activities including the Powering Future Vehicle Strategy Review and input to the Low Carbon Transport Innovation Strategy. The Bus Working Group has also been assessing the potential for the use of public procurement in the bus market in the UK which has been problematic. A feasibility study has been commissioned by the Bus Working Group which will be completed by February 2008.

5. RTFO Carbon and Sustainability reporting guidance consultation and piloted completed

The Secretariat has successfully delivered the third phase of the work to operationalise sustainability reporting as part of the RTFO. Draft technical guidance has been issued as part of the 12 week Government consultation during which LowCVP organised a series of workshops to enable stakeholders to provide input. A parallel with a piloting exercise involving about 10 companies has also been completed. The outcomes of the consultation are now being considered prior to finalising the guidance for handover to the Renewable Fuels Agency (RFA) that will issue the guidance. The RFA was created by the RTFO Order that was passed by Parliament in October.

LowCVP has also been asked to consider the feasibility of establishing a voluntary kitemark scheme of sustainable biofuels. A specification for the work has been agreed with the DfT that will fund the Partnership to undertake the project commencing imminently. The Partnership has also been involved in a range of activities to increase awareness of biofuels sustainability issues including:

- A further joint UK and Dutch workshop to focus on GHG calculation methodologies and harmonisation of approaches

- Addressing the second meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Renewable Transport Fuels Group
- Joining a joint EU-Latin America Seminar on biofuels as part of an EU delegation (June)
- Participating in the International Symposium on the Low Carbon Fuel Standard of California (June)
- Participating in an Environment Agency industry seminar for biofuels
- Contributing to proposals within the Global Bioenergy Partnership
- Participating in the OECD Roundtable on Biofuels (June)
- Addressing the Renewable Energy Association annual conference
- Addressing the Institute of Mechanical Engineers seminar 'Biofuels for Future Transport and Mobility'

Planned activities also include:

- A joint event with the Social Investment Forum to focus on biofuel sustainability issues and policy

6. LowCVP provides input to HMRC AMAP Consultation

LowCVP prepared a submission to the HMRC discussion paper on Approved Mileage Allowance Payments (AMAPs). Following a workshop with interested parties a draft was circulated for comment before finalising the document. The response encouraged HMRC to modify the system of AMAPs encourage reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from vehicles by encouraging the use of lower emission vehicles and reducing business mileage in privately owned vehicles. It included a number of detailed proposals including:

- Linking the system to VED bands
- Reviewing the mileage threshold
- Amending mileage rates to encourage use of lower emission vehicles
- Implementing the changes from April 09 or 10.

A copy of the submission is provided in BOARD-P-07-29.

7. Survey of members views on membership fees

The Partnership is currently conducting an online questionnaire of its members to gauge their views on the introduction of a membership fee structure. The survey is to be concluded by 12 November and the results presented to the LowCVP Board for review at its meeting on 27 November.

8. Commercial Vehicles Working Group meetings to be discontinued and replaced by bi-annual seminars

The LowCVP Board has agreed to a recommendation by the Secretariat and Chair of the CVWG to discontinue CVWG meetings and replace these with an annual or biannual seminar. The decision was made following a failure to be able to advance the work programme and poor attendance at recent meetings – particularly by manufacturers. The first seminar will be held as part of the CV Show in Spring 2008.

9. LowCVP membership reaches 268 organisations

Membership of LowCVP has now reached 268 member organisations. Recent approved requests for membership are:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Quantum Mechanics Ltd | IWG |
| 2. Atkins Transport Management | PCWG |
| 3. Greenfuel Company Ltd | FWG |
| 4. Trafficmaster Plc | PCWG, IWG, CVWG |
| 5. Masternaut UK Ltd | PCWG, IWG, CVWG |
| 6. Vireol plc | FWG |
| 7. Group Lotus Plc | PCWG |
| 8. Lincolnshire County Council | All WGs |
| 9. NexxtDrive Ltd | All WGs |
| 10. Technology Strategy Board | IWG |
| 11. Hitachi Capital Vehicle Solutions | PCWG |
| 12. Hug Engineering Ltd | IWG |

10. Communication activities

LowCVP representatives have spoken at the following events:

- 6/9 Greenfleet Awards
- 13/9 East Investors event
- 18/9 Bus event
- 18/9 LibDem Biofuels Fringe Event
- 20/9 JC Presentation at IMECHE event
- 20/9 GA judge at EAST Innovators Event
- 21/9 JC presentation at REA event
- 25/9 Labour Biofuels Fringe Event
- 2/10 Conservative Biofuels Fringe Event
- 4/10 JM presentation to Freight Transport Assoc.
- 9/10 Natural England dinner

The LowCVP has also produced articles for:

- Energy World (biofuels)
- EAST magazine (biofuels conference report)
- Environmental Industries Commission Guide 2007 (biofuels and the RTFO).
- Petroleum Review (emissions trading event report)
- EAST magazine (biofuels and RTFO update).
- Exec Online magazine

The secretariat continues to respond to a wide variety of requests from national, trade and regional media.

11. Other Activities

The Secretariat has participated in a range of other member / government lead activities including:

- 2/8 Meeting Merseytravel – buses
- 8/8 Meeting Daimler Chrysler
- 17/8 Road mapping meeting DBERR
- 22/8 CFIT Speed Adaptation Meeting
- 4/9 Engineering Employers Federation
- 5/9 Cenex Board
- 6/9 SMMT CV meeting
- 7/9 King Review Seminars
- 12/9 Graham Pendlebury, Director Environment DfT
- 13/9 VIPER
- 11/10 RTFO Board meeting
- 11/10 ISEAL conference
- 16/10 All Party Parliamentary Renewable Transport Fuels Group
- 25/10 GA – first meeting of new Renewable Fuels Agency Board

12. Working Group Activities

Issues addressed during the most recent meeting are detailed below.

10.2 Bus Working Group

The Bus Working Group met on the 25th July. The meeting discussed:

- LowCVP's "Putting Passengers First" submission
- Low Carbon Vehicle Procurement Programme briefing
- Low Carbon Bus Procurement Feasibility Study update
- Low Carbon Bus specification and validation
- Update on the TRUS project FP7 bid

The work programme is focused on taking forward aspects of the Powering Future Vehicles Strategy recommendations made by the Partnership relating specifically to buses.

The next meeting in November will consider:

- Forward commitment feasibility study
- Low Carbon Vehicle Procurement Programme

10.4 Passenger Car Working Group

The Working Group met on the 12th September with the meeting focussed upon:

- Developing a work plan for work on proposed changes to the advertising code of conduct for cars
- Review of proposals for EC mandatory CO2 targets for cars.

- Review of the proposed changes to the London Congestion Charge based upon CO2 emissions.

The next meeting is scheduled for the 14th November.

10.5 Innovation Working Group

The Working Group met on the 24th October. The meeting focussed upon:

- The outcome of the King Review Part 1 and LowCVP's involvement in Part 2.
- The Technology Strategy Board's Low Carbon Vehicle Innovation Platform, first call for proposals and future strategy development.
- Technology Road Mapping – presentations from a range of stakeholders involved in developing, delivering and utilising road mapping. The Group agreed to co-ordinate activity in updating the various road maps.
- Engaging with Investors – EST updated the Group on plans for an investor event in the autumn and provided feedback on a successful Investor Roundtable Debate held in May. There was a presentation of the marketing plan behind the newly launched Clean Tech Magazine.

Geoff Callow retired as Chair of the Innovation Working Group and will be replaced by Dave Greenwood of Ricardo at the next meeting.

13. Future LowCVP meetings

Dates for future LowCVP and meetings in 2007 are detailed below

| | Board | SG | BWG | CVWG | FWG | PCWG | IWG |
|------------|--------------|-----------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| Nov | 27 | | 15 | | | 14 | |
| Dec | | 12 | | | 6 | | |