

## Partnership Activities February - May

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

### 1 Summary

The following highlights are identified:

- Biofuels sustainability activities influence global debate
- LowCVP invited to participate in the COMPRO project to procure low carbon buses
- Director meets Liberal Democrats Shadow Transport and Environment Ministers
- Funding secured to support Act on CO2 campaign
- LowCVP to move (again!)

### 2 Biofuels sustainability activities influence global debate

The Partnership has continued to actively support the development of a sustainable market for biofuels through a range of activities. This follows publication of the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation (RTFO) carbon and sustainability (C&S) reporting guidance that was developed through LowCVP.

In March, the LowCVP Director addressed a hearing of the European Parliament as part of its deliberations on the Renewable Energy Directive. The Director's presentation outlined the need for, and practical challenges involved in, implementing sustainability criteria within the Directive. LowCVP was also invited by Defra to attend and present at the Taskforce meeting of the Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP) as a member of the UK delegation. The meeting, held in Washington DC in March, included representatives from the UN Foundation and officials from Brazil, the USA, European Commission, The Netherlands and Germany.

Together with Imperial College, LowCVP have also co-hosted a lecture by Professor Tim Searchinger who presented the findings of the controversial Princeton University study into the life-cycle impacts of biofuels. LowCVP also helped develop the programme, and chaired a pre-conference seminar on sustainability as part of the World Biofuels Congress.

### 3 LowCVP invited to participate in the COMPRO project to procure low carbon buses

LowCVP has been invited to participate in the COMPRO project following a presentation on its work on bus procurement. The COMPRO project, "COMMon PROcurement of clean and collective public service transport vehicles", aims to enhance the development of the market for clean buses through common

procurement of these vehicles on a European scale. The consortium comprises cities from France, Germany, Italy and Sweden. The project is developing a specification for the common procurement of buses and Jonathan Murray presented a draft specification developed in conjunction with Transport for London, MerseyTravel, PTEG and a range of other stakeholders including bus manufacturers and operators in the UK. The outcome of the meeting was that the COMPRO project has asked LowCVP to participate in their Procurement Management Group and will use the LowCVP draft specification as the basis for developing their procurement specification.

#### **4 Director meets Liberal Democrats transport and environment ministers**

The LowCVP Director met with Norman Baker and Steve Webb, Liberal Democrats Shadow Secretary of State for Transport and Environment respectively. At the meeting the Director encouraged the Liberal Democrats to press for a transport target within the Climate Change Bill (something supported by over 90% of members) and for a long-term target as part of the EU car-CO2 regulations. He also outlined the C&S reporting requirements as part of the RTFO and the need for an expansion of the Act on CO2 campaign.

#### **5 Funding secured to support Act on CO2 campaign**

The DfT has agreed funding for 1 year for LowCVP to support the Act on CO2 campaign. The Campaign aims to encourage the purchase of low carbon vehicles and eco-driving and the LowCVP will be working to encourage third-party participation in the campaign and supporting stakeholder relations with industry (including car manufacturers, fuel companies, motor traders); partners who support the campaign (TOTAL, Ford, Michelin) and delivery bodies (including EST). The post will:

The scope of work and milestones will be agreed jointly between LowCVP and DfT with the post sitting within the Secretariat.

LowCVP also plans to proceed with the appointment of a further member of staff to the Secretariat using revenues from membership fees. This person will focus on activities to encourage innovation including supporting UK technology providers.

#### **6 LowCVP to move (again!)**

The Secretariat has been informed by its landlord it will not be able to extend its present lease beyond May. This is because the landlord (French Chamber of Commerce in Great Britain) is releasing the tenancy. New premises in serviced offices in Victoria Street have been secured with the move scheduled for the 29<sup>th</sup> May. Arrangements are being made for the move and informing members and contacts.

#### **7 LowCVP membership reaches 282 organisations**

Membership of LowCVP has now reached 282 organisations. Recently approved requests for membership are:

1. Climate Fuels	FWG/BWG
2. Commercial Group	PCWG
3. Ensus	FWG
4. Narrow Vehicle Research Institute	IWG/PCWG
5. Flybrid Systems LLP	PCWG/IWG
6. Voller Energy Group Plc	PCWG

## 8 Communication activities

LowCVP representatives have spoken at the following events:

- 3/3 Biomethane Conference
- 4-5/3 COMPRO Conference
- 12/3 World Biofuels Congress
- 12/3 RFA Training on C&S reporting
- 26/3 Climate Group Biofuels webinar
- 4/4 T&E AGM
- 10/4 APSE Conference
- 10/4 Transport Seminar - Association for Public Service Excellence
- 14/4 Biofuels Conference Chatham House
- 22/4 Eversheds Dinner
- 24/4 EIC Conference

Future speaking engagements are:

- 13/5 Biofuels workshop – IEA (Oslo)
- 28/5 International Transport Forum (Leipzig)
- 10/6 EEA workshop on GHG methodologies
- 16/6 North West Biofuels User Group

The Secretariat continues to respond to a wide variety of requests from national, trade and regional media. The Secretariat has completed one and is currently completing two additional articles for Green Fleet magazine. There are frequent requests for information from Partnership members and other stakeholders.

The monthly e-newsletter issued by the LowCVP has risen to 1617 subscribers following a process of renewing the subscriber database. The website will shortly undergo minor design changes which will also increase newsletter sign-ups. The LowCVP website had an average of just under 7,000 visitors a week during the last quarter.

## 9 Other Activities

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

- 5/2 EIC Reception
- 11/2 Meeting SMMT – Paul Everitt
- 12/2 DfT Renewable Energy Directive workshop

- 13 & 20/2 RFA C&S training workshops
- 26/2 UKERC Steering Group
- 10/3 Low Carbon Van Procurement workshop
- 11/3 ISA Research project Steering Group
- 13/3 King Review Launch
- 14/4 PTEG Meeting
- 17/3 SMMT New Car CO2 Report launch
- 18/3 Campaign for Better Transport NATA appraisal report launch
- 19/3 Tim Searchinger lecture
- 25/6/3 Meeting Norman Baker & Steve Webb
- 10/4 DfT van testing project management
- 14/4 RSPB
- 16-17/4 Cenex away day/Board
- 17/4 RMIF
- 17/4 Motor show Green Pavilion Curators
- 22/4 DGTren
- 7/5 CEN (European) biomass sustainability standard meeting
- 8/5 UK RTFO carbon calculator workshop
- 17/6 Sustainable Biofuels – Developing the Algae Opportunity

## **10 Working Group Activities**

Issues addressed during the most recent meeting are detailed below.

### **10.1 Bus Working Group**

The Bus Working Group met on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January. The meeting discussed:

- Bus Subsidy Consultation briefing
- Low Carbon Bus Procurement Feasibility Study update
- Reviewed the BWG work programme
- Euro Bus Expo 2008 activity

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 BWG will also be focusing efforts to respond to the Bus Subsidy Consultation to be issued in the coming weeks.

The next meeting which has been rescheduled for the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2008, due to the timing of the Bus Subsidy Consultation, will consider:

- Bus Subsidy Consultation
- Low Carbon Bus Procurement Feasibility Study final report
- Low Carbon Vehicle Procurement Programme
- Level of interest from bus operators in low carbon buses

### **10.2 Passenger Car Working Group**

The Working Group met on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April and focussed upon:

- Membership fees
- Act on CO2 campaign review and forward strategy
- Update on DfT's van research proposal, consultation on Car CO2 Regulation
- King Review and implications for workplan
- Car advertising survey preliminary results
- Advertising code of practice
- SMMT CO2 report

The next meeting is scheduled for the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2008.

### 10.3 Innovation Working Group

The Working Group met on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April. The meeting focussed upon:

- Update on membership fees.
- Review of IWG and its deliverables to both LowCVP and IWG members.
- King Review and implications for the IWG workplan
- Established terms of reference for a sub-group on engaging with investors
- Update on the EPSRC's work to support low carbon transport.
- Presentation on the potential for motorsport to engage with the low carbon agenda.

The next meeting of the IWG will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2008.

### 10.4 Fuels Working Group

A special meeting of the FWG met on 22<sup>nd</sup> April to discuss the outcomes of the Biofuel Label Feasibility Study and the proposed LowCVP position.

The last FWG met on 15<sup>th</sup> February. The meeting discussed a range of issues including:

- LowCVP strategy 2007-2010 and membership fees
- An update on the Renewable Fuels Agency
- An update on moving the RTFO to a carbon based scheme
- New European proposals on the Renewable Energy Directive
- The biofuel label feasibility study
- The National Non Food Crop Centre's (NNFCC) advanced biofuel project
- Project proposals for inclusion in the 2007-2008 work programme.

The next meeting of the FWG will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2008.

## 11 Future LowCVP meetings

Dates for LowCVP meetings in the remainder of 2007 and throughout 2008 are detailed in the table overleaf.

	Board	SG	BWG	CVWG	FWG	PCWG	IWG
May			21		20		

<b>Jun</b>					25	
<b>Jul</b>		2			17	9
<b>Aug</b>						
<b>Sep</b>	11					
<b>Oct</b>		22			16	15
<b>Nov</b>	25		5*	19*		12
<b>Dec</b>						

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