

Partnership Activities – Quarter 3 2005/6

This note provides an update on LowCVP activities to date since the beginning of Quarter 3 (October). The following highlights are identified:

- Announcement of an RTFO
- Roll-out car labelling scheme
- Extensive programme of awareness raising activities – including during the party conference season
- LowCVP Challenge entries short-listed
- Fourteen new members

1. Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation (RTFO) Feasibility Study

The LowCVP welcomed the announcement by Government of the introduction of a Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation (RTFO) made by Alistair Darling at the Environmentally Friendly Vehicle Conference.

LowCVP had been contributing to the Government’s feasibility study into a renewable transport fuels obligation (RTFO) by specifically considering the role of carbon certification and sustainability assurance within the proposed scheme. The Government statement confirmed these issues would be an important part of the future design of the obligation – a significant achievement for the Partnership.

The detailed design of the RTFO will be subject to informal consultation in the first half of 2006 in which the Partnership will have an important role. Formal consultation is expected late in 2006 with an intention that the RTFO is launched in April 2008 – subject to necessary approvals being obtained from the EU.

2. Roll-out of car labelling scheme progressing

The Voluntary car label is now being displayed in 75% of UK car dealers according to a survey conducted by the Partnership. This represents a significant improvement on a survey conducted immediately following the launch on the 1st September.

	Early September	Early October
Fully compliant	23%	50%
Partially compliant	26%	23%
Not compliant	51%	28%

119 showrooms were visited as part of the survey including dealers from 32 manufacturers. Compliance remains patchy between brands and LowCVP has been following up with those companies that are not yet displaying the label in a majority of showrooms. An analysis of performance by manufacturer showed that:

- 4 manufacturers were fully compliant
- 6 manufacturers were nearly compliant

- 12 manufacturers were partially compliant
- 3 manufacturers were poorly compliant
- 7 manufacturers were not compliant.

LowCVP will be undertaking a further, more extensive survey early in 2006 to assess the extent of compliance with the intention of publishing the results. The motor industry has been asked to assist with the costs of this survey.

3. Communications Activities

Since October LowCVP, through the Chair or Director, has spoken or chaired sessions at a number of high profile events:

- **Climate Change: the Business Forecast:** a Defra event hosted by the Secretary of State for the Environment and the Energy Minister
- **Environmentally Friendly Vehicle Exhibition and Conference:** run by Department for Transport to coincide with UK's G8 and EU presidencies. LowCVP exhibition and speakers.
- **Energy in Transport (Ireland):** the conference was run by Sustainable Energy Ireland to consider options for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from road transport in Ireland.

LowCVP also participated in an extensive programme of events during the Political Party Conferences:

- **Labour Conference:** LowCVP hosted a low carbon road transport 'round-table' debate including Dr Stephen Ladyman, Transport Minister.
- **Conservative Conference:** LowCVP co-sponsored the Tory Green Initiative Dinner, attended by Oliver Letwin, Conservative Shadow Environment Secretary; Bill Wiggin, Shadow Environment Minister and John Gummer, former Conservative Secretary of State for the Environment.
- **Liberal Conference:** LowCVP hosted a reception attended by Tom Brake (Shadow Transport)

The Secretariat has also prepared articles commissioned by:

- Local Transport Today
- Petroleum Review
- Transport Times
- Green Fleet
- Energy Institute Annual Review.

LowCVP is also collaborating in a commercial conference with Waterfront Conference Company entitled "The Use of Biofuels in Transport ". The event will be held on the 28th February at the CBI Conference Centre and Chaired by the LowCVP Director.

4. LowCVP Challenge entries short-listed

The LowCVP 'Challenge' calls on policy and academic communities to contribute new or innovative proposals to enable the UK to accelerate the shift to low carbon vehicles and fuels and help meet climate change targets.

The 'Challenge' was launched on July 21st and was successfully delivered through the main academic/think-tank networks with support from the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research and the involvement of Local Transport Today. The Challenge contributions that are assessed to have the potential to make the most contribution to meeting LowCVP objectives will be presented at the LowCVP annual conference in Spring 2006. Successful entries will also be published in a booklet to accompany the conference and it is hoped given profile through Local Transport Today.

Twenty four submissions were received by the October deadline. A committee of stakeholder representatives from the motor industry, fuels industry, government, environment groups, academia, road user groups and the engineering industry has assessed which entries should go forward to the second stage and short listed submissions from:

- Cranfield University: C-saving through new vehicle dashboard instruments
- ippr: Proposal to include surface transport in the EU ETS
- EST: Regulated approach to new car CO₂*
- Open University: Stimulating C-saving through vehicle taxation
- UKERC/Centre for Transport Policy – Reducing emissions through speed management
- Manchester Knowledge Capital: Green badge parking permit
- European Carbon Exchange: Using carbon markets to stimulate the creation of low carbon vehicles.

A late entry from IEEP will also be considered.

5. Membership

Membership of LowCVP continues to grow strongly as the result of the active programme of communications activities being pursued by the Partnership. Seven requests for membership have been approved since October:

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|--------------------------|------|
| • Eurobiodiesel Ltd | FWG |
| • Cummins Westport | BWG |
| • Potenza Technology | IWG |
| • Azure Dynamics | PCWG |
| • Compair | FWG |
| • Kleenair Systems | IWG |
| • National Farmers Union | FWG |

The Partnership now has c178 members.

6. Working Group Activities

6.1 Passenger Cars Working Group

The Passenger Cars Working Group met on the 18th November. The meeting discussed:

- Progress with roll out of the car labelling scheme
- Future work programme on road user charging and local congestion charging
- Update on the work of the vans and fleets sub-groups.

The meeting received a presentation on the role of local authorities from Dave Harnet (Guildford Borough Council).

6.2 Bus Working Group

The Bus Working Group will be meeting on the 1st December. The Group is presently focussed on developing a road map to map and track progress in achieving the Powering Future Vehicles 2012 target. This includes how to encourage local authorities to take up opportunities to stimulate sales of low carbon buses.

6.3 Fuels Working Group

The Fuels Working Group met on 24th November. The meeting received presentations concerning:

- Progress on the development of a C-certification methodology – E4tech
- Announcement and next steps for the RTFO - DfT
- The updated CONCAWE WTW Study – CONCAWE
- Biofuels under development - Bettina Kampman - CE, Solutions for Environment.

The group was informed progress on the development of a Biofuels Sustainability Standard had stalled due to the need for funding for the work – following which new indications of a willingness to provide funding were received from several members.

6.4 Commercial Vehicles Working Group

A sub-group met on the 4th November to discuss a proposal to model CO₂ emissions from different powertrain options. Ken Moore has also informed the Group of his resignation in view of his new position with Iveco in Italy. The Group will meet again to discuss their future work plan in December.

7. Staffing issues

Part-time office administrator, Rima Shah has left LowCVP in order to spend an extended period of time in India. The Secretariat is seeking a suitable replacement.

8. Future Activities

The 2006 programme of meetings is being finalised and will be announced in the next week. Confirmed future dates are:

1 st Dec	Bus Working Group Renewable Energy Association Reception Climate Change Communications Programme Launch
5 th Dec	Vans Sub-group meeting
6 th Dec	Steering Group Meeting
8 th Dec	VIPER meeting LowCVP Secretariat Xmas Lunch
9 th Dec	Cenex Board Meeting
13 th Dec	Innovation Working Group
15 th Dec	C-certification sub-group
18 th Jan	Board Meeting
23 rd Feb	Fuels Working Group
28 th Feb	Biofuels Conference
15 th Mar	Presentation to Automotive Academy
21 st Mar	Presentation to IEE Conference
April	LowCVP Annual Conference
7 th April	East Conference and Awards
27-28 th	Climate Change Solutions Conference
June	