

BWG-P-06-02

Partnership Activities – Quarter 3 2005/6

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

- Announcement of an RTFO;
- Roll-out of car labelling scheme;
- Extensive programme of awareness raising activities – including presentations at several major national and international conferences;
- LowCVP Challenge entries short-listed and 2006 conference planned;
- 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.

The Director has been invited to participate in the Interdepartmental Steering Group overseeing the development with the Partnership continuing to play the leading role in development of carbon certification and sustainability assurance aspects. The Partnership has two studies on-going to support the introduction of the RTFO.

- Carbon certification study;
- Environmental bio-fuels standard.

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 is currently undertaking a further, more extensive survey 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. It also plans work to assess public and dealer attitudes and awareness of the label. In this area the Partnership are undertaking three surveys:

- Car Dealer Principle survey of label roll out;
- Car Dealership survey of staff awareness of the label;
- Consumer attitude & awareness survey of label.

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.

The Secretariat has also prepared articles commissioned by:

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

LowCVP recently collaborated in a commercial conference, with Waterfront Conference Company, entitled "The Use of Biofuels in Transport ". The event was held on the 28th February at the CBI Conference Centre and Chaired by the LowCVP Director.

The LowCVP has/will be presenting at the following events:

- Europa annual conference;
- Bio-fuels market conference (Brussels);
- IEE conference;
- EIC Bio-fuels conference;
- EAST Awards;
- Green Fleet event.

NB Diary Date: The LowCVP annual conference is now scheduled for **Thursday June 15th** at the DTI Conference Centre, Victoria. The event will showcase the winning entries to the LowCVP Challenge as well as providing survey results analysing the progress and effectiveness of the new colour-coded fuel economy label. There will also be an opportunity for delegates to join workshops aimed at providing feedback to the Government's low carbon road transport strategy. (Please note that it has been agreed to charge delegate fees for the event this year to cover costs. There will be reduced fees for non-profit organisations, charities and individuals and significant discounts for LowCVP members in all categories.)

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 June 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 five submissions were received to the Challenge. 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.
- IEEP: The potential role of feebates to stimulate the market for low carbon vehicles.

5. Membership

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

- Finck Consulting PCWG
- London Hire BWG
- Authentic Solutions IWG
- Artemis Intelligent Power Ltd IWG

The Partnership now has 191 members – a 25% increase in the last 12 months.

6.1 Passenger Cars Working Group

The Passenger Cars Working Group met on the 18th November. The group currently has five areas of work:

1. Planning of the third survey of the roll out and next steps to encourage uptake.
2. Sub-groups have been established to look at actions relating to fleets and investigate influencing consumer attitudes.
3. A work programme for road user charging was agreed and currently a position paper is being developed.
4. A benchmark for defining low carbon vans is being developed.
5. Work on Powering Future Vehicles car targets has yet to start but a chair for the sub-group has been appointed. The first meeting is to be arranged.

The working group has also received a presentation on the role of local authorities in promoting low carbon cars.

6.2 Bus Working Group

The Bus Working Group met on the 1st December. The group currently has two areas of work.

1. Developing a route map to achieve Powering Future Vehicles bus target. Work is currently focused on developing a market transformation model.
2. Seeking a new Chairperson. Adrian Wickens of Volvo Bus has indicated he wishes to step down as Chair.

The working group has also received a presentation on the impact of fiscal measures in the UK on the adoption of low carbon buses.

6.3 Fuels Working Group

The Fuels Working Group met on 24th November. The group have had four areas of activity during the last quarter. These are:

1. The C-certification methodology has been reviewed by a sub-group and a number of Partners have undertaken piloting of the scheme.
2. Development of an Environmental Bio-fuels standard has commenced.
3. The Bio-fuels position paper, having received Board approval, was disseminated as part of the communications activity linked to the RTFO.
4. Implementation of bio-fuels in the UK which is a new project. Currently a proposition paper is being worked up by a sub-group.

In addition the working group has received presentations on the updated CONCAWE WTW Study and on activity in the Netherlands on bio-fuels.

6.4 Commercial Vehicles Working Group

The working group has three issues before it currently. These are as follows:

1. Appointing a new Chairperson. Ken Moore has informed the Group of his resignation in view of his new position with Iveco in Italy. A new chair person has yet to be appointed.
2. Benchmarking carbon emissions for commercial vehicles. A sub-group met on the 4th November to discuss a proposal to model CO₂ emissions from different powertrain options.
3. The Group is developing options for its work plan and will meet in February to determine future activity.

6.5 Innovation Working Group

The working group last met on the 13 December. It currently has three issues before it. These are as follows:

1. Advice to Government on supply chain targets for Powering Future Vehicles strategy. Two papers have been produced and reviewed by the group. These will be incorporated into a position paper by the Secretariat.
2. Technology show and tell event. A suitable opportunity is being sought and interest from Partners in participating in the event.
3. UK innovation systems for low carbon. An initial brainstorm was conducted and ideas for scope of project collected. An outline paper is being produced by the working group Chairperson.

8. Future Activities

The 2006 programme of meetings have been finalised. Confirmed future dates are:

7 th Mar	Bus Working Group
8 th Mar	Government Liaison
15 th Mar	Presentation to Automotive Academy

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21 st Mar	Presentation to IEE Conference
22 nd Mar	Steering Group
27 th Mar	ECCP Transport Working Group workshop, Brussels
30 th Mar	Innovation Working Group
3 rd April	Government Liaison
4 th April	EIC Biofuels Conference
5 th April	Board Meeting
7 th April	East Conference and Awards
15 th June	LowCVP Annual Conference
3rd July	Climate Change Solutions Conference – Low Carbon Cities

Working Group, Steering Group and Board Meetings for the whole of 2006 are shown below.

Board	Steering Group	Bus Working Group	Passenger Car Working Group
18 January	22 March	7 March	20 February
5 April	1 June	12 July	4 May
21 June	20 September	1 November	7 September
24 October	13 December		9 November
Innovation WG	Commercial Vehicle WG	Fuels Working Group	
30 March	10 February	23 February	
19 July	16 May	25 May	
29 November	14 September	5 October	
		7 December	