

Partnership Activities Quarter 1 2006/7 - Progress to Date

This note provides an update on LowCVP activities since 1st April 2006. The following highlights are identified:

- Partnership Membership grows to over 200
- Newsletter Survey demonstrates high level of satisfaction
- LowCVP conference announced and “Challenge” winners selected
- Memorandum of Understanding and work programme updated.

1. Membership

Membership of LowCVP has now reached over 203 members as the result of the active programme of communications activities being pursued by the Partnership. Requests for membership which have been approved since April 1st are:

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| 1. Environmental Agency | FWG |
| 2. Biofuels Northern Ireland | FWG |
| 3. Lex Vehicle Leasing | PCWG |
| 4. Traction Technology Ltd | IWG |
| 5. Kyoto Fuel Technologies | FWG |
| 6. Bayer Crop Science | FWG |

2. Newsletter survey demonstrates high level of satisfaction

A survey of newsletter recipients received 120 replies (a 14% response rate) and indicate a high level of satisfaction. 75% of the respondents “always” read the newsletter and almost 90% stated that it either usually or always covers the issues of most interest, with 56% of them finding it very useful to their line of work. Information on transport and climate-related research reports is of interest to most readers, polling at 81%, followed by technology and political developments (78%, 74% respectively). There is also a good interest in LowCVP activities and events. The survey also found an unacceptably large proportion of readers (29%) experience technical problems (although most are minor). The detailed results are being reviewed prior to a redesign of the newsletter in the next few months that will focus upon addressing technical glitches.

3. Conference date announced and “Challenge” winners selected

The LowCVP annual conference will be held on **Thursday June 15th** at the DTI Conference Centre, London. The programme includes:

- Margaret Hodge MP, DTI Minister
- Bill Stow, DG Environment, Defra
- Prof Mike Hulme, Director, Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research
- Plus the winning entrants of the LowCVP Challenge.

The outcome of surveys to assess the effectiveness of the car label will also be presented along with an update on LowCVP activities and plans. Delegates will also be given an opportunity to join workshops and provide input to the review of the Powering Future Vehicles Strategy. To cover the costs of the event, and generate revenue for LowCVP, a delegate fee will be charged and a small number of exhibition spaces are available.

4. Memorandum of Understanding updated

The Board has agreed revisions to the Memorandum of Understanding that details the purpose and operation of the Partnership. Notable changes include:

1. The mission and aims of LowCVP have been updated to focus upon activities to accelerate the shift to low carbon vehicles and fuels
2. Membership activities have been refined to reflect the revised aims
3. A set of broad membership commitments and principles has been agreed that define the purpose and meaning of LowCVP membership
4. Membership of the Partnership will, in principle, become dependent upon on-going, active participation – although it is recognised members will choose how to contribute through a range of possible channels
5. TOR and membership of the Steering Group have been revised to broaden its membership and revise its activities.

A copy of the revised MOU is available. Any member with queries or concerns about the revisions should contact the Director.

Members interested in joining the broadened membership of the Steering Group should contact the Director.

The work programme priorities for 2006/7 have also been agreed and are available from the Director.

5. Communication activities

LowCVP has spoken at the following conferences and events in April and May:

- 7/4 East Awards and Annual Conference
- 11/4 Greenfleet Event
- 12/4 Energy Institute
- 18/4 Dutch biofuels conference (Utrecht)

Forthcoming events at which LowCVP will participate are:

- 7/6 Sustainable pathways to biofuels in the EU (Brussels)
- 10/6 Bibendum Challenge (Paris)
- 20/6 Reducing road transport CO₂ in Ireland (Dublin)
- 25/9 Fringe event at Labour Party Conference

6. Other Activities

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

- 4/4 EIC Biofuels conference
- 10/4 Hosted a meeting of NGOs to discuss options for reducing vehicle emissions post 2008
- 21/4 Meeting with WWF to discuss their Better Sugar Cane Initiative.
- 4/5 Tyndall Centre 3 year research programme launch
- 8/5 Cleaner Vehicles Forum
- 16/5 Meeting with members of the Natural Gas Vehicles Association
- 25/5 Launch Cenex KTN

7. Working Groups

7.1 Passenger Cars Working Group

The Passenger Cars Working Group met on the 4th May. The meeting received:

1. An update on the outcomes of the surveys commissioned to assess the effectiveness of the car label (PCWG-P-06-08)
2. An update of the work of the Vans sub-group that has been developing a benchmark of CO₂ performance for vans (PCWG-P-06-12)
3. A presentation from SMMT on CO₂ emissions from new vehicles in 2005
4. A presentation of unofficial data illustrating the progress towards the VA targets and comparative UK performance
5. A paper on options for a revised Powering Future Vehicles Strategy car target and reached broad conclusions.

In addition to Vans, the PCWG has on-going sub-groups concerned with:

- Influencing consumer attitudes
- Road User Charging and exemptions to the London Congestion Charge
- Fleets.

7.2 Bus Working Group

The Bus Working Group met on 7th March. The Group currently has one area of work to develop a road map to achieve the Powering Future Vehicles bus target. Work is currently focused on developing a market transformation model.

The Group has appointed Rayner Mayer as the new chair person. Rayner is a Professor at Reading University and has considerable expertise in the area of policy relating to buses.

The Working Group meeting received a presentation from Eneco, a supplier of low carbon buses, on the problems faced in developing a market for low carbon buses against the current fiscal framework.

7.3 Commercial Vehicles Working Group

The full working group met for the second time this year on the 16th May. The first action of the group was to elect a new chair person which they duly did, appointing Nigel Base of Azure Dynamics.

The Group has developed a road map of low carbon commercial vehicles which identifies a range of issues to be tackled. Three areas of work are seen as a priority and will form the basis of the work plan for the coming year. The areas are:

- A Technology Road Map for commercial vehicles: to identify which technologies will deliver carbon savings from road transport
- A carbon emissions benchmarking tool: to minimise the cost of assessing the carbon emission reduction potential of road freight equipment and systems
- An Enhanced Capital Allowance scheme for low carbon road freight equipment and systems: to develop the ECA, proposed previously by the CVWG, to the point it could be presented to Treasury for adoption.

Sub-groups have been created to take each of these areas forward.

7.4 Innovation Working Group

The Working Group met on the 30th March. Geoff Callow was re-elected as Chair. It currently has three issues before it:

- 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
- Technology show and tell event. A suitable opportunity is being sought and interest has been received from Partners participating in the event.
- UK innovation systems for low carbon. An initial brainstorm was conducted and ideas for scope of the project collected. An outline paper is being produced by the working group Chair.

The group is considering 5 options for development of its work programme:

- To identify opportunities and issues at European and International level for low carbon vehicle technology (in addition to those in the UK)
- Road map of opportunities and issues and how they should be addressed to help the UK supply chain benefit from low carbon vehicle markets
- Establish cross-working group coordination, particularly with respect to LowCVP input to Government fiscal action
- Identify best practice in taking low carbon vehicle technology from prototype to market entry
- Identify best practice in promoting UK plc ability in the automotive market to ensure both UK plc and transport users benefit from development and introduction of low carbon technology

8 Future Activities

Dates for future activities to September are:

1 st June	Steering Group Meeting
6 th June	Fuels Working Group Meeting
6 th June	Government Liaison Meeting
7 th June	Biofuels NGO Conference (Brussels)
8 th June	Bus Working Group
10 th -12 th June	Bibendum Challenge (Paris)
15th June	<i>LowCVP Annual Conference</i>
21 st June	Board Meeting
28 th June	Sustainable Development Commission Conference
3 rd July	Climate Change Solutions Conference – Low Carbon Cities
4 th July	Government Liaison Meeting
11 th July	NSCA Biogas Conference
18 th July	National Transport Awards (SMMT Nominated by LowCVP)
19 th July	Innovation Working Group
20 th -30 th July	British International Motor Show
1 st Aug.	Government Liaison Meeting
3 rd Aug	Climate Exchange Group Meeting
5 th Sept.	Government Liaison Meeting
6 th Sept.	Steering Group Meeting
7 th Sept.	Passenger Car Working Group Meeting
14 th Sept.	Commercial Vehicles Working Group Meeting
15 th Sept.	East Road Pricing Conference
16-21 Sept.	Liberal Democrats Party Conference
24-28 Sept	Labour Party Conference
25 th Sept.	LowCVP Fringe Event at Climate Change Centre
2-5 Oct.	Conservative Party Conference