

## Partnership Activities October - December

This paper provides an update on LowCVP activities during the last three months. It is provided for information only.

The following highlights are identified:

- Director appointed to the Board of the Renewable Fuels Agency and RTFO Carbon & Sustainability Reporting Guidance submitted to Government
- LowCVP supports successful Waterfront low carbon car conference and Michelin Bibendum Challenge
- LowCVP provides evidence to EAC biofuels sustainability and labelling inquiries
- LowCVP guides the development of Public Procurement Programme

### 1. **Director appointed to the Board of the Renewable Fuels Agency and RTFO Carbon & Sustainability Reporting Guidance submitted to Government**

The LowCVP Director has been appointed to the Board of the Renewable Fuels Agency (RFA) that will administer the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation. The appointment is for 2 days per month and will not affect his commitment to the LowCVP.

The Secretariat has also successfully delivered the fourth phase of the work to operationalise sustainability reporting as part of the RTFO. The outcomes of a 12 week Government consultation on draft technical guidance and complementary piloting exercise have been incorporated into a final version of the guidance that has been passed to the DfT and will be provided to the RFA. Subject to sign-off from the RFA Board the final guidance should be issued in December. The remaining phase of the project is to train companies during the roll-out with the scheme commencing in April.

LowCVP has also begun work on the feasibility of establishing a voluntary kitemark scheme for sustainable biofuels. The Partnership has also been involved in a range of activities to increase awareness of biofuels sustainability issues including:

- Providing evidence to the Environmental Audit Committee (verbal and written)
- Addressing the third meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Renewable Transport Fuels Group
- A joint UK/NL/Germany/EC workshop to harmonise GHG calculation methodologies – that was only partially successful
- Supporting DfT officials in meetings with the European Commission concerning the Renewable Energy Directive and Fuel Quality Directive
- Party Conference events (as above)

- Participating in US-EU discussions co-ordinated by the International Council on Clean Transportation that include the California Air Resources Board (for the Low Carbon Fuel Standard) and the European Commission
- Providing support for UK delegates in the Global Bioenergy Partnership
- Providing support for a UK/Brazil/South Africa biofuels taskforce meeting

## **2. LowCVP supports successful Waterfront low carbon car conference and Michelin Bibendum Challenge**

LowCVP supported the Waterfront Conference Company low carbon car conference on the 7<sup>th</sup> November. The LowCVP Chairman and Director chaired the event throughout. The Secretariat prepared the programme which was headlined by Michael Roberts (CBI) who spoke about the recent Integrated Transport Commission (CfIT) report on road transport and climate change and Professor Julia King's interim report on low carbon cars. Prof King's speech received extensive media coverage in the days following the event including a front-page article in The Times. The conference received positive feedback from an audience of over 60 delegates.

LowCVP also supported the recent Michelin Bibendum Challenge in Shanghai. At the invitation of Michelin the LowCVP Director participated at the event including an expert round-table on biofuels.

## **3. LowCVP guides the development of Public Procurement Programme**

The Partnership provided extensive input to the DfT's low carbon vehicle public procurement initiative that was announced in November. LowCVP responded to the consultation and attended a technical seminar run by DfT on detailed design issues and priorities. The Secretariat has followed up with bilateral discussions and a letter detailing the wish to see the programme make use of a forward commitment mechanism to maximise the programme's effectiveness. The DfT has recognised and reflected some of the Partnership's concerns in the recent announcement that the programme would focus on vans.

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 hitherto problematic. A feasibility study is underway that will be completed by April 2008 and it is anticipated will inform a second phase of the programme in due course.

## **4. LowCVP provides evidence to EAC labelling inquiry**

LowCVP has provided a memorandum to the Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) as part of its inquiry into environmental labelling. The submission provided background on the design and implementation issues affecting adoption of the new car efficiency label agreement which was brokered by LowCVP. The paper also described the outcomes of recent surveys on deployment of the label, dealer attitudes, public awareness and impact. The LowCVP also gave verbal evidence to the Committee's inquiry on this matter in January 2008 in conjunction with the SMMT.

## 5. LowCVP membership reaches 272 organisations

Membership of LowCVP has now reached 269 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
13. Premoco	FWG
14. Maes Anturio Ltd	IWG
15. Environmental Partnerships Ltd	FWG, PCWG
16. Carbon Footprint Ltd	FWG, PCWG

## 6. Communication activities

LowCVP representatives have spoken at the following events:

- 18/9 Bus 2007 conference presentation
- 20/9 IMechE conference biofuels presentation
- 21/9 REA Annual Conference - biofuels presentation
- 4/10 FTA conference – sustainability and freight presentation
- 7/11 Waterfront Promoting Low Carbon Vehicles Conference – car advertising presentation
- 13/11 Environmental Audit Committee – Are biofuels sustainable?
- 3/12 Better Sugarcane Initiative – biofuels
- 4/12 C40 congestion and Transport Workshop
- 5/12 FTA conference – sustainability and freight presentation
- 7/12 UK Social Investment Forum – biofuels
- 9/1 Environmental Audit Committee – Environmental labelling

Forthcoming presentations are to:

- 18/1 Low Carbon Bus Procurement Workshop
- 23/1 Cenex event
- 24/1 ADL Conference – lets drive together
- 31/1 EC Urban Mobility Conference

The Secretariat continues to respond to a wide variety of requests from national, trade and regional media. The Secretariat has recently provided articles requested by

'Exec-Online' and 'Mobility'. The Secretariat continues to respond to regular enquiries from national, international, regional and trade media.

The monthly e-newsletter issued by the LowCVP now has 1283 subscribers. The LowCVP website had an average of just over 7,000 visitors a week during the last quarter.

## **7. Other Activities**

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

- 4/10 Meeting with London Motor Show organisers
- 9/10 Dinner Natural England Board
- 11/10 Attended ISEAL Conference on voluntary certification schemes
- 12/10 Meeting SMMT CV Group chair
- 18/10 Cenex Board meeting
- 19/10 Meeting DGENv
- 19/10 Meeting Brazilian Environment Minister
- 24/10 Attended UK/Germany low carbon innovation seminar
- 5/11 Meeting with WWF on sustainable mobility
- 12/11 Technology Strategy Board meeting - roadmapping
- 13-16/11 Michelin Challenge Bibendum event
- 15/11 Meeting DGTren & DGENv – biofuels
- 20/11 EST Fleet Heroes event
- 22/11 Opening of British Sugar's Wisington Biofuels plant
- 23/11 Meeting Norway Environment Ministry - biofuels
- 26/11 Meeting Jim Fitzpatrick
- 27/11 SMMT Dinner
- 6/12 Meeting Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA)
- 13/12 Cenex Board

Forthcoming events of significance are:

- 24/1 LowCVP 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- 31/1 European Biofuels Technology Platform

## **8. Working Group Activities**

Issues addressed during the most recent meeting are detailed below.

### **9.1 Bus Working Group**

The Bus Working Group met on the 15<sup>th</sup> November. The meeting discussed:

- Low Carbon Vehicle Procurement Programme briefing
- Bus Review update
- Low Carbon Bus Procurement Feasibility Study update

- Low Carbon Bus specification
- Policy drivers for low carbon buses
- 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 which is scheduled for the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2008 will consider:

- Low Carbon Bus Procurement Feasibility Study final report
- Low Carbon Vehicle Procurement Programme
- Bus subsidy

## **9.2 Passenger Car Working Group**

The Working Group met on the 14<sup>th</sup> November with the meeting focussed upon:

- Membership fees
- Update on DfT's van research proposal
- Proposed changes to the car fuel economy label
- Review of the car advertising survey methodology
- Update on discussions between SMMT and ASA on car advertising
- Presentation of Per Kageson's paper on "European regulation on the fuel efficiency of new cars".

The next meeting is scheduled for the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2008.

## **9.3 Innovation Working Group**

The Working Group met on the 24<sup>th</sup> 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 innovation 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.

The next meeting of the IWG will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2008.

## **9.4 Fuels Working Group**

The FWG last met on the 5<sup>th</sup> December. The meeting discussed a range of issues including:

- LowCVP strategy 2007-2010 and membership fees
- RTFO update
- Carbon certification and sustainability reporting update
- Renewable Fuel Agency
- Proposals for the 2007-2008 work programme

The next Fuels Working Group meeting will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> April venue is to be confirmed.

## 9. Future LowCVP meetings

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

	<b>Board</b>	<b>SG</b>	<b>BWG</b>	<b>CVWG</b>	<b>FWG</b>	<b>PCWG</b>	<b>IWG</b>
<b>Nov</b>	27		15			14	
<b>Dec</b>		12			5		
<b>Jan</b>			23			30	
<b>Feb</b>	7				14		13
<b>Mar</b>							
<b>Apr</b>		9		16		2	23
<b>May</b>	15				8		
<b>Jun</b>			4			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>							

\* tbc