

## **Activity Report July- October 2009**

### **Activity Highlights:**

- Record levels of dealers displaying car label as scheme is extended into the second-hand market
- LowCVP promotes Green Bus Fund at Bus and Coach show
- LowCVP presses Treasury to retain duty break for high blend biofuels
- LowCVP gives evidence to DECC Select Committee
- Low Carbon Automotive Directory published
- LowCVP joins Cenex
- Director chairs Economist low carbon vehicle debate
- Programme of webinars launched
- LowCVP participates in conference fringe meetings
- LowCVP to host seminar programme at Sustainabilitylive! 2010
- Membership stands at 349 (123 as signed-up owner-members)
- Secretariat defeated in Eco-driving Challenge

### **1. Record levels of dealers displaying car label as scheme is extended into the second-hand market**

A survey conducted for the LowCVP has shown the new car fuel economy label's utilisation, already at a high level, is continuing to grow. The LowCVP car dealer survey conducted in June indicated that 94% of dealerships have adopted the new car label, up 3% on last year, with 88% of cars surveyed displaying the label and 81% of dealerships achieving the good performance target. Twenty car brands have now achieved the target level of performance, along with 116 of the 185 dealer groups surveyed. The survey follows one of consumer awareness that found 54% of car buyers are now aware of the new car fuel economy label over 50% for the first time.

LowCVP has also announced the labels will be extended into the nearly new market. A voluntary initiative developed by LowCVP with support from RMIF, SMMT and DfT will be launched to consumers on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November with Transport Minister Sadiq Khan. As at mid-September, over 800 dealers had signed-up to the scheme.

### **2. LowCVP promotes Green Bus Fund at Bus and Coach show**

LowCVP have been actively supporting the DfT's roll-out of the Green Bus Fund, notably assisting with the design of the purchase support fund and developing the testing and accreditation procedures. A dedicated area on the LowCVP website has also been launched to provide support and advice on low carbon buses. The microsite provides bus operators, manufacturers and local transport authorities with the resources to assess, plan and implement the roll out of low carbon buses and provides links to all important key documents relating to accreditation of LCEBs, claiming the LCEB incentive and bidding for Green Bus Funds.

The LowCVP also exhibited at the Coach and Bus Live show at the NEC on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> October, promoting LCEBs and the Green Bus Fund. At the show Jonathan Murray and Helen Pritchard, Head of Bus Subsidy Team at DfT, ran seminars answering questions for delegates which proved very successful.

### **3. LowCVP presses Treasury to retain duty break for high blend biofuels**

LowCVP Director and Vice-Chairman Darran Messem met with the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, Sarah, McCarthy-Fry in the run up to the Pre-Budget Report. The meeting, held at the request of the Treasury, was also attended by the Renewable Energy Association and UK Sustainable Biodiesel Alliance. The discussion focused on the impact of ending the duty break, in April, on the niche market for high blend biofuels. LowCVP explained that to meet the Renewable Energy Directive Target of 10% by 2020, high blend vehicles may be required as blending limits are reached for conventional vehicles. To close down the market now would be premature, particularly since GHG-savings could be significant and new mandatory sustainability criteria are imminent along with proposals to quantify and/or account for indirect effects. Other representatives commented on the potential harm to the market, particularly small biofuel suppliers. The Treasury listened without any commitment but LowCVP Managing Director believes there is now an even chance of some flexibility in the PBR.

LowCVP also took the opportunity to highlight recent work showing the potential for biomethane articulated HGVs and stressing the need for Treasury and DfT to look for opportunities to reduce freight emissions. LowCVP also reminded the Treasury of the need to continue to strengthen signals to encourage the purchase of low carbon cars in fleet and private markets.

### **4. LowCVP gives evidence to DECC Select Committee**

Managing Director Greg Archer gave evidence to the Department of Energy & Climate Change inquiry *Low Carbon Technologies in a Green Economy* in October. Also giving evidence was Prof. Julia King. The wide ranging discussion considered:

- The effectiveness of the green stimulus package in encouraging low carbon vehicle and fuels
- The potential of low carbon technologies
- Adequacy of current policy and support
- How to change consumer attitudes
- The potential role of biofuels
- The need for integrated transport policy and demand management measures.

The hearing was streamed live on the web and is available at:

<http://www.parliamentlive.tv/Main/Player.aspx?meetingId=4902>

### **5. Low Carbon Automotive Directory published**

LowCVP has supported the development of a new guide to organisations engaged in the research, development and supply of low carbon vehicle and fuel technologies. The Low Carbon Automotive Directory, compiled by the LowCVP and produced by UKTI provides information on the capabilities of a range of UK companies and organisations involved in the low carbon automotive sector. A published version is also being produced by UKTI to promote UK capabilities at trade fairs internationally. The directory is available in electronic form from:

<http://lowcvp.islecms.co.uk/assets/other/Low%20Carbon%20Automotive%20Directory.pdf>

## **6. LowCVP joins Cenex**

LowCVP has formally joined Cenex as a member following its incorporation in April. The Partnership has been involved with Cenex since it was originally proposed by the 1<sup>st</sup> Automotive Innovation and Growth Team. The LowCVP Innovation Working Group undertook work to develop the AIGT proposals into a draft initial work programme and objectives. The LowCVP Director chaired the Steering Group which oversaw the setup of Cenex for BERR and was appointed as a Director in an individual capacity, since LowCVP had no legal structure.

With the incorporation of LowCVP, the Board approved an approach Cenex to become a member that was approved at a recent Cenex Board meeting. The change is largely an administrative one formalising the current arrangements through which LowCVP engages through the Managing Director in his personal capacity.

## **7. Managing Director chairs Economist low carbon vehicle debate**

LowCVP Managing Director chaired an entertaining and informative debate organised by *The Economist* with the Support of Shell in September. With participants of diverse backgrounds: Julia King, Aston University, Doug Parr, Greenpeace, Ken Keir, Honda, Graeme Sweeney, Shell, Tom Standage, The Economist and Michael Hurwitz, DFT. The event provoked fierce but friendly debate on the respective rolls of biofuels, hydrogen, electric vehicles and hybrids. A summary of proceedings is available at: <http://www.shelldialogues.com/node/122>

## **8. LowCVP participates in three party conference fringe meetings**

LowCVP has participated in three fringe meetings held under the auspices of the Climate Clinic at each of the party conferences held September and early-October. The Climate Clinic is a collaboration between 21 organisations; a forum where party leaders, ministers, renowned scientists, opinion formers, environmentalists, low-carbon associations, business leaders and the public come together to debate the issues and spotlight the solutions to the problem of climate change. For further details see:

<http://www.lowcvp.org.uk/news/1235/lowcvp-activities-at-the-party-conferences/>

## **9. LowCVP to host seminar programme at SustainabilityLive! 2010 and to commence programme of webinars**

LowCVP has announced a call for papers for Sustainability Live. LowCVP is to run a one-day programme of seminars at the 2010 SustainabilityLive! exhibition which runs from 20 to 22 April at the NEC in Birmingham. The LowCVP is inviting members to submit proposals for seminar presentations on cutting carbon emissions from road transport. SustainabilityLive! is host to five leading environmental exhibitions which attracted over 7,000 visitors to the NEC earlier this year. Further details can be found at:

<http://www.lowcvp.org.uk/news/1244/lowcvp-to-host-seminar-programme-at-sustainabilitylive-2010-exhibition-opens-call-for-papers/>

LowCVP launched a series of webinars to increase access and engagement of stakeholder in key discussions. These will be short sharp debates on key matters of interest. The function will also aid sub-working group discussions and project development. The first webinar was held on Friday 23 October and was on electric vehicles, the second is planned for Monday 9 November and will focus on the Green Bus Fund at 2pm. Full details are available on the LowCVP website.

## 10. LowCVP membership exceeds 350 (123 as signed-up owner-members)

Forty-four new organisations have applied to join the LowCVP since April with 123 signed up as Partners (owner-members). Recommendations for membership are made by the Managing Director subject to confirmation by the Members Council. The Members Council approved 31 new members at its July meeting. Nine new members have been submitted for approval to the October meeting. Search new and current members at the LowCVP website.

## 11. Other Activities

The Secretariat has participated in a range of other member / government-led activities, summarised below with full details contained in Annex 1.

- 23 activities (mainly meetings) with Government Departments
- 10 meetings with agencies or local government
- 6 activities with MPs, Ministers or other events with a Parliamentary focus
- 6 meetings or other activities with members
- 11 meetings or other activities with stakeholders
- 1 international meetings / seminars

Future LowCVP meetings are tabulated below

	Board	Members Council	BWG	CVWG	FWG	PCWG	IWG
Oct		22 <sup>nd</sup>			29 <sup>th</sup>		14 <sup>th</sup>
Nov	27 <sup>th</sup>		4 <sup>th</sup>			18 <sup>th</sup>	
Dec							
Jan							12 <sup>th</sup>

## Annex 1 – Meetings and other activities

- 15/6 Bus Service Advisory Group
- 16/6 River Simple launch
- 16/6 Act on CO2 meeting
- 18-19/6 COMPRO meeting (international LC bus procurement)
- 24/6 RED stakeholder meeting
- 25/6 What Green Car Judging
- 6/7 RED Stakeholder meeting
- 6/7 APPRTFG reception
- 7/7 EIC Reception
- 8/7 Climate clinic members meeting
- 9/7 Jaguar launch
- 9/7 Red/FQD Stakeholder meeting
- 10/7 ILUC Meeting - Dft
- 13/7 Pacts Meeting
- 13/7 Challenges in the transition to a low carbon society – conference drive
- 15/7 Carbon Trust
- 15/7 RIA reception
- 15/7 DECC reception
- 16/7 Cenex Board
- 16/7 RMIF workshop
- 20/7 Meeting Sustainability Live
- 21/7 EEDA meeting
- 23/7 Act on CO2 meeting
- 24/7 BSAG meeting
- 30/7 Biofuels meeting DfT to discuss advanced biofuels project
- 31/7 Biofuels modelling workshop for RED / FQD
- 3/8 RED/FQD stakeholder workshop
- 3/8 Climate Clinic meeting
- 5/8 Green TV
- 6/8 DfT BSAG
- 10/8 DfT BSAG
- 11/8 TSB meeting
- 11/8 RIA meeting
- 12/8 DfT meeting – Q2 plan
- 14/8 Christopher Moir – Warwick University
- 25/8 Millbrook eco-driving event
- 26/8 IPEICA ILUC Steering committee
- 27/8 ETI meeting
- 8/9 BP meeting
- 9/9-10/9 LCV2009
- 16/9 TSB meeting
- 16/9 VIPER
- 17/9 Sustainability Live organisers
- 18/9 AEAT meeting
- 18/9 DfT BSAG
- 21/9-23/9 Lib Dem party conference
- 22/9 DfT Biofuel Modelling for RED / FQD
- 23/9 UKTI Automotive meeting
- 23/9 Cenex Board

- 24/9 BIS Innovation meeting
- 25/9 DfT RED Stakeholders
- 28/9-30/9 Labour party conference
- 28/9 RFA Open Board
- 01/10 UKERC meeting
- 02/10 DfT Treasury – High blend biofuels in advance of PBR
- 05/10 Conservative party conference
- 07/10-08/10 Bus and Coach Live 2009

## **Annex 2 – Board, Steering Group and Working Group Meetings**

### **Board**

The Board met on 15<sup>th</sup> September and addressed:

- Membership fees
- Work programme progress
- LowCVP response to Low Carbon Transport: A Greener Future
- An evidence based approach to improved consumer labelling
- Office of Low Emission Vehicles
- Processes & timelines for finalising the work programme and strategy
- Risk management & register

The next board meeting is 27<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Members Council**

The Members Council met on 22 October at the offices of SMMT. The following substantive issues were addressed:

- A report was provided on the Board meeting of the 15<sup>th</sup> September.
- A membership discount of 50% has been approved by the Board for those members who have yet to become owner-members.
- Six posts on the LowCVP will come up for re-election this year. Voting is restricted to owner-members.
- Initial thoughts were set out for the development of the LowCVP Strategy to 2013 along with a timetable for developing the strategy and work programme for 2010-11 with members input.
- Notable work programme items were highlighted including
  - The announcement of the Green Bus Fund by DfT which the BWG has provided close support to DfT
  - The successful trade launch of the Used Car Label in July and registration of more than 800 dealers during the summer.
  - Progress with the Technology Challenge, with 17 submissions received and 6 successful entries being selected for the short list.
  - Car dealer survey completed showing 94% of car showrooms have now adopted the new car label.
  - LowCVP responded to the European Commission on policy options for managing indirect land use change from biofuels
  - Biofuels C-linkage initial recommendations have received a positive reaction from the Department which are basing their initial proposal on these.
- Proposed amendments to the work programme were confirmed, including:
  - The establishment of a Local authority Low Carbon Vehicle and Fuel Network to provide a focal point for local government involvement in LowCVP was approved.
  - The commencement of a new project in response to the DfT strategy “Low Carbon Transport: A Greener Future” was reported
  - An amendment to the project evaluation of low carbon programmes was agreed in response to the establishment of the Office for Low Emission Vehicles by Government was agreed.
- At the request of the DfT the LowCVP will reactivate its work in relation to Heavy Commercial Vehicles
- A new Challenge was announced to focus on community activity to encourage the uptake of low carbon vehicle and fuels.
- Membership of 13 organisations was confirmed
- The meeting schedule for the coming year was announced

## **Bus Working Group**

The Bus Working Group met on the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2009. The meeting discussed:

- DfT update
- BSOG Low Carbon Emission Bus (LCEB)
- LCEB certification guidance for bus manufacturers
- Review of documentation for LCEB testing and accreditation
- LowCVP website – LCEB microsite
- LCEB procurement
- Discussion on operation of £30m LCEB fund – How LowCVP can best support?
- EIB, Clean low carbon bus facility

## **Fuels Working Group**

The FWG met on 28<sup>th</sup> October. The meetings discussed a range of issues including:

- RTFO / RED / FQD implementation and LowCVP input to this
- Indirect land use change (ILUC)
- Future roll out of high blend biofuels and biomethane
- Advanced biofuels pathways

The next meeting takes place on 19<sup>th</sup> January.

## **Passenger Car Working Group**

PCWG met on 15<sup>th</sup> September. The meeting covered:

- Updates from DfT including
  - EC regulation of Car and Van CO2
  - Act on CO2
- Labelling
  - Labelling Directive Review
  - Car dealer survey results & review
  - Marketing Best Practice Guide – update
  - Used car label – update
- Van CO2 Study
  - Van CO2 Study – provisional results
  - Modelling van CO2
- Fleet commitment – project plan
- Improved consumer information

The group next meets on 18<sup>th</sup> November.

## **Innovation Working Group**

IWG met on 14<sup>th</sup> October. The meeting covered:

- IWG Projects
  - The Low Carbon Vehicle Technology Challenge
  - Resources for Emerging Businesses
  - Securing Investment in SMEs
- LowCVP Strategy to 2013 and IWG 2010-11 work programme
- Update: TSB Projects and opportunities
- Update: Office for Low Emission Vehicles
- Qinetiq presentation - Swords into Ploughshares – making use of defence technology knowledge to address environmental opportunities

Following the meeting there was a tour of Qinetiq facilities