

Activity Report (February-April 2010)

This paper summarises key activities since the last BWG meeting, 2nd February. It is provided for information only

The following highlights are identified:

1. Over 300 attend LowCVP seminars as part of Sustainabilitylive!
2. Successful investors event draws 80 attendees
3. Budget announcements demonstrate on-going LowCVP influence and effectiveness
4. LowCVP hosts seminar on electric vehicles at BASE conference and highlights opportunities at major utilities conference
5. MD chairs major biofuels seminar

Also of note:

1. MD presented to National Association of Councillors climate workshop in York encouraging greater action from local authorities to promote low carbon vehicle and fuel technologies. The Secretariat also met with the Local Government Association to help take this forward.
2. The MD participated in a well attended RAC Foundation event on low carbon vehicles. His opening remarks focused on the need to support a portfolio of technologies and provide adequate incentives to support low carbon vehicles and fuels before being quizzed by a panel of experts and taking audience questions.
3. The MD met with Conservative Transport and Climate teams to make them aware of the Partnership and offer support in taking forward their policies and programmes in the event they are elected on May 6th.
4. Membership has grown from 135 to 152.
5. The MD is helping steer Commission for Integrated Transport (CFIT) project on medium length journeys. The Deputy Director has been invited to present the findings of LowCVP work on low carbon vans as input to another CFIT project.
6. The Deputy Director has been invited to join an Energy Technologies Institute Steering Group on HGVs.
7. LowCVP's on-line seminar programme has continued to gather pace with events to date on electric vehicles, green buses, consumer attitudes to low carbon vehicles, freight emissions vans and CO2 information on car makers' websites. We also held a webinar attended by 40 on the LowCVP And its achievements and future plans. All webinars are recorded and can be viewed at any time via links on the LowCVP website. Future webinars are scheduled.
8. The MD has judged the Shell Springboard and Rushlight Awards. Successful automotive companies included: Aeristech, Nexxon and Hardstaff Group.

LowCVP 2010 meetings:

	Board	MC	BWG	CVWG	FWG	PCWG	IWG
April		21 st		29 th	29 th	21 st	28 th
May	12 th		19 th				
June		22 nd			29 th		
July	6 th		13 ^{th*}	15 th		1 st	14 th
Aug							
Sept		9 th					
Oct	20 th				12 th	14 th	
Nov			9 th	11 th			10 th
Dec							

1. Over 300 attend LowCVP seminars as part of Sustainabilitylive!

As part of the major trade show Sustainabilitylive! LowCVP hosted a series of seven, 35 minute seminars on greening transport. The sessions covered topics ranging from greening fleets, greener business travel, smarter driving, electric vehicles, better freight transport and mobility without owning cars. In one session the MD interviewed Prof. Julia King of the Climate Change Committee exploring “how we can achieve our transport emissions reduction targets.” In total around 350 attended the sessions that were well received.

2. Successful investors event draws 80 attendees

LowCVP hosted a successful seminar with prospective investors in low carbon automotive technology in London on the 23rd March. Supported and promoted by The EIC Environmental Investment Network and Cleantech Magazine the event was attended by 88 delegates and designed to:

- address uncertainty within the finance community regarding the low carbon automotive sector
- deliver to investors a clearer picture of the direction of the automotive sector and how low carbon technology options compare; and
- provide an important networking opportunity for UK cleantech automotive SME's to network with potential investors.

85% of respondents described the presentations as “very” or “somewhat” useful. Nine respondents also expressed interest in joining LowCVP. The free to attend event cost LowCVP about £5,500.

3. Budget announcements demonstrate on-going influence and effectiveness

Three budget announcements highlighted the on-going influence and effectiveness of LowCVP. The announcements included:

- £3.5M to support the increased use of biomethane, produced from waste material, for transport – subject to a feasibility study. LowCVP work in 2009 highlighted the excellent opportunities from biomethane and outlined the scope of a demonstration activity that stimulated the bid for funding. LowCVP is currently supporting the feasibility study.
- £3.5M allocated to support low carbon commercial vehicle technologies subject to a feasibility study. LowCVP has been pressing for progress on developing the market for low carbon HGVs for several years and is presently leading a major DfT study to define low carbon trucks.
- £10M for a further Green Bus Fund call. LowCVP designed the criteria defining a green bus and supported the roll-out of the original £30M call that was over-subscribed.

4. LowCVP hosts a seminar on electric vehicles at BASE and highlights opportunities at major utilities conference

LowCVP hosted a seminar as one of the conference modules within a major new event focused on sustainable business - Business and a Sustainable Environment: base 2010. BASE was held at on March 16-17 at ExCel London. The seminar focused on the practical applications for electric vehicles and was well attended and received attracting around 50 delegates. As part of the arrangement 20 free places were provided to LowCVP members.

The MD also spoke at the Smart Utilities Forum, a major utilities conference on the subject of electric vehicles. The presentation, available through the LowCVP website, outlined both the opportunities and challenges of the shift to EVs emphasising that increasing electrification would happen, but not overnight, and should not be viewed as a silver bullet solution.

5. MD Chairs major biofuels seminar

The MD chaired a one-day seminar on biofuel sustainability, certification and indirect land use change as part of the World Biofuels Congress in Amsterdam in March. The event, the largest of its type in Europe, was attended by over 1000 delegates with the seminar attracting over 100 with standing room only. It was the third occasion LowCVP had been asked to support the event indicating the high standing and international reach of the Partnership's work.

6. Other Activities

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

- 9 activities (mainly meetings) with Government Departments
- 0 meetings with agencies or local government
- 2 activities with MPs, Ministers or other events with a Parliamentary focus
- 11 meetings or other activities with members
- 13 meetings or other activities with stakeholders
- 3 international meetings / seminars

Activities since the last meeting are listed below. Over the period LowCVP ran or participated in eight events – highlighted in bold.

02/2	Shell low carbon mobility seminar	15-16/2	World Biofuels Congress
02/2	Shell Springboard - judge	17/3	Event - BASE seminar EVs
4-5/2	UK-US biofuels research seminar	17/3	Presentation - RAC Foundation
8-9/2	Cenex away-day and Board	17/3	VIPER meeting
10/2	Meeting Greenpeace	18/3	Presentation - Future of Utilities Conference
10/2	Meeting Climate Clinic	19/3	Presentation - Staffordshire University Conference
16/2	Actionaid biofuels debate	22/3	DfT, RED Stakeholder meeting
17/2	Progress meeting DfT	23/3	LowCVP Investors event
17/2	Meeting Motor Cycle Industry Association	24/2	Green Alliance report launch
22/2	Meeting Michelin	25/2	DfT HGV workshop
22/2	DfT RED Stakeholders	29/3	DfT labelling meeting
22/3	John Gummer / Greg Clark	29/3	Meeting AEAT Green HGVs
23/2	ICCT meeting	01/4	Energy Technology Institute HGV advisory group
24/2	Shell Reception	01/4	Meeting Greg Barkers office
1/3	DfT meeting - Sustainable Freight	20-21/4	Event -Sustainability Live LowCVP hosted seminar
2/3	Meeting Freight Transport Association	22/4	LowCVP webinar
3/3	LowCVP Board Dinner	23/4	Dft meeting – commercial vehicles
8/3	Meeting Institute Advanced Motorists		
10/3	Presentation - Motorcycle industry Association Seminar		
10/3	Carplus reception		
12/3	Lunch Shell		

7. Board, Steering Group and Working Group Meetings

Board

The Board met on the 4th March 2010. The meeting discussed: Membership of the Board, LowCVP Activity report, Progress with Work Programme 2009-10, Annual Conference 2010, Strategy to 2013, LowCVP Budget 2010-11, Work Programme 2010-11, agreeing LowCVP key messages and positions, finance report.

The next meeting takes place on 12th May to be held at DfT.

Members Council

The Members Council met on 21st April 2010. The meeting discussed: LowCVP activity report, Strategy to 2013, Work Programme 2010-11, Communications programme and annual conference 2010, progress report on Work Programme 2009-10, and new member applications.

The next meeting takes place on 22nd June venue tbc.

Bus Working Group

The Bus Working Group met on the 2nd February 2010. The meeting discussed: Govt update, Green Bus Fund Monitoring, TfL hybrid trials, LCEB microsite.

The next meeting takes place on 13th July.

Fuels Working Group

The FWG met on the 29th April. The meetings discussed a range of issues including: RTFO / RED / FQD implementation and LowCVP input to this, trading as part of the FQD, Biomass for power, transport and heat, LowCVP Strategy, and 2010-11 work programme

The next meeting takes place on 29th June.

Passenger Car Working Group

PCWG met on 21st April 2010 covering:

Marketing Best Practice Guide, Consumer information, Strategy to 2013, Monitoring and evaluation of the used car label, Compilation and dissemination of evidence relating to UK experience of labelling (Labelling Directive)

PCWG next meets on the 1st July.

Innovation Working Groups

IWG met on 28th April and discussed:

IWG Projects 2009/10; REB –Gap analysis and survey; SISME –Investor Event Summary; LowCVP Strategy to 2013; IWG Projects 2010/11

Reversing the hollowing out of the UK supply chain; Technology Challenge 2010; New approaches to strengthen support available to cleantech companies

IWG next meets on 14th July in Twickenham, convenient for the Annual Conference.