



LOWCAP

Low Carbon Regions in the North Sea

Newsletter number 2 – December 2012

Welcome to the 2nd edition of the LOWCAP newsletter.

Breakdown of partner activities:

For the City of Bremen their main activity over the last few months was their very successful workshop in the Bremen parliament in September and our partner meeting which also took place in Bremen. We had many participants in the workshop and all relevant stakeholders from local, regional and even transnational levels. The workshop also made it into the website of the regional newspaper.

“Everyone is talking about electric mobility - are the alternatives getting lost along the way? Top class speakers and a high interest in the topic - successful workshop on alternative drive trains and fuels in the Bremen parliament building on 18.September”

Petrol and diesel are becoming more and more expensive. For this reason as well as because of Bremen's climate protection targets, questions about alternatives needed to be asked. Post-fossil-fuel and low carbon mobility were the keywords of the workshop and, unsurprisingly, the event created much interest and attracted over 100 participants.

The workshop in the Parliament of Bremen offered professional presentations on current developments in the fields of hydrogen and fuel cells (Ulrich Piotrowski, Daimler), biofuels Christina Eriksson, Volvo Trucks, Gothenburg), natural gas (Timm Kehler, erdgas mobil) and about the current development in the field of Trolleytrucks (Martin Birkner, Siemens). The panel debate with representatives of research, politics and the commercial sector addressed the necessary conditions as well as the transferability to Bremen.





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Meanwhile, LOWCAP partner Leiedal has been assigned by the directorate general for energy of the European Commission as a coordinator of the Covenant of Mayors. Leiedal is an association to support the socio-economic development of 13 cities and municipalities in the Kortrijk region of Belgium. Now these local governments will be guided and supported in developing local “sustainable energy action plans” (SEAP’s), in their reporting, and in their carbon emission monitoring.

The Covenant of Mayors is a voluntary agreement between the EU and local governments that supports the EU energy and climate policy (20/20/20 targets). Local governments are recognised in their role of integrating energy in several local policy fields. They are often forgotten key actors in the transition towards a sustainable energy system. As a coordinator, Leiedal continues the role it took up with the development of the regional energy strategy for the Kortrijk region, a result of the North Sea SEP project.

News from Carbon Capture and Storage Partners: Several contacts with potentially interesting cooperation partners and stakeholders within future LOWCAP project, and particularly within CCS have been contacted during the last few months. One of these is the CO2 Regions Network.

CO2 Regions Network: Tel-Tek participated in a workshop in the CO2 Regions Network in Rotterdam 19-20 September. The workshop was one initiative: to start discussing possible project and funding possibilities within CCS. This CO2 regions Network consists of the following members: Rotterdam Climate Initiative; Port of Antwerp, Geological Survey Belgium; CO2Sense (Yorkshire and Humber); Scottish Enterprise (Scotland); Tel-tek (Norway); Energie Baden-Württemberg (EnBW) and E.ON Ruhrgas (Germany); Clinton Foundation

Further information about this initiative can be found at www.globalccsinstitute.com/networks/eu-ccs-regions or www.euccsregions.eu.





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LOWCAP Thematic workshop on CCS

The LOWCAP CCS Thematic workshop was held in Porsgrunn November 8th 2012, hosted by Tel-Tek. The overall vision for the workshop was: “Can the North Sea become a storage area for the main CO₂ emissions in the North Sea Region? What is needed to make this vision become reality?”

As an introduction to the group work a series of presentations was given by key stakeholders within CCS:

- *Svein Eggen, Gassnova*: Challenges related to the implementation of CCS with emphasis on CO₂ storage
- *Wenche Tjelta Johansen, Norwegian Petroleum Directorate*: Storage potential on the Norwegian part of the North Sea
- *Jan Kjærstad, Chalmers*: Prospects for CO₂ capture in North West Europe
- *Liv Bjerger, Norcem*: CO₂ capture in the cement industry?
- *David Langlet, Stockholm University*: Navigating the legal challenges to CCS deployment in the North Sea Region

New Interreg project related to LOWCAP is starting up in January 2013

LOWCAP is an important link to the new Project “Sustainable use of Energy Carriers in the Skagerrak /Kattegat region”. This Project is a 2 year project, and has just been approved by Interreg IVA KASK. It will start up in January with Tel-Tek as Lead partner.

North Sea Sustainable Energy Planning Final Conference

The North Sea SEP project final conference was held in Oldenburg, Germany, at the end of November. Joined to this was also a LOWCAP Thematic Workshop on the theme of Low Carbon design and planning. A presentation by LOWCAP project partner Intercommunale Leidal was given at the meeting.

The results of the NSSEP Conference can be found at the following website:
<http://www.northseasep.eu/events/past-events/final-conference/>



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The LOWCAP Thematic Workshop included a visit of representatives from the sister cluster project Energy Vision, with whom LOWCAP are working closely:





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LOWCAP Midterm Conference

The LOWCAP (Low Carbon Regions in the North Sea Cluster Project) Midterm Conference will take place in Porsgrunn on the 29th to 31st January. As part of the conference there will be a workshop on the 31st of January on the theme of Consumption, Lifestyles and Behaviour. We hope this will be of interest to many of you and we invite you to join the LOWCAP conference and workshop.

In parallel with the LOWCAP mid-term conference, the North Sea Commission is organising a joint conference for the Innovation & Education and the Sustainable Development Groups of the North Sea Commission on the 31st of Jan and 1st of February.

29/01/2013 - 31/01/2013, Porsgrunn, Norway

Delivering a Low-Energy Building

Modern building standards are set to leave a legacy of high bills and potential poor health according to a new report from the University of East Anglia.

"Delivering a low-energy building", the final major report from LOWCAP partner project Build with CaRe, reveals that energy bills for new homes are likely to be higher than anticipated and that occupant health may suffer from poor indoor air quality. It shows that today's quality standards for construction could leave us unable to meet climate change targets, and makes recommendations for radical changes in construction practice.

"Building as we do today could create a disastrous legacy spanning many decades" says Bruce Tofield of University of East Anglia, writer of the report. "The good news is that both housing crises can be solved with great benefit both to individuals and to the economy. We need to build new homes - but we also need to do it right."





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Energy Efficiency Directive

On 11 September 2012, the European Parliament adopted the long awaited Energy Efficiency Directive. The directive brings forward legally binding measures to step up Member States efforts to use energy more efficiently at all stages of the energy chain - from the transformation of energy and its distribution to its final consumption.

This Directive is a big step forward however and there have been some compromises along the way. For example, Member states did not agree on a binding target - they have instead agreed on an indicative target of 20% energy savings and to binding measures. This is expected to result in a reduced 15% total energy savings by 2020, well short of the 20% goal that member states had previously agreed on in principle in 2007.

To make up for the shortfall, the 15% will be complemented by fuel efficiency regulation for cars and new standards for products such as boilers, which will be added to the Ecodesign directive. For more information see:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/eed/eed_en.htm

Alyn Smith Final Conference

Finally, there have been some exciting advancements regarding the LOWCAP final conference which is now confirmed to take place at the end of June 2013 in Brussels. We have managed to secure the support of Scottish MEP Alyn Smith who has agreed to host an event in the European Parliament for MEPs during Sustainable Energy Week on behalf of LOWCAP which is fantastic news! We will keep you all updated on this as developments are made.

