

# Carbon action news

Issue 33 - spring 2012



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**Andy Stephenson chairing the Leicester CAN Conference on 9 December 2011**

## Carbon Action News - Spring 2012

**Welcome to the spring edition of Carbon Action News.**

Andy Stephenson has now left Durham County Council and the role of national CAN Chair to venture out into the field of private consultancy in sustainable energy.

Andy has been an active member of the regional and national CAN network. He has held the posts of Chair and Vice Chair for North East CAN and has been the national Chair of CAN since September 2009. Over this period of two and a half years, Andy has worked hard to further the CAN agenda. He has made an active effort to visit all the CAN regions and has worked tirelessly to help with the six one-day conferences, facilitate the sponsorship with Climate Energy, chair the CAN Executive meetings and AGMs, attended meetings with DECC and other organisations on behalf of CAN, and contributed to the working of the National Secretariat. Andy has also helped with consultations for the Network and to further the representation of CAN members' views on key issues. He also managed to work on his PhD and hold down his full time job, whilst in post!

During Andy's term as Chair, CAN has seen some key changes: a new National Secretariat structure, the change from an annual two-day conference to more regular one-day events, the introduction of the CAN web forums and e-bulletins as well as changes on Government policy such as the introduction of Green Deal and ECO, CESP and the non-repeal of HECA.

The whole of the CAN Executive and National Secretariat would like to express their thanks to Andy for his hard work and dedication. We all wish him well for his future and are pleased that Andy is still with the Network as Vice Chair of North East CAN.

Oliver Myers, of the London Borough of Camden Council, also stood down from his role as National Deputy Chair, at the CAN AGM on 12 April, but we're pleased to say that Oliver remains an official Representative and Policy Advisor for CAN National.

We're also delighted to announce that Colin Anderson, of Plymouth City Council and Paul Maplethorpe of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council will be taking over their duties as CAN National Chair and Deputy Chair, respectively. We'd like to take this opportunity to welcome both of them to their posts and we'll let you know more about them in the next edition of Carbon Action News.

**- Darsh Chauhan, CAN National Secretariat Manager**

Please send any news items, articles or pictures that you would like to see in Carbon Action News to:

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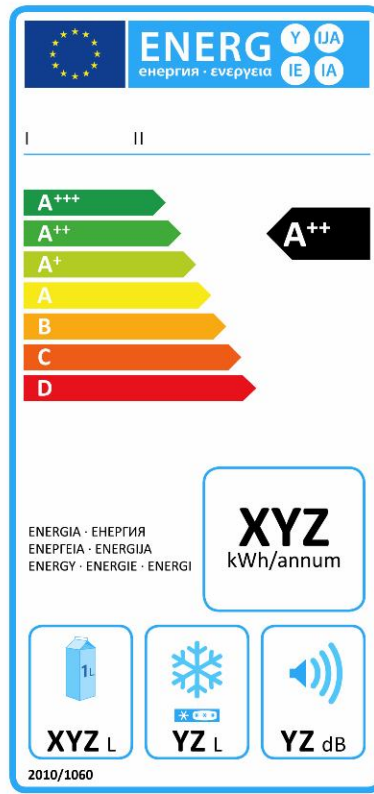
## The new appliance A+++ rating

Many large domestic appliances now have to display the new energy label under EU law. The revised label is designed to give consumers a clearer understanding of the product's energy performance. The new label will apply to refrigerating appliances, washing machines, dishwashers, televisions and domestic air conditioners.

The new label contains other useful information, such as the appliance's noise level, drying efficiency (for dishwashers) and storage capacity for example. It's designed to be easy to understand, using minimal language. The label's new A+ to A+++ ratings and discontinuation of the ratings E, F and G (for some products) reflect how appliance performance has improved since the introduction of the original label in the mid-1990s.

Severn Wye Energy Agency, a not-for-profit independent charity, is working on a pan-European project called Come on Labels. It aims to enhance the visibility and credibility of the EU energy label and improve the market for labelled products. It strives to do this by:

1. Ensuring the labels reflect the product's efficiency. This involves collating and analysing results from manufacturers' compliance tests, and helping make this process transparent
2. Inspecting appliances in high street shops, online retail sites and catalogues to ensure the new label is being made available to consumers on new goods
3. Training retailers on how the new label should be displayed and using energy efficiency as a selling point to boost sales of the most energy efficient products and appliances
4. Raising consumer awareness and trust by promoting the new label
5. Sharing good practice across Europe of how to



## Energy

Fridge-freezer

Manufacturer	
Model	
<b>More efficient</b>	<b>A</b>
A	
B	
C	
D	
E	
F	
<b>Less efficient</b>	
G	
Energy consumption kWh/cycle (based on standard test results for 24h)	<b>230</b>
<small>Actual energy consumption will depend on how the appliance is used &amp; where it is located</small>	
Fresh food volume l	<b>89</b>
Frozen food volume l	<b>29</b>
Noise (dB(A) re 1 pW)	<b>39</b>
<small>Further information is contained in product brochures</small>	
<small>Norm EN 60456 Refrigerator label Directive 94/2/CE</small>	



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engage consumers

We want to ensure consumers have enough information on domestic appliances and products to make an informed choice. To do this we have produced a leaflet for consumers explaining how the label works and it also contains a buyer's guide. We are working with regional and national organisations to develop a national strategy to disseminate materials. If you would like to collaborate on this, we welcome any expressions of interest.

One such organisation is Chevin Housing Association Ltd, who requested over 8,000 leaflets to go alongside their resident's winter newsletter in order to help assist them deliver energy saving advice to their tenants. Severn Wye's recent collaboration with Chevin Housing is a great example and it is hoped that such proactive engagement with residents to increase awareness is taken up by other housing associations and local authorities across the UK.



## Blackpool residents warmed by gas work

Tenants in Blackpool who've been feeling the cold have seen their homes get warmer and their energy bills plummet by hundreds of pounds thanks to work by Great Places Housing Group.

A new gas main, central heating and external wall insulation was fitted to properties in two blocks of flats in Queen Street after new windows and doors installed in 2008 had failed to keep out the cold.

Engineers from Great Places property services response repairs team had a gas supply fitted to each of the 14 electrically fuelled flats after a plan to switch to renewable technologies was found to be unworkable.

The cost of installing the gas main and central heating was part funded under the Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) initiative. Great Places predicted that residents could save up to 30% on heating bills but some delighted residents have confirmed the real figure is nearer 75%.

Since completion, there has been a reduction of 490 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year from the flats which is the equivalent of taking 180 cars off the road. From the installation of the gas main, the work took seven months to complete. Prior to this, the planning, feasibility studies and the arrival of the gas main took two years.

Not all Great Places homes will be suitable for this type of work but plans are underway to review the heating systems and insulation options in all poorly performing buildings and assess if they can be made more efficient.

Stephen Porter, Chief Executive at Great Places Housing Group, said: "We are always trying to improve the energy efficiency of our properties so that tenants can benefit in more ways than one. The financial benefits are secondary but are so important in the current climate when money is tight for our residents".

Ian Callow, Investment Surveyor, added: "Collectively, the tenants will save £10,080 a year. Before the work, the average fuel bill per flat was £738.73 and now it's a staggering £199.34. This saving will continue in the future as it's mainly through insulation and reduced fuel consumption".

**For more information call Rachel Machin on 07929 666398 or 0161 447 5027 or email [rachel.machin@greatplaces.org.uk](mailto:rachel.machin@greatplaces.org.uk)**

Devinder Singh, Property Services Manager at Chevin Housing Association said, "It is estimated that 70% of Chevin's 8,500 households are on restricted income. Furthermore, at a time where many have to accommodate reductions in disposable incomes, the alliance with Severn Wye was seen as an opportune moment to promote cost saving measures. In particular, the offer of free independent help and advice was considered as a major benefit".

To help raise compliance levels amongst retailers, each project partner will be undertaking 60 shop visits. As it's only mandatory to display the new label on products placed on the market after December 2011, products placed on the market before this date will have the old label. Both labels will be in use until all old stock is depleted. We will be working with retailers to enable them to use both sets of labels correctly.

**To learn more about the EU energy label, download our leaflet by visiting our website: [www.swea.co.uk/energylabels](http://www.swea.co.uk/energylabels)**

**To discuss the project, please contact Severn Wye on 01452 835060.**

**For more information on labelling, visit [www.direct.gov.uk/energylabel](http://www.direct.gov.uk/energylabel)**



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