

Atmosphere and Local Environment

Latest Developments at Defra

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New Government



Atmosphere and Local Environment

▶ **New Secretary of State: Caroline Spelman**

▶ **New Minister for Air Quality: Lord Henley**

▶ **Priorities:**

- ▶ Deficit reduction and ensuring economic recovery
- ▶ Defra will contribute £162m to the Government's overall £6bn savings in 2010/11, amounting to 5.5% of its 2010/11 budget

▶ **Pledged to work towards full compliance with European AQ standards**



Update from Defra



Atmosphere and Local Environment

- ▶ New Programme – Atmosphere and Local Environment (ALE)
- ▶ New Head of Programme – Daniel Instone - Martin Williams has moved to King's
- ▶ New Staff at ALE
 - ▷ Peter Coleman- Heavy Metals, SSNIP, RoTAP
 - ▷ Will Cook – Ecosystems, terrestrial & freshwater umbrellas
 - ▷ Samantha Lawrence – PAHs, UKEAP, EMEP Supersites, FRAME, OSRM
 - ▷ Emily Nicholl – AURN, LAQN, Hydrocarbons
- ▶ New Chair of Air Quality Expert Group (AQEG)
 - ▷ Prof. Paul Monks, University of Leicester

Policy News



Atmosphere and Local Environment

- ▶ New regulations were laid before Parliament to transpose into English Law – 2010 Standards Regulations England. DAs have also transposed regulations.
- ▶ Directive 2008/50/EC is now in force as of 11th June 2010.

- ▶ PM_{10} TEN application re-submitted and under assessment by Commission – 9 months to assess.
- ▶ Reasoned Opinion received – separate process to re-application.
- ▶ NO_2 TEN application being prepared with view to submit late 2010/early 2011.

- ▶ Defra is currently:
 - ▷ working with a consortium of researchers to investigate NO₂ & NO_x emissions
 - ▷ rationalising its websites
 - ▷ reviewing its communications contract
 - ▷ reviewing its existing modelling capacity
 - ▷ working with atmospheric modellers to undertake a modelling intercomparison exercise using the recently released protocol

- ▶ Defra is currently:
 - ▷ undertaking a review of ecosystems research
 - ▷ taking part in a review of the air quality bandings
 - ▷ working with AQEG to identify topics for briefing notes: inc Biofuels & PM
 - ▷ investigating opportunities for addressing air pollution alongside climate change – Air Pollution: Action in a Changing Climate
 - ▷ re-tendering a number of contracts

Thank you for your attention

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