Foreword:
Richard Folland, Managing Director, Climate Strategies

I’m sure we’re not the only organisation saying this, but it is an incredibly busy period: important projects publishing on a range of policy issues from climate innovation centres to carbon pricing; other key projects maturing in readiness for a crowded EU policy timetable in the New Year; Cancun (let’s hope it’s worth it); our new Research Director generating a new research programme for 2011; intensifying contacts with Central and Eastern Europe as we await the Hungarian and Polish EU Presidencies next year; and still recovering from red wine, late nights, debate and challenge at our IAC and AGM meetings in Budapest last week. All this and more covered below. I hope you find something of interest. Can I be the first to say Merry Christmas and Happy New Year?!

Climate Strategies: Our Impact

Climate Strategies recently held a public event in Brussels where we presented the interim results of the project ‘Is there a case for the EU to move beyond 20% in 2020’ and chaired a panel discussion between the European Commission, NGOs and industry. We are planning a further launch event for mid to late February 2011.

Continuing to build on our media outreach programme, we launched ‘Analytical Support to Target Based Negotiations’, to coincide with the start of the Bonn negotiations on 2nd August. The project, led by Murray Ward, argued that countries’ pledged emissions targets outlined in the Copenhagen Accord were insufficient to drive the a price in the carbon market that will peak emissions by 2020. The paper received widespread coverage in the pan-European and environmental trade media.

Murray is now contributing to a UNEP study to be launched prior to Cancun. Climate Strategies will be launching a policy recommendations paper to complement this work.

In October, Richard Folland spoke at Platts energy seminar in Brussels, where he called for a harmonised approach to emissions trading, suggesting that bilateral and regional cooperation with the ETS could lead to the establishment of a wider cap and trade scheme. His comments were reported by Bloomberg.

Just prior to the international negotiations in Cancun we have issued a press release in which we suggest a way to help make progress on climate change through the formation of low carbon coalitions.

Highlights

Our outreach has continued to grow throughout 2010, and we have been involved in a number of exciting initiatives since our last newsletter.

We have continued our programme of engagement with policy makers and media in Brussels and as a result now have key policy officials participating in several project steering committees where our work is of direct interest. We have provided interim research results to members of the Environment Committee of the European Parliament and will build on this engagement into early 2011.

We also held two successful international workshops in Beijing and in Delhi on the issues of Sectoral Approaches and took part in a seminar on the ‘Challenges and Options of Carbon Markets and Carbon Leakage’ at the British Embassy in Tokyo. Richard Folland presented on the international landscape and Dora Fazekas discussed the issue of carbon leakage and shared insights from the EU ETS to a group of Japanese academics and Government officials.

On 20 October, Climate Strategies took part in a roundtable on emission trading and investment response in Berlin as part of the project ‘Carbon Pricing for low carbon investment’. More recently, in Budapest, we held a Central Eastern European regional workshop as part of our EU 2020 project on the subject of Climate Mitigation and Energy Security in CEE Member States. There was excellent level of participation from a wide range of countries from the region.

We are also delighted to announce that Climate Strategies is now tweeting! Follow us at http://twitter.com/climatestrat for updates on our reports and events.

For general enquiries please contact secretariat@climatestrategies.org. Climate Strategies, St Giles Court, 24 Castle Street, Cambridge, CB3 0AJ. Telephone: +44 (0) 1223 452 810
Profile: Our Network

Neil Hamilton
I have recently taken up the post of Research Director at Climate Strategies, where I am responsible for the delivery of our ambitious programme of climate policy research. Apart from the task of getting up to speed with our portfolio of projects, since September I have been developing a strategy to guide our work in 2011/12 in the context of a radically changed international environment.

My background is quite different from most 'Climate Strategies people'. I'm a geographer and my career has focussed on global environmental change. Most recently I led the work of WWF across the Arctic region combining policy and advocacy work in forums such as the Arctic Council with field conservation in Alaska, Canada, Greenland, arctic Scandinavia and Russia. For my sins I was named one of the '100 most influential people committed to saving the Poles'. Such a diverse career gives me a slightly different perspective on the challenges for Climate Strategies in the coming years. I hope that we can really engage decision makers with climate policy research questions that matter, and design our projects so that they have impact where and when it matters. Our network is well placed to provide high quality, independent advice to a wide range of stakeholders in a very credible manner, building on the excellent reputation we have developed over the years. I look forward to being part of the team!

For media enquiries please contact the Press Office on climatestrategies@luther.co.uk +44 (0)207 618 9108

Published Reports

Sectoral Approaches and Agreements - policy recommendations
Author: Peter Wooders
Outlines the policy recommendations emerging from Climate Strategies' 18 month study on sectoral approaches, concentrating on the steel sector in China, India and Japan.
http://climatestrategies.org/our-reports/category/47/264.html

Proposed Steel Sectoral Approach for Japan
Author: Peter Wooders
This paper outlines a sectoral approach for the steel sector in Japan. Climate Strategies is inviting comments from stakeholders.
http://climatestrategies.org/our-reports/category/0/272.html

Climate Innovation Centres: Technology co-operation to meet climate challenges
Author: Ambuj Sagar
This briefing outlines the initial findings of the Climate Strategies' study which looks at how Climate Innovation Centres (CICs) can accelerate low carbon technology transition in developing countries.
http://climatestrategies.org/our-reports/category/47/265.html

National Funding Entities: Their role in the transition to a new paradigm of global cooperation on climate change
Author: Luis Gomez-Echeverri
This Policy Brief is part of a series of publications on the UNFCCC Financial Mechanism where the idea of devolving responsibility to the national level and the need for national funding entities were introduced.
http://climatestrategies.org/our-reports/category/55/266.html

How many people does it take to administer long-term climate finance?
Author: David Ciplet, Benito Müller and J. Timmons Roberts
This paper provides a rough estimate of the level of staffing needed to administer new and additional climate finance.
http://climatestrategies.org/our-reports/category/55/267.html

U.S. Government Policymaking on Climate Change
Author: Thomas Brewer
This paper is the October 2010 comment in the Oxford Energy and Environment series, written by Climate Strategies' U.S. Special Adviser. It focuses on the recent developments and prospects for the future of U.S. government policymaking on climate change.
http://climatestrategies.org/our-reports/category/47/268.html

Is there a case for the EU to move beyond 20% emissions reductions by 2020?
Author: Emmanuel Guerin, IDDRI
Interim results of this project as presented at the Brussels event on 22nd November. Now available for comment.
http://www.climatestrategies.org/our-reports/category/57/271.html

See here for the full list of Climate Strategies publications.
http://www.climatestrategies.org/our-reports.html
Outlook

A number of Climate Strategies projects will report over the coming months.

Ten working papers will be published by the end February 2011 as part of our influential project “Is there a case for the EU moving beyond 20% GHG emissions reduction target by 2020?”. The results will be embedded in a single synthesis report (http://climatestrategies.org/our-reports/category/57.html) and a launch event will be held in Brussels before the European Spring Council.

Our report on Climate Innovation Centres (CICs), which asks how CICs accelerate low carbon technology transition in developing countries, will be published after Cancun. The report’s author Ambuj Sagar contributed to the World Bank/InfoDev report which invited stakeholders to assess the climate innovation landscape to examine the feasibility of a CIC in maximising innovation in India. http://www.climatestrategies.org/partner-publications.

Within our project "Carbon pricing for low carbon investment" http://climatestrategies.org/our-reports/category/63.html a number of papers will published in January, looking at carbon markets and prices. This will be timely given the continuing debate on revisions to the ETS, and should provide policy “food for thought” for the March Environment Council.

Other papers include a report for WIFO on the challenges of the European carbon market with a focus on carbon leakage. Within our project “Institutional framework for the global carbon market: options and implications” three papers are forthcoming dealing with transatlantic emissions trading; emerging economies and global carbon markets; and lessons from financial market institutions in terms of global rule-making.

Finally, our project ‘Enhancing the UNFCCC’; led by Benito Mueller of The Oxford Institute for Energy Studies looking at the process associated with the framework of the UNFCCC as well as the informal meetings organised in support of the negotiations. A policy brief in draft form will be available for comments just after Cancun.

For media enquiries please contact the Press Office on climagestrategies@luther.co.uk +44 (0)207 618 9108

Dates for the Diary

29 Nov - 10 Dec 2010
UNFCCC COP 16 Meeting, Cancun, Mexico

2 Dec 2010
Formal Energy Council of the Belgian Presidency

1 Jan 2011
Hungary takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union

24 – 25 Mar 2011
Spring European Council