

## WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

Week ending Friday 12 September

### EPSRC offer £6 million to fund Low Carbon Vehicle Technologies research

The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, the Minister for Universities, Science and Cities, has announced that two new research projects aiming to drive forward low carbon vehicles technologies are to receive £6 million funding from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), as part of the Research Councils UK (RCUK) Energy Programme. The projects will involve academics from eight UK universities. ELEVATE (Electrochemical Vehicle Advanced Technology), will develop better materials for energy storage devices such as fuel cells and batteries and improve integration between devices, vehicles and power grids. It will draw on expertise in departments of Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Materials and Manufacturing, and will be informed by an Industrial Advisory Committee that will include companies such as Jaguar Land Rover, Johnson Matthey and Intelligent Energy. The second project, Ultra Efficient Engines and Fuels, will investigate how to improve the operation of internal combustion engines by as much as one third efficiency and how new fuels' performance can be used in future engines to bring emissions close to zero. It will involve academics from departments of Computing, Engineering & Maths, Engineering and Design, Physics and Mechanical Engineering. Industrial partners with this project will include Delphi Diesel Systems Ltd, Jaguar Land Rover, BP British Petroleum and Ricardo UK.

(Source: EPSRC)

<http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/newsevents/news/lowcarbonvehicletech/>

### Mayor backs national diesel car scrappage scheme

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, has called for government to fund scrapping the most polluting diesel cars and giving drivers cash incentives to switch to cleaner vehicles as part of the evidence he gave to the Environmental Audit Committee. The Mayor is supporting proposals for government to help

motorists by offering between a £1,000 and £2,000 grant per vehicle for the most polluting diesels which are more than 12 months old. The Mayor called this a brilliant opportunity to support the British car industry and promote the early uptake of ultra low emission vehicles. A key part of the Mayor's proposals for an Ultra Low Emission Zone, which – subject to consultation- will be introduced in central London from 2020, will charge more-polluting diesel cars. However, the Mayor believes that government should provide support to people who have bought these vehicles in good faith to switch to cleaner alternatives. The Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) is a key part of the Mayor's newly published Transport Emission Road Map, and will aim to take London two-thirds of the way to compliance with EU limit values for nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and will encourage all vehicles in central London to be ultra low or zero emission from 2020. The Transport Emission Road Map calls on government to amend fiscal incentives, launch a national vehicle scrappage scheme and support more sustainable modes of travel. It also proposes the introduction of Low Emission Neighbourhoods, where new technology will be used to reduce emissions in some of the most polluted parts of London by switching zero-emission capable buses and taxis into their zero-emission electric mode. The Mayor has also welcomed a new comprehensive study comparing air quality in 36 world and European cities, where London ranked 9<sup>th</sup> on the health impacts index, 15<sup>th</sup> on the citywide index and 17<sup>th</sup> on the traffic focused index. (Source: GLA)

<https://www.london.gov.uk/media/mayor-press-releases/2014/09/mayor-backs-national-diesel-car-scrappage-scheme-as-london>



## Labour launches air pollution campaign

Labour's Environment Secretary, Maria Eagle MP, Labour's Shadow Minister for London, Sadiq Khan MP, and Labour's Shadow Minister for the Natural Environment, Barry Gardiner MP, have launched a Labour Party campaign against air pollution. Maria Eagle said that 29,000 people die prematurely in the UK due to poor air pollution in towns and cities, including over 3,000 people in London. It was announced that the next Labour government will deliver a national framework for Low Emission Zones to enable local authorities to encourage cleaner, greener, less-polluting vehicles to tackle this problem. It was also announced that the Labour Party would devolve both the power and responsibility for this to Local Authorities who were willing to take action on air pollution.

(Source: Labour)

<http://press.labour.org.uk/post/97127868374/labour-launches-air-pollution-campaign>



## Over 1,000 local authority vehicles to become greener

Over 1,000 local authority vehicles ranging from buses to fire engines will be cleaner and greener after the announcement of the successful bidders for the £5 million Clean Vehicle Technology Fund (CVTF) was made by Transport Minister Baroness Kramer. Grants have been awarded to seventeen local authorities for a wide variety of cutting-edge, pollution reducing technologies which will now be fitted to 1,080 vehicles. The Department for Transport has also announced the allocation of an additional £50,000 of funding to aid local authorities in monitoring the results of their clean technology projects. Baroness Kramer said, "The funding we are providing will result in real public health benefits while supporting skilled jobs and economic growth in the environmental

technologies industries." Previous rounds of the CVTF have only been available for buses, and this is the first time that funding has been available for a wider range of public services. As part of the requirements of the fund, successful projects are required to monitor the effectiveness of the technologies and provide a useful learning tool to other local authorities considering green vehicle upgrades.

(Source: DfT)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/greener-fire-engines-ambulances-buses-and-taxis-on-the-way>

## Cameron, Miliband and Clegg miss PMQs to campaign in Scotland

David Cameron, Ed Miliband and Nick Clegg have skipped the weekly Prime Minister's Questions to travel to Scotland. In a joint statement the three said: "There is a lot that divides us - but there's one thing on which we agree passionately: the United Kingdom is better together." In a further move, the Scottish flag, the Saltire, has been raised over Downing Street, with No 10 saying it will continue to fly until the referendum on 18 September.

(Source: BBC News)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-29125406>

## Week ahead

**The Houses of Parliament will be in recess from Saturday 13 September and will next sit on Monday 13 October**

**The House of Lords is in recess and will next sit on Monday 13 October**

**To note the Scottish Referendum on Independence will take place on Thursday 18 September.**