



July 2011

Dear Member

Welcome to LSA News, your quarterly source of comment and updates on issues relevant to the LSA Principles.

LSA membership keeps growing, and we now have 215 members. Members who have recently joined include Devonshires, Scott Richards and Wedlake Bell. LSA members now represent more than a third of solicitors in private practice in England & Wales. We're always looking to get new members involved so do get in touch if you know of a firm that would like to join.

Hot Topic – LSA Executive Members sign up to Carbon Targets

[The 20 LSA Executive Members](#) have publicly committed to cutting their Co2 emissions by adopting challenging emissions reduction targets to drive change in the legal sector. The LSA carbon targets announcement is unique as it is the first time that any sector has publicly committed to collectively reduce carbon emissions.

LSA Executive members recognise the importance of driving continued improvement, particularly following the Government's announcement that the UK is now committed to even tougher national carbon reduction targets.

The Executive members have agreed to a [new LSA Principle](#) and all members are encouraged to adopt suitable targets for their firms to help them to achieve the new Principle - LSA Principle 7. The LSA considers that targets should aspire to deliver reductions consistent with longer term objectives under UK climate change legislation. All reporting firms will be asked to confirm performance against their targets when reporting under the LSA Protocol.

The LSA recognises that establishing carbon targets requires a robust emissions baseline however, and therefore [calculating your firm's carbon footprint](#) should be a first step for all members. If you have any questions about the new Principle or would like to discuss approaches to establishing carbon targets please get in touch.

Hot Topic 2 – LSA Award 2011 - celebrating excellence in environmental management

Nominations are now open for the 2011 Law Society Excellence Awards. This year the Excellence Awards celebrate their fifth birthday and are shaping up to be the biggest and best yet on 18 October.

The LSA Award for Excellence in Environmental Responsibility recognises original ideas and significant outcomes from environmental initiatives such as carbon management, energy efficiency and sustainable procurement.

Best practice and innovation in proactive environmental strategy and performance is sought for this award and our expert judges will be looking to reward evidence of significant improvement at firms of all sizes.

The closing date for entries is Friday 19 August 2011. Please visit the [Law Society website](#) for details of how to enter.

Expert Comment

LSA News includes expert opinion on key carbon issues for our members and in this edition we are lucky enough to have two articles written by leaders in the sustainability sector. Thomas Stokell, managing director at Challenge for Change has written an [exclusive comment piece](#) discussing innovative ways to encourage green commuting and in our second exclusive article Jane Burston, director and co-founder of Carbon Retirement discusses [the business case for carbon offsetting](#).

LSA Update – resources for members

Building Energy Performance Guide

The LSA Carbon Group has developed a [new guide](#) for members: *Building Energy Aspects of the LSA Carbon Footprint*. The guide builds on the data and findings from the LSA carbon reporting process and includes valuable information on building energy consumption and ways to reduce your firm's carbon footprint and intensity.

The Carbon Group has also compiled detailed [building energy data](#) from members that agreed to publicly disclose their firm's carbon footprint. This information reflects the varying sizes and practice areas of our reporting members and therefore should not be used as an exact benchmark of individual firm's performance. The data provides a useful analysis of the carbon emissions from the buildings occupied by a significant proportion of the UK legal sector.

Many thanks to the representatives from Freshfields, Linklaters, Simmons and Simmons and SJ Berwin for their input, particularly Stacey Collins, Health, Safety and Environment Manager, Freshfields.

Coming Soon

The LSA is currently developing a new easy to use web-based carbon reporting tool for members - this will be launched with accompanying webinar training sessions later in 2011.

Members should also look out for a new online knowledge portal to enable firms across the country (and elsewhere!) to share ideas and achievements to support continued collaboration and carbon reduction in the legal sector.





Regional forums

The LSA will be hosting a full programme of regional events in 2011 to showcase the business benefits of taking a proactive approach to climate change, with a focus on key climate impacts and opportunities for law firms.

Forthcoming Regional Forums will be hosted in the following locations in September and October (dates and locations will be advertised on the LSA website shortly):

Manchester, Huddersfield, Bristol, Exeter, Southampton, Newcastle

Thank you as always to the firms that hosted regional forums in the first half of 2011. We would be delighted if your firm would like to host a regional forum - please contact us if you wish to do so.

Please forward this newsletter to colleagues who might find it of interest.

All ideas and feedback are very welcome, please email me at:
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Kind regards,

Micael

