



Meeting the challenge:

# Greenhouse Gas Action Plan

## Of the Agriculture Industry in England

Phase II Delivery 2012-2015  
Progress report 2014



"We offer this Plan as a serious statement of intent and a commitment to reduce our industry's GHG emissions" (2011)

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The Greenhouse Gas Action Plan (GHGAP) is the principal mechanism for delivering the farming industry's commitment to a reduction in annual emissions from agriculture in England of three million tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent (Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e) as set out in the Low Carbon Transition Plan by the third carbon budget period (2018 – 2022). Our robust partnership established in 2010 aims to improve awareness amongst farmers and growers of GHG emissions and drive the implementation of on-farm practices that reduce GHG emissions per unit of production, thereby reducing the need for regulation or taxation.

Progress made during our first phase of delivery (2010-2012) was well received by Government and the Committee on Climate Change. In order to build on this early momentum we proposed key actions for the next phase of delivery to 2015 in the spirit that we offered the first Delivery Plan – that despite the challenges and uncertainty, there are a suite of actions that can be implemented on-farm to deliver improved efficiency of production and a reduction of emissions per unit production.

This document provides a short summary of the progress made by the GHGAP during 2013-2014.



## 1. Progress on Phase II actions (2012-2015)

Priority area	Proposed action	Target date	Progress by April 2013	Progress 2013-2014
<b>Strategic co-ordination (and reporting)</b>				
Steering Group action 1	Consider options for funding a GHGAP co-ordinator	By end 2012	The next phase of the CFE has provided the opportunity for a part-time GHGAP co-ordinator.	Funding for the part-time co-ordinator has been continued.
Steering Group action 2	Maintain oversight of mitigation activity to identify gaps in action or progress in collaboration with others e.g. Defra's Research Platform Policy Group, as appropriate	Throughout phase II	On-going. With link to 'MIN NO' project and modelling of mitigation potential from improved soil management	On-going. Whilst the MIN-NO project will provide better N <sub>2</sub> O EFs, identifying new mitigation measures have proved more elusive.
Steering Group action 3	Evaluate and agree key indicators of activity and progress for the GHGAP with the GHG Platform and Defra Statistics team in order to better report on progress	Throughout phase II	The CFE's Evidence & Monitoring Group have agreed to setting up a sub-group to tackle this issue.	This work with the CFE has been put on hold as its current effort is focussed on pollinators and water quality and the CFE's fit with the new CAP. However work with the NAAC on contractors is underway. In addition there may be an alternative route to evaluating potential indicators. The Agri-tech strategy aims to establish a Centre for Agricultural Informatics and Metrics of Sustainability later this year.
Steering Group action 4	Test Farm Efficiency Hub (FEH)	By end 2012	GHGAP feedback collated for contractors. Getting the FEH back on track will be the co-ordinator's first task.	The document review process is under consideration. Unfortunately Defra is withdrawing funding for AdLib which provides the "operating

				system” for the pilot FEH. However there may still be opportunities for the FEH to piggy-back on other library services..
Steering Group action 5	Convene high profile workshop with senior Defra officials to exhibit the FEH and present the case for wider ambition in support of co-ordinated (integrated) advice delivery and industry-led initiatives	By April 2013	Further action postponed until co-ordinator in post (as action 4 above).	See above
<b>Communication</b>				
Steering Group action 6	Continue to identify opportunities for collaboration in communications within the GHGAP, with other farming organisations and service providers and the supply chain, and investigate the opportunities for greater exposure in the trade press	On-going	<p>See section 2 on CFE. GHGAP has made good links with the Product Sustainability Forum.</p> <p>HGCA published an environmental roadmap for UK cereals and oilseeds industry “<a href="#">Growing for the future</a>” in 2012.</p>	<p>In Dec 2013, the GHGAP met a broad range of organisations representing agricultural engineers<sup>1</sup>. Opportunities for closer working with the NAAC are being taken forward.</p> <p>BPEX published its <a href="#">updated roadmap</a> which demonstrated that the pig industry has already exceeded its carbon reduction target, reducing GHGs by 26% in 2012. Its target was 17% by 2020.</p> <p>Potato Council reports on the <a href="#">environmental impact of potato production</a></p> <p>HGCA publishes its <a href="#">environmental roadmap on water</a> in UK cereals and oilseeds</p>

<sup>1</sup> European Society of Agricultural Engineers, Harper Adams University College, the Institute of Agricultural Engineers, the National Association of Agricultural Contractors (NAAC) and the Royal Agricultural University.

				<p>EBLEX is working with the Product Sustainability Forum on a pathfinder project on benchmarking.</p> <p>LEAF launches its <a href="#">sustainability report</a></p> <p>GHGAP workshop on emissions reduction in the 2020s and beyond.</p> <p>Participation in <a href="#">FAO global agenda for sustainable livestock</a> - in particular focus group 1 closing the efficiency gap and group 3 manure use efficiency in order to share knowledge around the world.</p>
Steering Group action 7	Subject to Steering Group approval, initially assess the usefulness of social media as a form of communication	From 2013 to 2015	This will be discussed with the CFE's Delivery and Communications Group.	On-going
Steering Group action 8	Review the on-farm actions to take into account new knowledge and policy.	In 2013	Planned for 2013	The review was widened to include the entire CFE partnership and so has just been completed. The SG will consider the new text at its next meeting (Jun 2014).
<b>Management skills and advice</b>				
Steering Group action 9	FACTS Qualified Advisers continue to undertake new training	By end 2014	On-going	2157 FACTS Qualified Advisers have completed the latest training, including advising farmers on mitigation practices for GHG reduction.
Steering Group action 10	AIC to draft plans for a register of feed advisers consulting with members, with BSAS, AHDB <sup>2</sup> livestock sectors and others on	By Sept 2012	Complete	The Feed Advisers Register was launched, as planned and now has 1092 Members <a href="http://www.feedadviserregister.org.uk/home/">http://www.feedadviserregister.org.uk/home/</a> The concept of training to set competences

<sup>2</sup> Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board

	<p>administration and a standard of training for eligibility to remain on such a register.</p> <p>Agreed plans to be resourced and implemented.</p>	By mid 2013	Ready for launch on 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2013. See section 3.	to increase production efficiency and reduce emissions in the livestock sector, has been embraced.
Steering Group action 11	Use Tried & Tested campaign (guidance and tools) to help raise the skills and understanding of farmers in the benefits of integrating animal feeding planning and crop nutrient planning on livestock farms	By end of 2013 then on-going	Agreed to focus on cattle and sheep – see action 20	The importance of linking the management of manures, feeds and fertilisers is explained through the Tried & Tested Communications Campaign and supported with a new guide for cattle and sheep – see action 20
Steering Group action 12	Continue to promote the benefits of improving skills and training e.g. Continuing Professional Development schemes by AHDB livestock sectors	On-going	<p>On-going. For example: <a href="#">DairyPro</a>, a CPD scheme, launched in 2012 captures training and skill development for individual dairy professionals.</p> <p>The first 7 participants graduated from pig industry <a href="#">professional manager development scheme</a> in 2013</p>	<p>AHDB launches “<a href="#">Professionalism in Agriculture</a>” skills strategy securing £1.7m training for farmers and growers (made up to £2.2m with additional industry funding). Subjects include animal health and welfare, controlling endemic disease and advanced training in livestock skills.</p> <p>HGCA launches its <a href="#">Monitor Farms</a> across the country to encourage and facilitate business improvement through the adoption of new technology and practices.</p>
Steering Group action 13	<p>Continue to support “carbon footprinting” through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>initiatives such as the development of a tool for the cereals and oilseeds sector (HGCA to lead)</li> </ul>	Throughout Phase II	<p>HGCA <a href="#">guide and tool</a> to help farmers understand carbon footprinting launched in 2012.</p> <p>In 2012, EBLEX developed a <a href="#">carbon calculator for sheep</a> to help farmers investigate</p>	<p>BPEX published its <a href="#">updated roadmap</a> which demonstrated that the pig industry has already exceeded its carbon reduction target, reducing GHGs by 26% in 2012. Its target was 17% by 2020.</p> <p>Potato Council reports on the <a href="#">environmental impact of potato production</a></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>considering options to meet the range of farmers' needs of "carbon footprinting"</li> </ul>	By end 2013	<p>where the most efficient gains can be made.</p> <p>AHDB commissioned a two-year project to design an environmental impacts calculator for all sectors of agriculture. Work due to start in 2013.</p>	<p>Key performance indicators for GHG reduction becoming increasingly standardized, at UK, European and global level.</p> <p>Latest emissions factors for fertilisers and feeds published. GHG emissions are accounted for in fertiliser production and in making decisions about raw material sourcing for animal feeds.</p>
<b>Crop nutrient management</b>				
Steering Group action 14	Continue to promote the Tried & Tested nutrient management plan, website and tools and the benefits of professional advice, and soil analysis, with a continuing focus on the needs of the livestock sector	On-going	Nutrient management status report (2012) available	Project extended to March 2015 with reasonable certainty of continuing.
Steering Group action 15	Sub-group of GHGAP and Tried & Tested partners to plan how best to promote the benefits of accurate nutrient application and the services available considering different sector needs	By mid-2013, then through to 2015	Work plan agreed for development of protocols for nutrient application and engagement with contractors and engineers	On-going commitment
Steering Group action 16	Promote strong linkages between nutrient and soil management activities e.g. between Tried & Tested and HGCA nutrient and soil	Throughout Phase II	Facilitated through strategic industry contracts with Catchment Sensitive Farming	HGCA and CSF run workshops across the country on the fundamentals of precision farming



	management events			
<b>Soil and land management</b>				
Steering Group action 17	Look for opportunities to promote the benefits of soil management and soil organic matter e.g. AHDB-HGCA, CSF project - running 70 farm events	Throughout Phase II	As for action 16.  Potato Council updated <a href="#">Soil Management for Potatoes</a> guide in 2012.	CSF/HGCA Soil Management Workshops run across the country and soil management is the focus of HGCA Agronomy Workshops in Feb and March 2014.  LEAF case study farms to investigate soil and its management in more detail.  Commercial companies are also key to promoting benefits
Steering Group action 18	Conduct further evaluation of Defra surveys in conjunction with the Defra Statistics teams to help identify the most reliable means of indicating progress in soil sampling	By end 2014	Will be addressed by the sub-group of the CFE's Evidence and Monitoring Group.	See previously but will be discussed with the chair of the CFE's Evidence & Monitoring Group in April
Steering Group action 19	Evaluate contribution of CFE measures (including farm stewardship) to GHG mitigation	By April 2014	Will be discussed with CFE groups.	This has been delayed until decisions are made on the CAP.
<b>Livestock nutrition</b>				
Steering Group action 20	Create a new guide and tool – a Tried & Tested Ruminant Feeding Plan with balance sheets and showing the link between feeding practices and animal health and also the integration between grass & forage nutrition and feed	By end 2012	To be launched with supporting video case study in May for promotion – as agreed in action 21 below	Guide launched and promoted, with video

	management			
Steering Group action 21	Promote the new plan through the Tried & Tested nutrient management network, and through the supply chain for milk and beef products	Through to 2015	On-going	EBLEX have run 300 technical workshops during the year on subjects including ewe nutrition, upland suckler cow nutrition and looking at winter soil and managing winter feed.
<b>Livestock health and fertility</b>				
Steering Group action 22	Build on the early success of established programmes e.g. DairyCo's Mastitis Control Programme, and take opportunities to collaborate with animal health professionals	Throughout Phase II	On-going. For example: > 950 farms enrolled onto the DairyCo Mastitis Control Plan, exceeding 2012 target of 750 farms. Farms show average 10-15% reduction in mastitis.	On-going
Steering Group action 23	Work with the Cattle and Sheep Health and Welfare groups to tackle critical health issues relevant to the beef, dairy and sheep sector.	On-going	On-going	On-going
<b>Energy efficiency and renewables</b>				
Steering Group action 24	Continue to provide information on energy efficiency and technology through existing e.g. GrowSave, and the new initiatives e.g. Pig Improvement by Information Technology (PIVIT) project	On-going	On-going. For example: NFU Farm Energy Service has so far helped 1,550 farms on energy matters since its launch in 2012.	For example: NFU Farm Energy Service has helped 908 people with energy issues since April 2013. Potato Council publishes recommendations on Reducing the Energy Use and Carbon Footprint of Potato Storage.
Steering Group action 25	Continue to support and make the case for renewables and	On-going	On-going. For example: 106 anaerobic digestion	Renewables deployment continues but small on-farm progress under threat due to

	<p>AD in particular because of its mitigation potential and other environmental benefits including contributing to the Voluntary code of practice/Best practice guidelines for AD crop feedstocks</p>		<p>plants now installed outside water industry, processing up to 5.1 million tonnes of food and farm waste every year and with an installed electrical capacity of more than 88MWe (<a href="#">NNFCC</a>, 2013)</p>	<p>recent degression.</p>
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