

# Adapting to Climate Change Newsletter

Welcome to the latest update from the Adapting to Climate Change (ACC) Programme in Defra. We hope that these newsletters provide a useful way for you to keep in touch with us. Feedback and news for future issues (approximately every six weeks) are very welcome. Thank you to those of you who have contributed to our work in many of these areas. Any general comments or enquiries should go to Sital Nana via [acc.mailbox@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:acc.mailbox@defra.gsi.gov.uk).

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## 1. UK CLIMATE CHANGE RISK ASSESSMENT

Under the Climate Change Act (2008) the Government is required to conduct a Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) in order to understand the level of risk posed by climate change to the UK. This must be presented to Parliament by 26 January 2012.

Work is ongoing to produce reports on the key climate risks for each of the 11 sectors identified for priority action – agriculture, water, flood and coastal management, marine and fisheries, forestry, biodiversity, business, built environment, transport, energy and health. A synthesis report is also being produced, pulling together the analysis from each sector and drawing out the interdependencies.

The Adaptation Sub-Committee of the Committee on Climate Change will undertake their statutory review of the draft findings and will provide their final advice on the CCRA in their 2<sup>nd</sup> Report on the UK's level of preparedness for climate change, to be published in July.

Details of an autumn stakeholder engagement programme on the draft outputs from the CCRA will be available soon. If you'd like detailed updates on progress with the CCRA project, a dedicated newsletter is produced approximately every 3 months. You can sign up for it [here](#)

For further information, please contact us via [acc.mailbox@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:acc.mailbox@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

The Collaborative Centre of Excellence in Managing and Understanding Natural and Environmental Risks will be holding a one day conference at Cranfield University on 22 June. The conference website is: [www.cranfield.ac.uk/sas/riskandevidence](http://www.cranfield.ac.uk/sas/riskandevidence)

## 2. CLIMATE RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE: PREPARING FOR A CHANGING CLIMATE

In February, the ACC's Programme's Infrastructure & Adaptation project received its fourth, and final, independent study. The report, by the Engineering the Future group, *Infrastructure, Engineering & Climate Change Adaptation – ensuring services in an uncertain future* sets out the engineering profession's view on addressing the crucial issues of adapting infrastructure to climate change and extreme weather.

On 9 May 2011, Defra's Secretary of State launched *Climate Resilient Infrastructure*, a cross-Government report which outlines the challenges to the transport, energy, water and ICT infrastructure sectors to adapting to climate change. The report sets out what action needs to be taken by infrastructure owners and operators, regulators, insurers and Government. The report has been produced as a commitment from the Government's National Infrastructure Plan.

The report, and the other independent studies, can be accessed [here](#)

For further information, please contact Will Lochhead via [acc.mailbox@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:acc.mailbox@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

## 3. ADAPTATION REPORTING POWER

91 organisations responsible for public utilities and critical national infrastructure (e.g. from the water, energy and transport sectors) are required to report to Government under the Climate Change Act on how they are assessing and addressing the risks and opportunities that climate change poses to the delivery of their business.

The first seven reports were published in January alongside a short Government document on the initial findings. Reports from water utility companies were published on 20 May which identify the risks that climate change will pose to their service, and what actions they are taking to address them. The reports can be accessed [here](#).

If you would like to discuss the Adaptation Reporting Power or want more information on it, please contact us at [acc\\_reportingpower@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:acc_reportingpower@defra.gsi.gov.uk).

## 4. LOCAL ADAPTATION ACTION

The Local and Regional Adaptation Partnership (LRAP) Board, which met on a quarterly basis between April 2008 to March 2011, is being refreshed to provide stronger representation from local authorities. The Board will have a remit to help shape the work of the Adapting to Climate Change Programme including policy development and the delivery of advice and support on adaptation. The new group, the Local Adaptation Advisory Panel (LAAP), will also focus on key adaptation themes for discussion. ACC is working with Local Government Group to identify a Chair and local authority members.

Defra has committed to providing grant funding to the Climate Change Partnerships from April to September 2011. The Partnerships' programmes for this funding have now been agreed with Defra. If you'd like to find out what the Partnerships are doing, you can link to individual CCP websites via their umbrella organisation Climate UK at [www.climateuk.net](http://www.climateuk.net)

For more information, please contact Rob Hitchen via [acc.mailbox@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:acc.mailbox@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

## 5. ADAPTATION IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT PROJECT

The Adaptation and Resilience to a Changing Climate Co-ordination Network, run by the UK Climate Impacts Programme, recently hosted a conference in Oxford focussing on "Contributions and Challenges" to adaptation in the built environment. Two days of stimulating presentations, discussions and debate! The conference materials are available to download at <http://www.ukcip-arcc.org.uk/content/view/596/9/>

The project team recently ran a stakeholder workshop on Adaptation Skills in the Built Environment, hosted by CIRIA. The report of the workshop is currently being finalised and will give rise to an Action Plan for boosting adaptation skills.

For further information, please contact Dominic Rowland via [acc.mailbox@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:acc.mailbox@defra.gsi.gov.uk).

## 6. DEPARTMENTAL ADAPTATION PLANS

Departmental Adaptation Plans (DAPs) are a public statement of each Government Department's priority areas for adaptation and how these priorities will be taken forward. They set out practical actions to ensure that policies, departmental processes and estates are better adapted to likely changes to the UK's climate. They focus on areas in which imminent policy or investment decisions will have a long term impact on their own, or others', ability to withstand or adapt to climate change.

The first adaptation plans focus on actions to be taken forward over the period 2010-2012, with subsequent adaptation plans following a five year cycle aligned to carbon budget periods and linked to the National Adaptation Programme cycle.

Updates to adaptation plans from 16 Government departments were published on 20 May, setting out what each department has done, and will be doing, to prepare for climate change. The reports can be accessed [here](#)

For further information please contact Soheila Amin-Hanjani via [acc.mailbox@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:acc.mailbox@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

## 7. ACC PROGRAMME REFRESH

The Government is committed to implementing a new National Adaptation Programme from 2012, following on from the first statutory Climate Change Risk Assessment. To help us prepare for this, the ACC team recently undertook a review and 'refresh' of our existing programme and portfolio of work. A lot has changed since the ACC Programme was set up and the programme refresh has helped us to ensure that our approach is up to date, and in particular that our ongoing work reflects the Government's policy priorities. The Programme is now organised around 5 priority themes for adaptation:

- Business and Services
- Natural Environment
- Farming and Forestry
- Health and Wellbeing
- Buildings and Infrastructure

These themes will be complemented by work on:

- delivering the statutory requirements of the Climate Change Act
- communications and stakeholder engagement
- developing the evidence base
- sub-national engagement
- EU and International

For further information, please contact Joanna Long via [acc.mailbox@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:acc.mailbox@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

## 8. ADAPTATION ADVICE PROGRAMME

Following our announcement in March that the Environment Agency (EA) will take on a new delivery role helping other organisations adapt to climate change, work is underway to develop the programme.

Our shared goal is to embed adaptation knowledge and expertise in key sectors by working in partnership to increase capacity whilst also joining up policy development work more closely with the provision of practical adaptation advice, guidance and support in England. The EA will work together with customers and partners to help key sectors such as local authorities, the built environment and infrastructure build resilience to climate risks.

Over the coming months the Environment Agency will be asking for your views to help shape the direction of the programme until 2015. Your involvement will be invaluable in ensuring that the support which the programme provides is matched to organisational needs and supports business decision making.

The Environment Agency takes on responsibility for the programme in September. They are working alongside the UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP) who manage the current contract to ensure that there is continuity of service and to build upon the excellent work they have undertaken.

For further information please contact Teige Cahill via [acc.mailbox@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:acc.mailbox@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

[www.defra.gov.uk/adaptation](http://www.defra.gov.uk/adaptation)

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter in future or would like to add a contact to the mailing list, please email [acc.mailbox@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:acc.mailbox@defra.gsi.gov.uk).

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