

NEWS RELEASE



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Assembly welcomes Government commitment to tackling Climate Change

Today's Government announcement of a new Draft Climate Change Bill has been welcomed by the West Midlands Regional Assembly as a step in the right direction in tackling this global issue.

The draft bill provides a broad institutional framework for the UK to achieve its goals of reducing carbon dioxide emissions and will ensure that steps are taken towards adapting to the impacts of climate change.

The Chairman of the West Midlands Regional Assembly, Cllr David S Smith commented: "This is a progressive move which brings some genuine accountability at the highest level to ensure climate change targets are met.

"We anticipate that the success of the proposed bill will be measured by the action that it encourages others to take in reducing energy use and adapting to those consequences of climate change that are now inevitable."

The Assembly signalled its commitment on climate change by signing the West Midlands Declaration on Climate Change in November 2006, indicating its intent to work and contribute to addressing this issue at a regional level. The Declaration commits the Regional Assembly to work with central government to contribute, at a

regional level, to the delivery of the UK target for carbon dioxide reduction by 2010. It also commits the Assembly to develop a plan of action with other regional partners to progressively address the causes and the impacts of climate change within the West Midlands.

The Declaration on Climate Change is the first of its kind in the UK and acts as a public statement for Councils and regional organisations to take action to tackle climate change. By making this strong move, the Assembly is pushing Climate Change to the top of the regional agenda and wants to see it act as a fundamental driver into all regional decision making.

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Notes to editors:

1. The West Midlands Regional Assembly ('the Assembly') represents a wide range of democratic, social and economic interests throughout the West Midlands region.
2. The Assembly's membership consists of 100 nominated representatives, with 68 members representing the local authority, 16 representing the business sector and 16 representing other economic and social partners.
3. The Assembly provides a platform for organisations to consider matters of common concern including: regional planning, transport, economic prosperity, sustainability, culture and Europe. It also supports regional policy forums and task groups on social inclusion, faith, housing, life long learning/skills, health, rural and community safety/crime reduction.
4. The Assembly works in partnership with Advantage West Midlands (AWM) the regional development agency (RDA), the Government Office West Midlands (GOWM), Regional Action West Midlands (RAWM) the West Midlands Local Government Association (WMLGA) and other regional and local organisations from across the West Midlands region.
5. The Assembly is the Regional Planning Body, and is also responsible for scrutinising the operation of the region's RDA, Advantage West Midlands.
6. For further information, visit our website www.wmra.gov.uk
7. The Independent Performance Assessment was undertaken by the National Audit Office as part of an examination of all 8 English Regional Development Agencies at the request of the Department of Trade and Industry.
8. The final report can be downloaded from Advantage West Midlands' website www.advantagewm.co.uk