

**West Midlands Climate Change Action Plan
Consultation Draft
July 2007**

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Foreword

I am pleased to present this draft West Midlands Climate Change Action Plan for consultation.

Recent events have shown dramatically how vulnerable the UK is to extreme weather. At the same time, climate change is receiving increasing recognition as the most significant challenge of our times. Evidence is mounting that human emissions of greenhouse gases are causing rapid rises in global temperatures, and it is increasingly clear that the effects will be felt in the immediate as well as the distant future.

It is a fundamental challenge for the West Midlands to secure a sustainable future, by significantly reducing emissions, becoming a low-carbon economy and ensuring we are well adapted to the unavoidable effects of the climate change that is already happening. It is a challenge that as a region we are well-equipped to take on, but it will require co-ordinated action, delivered and supported by regional agencies, local government, businesses, public-sector organisations and individuals across the West Midlands.

This draft Climate Change Action Plan provides a strategic framework for action to address the challenges posed by climate change. The Regional Assembly will lead the implementation of the Action Plan, but the support of partners will be essential. Therefore, I urge you as you read it to consider how you and your organisation can help achieve its goals. This document proposes lead organisations to take forward each action, and I encourage these and other organisations to work closely with the Regional Assembly and partners to identify ways in which they are able to contribute towards the implementation of the Action Plan.

The Regional Assembly is grateful to the many partners who have contributed to this draft Climate Change Action Plan.

Cllr Keith Austin
Environment Portfolio Holder
West Midlands Regional Assembly and
West Midlands Local Government Association

1 Introduction

- 1.1. Climate change has been described by the Government's Chief Scientific Advisor, Sir David King, as "the most serious problem we are facing today".
- 1.2. The climate change that was observed over the 20th Century is outside the boundaries of what would be expected through natural variation, and the scientific consensus is established that the changes we are experiencing are largely due to releases of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide into the atmosphere from human activity.
- 1.3. Human-induced climate change is happening. The challenge now is to make a difference. Our region is widely acknowledged as the birthplace of the industrial revolution, and through a history of innovation and industry fired by fossil fuels, has contributed significantly not only to a better modern society with higher standards of living, but also to the causes of climate change. Our intention now is that the West Midlands should rise to the challenge and play its part in tackling the problem.
- 1.4. In October 2006, the West Midlands Regional Assembly became the first Regional Assembly to sign up to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change. This commits the Assembly to produce with partners a plan of action to progressively address the causes and impacts of climate change.
- 1.5. This Action Plan, prepared with the input of many regional partners (see Appendix 1) will fulfil that commitment. However, the Action Plan is only the starting point. It can deliver real progress, but only if its delivery is undertaken and supported by local authorities, organisations, businesses and individuals throughout the Region.

2 The Need for Action Now

- 2.1. The impacts of climate change will not be restricted to the distant future or to far-flung locations elsewhere in the world. The cities, towns, villages, landscape and habitats of the West Midlands will all be affected. We are already experiencing extreme weather events of increasing frequency and severity. Within the next few decades, we will regularly be experiencing longer, hotter, drier summers; warmer, wetter winters; and more frequent extreme weather events leading to more flooding, higher wind speeds and stormier weather. We must plan to adapt to these changes.
- 2.2. In order to play our part in avoiding even more extreme climate impacts, we must reduce our emissions of greenhouse gases. We already have international, national and regional targets for reductions in emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases, including a national target to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide to 60% below 1990 levels by 2050, and recent scientific evidence suggests these targets may not be sufficient to prevent dangerous levels of climate change. We must work together to meet and exceed those targets here in the West Midlands.
- 2.3. We can use our heritage of innovation and enterprise to take advantage of the opportunity we now have to lead the development of low-carbon technologies and solutions. Research suggests that climate change could be a £30bn opportunity for British business over the next ten years and that low-carbon technologies will be worth at least \$500bn to the global economy by 2050. In 2006, the Stern Review of the Economics of Climate Change concluded that failure to tackle climate change could result in economic costs of up to 20% of GDP per year, now and forever. In comparison, the costs of effectively tackling climate change could be limited to only 1% of GDP per year.

Consultation question 1: The Need for an Action Plan

- a) Do you agree that there is value to be added by establishing clear accountability for strategic regional bodies to tackle the causes and impacts of climate change?
- b) Do you support the development of a regional Climate Change Action Plan in addition to the Regional Spatial Strategy and Regional Economic Strategy?
- c) What are the current barriers to achieving climate change objectives in implementation of regional policies sub-regionally and locally, and how can these be overcome?

3 Climate Change Targets

- 3.1. As part of the Kyoto Protocol, the UK has agreed to ensure annual greenhouse gas emissions are at least 12.5% below 1990 levels in the period 2008-2012.
- 3.2. In March 2007 EU Heads of State agreed greenhouse gases must be reduced by 20% by 2020 from 1990 levels.
- 3.3. The UK government has set a number of further domestic targets to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, including:
 - A reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 20% from 1990 levels by the year 2010.
 - A reduction in carbon dioxide emissions to 60% below 1990 levels by 2050, with "real progress" by 2020.
 - Renewable energy to provide 10% of domestic electricity requirements by 2010 and 15% by 2015, with an aspiration of 20% by 2020.
- 3.4. The Government's draft Climate Change Bill proposes a system of rolling 5-year "carbon budgets" similar to the Kyoto target. This system is intended to ensure a consistent downward trend in carbon emissions towards the 2050 target. The Bill also proposes a duty to report every five years on adaptation measures.
- 3.5. As well as setting targets, the Government has sought to address climate change through a number of policy initiatives, including planning policy, the Energy White Paper, and "Securing the Future", the UK Sustainable Development Strategy.
- 3.6. In the West Midlands, the Regional Energy Strategy sets targets for reducing carbon emissions by sector along with a regional target for renewable energy equivalent to 5% of regional electricity consumption by 2010. This reflects the region's limited capacity for deployment of some of the currently most cost effective technologies such as offshore wind, and the emphasis on energy efficiency as the key priority.

4 Our Climate Change Vision

4.1. Our Vision is to:

“Secure a sustainable future for the West Midlands by becoming a low-carbon economy and adapting to climate change”

by:

- Reducing emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the West Midlands;
- Identifying and adapting to the likely implications of climate change for the West Midlands;
- Implementing a programme of climate change mitigation and adaptation in ways that improves the quality of life for people in the West Midlands and their environment, without compromising future generations;
- Enhancing the region’s economy by increasing efficiency to deliver higher productivity with lower resource use, and helping the existing economic base grow and diversify into new low-carbon product and service markets;
- Demonstrating effective leadership, championing the climate change agenda across all sectors, communities and organisations.

5 Regional Climate Change Action Plan 2007-2010

- 5.1. The actions in this Plan are restricted to those that can be taken at the regional level within the next three years, and are considered deliverable within the powers and responsibilities of the Regional Assembly and other bodies outlined in Appendix 2. Although a regional Climate Change Action Plan can capture some of the diverse actions required to address the causes and impacts of climate change, complementary actions will need to be taken locally, nationally and internationally if the vision is to be achieved on a global scale. We welcome the increasing priority that is being placed at all levels on tackling climate change.

Consultation question 2: Regional influence

- a) Within the sphere of influence of regional agencies and organisations, how can we maximise our impact to make the biggest difference?
 - b) How can we achieve a step-change in the approach to climate change across all policy areas?
 - c) What criteria should be used to judge our success or otherwise in the short and longer term?
- 5.2. We need to ensure that all regional strategies and policies are consistent with our Vision and that we take all practical steps possible to reduce the level of greenhouse gas emissions from the West Midlands, adapt to future climate change and promote the economic opportunities arising from the deployment of low-carbon technologies. We must ensure that arrangements are in place to provide leadership and accountability, and that the bodies and mechanisms required to deliver the Action Plan are secure and adequately resourced. We also recognise that we must exemplify good practice through our own actions and communicate the benefits of those actions if we are to educate and influence other regional stakeholders and the wider public.
- 5.3. Each action in the Action Plan has a lead organisation(s). The lead organisations will be responsible for ensuring the delivery of that action, with assistance from supporting partners. The lead organisation will be responsible for defining the detailed steps required to deliver each action, including securing the necessary funding and partner input. It will also be responsible for reporting to the Region on progress and barriers.

6 Priorities for Action

6.1. Six regional climate change priorities have been identified to guide early action and enable the Region to move towards a well-adapted, low-carbon future. Each of these priorities is supported by a number of regional actions, which are outlined on the following pages. Our climate change priorities for action are as follows:

- **Planning:** Plan for low-carbon, well-adapted sustainable communities, with low-carbon new development, improved existing stock, and sustainable transport and waste planning to deliver substantially reduced emissions and resilience to likely climate change impacts.
- **Economy:** Facilitate the transition to a low-carbon economy by increasing take-up of low-carbon technologies, removing barriers to new technology investment and supporting environmental technology and low-carbon business sectors.
- **Implementation:** Ensure the delivery of substantial carbon savings and climate change adaptation by removing barriers and providing appropriate support and incentives for regional, sub-regional and local delivery agents.
- **Leadership:** Ensure that regional partners lead by example by significantly reducing carbon emissions from their own premises, activities and services.
- **Communication:** Increase awareness and understanding of the implications of Climate Change for the West Midlands amongst regional policy-makers, public sector organisations and businesses.
- **Targets and monitoring:** Where there are gaps in national monitoring or where Regional accountability is required for progress, establish appropriate regional, sub-regional and local carbon reduction targets and a robust and transparent framework for monitoring and reviewing progress.

Consultation question 3: Priorities for Action

- a) Do you agree that these are the right priorities for Climate Change action at regional level for the period 2007 to 2010?
- b) If not, what is missing, and what changes should be made?
- c) What, in your view, are the top 5/6 actions that will have the greatest impact for the Region in tackling climate change?

6.2. The table below sets out in details the actions proposed to support each of our priorities.

Planning: Plan for low-carbon, well-adapted sustainable communities, with low-carbon new development, improved existing stock, and sustainable transport and waste planning to deliver substantially reduced emissions and resilience to likely climate change impacts.			
Action:	Timescale	Review	Lead
P1. Ensure that revisions to the Regional Spatial Strategy (including Transport and Waste) and Regional Housing Strategy effectively address the need to reduce emissions and adapt to unavoidable climate change impacts over the coming decades, providing a robust regional framework to support local planning authorities in developing appropriate local planning, housing, transport and waste policy	End Phase 3 revision	As RSS is reviewed	WMRA
P2. Raise design and environmental standards for new build funded by regional partners' capital investment programmes, in order to improve the quality of the built environment through the roll-out of the West Midlands Planning Checklist and other measures	End 2008	2010	AWM with WMRA, WMCCE & RegenWM support
P3. Identify strategic sites for decentralised energy production / district heating and include a policy applying to e.g. major investment sites in RSS review	During Phase 3		AWM working with Utilities on Energy mapping & feasibility studies, supported by WMRA policy work
P4. Work with relevant local authorities to achieve growth in the seven DCLG New Growth Points that is sustainable, supporting schemes that set the highest standards of design, which are exemplars of sustainable development and construction, and which promote reduced carbon emissions and adaptation to climate impacts in line with the forthcoming Planning Policy Statement on Climate Change	Immediate		GOWM, with relevant Local Authorities

P5. Review the implications of climate change scenarios (UKCIP08) to identify likely adaptation requirements across all policy areas, including potential vulnerabilities and opportunities, to inform future policy developments and strategy reviews	2008 – dependent on timing of publication for UKCIP08 scenarios		SWM with WMRA / Policy Partnerships / lead organisation for Regional Strategies as appropriate
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Consultation question 4: “Planning” actions

- a) Are these the right actions to deliver positive outcomes in terms of the Planning priority?
- b) What, if anything, is missing?
- c) What, if anything, needs to be changed?
- d) Are the timescales and lead partners the right ones?

Economy: Facilitate the transition to a low-carbon economy by promoting energy efficiency and low-carbon energy generation, increasing take-up of low-carbon technologies, removing barriers to new technology investment and supporting environmental technology and low-carbon business sectors.

Action:	Timescale	Review	Lead
E1. Ensure that revisions to the Regional Economic Strategy effectively address the need to reduce emissions and adapt to unavoidable climate change impacts over the coming decades, building on current assessment work to date, and further strengthening benchmarking work	Autumn 2007	As RES is reviewed	AWM with WMRA, input into SA process, and commissioned low-carbon assessments
E2. Ongoing work with existing business support organisations to help regional businesses save money through improved resource efficiency and make money through diversification and investment in low-carbon products and services	End 2009	2010	AWM, Enterprise Board, Innovation Technology Council, WMBC
E3. Invest in low-carbon technologies and initiatives which move the region towards greater energy self-sufficiency, more decentralised and sustainable production, lower energy demand through greater energy efficiency, and improved waste management facilities.	End 2009	2010	AWM
E4. Stimulate demand for low-carbon housing, transport and consumer products and encourage lifestyle changes which shift the region towards more sustainable patterns of energy consumption, to support regional supply chains and improve overall efficiency and accessibility	End 2009	2010	AWM
E5. Help businesses realize the opportunities and manage the risks of the changing climate for their markets, products, premises, people and logistics	End 2009	2010	AWM

Consultation question 5: "Economy" actions

- a) Are these the right actions to deliver positive outcomes for the Economy?
- b) What, if anything, is missing?
- c) What, if anything, needs to be changed?
- d) Are the timescales and lead partners the right ones?

Please note that the consultation for this Action Plan is after the closing date for comments on the draft West Midlands Economic Strategy. Therefore, we encourage comments in the form of further guidance, or further focus e.g. which sectors to target. It will not be possible for the WMES to take forward comments regarding new economic objectives received in response to this consultation.

Implementation: Ensure the delivery of substantial carbon savings and climate change adaptation by removing barriers and providing appropriate support and incentives for regional, sub-regional and local delivery agents.

Action:	Timescale	Review	Lead
I1. Review the implications of national and international targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions across policy areas to identify and implement solutions for policy gaps, conflicts and barriers.	Summer 2008	2010	AWM / WMRA with Policy Partnerships
I2. Identify barriers faced and support required by delivery agents including local authorities and Local Strategic Partnerships in delivering climate change action locally and sub-regionally	Autumn 2008	2010	AWM / WMRA / WMLGA with LGA Climate Change Commission / WMCoE
I3. Identify existing and potential funding streams and establish a regional approach to directing these towards agreed priorities.	End 2007	Mid 2008	WMRA, GOWM, AWM
I4. Businesses' low-carbon credentials to form part of selection criteria within sustainable procurement practices	End 2007 agree minimum standards	Ongoing	WMCoE / Partners
I5. Investigate feasibility for a Regional energy-efficiency reinvestment fund based on carbon offset or rolling reinvestment fund within the region	Feasibility study end 2007	2010	AWM

Consultation question 6: "Implementation" actions

- a) Are these the right actions to deliver positive outcomes for Implementation?
- b) What, if anything, is missing?
- c) What, if anything, needs to be changed?
- d) Are the timescales and lead partners the right ones?
- e) How can sub-regional and local bodies contribute to implementation?

Leadership: Ensure that regional partners lead by example by significantly reducing carbon emissions from their own premises, activities and services.

Action:	Timescale	Review	Lead
L1. Review own practices to identify potential carbon savings and appropriate adaptation measures (e.g. procurement, energy and water use in own buildings, fleet, staff travel to and for work, and in operations and service provision; quantify options and set targets for reductions); investigate efficiencies of joint posts between regional partners to deliver this programme	August 2008	Annual monitoring by individual partners	All partners
L2. Establish appropriate Partnership arrangements to support and monitor delivery of the Climate Change Action Plan, and to review priorities taking into account gaps, conflicts and synergies in existing regional activity	End 2007	Annual Review to Regional Assembly	WMRA with partners

Consultation question 7: "Leadership" actions

- a) Are these the right actions to deliver positive outcomes for Leadership?
- b) What, if anything, is missing?
- c) What, if anything, needs to be changed?
- d) Are the timescales and lead partners the right ones?

Communication: Increase awareness and understanding of the implications of Climate Change for the West Midlands amongst regional policy-makers, public sector organisations and businesses.			
Action:	Timescale	Review	Lead
C1. Identify sectoral Climate Change Champions to promote awareness and delivery of the Regional Climate Change Action Plan, building on low-carbon WMES work on carbon influencers register	End 2007	Summer 2008	WMRA with partners
C2. Develop and implement a communication and capacity-building programme with a tailored approach for specific audiences building on low-carbon WMES work on communications strategy	Spring 2008	End 2008	WMRA with partners
C3. Provide a forum for peer support (i.e. business to business, public sector to public sector) identifying and promoting good practice in reducing emissions and adapting to climate change impacts.	Ongoing	2009	Regional Partnership arrangements to be determined
C4. Encourage Local Authorities in the West Midlands that have not already done so to sign the Nottingham Declaration and to develop action plans to support it.	Immediate – target of 100% signup by October 2007	Biannual	WMLGA / WMRA
C5. Promote sustainable energy as a strong economic driver determining competitiveness, energy security, business continuity etc.		Ongoing	AWM

Consultation question 8: “Communication” actions

- a) Are these the right actions to deliver positive outcomes for Communication?
- b) What, if anything, is missing?
- c) What, if anything, needs to be changed?
- d) Are the timescales and lead partners the right ones?

Targets and monitoring: Where there are gaps in national monitoring or where Regional accountability is required for progress, establish appropriate regional, sub-regional and local carbon reduction targets and a robust and transparent framework for monitoring and reviewing progress.			
Action:	Timescale	Review	Lead
TM1. Review existing regional, sub-regional and local targets for reducing emissions of carbon and other greenhouse gases, achievement of energy efficiency, and for the uptake of renewable energy.	Spring 2008		Regional Energy Office (arrangements to be determined) / Regional Partnership (arrangements to be determined)
TM2. Investigate feasibility of developing rolling five-year regional carbon budgets in line with the Climate Change Bill.	Autumn 2008		Regional Energy Office (arrangements to be determined) / Regional Partnership (arrangements to be determined)
TM3. Establish an agreed baseline against which to benchmark regional greenhouse gas / carbon emissions and mechanism for future monitoring, building on low-carbon WMES research	Data gaps to be identified in SoRR 2007. Proposals and timescales for filling gaps to follow.		WMRO / Regional Energy Office (arrangements to be determined)/ Regional Partnership (arrangements to be determined)

Consultation question 9: "Targets and monitoring" actions

- a) Are these the right actions to deliver positive outcomes for Targets and Monitoring?
- b) What, if anything, is missing?
- c) What, if anything, needs to be changed?
- d) Are the timescales and lead partners the right ones?
- e) How should sub-regional and local targets be developed?

7 Monitoring and Reviewing the Climate Change Action Plan

- 7.1. One of the first tasks in implementing the Climate Change Action Plan will be to establish a baseline of key indicators. It will also be necessary to put in place appropriate arrangements to support and monitor its delivery. This will include a periodic review of progress against targets to establish the effectiveness of both the targets themselves and the policy approaches that support them in terms of delivering the required outcomes.
- 7.2. The support and monitoring arrangements for the Action Plan will be informed by responses to this consultation. One possible outcome is the establishment of a similar structure to existing Partnership arrangements for Transport, Environment, Health and European and International Affairs, reporting to the Regional Assembly. This would draw in representation from a range of relevant organisations and individuals with appropriate expertise. It would be chaired by a Climate Change portfolio holder with a seat on the Regional Assembly and WMLGA Executive, with appropriate technical, task-focused support.
- 7.3. A Climate Change Executive Group, consisting of the Chief Executives of the Assembly, Advantage West Midlands and Government Office West Midlands and representatives from the Environment Agency, Natural England, and the Local Government sector, has been established to oversee the development of this Action Plan. It is intended that The Executive Group should continue to provide a leadership and directing role, providing clarity on the linkages between key strategies at regional level, primarily the Spatial, Housing and Economic Strategies, and how these policies are translated into delivering our Climate Change priorities for action.

Consultation question 10: Support, delivery and monitoring arrangements

- a) What would be the most appropriate regional arrangements to support and monitor delivery of this Action Plan?
- b) What should be the scope of responsibility of arrangements to support and monitor delivery of the Action Plan?
- c) How should any Partnership or similar structure relate to existing structures such as the Climate Change Executive Group, existing Partnerships and the Regional Assembly?
- d) Which organisations and areas of expertise should be engaged in whatever arrangements are established to support and monitor delivery of this Action Plan?
- e) What role could your organisation play in helping to deliver the actions set out in the Action Plan?
- f) What role should the Regional Observatory and other partners play in monitoring progress against the fundamental objectives of the Action Plan, i.e. reducing regional emissions of greenhouse gases and adapting to predicted climate impacts?

- 7.4. It is intended that the Action Plan should be a dynamic resource rather than remain a static document. Regional responsibilities and arrangements to support delivery and monitoring of the Action Plan will be established following this consultation. Under these arrangements, the Action Plan will be regularly reviewed, with the outputs of early actions and the periodic review of progress against targets informing the development of an ongoing programme of further actions. Future iterations of the Action Plan will be reported to the Regional Assembly for information and made publicly available via the Assembly's website.

Consultation question 11: Reviewing and updating the Action Plan

- a) Do you agree that the responsibility for updating and maintaining the Action Plan as a dynamic resource should be owned by whatever mechanism is agreed for delivery and monitoring of the Action Plan?
- b) If you do not agree, what arrangements would be more appropriate for reviewing and updating the Action Plan?

8 Responding to the Consultation

- 8.1. We welcome your views on all parts of this document, and in particular your responses to the specific questions posed throughout. Please note that the consultation closes on 14th September 2007.
- 8.2. Following the close of this consultation period, we will carefully consider all responses received when further developing the Climate Change Action Plan. The Action Plan will be submitted for endorsement to the Regional Assembly meeting on 24th October 2007. Following its endorsement, implementation of the Action Plan will begin with arrangements being agreed to support and monitor its delivery.
- 8.3. When responding to the consultation please state whether you are responding as an individual or representing the views of an organisation. To aid your responses, a complete list of the consultation questions posed throughout the document is provided at Appendix 3. It will help us if you send your response using the electronic form that is available from the Regional Assembly website www.wmra.gov.uk, although any electronic written format is acceptable. Responses to the consultation should be sent by email to f.austins@wmra.gov.uk.

Alternatively, responses can be sent by post to the following address:

Fran Austins
Climate Change Policy Officer
West Midlands Regional Assembly
The Regional Partnership Centre
Albert House, Quay Place
92-93 Edward Street
Birmingham
B1 2RA

- 8.4. In order to ensure openness, at the end of the consultation period copies of the responses we receive will be made available upon request at the address above. If you do not consent to this, you must clearly request that your response be treated confidentially. Any confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system in email responses will not be treated as such a request. You should also be aware that the West Midlands Regional Assembly complies with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and as such there may be circumstances in which we will be required to communicate information to third parties on request.

Appendix 1: Acknowledgements

The following organisations have provided valuable support and input for the development of this Climate Change Action Plan.

- Advantage West Midlands
- Carbon Trust
- Energy Saving Trust
- Energy West Midlands
- Environment Agency
- Government Office for the West Midlands
- Marches Energy Agency
- National Farmers Union
- Natural England
- Regional Biodiversity Partnership
- Regional Environment Partnership
- Regional Health Partnership
- Regional Sustainable Development Officers Network
- Sustainability West Midlands
- SWM Climate Change Adaptation Partnership
- West Midlands in Europe
- West Midlands Regional Assembly
- West Midlands Regional Observatory
- West Midlands Wildlife Trusts
- Woodland Trust
- WWF-UK

Appendix 2: Regional Bodies delivering and supporting the Climate Change Action Plan

West Midlands Regional Assembly – Lead organisation

The Assembly acts as both the Regional Planning Body and the Regional Housing Board for the West Midlands. As such the Assembly produces the Regional Spatial Strategy (incorporating the Regional Transport Strategy and regional policy on Waste) and the Regional Housing Strategy. The Spatial Strategy sets the strategic direction for spatial planning in the region and provides the context within which local planning authorities must develop Local Development Documents. Climate change should be a key and integrating theme of the Regional Spatial Strategy and be addressed in conjunction with the economic, social and environmental concerns that together inform the overall strategy and its components.

The Assembly is responsible for strategic coherence in regional working. The Assembly promotes the interests of the West Midlands by speaking out on important issues and events affecting the Region and speaking up for the social, environmental, cultural and economic interests of the Region. It is also responsible for the Scrutiny of the Regional Development Agency (Advantage West Midlands). The Assembly has a membership of 100 and is made up of representatives from the Region's local authorities, business community and other interest groups including health, trade unions, environment, community and voluntary organisations etc.

Website: www.wmra.gov.uk

Advantage West Midlands

The Regional Development Agency for the West Midlands, Advantage West Midlands is charged with economic and physical regeneration, the promotion of employment, business efficiency, investment and competitiveness, the development and application of skills and making a contribution towards sustainable development. Within the new Energy White paper it has also been given responsibility to lead regionally on energy issues.

Advantage West Midlands is responsible for drawing up the Region's Economic Strategy and the Agenda for Action plan which provides the basis for the delivery of a wide range of initiatives and programmes by Advantage West Midlands and its partners. It is the responsible body for West Midlands Business Link, the Innovation and Technology Council, Science City, EnergyWM, and the redevelopment of a large range of brownfield land. AWM also hosts the regional managers of Carbon Trust, Envirowise, WRAP, and supports the West Midlands Climate Change Adaptation Coordinator.

Advantage West Midlands is formally accountable to central government but is also subject to Scrutiny within the Region by the Assembly.

Website: www.advantagewm.co.uk

Government Office for the West Midlands

Government Offices in the Regions work on behalf of ten government departments to: drive the implementation of government policies and programmes in the Region; provide performance and policy feedback about their implementation; lead for the government in negotiating with local areas on Local Area Agreements and 'place-specific' policies; and support the development of regional strategies. The Government Offices represent government in a joined-up way, and support regional and local partnership in developing cross-cutting solutions to issues. Government Offices also provide a single point of contact within a region on a departmental policy or programme.

GOWM works to ensure that Government policy on climate change is addressed through Regional Strategies (such as the Regional Spatial Strategy and Regional Economic Strategy), Local Development Frameworks and other public sector delivery mechanisms such as local area agreements. It also seeks to deliver the climate change agenda by working in partnership to encourage the development of appropriate regional institutions and influencing the development of initiatives and programmes.

Website: www.go-wm.gov.uk

Carbon Trust

The Carbon Trust works with business and the public sector helping them to reduce their carbon emissions. It also supports the development of a UK-based industry sector to capture the economic benefits of low-carbon technologies. The Carbon Trust has three areas of activity. To reduce carbon emissions it promotes and advises on the use of existing technologies to reduce carbon emissions through improved energy efficiency and the broader strategic issues of carbon management. The Trust also provides financial incentive schemes to help invest in the necessary technology. To develop low-carbon technologies the Carbon Trust identifies, invests in and supports the development of innovative, energy efficient and low-carbon technologies across all sectors. To respond to climate change it encourages changes in attitudes, behaviour and business processes by informing business, government and investors on how they can most effectively respond to climate change.

Website: www.carbontrust.co.uk

Energy West Midlands

Energy West Midlands is the Regional Energy Office, set up to deliver the West Midlands Regional Energy Strategy, published in December 2004. The Regional Energy Strategy was developed by GOWM, AWM, and WMRA, with WMRA being the accountable body. It primarily focuses on the mitigation of climate change, security of energy supply and the business opportunities arising from climate change for West Midlands companies. Central government funding for the Regional Energy Office ceased in June 2007 and succession arrangements for are currently being made by Advantage West Midlands in light of the Energy White Paper.

Energy Saving Trust

The Energy Saving Trust (EST) promotes the use of cleaner fuels for transport, better insulation and heating efficiency for buildings and homes, and champions small-scale renewable energy, such as solar and wind power. The EST provides independent information, advice and evidence-based policy analysis on energy efficiency and small-scale renewable technologies; develops and manages advice and support programmes on behalf of UK Government; and delivers marketing campaigns, most notably for home energy efficiency. The EST works closely with local authorities through the practical help advice service.

Website: www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

Environment Agency

The Environment Agency is the leading public body protecting and improving the environment in England and Wales. As the greatest environmental threat we face, climate change is the highest priority for the Agency. In the Midlands region the Environment Agency has a major role in limiting both the scale of climate change, by addressing its causes, and its impact, by adapting to climate change.

The Environment Agency regulates industry and waste sites responsible for about 40% of UK emissions of greenhouse gases. The Environment Agency is also the competent Authority for the EU Emissions Trading Scheme in England and Wales. It is the lead player in addressing the impacts of climate change including increased flood risk, additional stress on water resources for people and the environment and threats to plants and wildlife. The Environment Agency is actively researching the effects of climate change and how best to respond to them.

Website: www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Regional Board

The Regional Board is convened by Government Office and consists of representatives of the government departments and non-departmental public bodies operating in the West Midlands Region. The group provides a channel for communication between these agencies and the Region and for ensuring strategic coherence in regional working. The terms of reference of the Regional Board are to contribute to the development of a transparent, integrated and sustainable approach to regional policy and to ensure a consistent approach across the membership organisations; working with the Assembly, Advantage West Midlands, and other major regional stakeholders to identify the key strategic regional policy objectives that are likely to be the focus of co-operative action; to identify ways in which regional footprint organisations can contribute towards the development and achievement of key strategic objectives; to identify and resolve any inconsistencies and duplication in regional strategies; and to develop effective ways of communicating key strategic objectives with footprint organisations, the Assembly and the wider regional community.

RegenWM

RegenWM is the West Midlands Centre of Excellence for Regeneration. RegenWM's brief is to ensure that those involved in developing and delivering the multi-million pound regeneration activity in the Region have the right skills, knowledge and access to information to enable effective and sustainable regeneration across the West Midlands. RegenWM acts as a catalyst within the regeneration community to ensure dissemination and implementation of best practice. Its work encompasses both urban and rural regeneration, links closely with the Government's Neighbourhood Renewal "Skills and Knowledge" agenda and is closely aligned with the Academy for Sustainable Communities, the body established by the ODPM to promote sustainable communities skills nationally.
Website: www.regenwm.org

Strategic Health Authority

The Strategic Health Authority is responsible for maintaining a strategic overview of the NHS and its needs in the area. In particular it has responsibilities to the Department of Health for ensuring that measures are in place to improve and protect the health of the population and reduce health inequalities, by having a robust public health delivery system. The Strategic Health Authority also holds PCTs to account for the effectiveness of their commissioning processes, organisations and systems. The Strategic Health Authority provides leadership for engagement of health interests in the development of strategic partnerships across the public sector (working with Government Offices of the Regions, Regional Assemblies, Skills Councils and Regional Development Agencies) to secure delivery of government policy.
Website: www.nhs.uk

Sustainability West Midlands

Sustainability West Midlands (SWM) is an independent partnership with members from business, community, voluntary, non-governmental and public sector organisations which represent economic, environmental and social interests. Through its members SWM acts as a champion body for sustainable development in the Region and seeks to communicate, promote and champion the principles of sustainable development and good corporate governance. SWM works with all Concordat Partners to advance individual and collective commitments to sustainable development principles and actions in all policies, programmes and projects for the Region.

Sustainability West Midlands also leads the West Midlands Climate Change Adaptation and Impacts Partnership. The Partnership aims to raise awareness and disseminate information on climate change adaptation issues for the West Midlands; influence policy at regional and sub-regional level; build adaptive capacity (in terms of skills, networks, capabilities); deliver adaptation actions; build resources to deliver objectives (e.g. funding, partners, etc.); and identify research needs on climate impacts and adaptation in the West Midlands.

Website: www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk

West Midlands Business Council

The Business Council is a single, Region-wide body, representing the interests of all the major business groupings, professional organisations and trade associations. It operates at a strategic level, regionally, nationally and internationally, to ensure business needs are taken on board and acted on. By working with key partners, West Midlands Business Council ensures that it maximises the value of the considerable resources and talents that exist across the business sector. It harnesses this experience providing a clear and unified voice for the Region's dynamic and diverse business base. The Business Council comprises member organisations from all sectors of regional commerce and industry. Their drive and shared commitment enables West Midlands Business Council to provide a focused response to regional issues – from transport and skills to tackling red tape.

Website: www.wmbusinesscouncil.org.uk

West Midlands in Europe

West Midlands in Europe is a partnership representing the interests of the Region in Europe. West Midlands in Europe brings together all sectors in the Region and a wealth of experience and expertise on all aspects of European activity. Partner members include Advantage West Midlands, all the Region's local authorities through the West Midlands Local Government Association, all universities in the Region, further education, the business sector, the voluntary and community sector, culture and the arts.

Website: www.westmidlandsineurope.org

West Midlands Learning and Skills Council

The Learning and Skills Council is responsible for funding and planning education and training for over 16-year-olds in England. Its mission is to raise participation and attainment through high-quality education and training which puts learners first. Its vision is that, by 2010, young people and adults in England will have the knowledge and productive skills matching the best in the world. The six local Learning and Skills Councils in the West Midlands operate within a memorandum of understanding with Advantage West Midlands to co-ordinate their learning and skills activities in support of the West Midlands Regional Economic Strategy.

Website: www.lsc.gov.uk

West Midlands Local Government Association

The Association represents all 38 local authorities in the Region, with a commitment to represent and promote the interests of the population of the West Midlands and the local authorities that serve it at a regional level. The Association also acts as the regional link to the national Local Government Association and through this, promotes a regional perspective on national issues affecting local government. The Association is formally accountable to its constituent authorities.

Website: www.wmlga.gov.uk

West Midlands Regional Observatory

The Regional Observatory has been established to promote joined up thinking by maximising the value of regional intelligence. The Observatory's mission is to offer public agencies, private firms and voluntary and community organisations in the West Midlands improved access to well-organised information, thereby enhancing and sharing understanding in the Region and its sub-regions and improving the quality of strategy formulation, policy making and service provision.

Website: www.wmro.org

Appendix 3: Consultation questions

Consultation question 1: The Need for an Action Plan

- a) Do you agree that there is value to be added by establishing clear accountability for strategic regional bodies to tackle the causes and impacts of climate change?
- b) Do you support the development of a regional Climate Change Action Plan in addition to the Regional Spatial Strategy and Regional Economic Strategy?
- c) What are the current barriers to achieving climate change objectives in implementation of regional policies sub-regionally and locally, and how can these be overcome?

Consultation question 2: Regional influence

- a) Within the sphere of influence of regional agencies and organisations, how can we maximise our impact to make the biggest difference?
- b) How can we achieve a step-change in the approach to climate change across all policy areas?
- c) What criteria should be used to judge our success or otherwise in the short and longer term?

Consultation question 3: Priorities for Action

- a) Do you agree that these are the right priorities for Climate Change action at regional level?
- b) If not, what is missing, and what changes should be made?
- c) What, in your view, are the top 5/6 actions that will have the greatest impact for the Region in tackling climate change?

Consultation question 4: "Planning" actions

- a) Are these the right actions to deliver positive outcomes in terms of the Planning priority?
- b) What, if anything, is missing?
- c) What, if anything, needs to be changed?
- d) Are the timescales and lead partners the right ones?

Consultation question 5: "Economy" actions

- a) Are these the right actions to deliver positive outcomes for the Economy?
- b) What, if anything, is missing?
- c) What, if anything, needs to be changed?
- d) Are the timescales and lead partners the right ones?

Please note that the consultation for this Action Plan is after the closing date for comments on the draft West Midlands Economic Strategy. Therefore, we encourage comments in the form of further guidance, or further focus e.g. which sectors to target. It will not be possible for the WMES to take forward comments regarding new economic objectives received in response to this consultation.

Consultation question 6: "Implementation" actions

- a) Are these the right actions to deliver positive outcomes for Implementation?
- b) What, if anything, is missing?
- c) What, if anything, needs to be changed?
- d) Are the timescales and lead partners the right ones?
- e) How can sub-regional and local bodies contribute to implementation?

Consultation question 7: "Leadership" actions

- a) Are these the right actions to deliver positive outcomes for Leadership?
- b) What, if anything, is missing?
- c) What, if anything, needs to be changed?
- d) Are the timescales and lead partners the right ones?

Consultation question 8: "Communication" actions

- a) Are these the right actions to deliver positive outcomes for Communication?
- b) What, if anything, is missing?
- c) What, if anything, needs to be changed?
- d) Are the timescales and lead partners the right ones?

Consultation question 9: "Targets and monitoring" actions

- a) Are these the right actions to deliver positive outcomes for Targets and Monitoring?
- b) What, if anything, is missing?
- c) What, if anything, needs to be changed?
- d) Are the timescales and lead partners the right ones?
- e) How should sub-regional and local targets be developed?

Consultation question 10: Support, delivery and monitoring arrangements

- a) What would be the most appropriate regional arrangements to support and monitor delivery of this Action Plan?
- b) What should be the scope of responsibility of arrangements to support and monitor delivery of the Action Plan?
- c) How should any Partnership or similar structure relate to existing structures such as the Climate Change Executive Group, existing Partnerships and the Regional Assembly?
- d) Which organisations and areas of expertise should be engaged in whatever arrangements are established to support and monitor delivery of this Action Plan?
- e) What role could your organisation play in helping to deliver the actions set out in the Action Plan?
- f) What role should the Regional Observatory and other partners play in monitoring progress against the fundamental objectives of the Action Plan, i.e. reducing regional emissions of greenhouse gases and adapting to predicted climate impacts?

Consultation question 11: Reviewing and updating the Action Plan

- a) Do you agree that the responsibility for updating and maintaining the Action Plan as a dynamic resource should be owned by whatever mechanism is agreed for delivery and monitoring of the Action Plan?
- b) If you do not agree, what arrangements would be more appropriate for reviewing and updating the Action Plan?