

NEWS RELEASE



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ASSEMBLY ENDORSES CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

West Midlands Regional Assembly has today endorsed a Climate Change Action Plan designed to ensure that the Region plays its part in tackling the causes and impacts of climate change.

The Action Plan sets out a programme to ensure the Region takes action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as being well-prepared for the impacts of climate change. The Assembly has produced the Action Plan on behalf of the Region after becoming the first Regional Assembly to make a formal commitment to addressing climate change through its work, by signing the West Midlands Declaration on Climate Change in November 2006.

The Assembly has been supported in producing the Action Plan by Advantage West Midlands, Government Office for the West Midlands, the Environment Agency and Natural England. These organisations, led by Government Office for the West Midlands, will be jointly responsible for delivering the Action Plan.

Cllr David S Smith, Chairman of the Assembly said: "I am delighted the Assembly has endorsed this Action Plan. It provides a clear way forward for the Assembly and its partners to ensure that our work on planning, housing, transport and economic development addresses climate change – the key sustainability challenge for the Region. I commend this Action Plan to Mr Byrne, who has recently confirmed that Climate Change is one of his top priority issues for the West Midlands."

Olwen Dutton, Chief Executive of the added: "The Action Plan confirms the commitment of regional organisations to tackling climate change. I look forward to working with regional partners to deliver the commitments we have signed up to, in order to provide a regional policy framework that genuinely supports sustainable, low-carbon solutions."

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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 sector, 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 West Midlands Declaration on Climate Change is based on the Nottingham Declaration, a public statement of commitment by local authorities to tackle climate change (see www.nottinghamdeclaration.org.uk). The West Midlands Declaration was signed in November 2006 by Cllr David Smith, Chairman of West Midlands Regional Assembly; Olwen Dutton, Chief Executive of West Midlands Regional Assembly; and Ian Pearson MP, then Minister of State for Climate Change and Environment.

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