

Progress on Delivery – July 08 to December 08

The 30 actions within the Action Plan are divided under 6 key thematic priority headings: - Planning and environment **(P)**; Economy **(E)**; Implementation **(I)**; Leadership **(L)**; Communications **(C)** and Targets and monitoring **(T)**.

Priority Action: PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

Activity details -

Discussions have taken place to consider how Climate Change and emissions reductions are reflected and incorporated within revisions to the Regional Spatial Strategy. Further work will be undertaken to build on Sustainability Appraisal /Strategic Environmental Assessment as submissions are considered for the Examination in Public in April 09.

To predict the Region's carbon dioxide emissions from housing and transport up to 2026, consultants were appointed to undertake the study. A draft of their final report in to Regional Carbon Trajectories has now been received and will be published early in 2009. **(P1 – Lead WMRA)**

Significant work has been undertaken and prepared to raise design and environmental standards in new build funded by regional partners' capital investment programmes.

The Carbon Opportunities Assessments are underway for 13 AWM flagship/key area based land and property projects. 3 other projects were found to have already addressed carbon management issues during project development. The initial skim review for this project found that the general (non carbon) sustainability credentials of all projects were found to be good or very good. This is encouraging and reflects the outcomes of the adoption of sustainability standards for the built environment as part of project funding applications, amongst other initiatives. The project will report in March 2009.

Also to be reviewed by March 09 is the AWM D3 Built Environment Standards in the light of experience since April 2008.

The Regional Sustainability Checklist steering group is to be reconvened and to review the checklist by April 2009. Liaison is to continue with BRE regarding their proposals for BREEAM communities.

AWM funding for the Design Review Panels (MADE and UVNS) has resulted in some valuable case study and lessons learnt which have contributed to draft proposal being drawn up for discussion internally during December and January. **(P2 – Lead AWM)**

A scoping report has been produced detailing the present state of housing stock in the Region. This report provides regional recommendations on the actions required if the Region's housing stock is to contribute to national CO₂ emission targets. Work will be taken forward by Sustainable Housing Action Project 4 in 2009.

A baseline study has been commissioned to look at the present regional situation with regards to the retrofitting of existing housing stock with energy efficiency measures. A regional workshop has been carried out and consultation undertaken on emergent findings. A draft final report will be produced in January 2009. **(P4 – Lead WMRA)**

A study has been commissioned to examine the CO₂ emissions from the transport package within the Regional Funding Allocation (RFA). The study, commissioned in December 08 will report in early 2009. **(P5 – Lead WMRA)**

The Heat Mapping & Decentralised Energy Feasibility Study and the Wind Supply Study have both now been published and hosted on WMROs website.

AWM hosted the regional CHP seminar held by the Combined Heat & Power Association (through sponsorship by DEFRA) in September. This was the first of nine regional events to be held in the English region from September to February 09.

Good attendance was achieved with a large number of representatives from the regions Local Authorities. The Heat Mapping Study was presented and discussed at this event with dissemination of a summary document to attendees and later circulation of the links to the study on WMROs website to Local Authority delegates and wider networks.

Further dissemination is planned from January 09 to developers and relevant private sector organisations together with a follow up programme with Local Authorities.

The West Midlands is one of the first English regions to produce a region-wide study on this issue in such detail. The study has been circulated across the RDA network and to BERR as an example of good practice and to support further intelligence gathering and planning.

Preparation work has begun to enable contribution to SIRS development process as required from January 2009. **(P6 – Lead AWM)**

Successful bids through DEFRA's Regional Climate Change Programme (RCCP) will be used to scope our vulnerability to climate change and need for adaptation. Invitations to tender for this project have been requested, with deliver anticipated by the 31st March 2009. This will subsequently be used to inform regional adaptation policy development. This work will be reviewed using UKCIP08/9 data when this is released. **(P7 – Lead EA / NE)**

Priority Action: ECONOMY

Activity Details: -

The publication of the low carbon RES benchmark supporting WMES as UK's first low carbon RES will take place in January 2009. This will accompany the December 08 publication of the WMES low carbon evidence base.

The AWM Board, at its meeting in November, have ratified the proposed annual carbon reduction targets from the investment for the current Corporate Plan period 2008-11 in contribution to delivery of the WMES. These reduction targets include the reduction target for 2010 and projected reduction target to 2020 as required by the 2007 Energy White Paper.

Publication of the targets is due from January 09 as part of the update to the AWM Corporate Plan.

Additional work is being undertaken with ERM Consultants to establish carbon reduction targets for the ERDF programme to December 2015. This work is scheduled for completion in December 08 and for notification to the EU Commission by 31st December 08. **(E1 – Lead AWM)**

Work has begun on identifying low carbon economic and climate impact opportunities for regional businesses and skills needs with initial progress focussing on collating evidence from the national low carbon skills research report.

To deliver on future proofing, AWM together with the Environment Agency has jointly funded a regional Climate Change Adaptation Coordinator post

hosted by the EA and reporting to the Climate Change Office. A work programme will be developed from January 09 but initial progress is highlighted in the progress report for E5 below.

The WMES evidence base has identified key sectors at risk from climate impacts. This has informed the development of a low carbon business support programme which is currently being progressed through our internal approval system for delivery anticipated from March 2009. This programme will also inform AWMs future business recovery role in the event of any national disasters.

The structure and content of a business futures programme to help large companies share good practice and support on carbon reduction has now been established and is currently being progressed through our internal approval systems with delivery anticipated from March 2009. **(E2 – Lead AWM)**

To deliver a wider regional energy role, a research and scoping report assessing other regional models and providing a series of recommendations was completed and submitted internally within AWM in September. Following discussion in the light of the economic downturn the proposals in the report required further investigation given the increased requirement for strategic investment and value for money to deliver regional objectives.

Further work is now being conducted to determine the structure, terms of reference, delivery programme and proposed membership of the body which will utilise a similar structure to that of the Waste Infrastructure Advisory Group. Delivery of this piece of work is scheduled for January 09 onwards.

A regional Waste Infrastructure Advisory Group has now been established which has met for the first time in November 2008 with the second meeting scheduled for January 2009. Peter Jones has accepted the role of Chair for the Group.

A business waste opportunities programme has been developed jointly between AWM and WRAP which is currently being assessed internally for approval with anticipated delivery from April 09. **(E3 – Lead AWM)**

Progress has been made in terms of engaging regional businesses to stimulate take up of flexible and remote working patterns to enable companies to reduce their embedded carbon emissions and improve productivity. A three year Smarter Working WM Programme with large regional employers to achieve this aim is currently in final development stages to be submitted for internal approval system by end of December with expectation of delivery from February 2009.

Initial work is now underway to work with partners to develop sustainable procurement programme with business and local authorities. **(E4 – Lead AWM)**

AWMs climate change adaptation lead and the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Coordinator have begun scoping a project to increase awareness amongst regional businesses of the economic risks of climate change impacts. The project will entail exploiting business communications channels and networks to mainstream adaptation as a business issue. To date scoping meetings have been held with regional representatives from UKCIP, CBI, Business Link, Advantage West Midlands Business Communications executives and business support staff from Staffordshire and Warwickshire Local Authorities.

Initial objectives of this project will involve: a review and evaluation of existing business support and service provision on adaptation in January 2009, a series of business workshops with key stakeholder groups to scope new communication strategy in February / March 09 and the generation of case study exemplars. **(E5 – Lead AWM)**

Priority Action: IMPLEMENTATION

Activity Details: -

AWM is currently finalising the scope and framework for a regional Resource Efficiency Fund which has been complex and subject to a number of discussions to identify the most appropriate framework for implementation. The project is currently being developed through our internal approval systems to gain budget approval with anticipated delivery from March 09. **(I6 – Lead AWM)**

As with Action E5 above, the delivery of Action I3 is closely aligned with that of “identifying the low carbon economic and climate impact opportunities for regional businesses and skills needs” work stream under Action E2 above. As work on these two issues is closely integrated they are being developed in tandem. Progress is reported above and we are currently awaiting publication of research from Government before progressing. **(I3 – Lead AWM)**

GOWM organised a series of meetings and site visits for regional and subregional partners to meet with David Saunders, Department of Energy and Climate Change to help the Department develop its policies and work programmes on translating national renewable energy targets into local and regional action **(I1 – Lead GOWM)**

Through existing networks, GOWM has worked with the Improvement and Delivery Agency to develop a study on Climate Change improvement support to local authorities. The study seeks to outline what improvement support on climate change already exists for local authorities and where the gaps in support are, in order to inform possible options for further support to local authorities (LAs) as part of the Defra/DECC Local Authority Best Practice Programme on Climate Change. The report has now been published.

GOWM has worked extensively with DECC and Defra to update target negotiation briefs and guidance for the relevant national indicators, particularly on NI 188 Planning to adapt to climate change of **(I2 – Lead GOWM)**

Energy Savings Trust has been identified to lead coordination on public sector energy efficiency support in the West Midlands. They have been tasked with producing a business plan to take forward the coordination role including the work of Carbon Trust, Salix, Energy Savings Trust programmes and the West Midlands Climate Change Action Programme. **(I1-3 Lead GOWM/AWM)**

As part of our work on delivering the Climate Change Action Plan we have obtained funding from Defra for projects related to climate change adaptation. The funding is a total of £140,000 over three years from 2008/09. This will enable the Office to run seven projects covering –

- communicating awareness,
- building adaptation into the new integrated regional strategy,
- identifying business opportunities,
- identifying regionally appropriate performance indicators,
- the impact of climate change on human health,
- land management and adaptation, and
- adapting schools.

(I4 – GOWM)

Priority Action: LEADERSHIP

Activity Details: -

The "Climate Change Office" is now well established to support delivery of the Action Plan with representatives from the five partner agencies – Government Office West Midlands, West Midlands Regional Assembly, Advantage West Midlands, Environment Agency and Natural England. Challenge on progress is now well embedded with specific sections from the Action Plan considered at each Office meeting. A review of membership has been undertaken with proposals to expand membership to include the Energy Saving Trust, Carbon Trust and further representation from local government. **(L2 – Lead GOWM)**

A review of all CCO partners internal environmental management has now been completed. Best practice will be identified and a full analysis with potential for shared processes highlighted is to be published in early 2009. Further links to the environmental strand of the CSWM project have been developed through the appointment of a new co-ordinator who is housed within the Sustainability Team in GOWM. They also attend meetings of the Climate Change Office. **(L1 – Lead GOWM)**

Priority Action: COMMUNICATIONS

Activity Details: -

GOWM have focused on supporting the West Midlands region's local authorities to take action on climate change by providing regional workshops on both mitigation and adaptation. A workshop was delivered in September for Adaptation leads from each top tier authority in the region. This provided an opportunity to provide feedback on guidance being developed on NI 188, information on the support being provided by Government and its agencies and case study examples on approaches to adaptation. A workshop was delivered in October for all Mitigation leads. This provided information on the specific support available to help authorities reduce emissions in the management of their estate and operations and encouraged discussion on exchange of good practice. The key outcomes from the two workshops have been engaging with performance and delivery managers from across the region and establishing what further support is needed to enable delivery of National Indicators 185, 186 and 188. Through these workshops GOWM have created contact lists for leads on adaptation and mitigation as an initial step to identifying relevant climate change champions in this sector. **(C1 – GOWM)**

GOWM have developed a communication strategy to raise awareness of the CCAP and are working with other partners to develop a capacity-building programme for local authorities and LSPs. GOWM are working with WM RIEP to develop the WM Climate Change Best Practice Programme to support local authorities and their partners in tackling climate change. This will provide capacity building support through a series of activities and events focusing on LSPs and LAAs. This is an 18 month regional programme that will begin from January 2009 with a budget of around £250k. **(C2 – GOWM)**

Following this year's successful LAA negotiations GOWM have provided ongoing support to local authorities and are continuing to seek opportunities to build and strengthen support networks. As part of its work on LAAs, GOWM has worked closely with Defra and the GO network to provide technical support on the National Indicators (NI 185, 186, 187 and 188) relevant to climate change. GOWM have also contributed to the development of technical guidance on mitigation and adaptation currently being developed by the GO network. Following on from the mitigation and adaptation workshops feedback has been used to inform proposals for further support. This will include virtual networks for local authority Mitigation and Adaptation leads to provide information and peer support. **(C3 – GOWM)**

A survey has been undertaken of the 38 Local Authorities in the Region to assess the baseline situation. Data has been gathered on a wide range of climate change issues including the plans and strategies in place and the pledges made. Work is to be undertaken to strengthen the networks between Local Authority climate change officers in the region. Funds to support this and the delivery of this action have been identified in the draft WMRA business plan. **(C4 – Lead WMRA)**

The action to promote sustainable and renewable energy as a strong economic driver has been largely achieved with the Government and Jonathon Porritt's endorsement of "Connecting to Success" as the UK's first low carbon regional economic strategy. The promotion of this action is being undertaken in an ongoing coordinated manner and when additional opportunities arise.

The West Midlands content of the United Nations film for promoting low carbon business opportunities was broadcast as Episode 8 of 'Responsible Business' and aired on CNBC on 8th September 2008 to potential audience of 335 million. The film profiles the legacy of the industrial revolution in the region, the work of NISP and WindSupply and case studies of Credential Environmental and Converteam.

AWM has also established regular contribution to the Birmingham Post 'Go Green' campaign to successfully promote and highlight economic and business opportunities within a low carbon economy. **(C5 – Lead AWM)**

Priority Action: TARGETS AND MONITORING

Activity Details: -

Initial scoping work has been undertaken to ensure that climate change targets are incorporated and reflected in regional policy and that climate change impact assessments are completed for all new regional policy development.

In addition in the last period GOWM has input to the:

- RDA Corporate Plan
- RES Implementation Plan
- SNR/SIRs development – influencing national input to guidance
- Regional Funding Allocation – influencing national input
- RSS Phase 2 Environmental Assessment
- RSS Phase 3 Scoping discussions

(TM5 – Lead GOWM)

Delivery of action TM3 - Identify regionally-appropriate performance indicators and goals for regional adaptation activity and resilience to climate impacts – is tied very closely to action P7 (above). As part of the project to deliver on P7, utilising funds from the Regional Climate Change Programme (RCCP) the project will also - identify the climate change adaptation (and appropriate related mitigation) indicators currently available; assess their fitness for purpose for the WM Region; and complete a gap analysis and make recommendations for suitable indicators to fill any gaps. It is important that the indicators are able to be used to monitor progress towards meeting the climate change objectives in the SIRS.

The anticipated delivery deadline is 31st March 2009. **(TM3 – Lead EA / NE)**

To review existing regional targets for carbon reductions, the Regional Observatory have been commissioned to produce a study identifying existing targets, review them for accuracy and robustness and where the region was in respect of meeting them. This would then identify the Carbon Gap within the region. The study is due to report in early 2009. **(TM1 – Lead GOWM)**

THE 30 ACTIONS

Action	Lead
<p>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</p>	WMRA
<p>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 Sustainability Checklist for developments, and other measures</p>	AWM
<p>P3. Work with local authorities to promote development schemes that are exemplars of sustainable development and construction, setting the highest standards of design, effectively incorporating green infrastructure, which are low-carbon or carbon neutral in operation and adapted to likely climate impacts in line with the forthcoming Planning Policy Statement on Climate Change</p>	WMRA
<p>P4. Scoping report to identify potential to improve the energy demand and resilience to likely climate impacts of existing building stock, and for regional agencies to support or add value to work already ongoing at other levels, building on previous work by the Sustainable Housing Action Project</p>	WMRA
<p>P5. Scoping work to inform future developments in regional transport working, including transport elements of a future integrated regional strategy, identifying scope for regional policy interventions directed towards achieving an absolute reduction in emissions from transport, including reduced car use and a significant shift to more sustainable modes, including improved public transport services</p>	WMRA
<p>P6. Identify strategic sites for decentralised energy production / district heating and include a policy applying to e.g. major investment sites in RSS review</p>	AWM
<p>P7. Review the implications of climate change scenarios (UKCIP08) to identify likely adaptation requirements, including potential vulnerabilities and opportunities, for all policy areas, including biodiversity, land management, water resources, flood-plain management, health, migration, economy, culture, buildings and infrastructure, and emergency planning, to inform future policy developments and strategy reviews</p>	EA / NE
<p>E1. Ensure that revisions to Regional economic policy 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</p>	AWM

Action	Lead
E2. Help regional businesses improve resource efficiency (energy, transport, waste and water) and realise opportunities to diversify into low-carbon products and services, by integrating specialist advice and support with mainstream business support; develop a programme of targeted support for key sectors for growth and diversification into these markets, and for at-risk sectors to make the transition required	AWM
E3. Move the region towards greater energy efficiency and security, by supporting and encouraging decentralised and sustainable production, lower energy demand through greater energy efficiency, waste minimisation and reprocessing opportunities	AWM
E4. Through better information and awareness raising activities, changes in working culture, new approaches to procurement and improvements in technology, encourage new and creative working practices and lifestyle changes which shift the region towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and stimulate demand for low-carbon housing, transport and consumer products; encouraging local markets and local sourcing to support regional supply chains and minimise carbon footprint	AWM
E5. Help businesses identify and realise the opportunities and manage the risks of the changing climate for their markets, products, premises, people and logistics	AWM
I1. Review all policy areas to identify the likely impacts of regional policy on achieving national and international targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and ensuring the region is prepared for likely climate change impacts, in order to identify and implement solutions for policy gaps, conflicts and barriers	GOWM
I2. Identify barriers faced by delivery agents including local authorities and Local Strategic Partnerships in delivering climate change mitigation and adaptation action locally and sub-regionally, in order to identify measures to address barriers and provide appropriate regional support	GOWM
I3. Identify regional skills needs related to climate change adaptation and mitigation objectives (e.g. land management, design, technology, renewable/sustainable energy etc.) to inform regional skills priorities	AWM
I4. Identify existing and potential funding streams and establish a regional approach to directing these towards agreed priorities	GOWM
I5. Low-carbon credentials to form part of selection criteria within sustainable procurement practices	WMRA
I6. Investigate feasibility for a Regional resource-efficiency (energy, waste and water) reinvestment fund	AWM
L1. Review own practices to identify and implement potential carbon reductions 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; using Environmental Management Systems where appropriate; report publicly on progress	GOWM
L2. Establish and support a regional Climate Change Panel to oversee delivery of the Climate Change Action Plan, to review priorities taking into account gaps, conflicts and synergies in existing regional activity, to identify and learn from best practice within and outside the West Midlands, and to lobby and influence at national, sub-regional and local level where appropriate	GOWM

Action	Lead
C1. Identify sectoral Climate Change Champions to lead by personal example and promote awareness and delivery of the Regional Climate Change Action Plan, building on low-carbon WMES work on carbon influencers register	GOWM
C2. Develop and implement a communication and capacity-building programme with a tailored approach for specific audiences, targeting sectors with the biggest potential impact, building on low-carbon WMES work on communications strategy	GOWM
C3. Provide a forum/network for peer support (e.g. business to business, public sector to public sector) identifying and promoting good practice in reducing emissions and adapting to climate change impacts, building on existing network and forum arrangements	GOWM
C4. Encourage and support Local Authorities in the West Midlands that have not already done so to sign the Nottingham Declaration or locally-specific sustainability declaration and to develop and implement action plans to support it	WMRA
C5. Promote sustainable and renewable energy as a strong economic driver determining competitiveness, energy security, business continuity etc.	AWM
TM 1. Review existing regional targets for carbon reductions, achievement of energy efficiency, and for the uptake of renewable energy as expressed in the West Midlands Regional Energy Strategy	GOWM
TM 2. Investigate feasibility of developing rolling five-year regional carbon budgets in line with the Climate Change Bill, or some alternative mechanism for milestones	GOWM
TM 3. Identify regionally-appropriate performance indicators and goals for regional adaptation activity and resilience to climate impacts	EA / NE
TM 4. Establish an agreed baseline for regionally-appropriate key performance indicators against which to benchmark regional progress towards reduced emissions and adaptation/resilience to likely climate impacts; identify and implement mechanism for future monitoring, building on low-carbon WMES research	GOWM
TM 5. Climate change targets to be incorporated and reflected in all regional policy; climate change impact assessments to be completed for all new regional policy development	GOWM