

**West Midlands Climate Change Action Plan
Progress Report to Regional Minister
September 2009**

The West Midlands Climate Change Action Plan was launched in December 2007 in order to provide a coordinated regional approach to the challenges and opportunities presented by climate change. Details about the Climate Change Action Plan and governance arrangements are at Annexes C and D.

This is the third progress report to the Regional Minister.

Progress over the last 6 months

The WM Climate Change Panel, chaired by Trudi Elliott, last met in July 2009, to review progress of the action plan which is supported by the Climate Change Office (CCO). The third period of implementation has seen a distinct acceleration in delivery activity. A range of projects have been delivered, a selection of which are listed at Annexe A.

Highlights From the Last 6 Months

1. Preparation of a State of the Region report on climate change
A report will be launched at the WM Regional Observatory annual conference outlining key issues for the West Midlands on climate change and energy. Its purpose will be to influence regional policy and delivery
2. A regional Low Carbon Housing Study
A challenging report has been produced that outlines the opportunities and scale of the task facing the region – a summary of key messages from the report is at Annexe B
3. AWM's Low Carbon Investment Programme
A £13m AWM low carbon investment programme have been established to support business resource efficiency.

Future Work of the Climate Change Panel

The next period will see the panel focus on:

1. Implications of the UK Low Carbon Transition Plan
The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan launched in July 2009 sets national targets for:
 - more than 1.2 million people to be in green jobs
 - 7 million homes to have benefited from whole house makeovers,
 - more than 1.5 million households to be supported to produce their own clean energy

The Panel's focus is on translating this into action in the West Midlands

2.

Low	Carbon	Housing
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The Panel will consider how we should build on the recommendations from the low carbon housing study and provide support for local authorities and stakeholders such as HCA to retrofit existing housing stock and to investigate ways of attracting EU funding to support that work.
3. Producing core messages and killer facts that the you and regional leaders can use to promote the Government's agenda on climate change and energy (see separate submission to follow)
4. Inviting you, as Regional Minister, to meet to the panel to discuss and agree action on priorities (see separate submission to follow)

Annexe A – A selection of projects delivered as part of the West Midlands Climate Change Action Plan

Phase 2 revision on the Regional Spatial Strategy examination in public

The Phase 2 RSS Review examination in public between April and June 2009 considered climate change extensively as an aspect of the growth agenda. All regional partners were fully involved in the discussions. The Inspector's report is expected later in 2009.

Low Carbon Housing Study

A nationally groundbreaking study on our existing housing stock in the West Midlands poses significant challenges and important economic opportunities. A one page summary is at Annexe D.

UK Climate Projections 09

With the launch of the UK Climate Projections 09 in June a number of workshops were held to explain what the implications of a changing climate might be for the West Midlands and to encourage organisations to take account of these in their work. Further workshops are planned for the autumn.

AWM carbon budget

AWM published its annual carbon reduction targets resulting from its investment for the current corporate plan period 2008-11, as part of its corporate plan revision. These are:

2008/09: -150,000 tonnes CO₂e reduced
2009/10: -175,000 tonnes CO₂e reduced
2010/11: -175,000 tonnes CO₂e reduced

The total reduction target from investment over three years is - 500,000 tonnes of CO₂e.

The first year target was achieved and reported to DECC, Defra and the BERR-RDA Secretariat. AWM are currently on target to meet this years' reduction target with progress reported quarterly to the AWM Board.

AWM Low Carbon Investment Programme

Projects funded under a £13m AWM low carbon investment programme have been established to support business resource efficiency. This includes the Environmental Advisory Service, delivered by Business Link to provide targeted support to SMEs to improve their resource efficiency, understand their carbon impact and increase their financial returns. A project delivered in partnership with WRAP was launched in August to bring forward commercial food and mixed plastic recycling infrastructure in the

region, to provide more recycling facilities for regional businesses to access and reduce waste disposal and costs.

Annexe B

Low Carbon Housing Report: Developing a baseline for refurbishment in the West Midlands

Background information

A key action in the **West Midlands Regional Climate Change Action Plan** was to “develop a scoping report to identify the potential to reduce carbon emissions from the existing housing stock”.

Key outcomes of the report were to develop a baseline of the current level of refurbishment; spend on refurbishment and the impact of refurbishment in terms of energy and CO₂ savings.

The final report was completed and launched in March 2009 and has been well received by local authorities and Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) in the Region.

Five Key (Killer) points

- **Most (80%) of the 2.3 million households in the West Midlands standing today will be standing in 2050 - *the sooner we cut their carbon impact the better***
- **These households account for a third of all energy consumed in the region - more than transport as much as industry - *it may be hard to do, but we cannot ignore***
- **The gap between where the region is now and the current 30% reduction target by 2020 will lessen – but not enough to meet the target - *the gap requires action now or more action later***
- **The greatest carbon savings is more related to the type of energy efficiency measures done and where – rather than the number of households or cost – *there needs to be a strategic approach with rigorous monitoring of outcomes to get more out of every pound spent***
- **Funding, institutional arrangements, co-ordination and targeting for greatest impact is diffuse - *there is a need for greater leadership, pace and targeting now rather than later***

Annexe C - The 30 Actions of the Climate Change Action Plan

Action
<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>
<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>
<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>
<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>
<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>
<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>
<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>
<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>

Action

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

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

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

E5. Help businesses identify and realise the opportunities and manage the risks of the changing climate for their markets, products, premises, people and logistics

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

Action

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

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

I4. Identify existing and potential funding streams and establish a regional approach to directing these towards agreed priorities

I5. Low-carbon credentials to form part of selection criteria within sustainable procurement practices

I6. Investigate feasibility for a Regional resource-efficiency (energy, waste and water) reinvestment fund

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

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

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

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

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

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

C5. Promote sustainable and renewable energy as a strong economic driver determining competitiveness, energy security,

business continuity etc.
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
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
TM 3. Identify regionally-appropriate performance indicators and goals for regional adaptation activity and resilience to climate impacts
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, build on low-carbon WMES research
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

Annexe D – WM Climate Change Action Plan Governance Structure

**Ian Austin MP
Regional Minister**

**WMRA &
Leader Board**

AWM

GOWM

**Environment
Agency**

**Natural
England**

EST

Environment &
Climate Change
Portfolio,
Cllr Keith Austin

Chief Executive
Olwen Dutton

Director
Economic
Regeneration
Mark Pearce

Regional
Director
Trudi Elliott

Regional Director
Mark Sitton-Kent

Regional
Director
Roger Owen

Director of
Policy
Mark Middleton

Deputy Regional
Director SF
Dave Marr

RSU Manager
Helen Wakeman

Assistant
Director SF
Nic Cole

SD
Officers
Network
Chair
Terry Jones

Regional
Environment
Group Chair
Michael Barker

Strategic
Advisor,
Regional
Planning /
Environment
Chris Blakeley

Head of SD
Tim Baldwin

Head of SD
Rebecca Gill

Strategy
Manager
Ruth Meek

Senior
Specialist CC
Charlotte Reeves

Regional
Director,
Simon Wright

Energy. &
Carbon
Policy
Manager
Graham Waddell

Mitigation
Paul Cobbing

CC Adaptation
Co-ordinators
S Beckett / J Fay

Adaptation
Tony Crompton

CCO Support
John Shattock

Local
Government

Strategic
Planning &
Transport

Business &
Energy

Chair,
Secretariat,
Monitoring &
Communications

CC Adaptation
Land & Water
Management

Wildlife &
Landscape
Conservation

Energy
Saving and
Renewables

HEALTH

L As / LSPs

SHAP

GROUNDWORK

**CARBON
TRUST**

**BUSINESS
LINK**

WMRO

**SCIENCE
CITY**

UKCIP

ENVIROWISE

**Climate
Change
Panel**

**Climate
Change
Office**

Delivery

