

# NEWS RELEASE



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## Region committed to tackling Climate Change

A CLIMATE Change Action Plan consultation was launched today by the West Midlands Regional Assembly and aims to lead the way forward for the Region.

Open to comment by organisations, businesses and individuals the Action Plan identifies six priority areas and sets out plans for action up to 2010. The actions included in the plan are intended to be achievable at regional level and add value to the many examples of good work addressing the causes and impacts of climate change locally, regionally and nationally.

At its annual Conference in October last year, the Assembly made a number of commitments towards tackling climate change. Following the conference, the West Midlands Regional Assembly became the first Regional Assembly to sign up to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change.

The Declaration commits the Assembly to work with other regional organisations to produce, by November 2007, plans to tackle the causes and impacts of climate change. The draft Action Plan published today will fulfil that commitment.

Chairman of the West Midlands Regional Assembly Cllr David S Smith said: "Climate change is now at the top of the political agenda. Recent events have shown us how

vulnerable we can be to extreme weather. The challenge we now face is not only to reduce greenhouse gases but to avoid further climate change.”

This Action Plan sets out how regional organisations can begin to work together to ensure that the work carried out supports more sustainable buildings, transport and economic development, with reduced emissions of greenhouse gases and increased resilience to the impacts of climate change.”

Olwen Dutton, Chief Executive of the West Midlands Regional Assembly said: “This Action Plan indicates the collective commitment of regional partners in the West Midlands to tackle climate change and to provide a policy framework that supports the delivery of sustainable, low-carbon solutions. 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. We want to encourage as many of these as possible to respond to the consultation and give us their views on the draft.”

The draft West Midlands Climate Change Action Plan is available on the West Midlands Regional Assembly website [www.wmra.gov.uk](http://www.wmra.gov.uk).

The consultation is open for responses until 14 September 2007.

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**Notes to editors:**

1. The West Midlands Regional Assembly (‘the Assembly’) represents a wide range of democratic, social and economic interests throughout the West Midlands region.
2. The Assembly’s membership consists of 100 nominated representatives, with 68 members representing the local authority, 16 representing the business sector and 16 representing other economic and social partners.

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