



East Midlands Climate Change Programme of Action

Recognised by the Government as the 'greatest environmental challenge facing the world today', climate change will have significant direct effects on the East Midlands region.

Working together, the East Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA), the Government Office East Midlands (GOEM), the East Midlands Development Agency (*emda*) and the Environment Agency (EA) have initiated the East Midlands Climate Change Programme of Action, which will help ensure that individuals, households and businesses understand what climate change means for them, what they can do to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, how to adapt to unavoidable change in the climate and what support is available.

We are now consulting with key stakeholders from across the public, private and voluntary sectors. The following issues have been identified as areas for potential activity within the Programme of Action.

Planning and design

Enabling a low carbon future, resilient to the impacts of climate change, through planning and design

As well as incorporating low energy features into our developments, integrating adaptation measures into land selection, location and building design is increasingly important to improve our resilience to the impacts of climate change, including extreme weather events. Planning also has a role to support microgeneration, and deliver sustainable developments that contribute to reducing traffic demand and traffic growth.

Business performance

Improving the productivity and performance of businesses in the region through improved resource efficiency and managing climate risks

By reducing the amount of waste generated, as well as the use of energy and natural resources such as water, businesses can help the region tackle climate change. Existing processes such as environmental management systems can be utilised or new approaches such as undertaking risk assessments can be taken, to plan and prepare for climate change impacts on business areas.

Economic exploitation

Ensuring the region can exploit the economic opportunities presented by a changing climate through development of new and emerging technologies, processes and services

New energy markets and the impacts of a changing climate on the East Midlands provide important development and diversification opportunities for the region's businesses. There is currently a study on the economic impacts of climate change in the region which will highlight the potential opportunities of adapting to the impacts of climate change across a range of sectors.

Energy capacity

Supporting the sustainable generation and supply of energy, to meet future needs reliably and securely

Parts of the region (such as areas of Lincolnshire, East Nottinghamshire and Northern Derbyshire) have insufficient energy infrastructure. Refurbishment, replacement and restructuring of energy distribution systems will be a significant part of regional investment and need to be designed to accommodate a low carbon economy and be resilient to the impacts of climate change and changing patterns of consumer demand.

Awareness raising

Engaging all stakeholders in the East Midlands in adapting to climate impacts and reducing the impacts that their use of energy has on their local and global environment

Targeted communication activity, mentoring and showcasing good practice, particularly through local demonstration projects, can add value and boost local action on climate change across the region.

Capacity building

Providing the tools and opportunities for stakeholders to take an active role in adapting to climate impacts, reducing their energy consumption and the effects that their use of energy has on the environment

Where there are gaps in skills and delivery networks and where risks are difficult to manage, developing regional champions in the public and private sectors can help deliver action on climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Protect and enhance environmental capacity

Improve the region's environmental resilience to the impacts of climate change, such as longer, drier summers and milder, wetter winters by improving the quality of the natural environment

We can improve our resilience to climate impacts by creating green infrastructure to support biodiversity, better managing coastal processes and enhancing the region's water quality, soils and natural water resources.

Driving action

Ensuring action on climate change adaptation and mitigation is integrated into key strategies and processes in all sectors in the region

Action on climate change needs to be integrated into procurement, assessment and business planning cycles, as well as into public sector processes such as Local Area Agreements and funding initiatives.

For more information on climate change activity in the East Midlands, please visit www.emra.gov.uk/climatechange.

