



Department of Energy & Climate Change

DECC Launch Statement for the National Adaptation Programme

National Adaptation Programme

The Climate Change Act (2008) includes requirements to undertake a regular 5 yearly UK-wide Climate Change Risk Assessments¹ (CCRA), and to set out a statutory National Adaptation Programme² (NAP) in response to the risks identified in the CCRA. Work on the CCRA and NAP have been led by Defra, working closely with other Government departments including DECC. This NAP sets out to help DECC stakeholders understand where adaptation action is needed.

DECC Perspective

The CCRA, published in January 2012, shows us that without any action there are significant risks to parts of our infrastructure, for example from flooding. However the energy industry has relatively high awareness of the risks posed by climate change and is used to responding to extreme weather events. Government and other key organisations are already taking action in many areas to minimise risks, e.g. the energy generators are working to protect key assets such as power stations.

The CCRA reported that the risk of buildings becoming too hot is highly likely to increase, with adverse effects for health and economic productivity. The government's energy efficiency scheme, the Green Deal, is taking account of potential overheating risk in existing homes. The UK Climate Impacts Programme (UK CIP) is co-ordinating the production of guidance for the Green Deal supply chain, which is intended to raise awareness about the types of homes that could be vulnerable and how to reduce potential overheating risk from installing energy efficiency measures. There are also measures available under the Green Deal for

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-government-report>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/adapting-to-climate-change>

non-domestic buildings to help reduce overheating risks, like blinds, shutters and shading devices.

Climate Change Risks

The CCRA identified that the most significant and urgent risks identified for infrastructure are associated with flooding. Evidence showed that the main risk posed by flooding in this sector is to power stations and electricity transmission and primary distribution substations. Key risks highlighted by the CCRA include:

- Energy Infrastructure at significant risk of flooding
- Energy demand for cooling
- Risk of restrictions in water abstraction for energy generation
- Energy transmission efficiency capacity losses due to heat (over ground)
- Sub-stations at significant risk of flooding
- Heat related damage/disruption to energy infrastructure
- Power stations at significant risk of flooding
- Loss of productivity due to ICT disruption
- Overheating of buildings

Climate Change Opportunities

There may also be some opportunities for energy firms, such as reduced impact on performance from snow and ice due to milder winters, and a more even distribution of energy demand throughout the year as winter heating demands drop and summer cooling demand increases.

Top Three Actions

The NAP actions for the energy sector are discussed in the infrastructure chapter, and summarised in the annex called the Register of Adaptation Actions. These include:

- New energy infrastructure will take account of climate change in line with National Policy Statements.
- Organisations in the energy sector will implement the actions set out in their reports under the Adaptation Reporting Power.
- DECC to consider promoting climate resilience through the Strategy and Policy Statement for OfGem that will replace the existing Social and Environmental Guidance, subject to passage of the second session Energy Bill.

How to get involved

The Environment Agency Climate Ready support service³ provides information and resources for industry and businesses to prepare for climate change impacts.

³ <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/137557.aspx>

Climate Ready works with Government departments, delivery bodies, service providers and sector representatives to offer a tailored support service.

Further advice about DECC's policy, strategy and regulatory frameworks related to adaptation can be provided by DECC. Please contact DECC Correspondence Unit⁴, including the word "Adaptation" in the subject line. Further resources are also available on our website, including the National Policy Statements⁵ (NPSs) and DECC's Energy Security Strategy⁶ (ESS). The NPSs explain how policy on development consents for major infrastructure takes account of Government policy, including policies for the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change. The ESS assesses the impact future climate change may have on the energy sector, and ensures that the UK continues to benefit from a broad, diverse and flexible energy system supported by the right infrastructure.

The full report is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/adapting-to-climate-change>.

⁴ correspondence@decc.gsi.gov.uk

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/consents-and-planning-applications-for-national-energy-infrastructure-projects>

⁶ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/65643/7101-energy-security-strategy.pdf

