

Delivering Climate Change Adaptation Through Spatial Planning

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Presentation

- Introduction
- Context
- Low Carbon Spatial Plan Process
- Networked Environment Regions
- South West Wales example

The Sustainable Development Commission

Who are we?

- Government's **independent adviser** on sustainable development
- Report to the **Prime Minister**, the **First Ministers of Wales and Scotland** and the **First Minister and Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland**.
- Through advocacy, advice and appraisal, we help put **sustainable development at the heart of Government policy**



The Climate Change Commission

Who are we

- Set up under One Wales Programme of Government
- Cross Party; Cross Sector Consensus Building Body
- Reporting to National Assembly
- Advising on policy development and implementation
- UKCIP key member – informing adaptation plans
- Providing leadership across Welsh society



Climate Change Strategy and Programme of Action

- **The adaptation framework in the Strategy has three overall objectives, which are to**
 - **Build the evidence-base** on understanding the impacts of climate change;
 - **Mainstream adaptation work** by integrating the consideration of climate change impacts and adaptation in developing and delivering Assembly Government and wider public policy; and
 - **Share information and good practice and support the development of skills and organisational capacity** to respond to climate change impacts by providing the tools and skills needed for organisations and communities in Wales to adapt to climate change.

Adaptation action plan examples

- The Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) to develop an adaptation model for Local Authorities, on the outcomes of the recent study, 'Changing Climate / Changing Places.'
- Ensure climate change and its impacts on marine and coastal ecosystems and species are a key consideration in marine spatial planning and integrated coastal zone management, their implementation and monitoring.
- **Develop the skills and providing tools** necessary to build capacity and inform decision making - UKCP09 scenarios with appropriate workshops to illustrate how they can be used to support adaptation planning for the relevant areas.
- To link with Farming Connect to ensure that adaptation advice is given to farmers

Climate Change and Planning Policy

Planning Policy Wales
TAN 14 Coastal Planning
TAN 15 Development and Flood Risk
Planning for Sustainable Buildings
National Housing Strategy
Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Buildings – spatial analysis

Spatial Plan

- Key mechanism for joining up policy
- Regard to impacts of decisions beyond administrative boundaries
- Context for local and community plans
- Reflect core values of sustainable development
- Set a pathway to low carbon
- Incorporate climate change adaptation



Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution report

“ In relation to Climate Change Adaptation – the UK spatial planning system is underperforming – barriers include lack of skills and resources, lack of training and awareness of politicians, community groups and decision makers”

Low Carbon Spatial Plan - Project Background

- In the WSP 2008 update it stated that each area group will develop practical plans to move towards becoming a low-carbon region.
- SDC commissioned to define what an LCR is and how this can be applied
- A framework and information needed for the regions to develop their plans
- Recognising measures to reduce emissions need to be delivered at a regional level



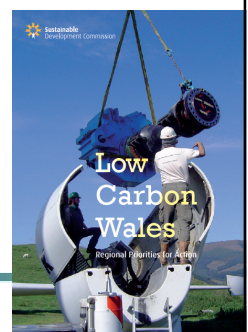
Low Carbon Spatial Planning

- **Why is it important?**
 - We don't live our lives within administrative boundaries
 - It can identify the key settlements and their roles in a low carbon future
 - Tackling climate change will need a collaborative approach across all sectors of society – WSP can facilitate this.
 - The transition to low carbon needs to be *citizen centered*.
 - It can enable a coordinated approach that identifies synergies, best practice and where public investment can the biggest impact.

Low Carbon Wales: Regional Priorities for Action

The report serves two functions:

1. Sets out the **process** through which the WSP and its Groups can enable the transition to a low carbon Wales.
2. Provides **information** to enable each region to identify priorities for action.



Networked Environment Region

- Commitment in Spatial Plan 2008 update
- To identify win/wins where environmental action can contribute to wider sustainable development of the region
- Role of “green infrastructure” to support sustainable development rather than simply environmental outcomes

Networked Environment Region – the Green Infrastructure

- making the area more attractive and therefore supporting regeneration;
- helping to mitigate flooding risks;
- developing cycle-ways as part of sustainable transport;
- promoting sustainable use of water and sustainable urban drainage systems;
- increasing opportunities for leisure/tourism and, as part of this, opportunities for people from deprived areas to pursue outdoor leisure activities supporting healthy living;
- connecting habitats and supporting biodiversity
- as a result, improving the quality of life and well-being in an area

Progress so far in South East Wales

- a practical toolkit that local authorities and others can use, including an interactive CD ROM.
- five exemplar projects showing how collaborative action on green infrastructure can deliver benefits that are not only environmental but also social and economic

Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal

Heads of the Valleys

River Cynon catchment

The Gwent Levels

The Connection Corridor, Ridgeway

Networked Environment Regions Next Steps

- The proposed next steps in South East Wales are to make the report publicly available to all stakeholders and seek support through the Spatial Plan process for them to take forward action on the exemplars.
- Since work started on the Networked Environment Region, the DE&S Minister has announced an approach to developing a Natural Environment Framework for Wales, to guide coherent action to protect biodiversity. The Networked Environment Region approach should be woven into this so that we have a single integrated process.

South West Wales Low Carbon Plan

- help create a South West Wales ‘Low Carbon Region’ brand by showcasing the region’s natural, built, business and community assets that mark it out as an exemplar low carbon destination in which to invest, work, live and visit;
- act as a vehicle for connecting and supporting the region’s low carbon champions, and to enable best practice to become normal practice;
- create a framework, a point of reference, within which current best practice in low carbon transition can operate within the region;
- create a mechanism that allows the totality of the region’s collective action in transitioning to low carbon to be understood and new and/or future actions to be appropriately directed and resourced;
- act as a catalyst for:
 - new action (where there are gaps);
 - stepping up existing action and best practice (where there are proven benefits);
 - and
 - better collaborative working across both geographical space and policy sectors/themes in order to maximise environmental social and economic impacts

Follow up South West Wales Low Carbon Region Action Plan launch – September 8th National Botanic Gardens

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- ..."facilitate **local scale** [5-25MW] renewable energy projects by setting local renewable energy targets and allocating sites in development plans. Local targets and projects should be identified by undertaking an assessment of the opportunities and potential for renewable energy in the area'..."
-"undertake an assessment of the potential of all renewable energy resources, renewable energy technologies, energy efficiency and conservation measures and include appropriate policies in development plans" ...
-"take into account the contribution that can be made by their local area towards carbon emission reduction and renewable energy production by setting local targets and identifying appropriate sites"....
- "At the **strategic scale** development plans should, where relevant, provide policies to clarify in the SSAs where large wind energy developments are likely to be permitted, for example by identifying local micro-siting criteria or identifying specific preferred locations. The SSA boundaries have been drawn in order to allow for some local refinement and allow for a 5km buffer where further large scale windfarm development may be appropriate. However, in defining such locations or criteria it will be important to ensure that indicative boundaries of the SSAs as set out in TAN 8 are not changed significantly