

CORE CITIES

CLIMATE CHANGE GROUP



Birmingham
Bristol
Leeds
Liverpool
Manchester
Newcastle
Nottingham
Sheffield

“Our city region areas are responsible for around 30% of England’s carbon emissions and home to more than 16million people. Cities contribute to the causes of climate change, but they can also provide solutions.”

The Core Cities Climate Change Group was created to support climate change mitigation, adaptation strategy and action across all Core Cities' activities. It aims to help understand the serious challenges that we face and to help address issues that need to be tackled in part at a local level, focusing on large English cities.

The Core Cities Climate Change Joint Commitment with Government sets out the overall priorities for the work programme. In November 2007 this was signed by Leaders of the eight city councils and by Joan Ruddock MP, then Minister for Climate Change, on behalf of the Government. A full version of the commitment is available at www.corecities.com

Our current principal focus of activity is outlined below around five key actions for the Cities, and six specific Government commitments:

Core Cities will:

- 1 Reduce energy demand and increase renewable energy generation across our own estates, engaging with public sector partners.
- 2 With Government support, evaluate the need for climate change agencies for Core Cities and city regions to:
 - (a) lead multi-agency development of integrated strategies for energy, waste, carbon and water use
 - (b) work across functional economic areas to reduce waste and carbon emissions in cost-effective and innovative ways.
- 3 Build on the Stern Review and the Government's response to it, to develop economic impact models to inform future decisions, for medium and long-term policy and planning frameworks.
- 4 Support the Government in assessing and bridging the skills and capacity gap for tackling climate change, sharing learning and benchmarking.
- 5 Inform placemaking by:
 - (a) researching and appraising flooding, water management, critical infrastructure and other vulnerabilities of our urban environments and communities
 - (b) planning for adaptation as a core element of spatial planning and policy development
 - (c) championing methods to improve energy management in the community, eg. through exploring decentralised energy opportunities.



The Government will:

- 1 Increase the total Salix fund size and consider increasing the cap on loan size to provide the scale needed by Core Cities and other large authorities.
- 2 Ensure that national and regional Government agencies understand and reflect the important role of Core Cities in their climate change policies and programmes.
- 3 Assist the Core Cities in tackling the challenge of moving to a low-carbon, low-waste economy through taking forward the recommendations of the Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration to:
 - (a) improve the flexibilities and incentives for local authorities to work with businesses to identify opportunities for growth, and to take the necessary steps to make their areas more attractive to business investment
 - (b) achieve greater flexibility and local control over relevant funding streams.
- 4 Support Core Cities in establishing transparent and robust local accountability for water and energy management.
- 5 Work with the Core Cities and Government offices to ensure joint accountability between national, regional and local partners within relevant Local Strategic Partnerships and Multi-Area Agreements, including for CO₂ reduction.
- 6 Recognise the 'value-added' sustainability of cities through density and efficiency of resource consumption and progress decentralised energy.

Progress on climate change made so far by the Core Cities includes numerous projects, working with a diverse range of organisations including, but not limited to, Commission for Architecture and Built Environment (CABE), Carbon Trust, Energy Savings Trust (EST), Local Government Association (LGA), UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP), Environment Agency, Open University, UK Business Council for Sustainable Energy (UKBCSE), Shell UK, the Clinton Foundation and the UK Research Councils.

Upcoming challenges and drivers on the horizon likely to impact on the Core Cities Climate Change work include:

- delivering on our Local Area Agreement targets (all have signed up to tackle some element of climate change)
- maintaining action on climate change at the top of our agendas, especially so during the current economic downturn, assessing potential 'Green New Deal' employment opportunities
- building our adaptive capacity
- forging productive, collaborative activity at city and city region level to deliver on the climate change mitigation and adaptation agendas
- planning for decentralised energy networks
- encouraging better sharing of centrally held information.

The group is always interested in working with other organisations to further efforts in tackling climate change.

If you have a proposal or would like to work with the core cities on climate change, please get in touch through the Core Cities office.



The Core Cities group is a network of England's major regional cities: Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham and Sheffield. They form the economic and urban cores of wider surrounding territories, the city regions and are the economic drivers of their regions.

The key Core Cities Working Groups are:

- Transport and Connectivity
- Innovation
- Skills and Employment
- Sustainable Communities
- Culture and Creative Industries
- Climate Change
- Finance and Industry
- Governance and Partnerships.

Well informed and knowledgeable lead officers and councillors meet to develop joint working around strategic issues. Each workstream is led by a different city council. Details of all these workstreams, and further background to the Core Cities network can be found at www.corecities.com

For further details contact the Core Cities office on **0161 242 5951** or email c.murray@corecities.com