
NORTH EAST'S ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE EVENT

Innovative Management for Europe's' Changing Coastal Resource IMCORE – EU INTERREG IVB

24th April 2009

COUNTY HALL, DURHAM



DURHAM
Heritage Coast

ENVISION 
e n v i s i o n . u k . c o m

Timetable

10:00 - Refreshments and Registration

10:15 - Welcome address

Councillor Simon Henig, Leader Durham
County Council

10:30 - IMCORE – Context and purpose of project

Niall Benson, Heritage Coast Officer

10:50 - Current North East Regional activity and action

Adrian Hilton, Regional Climate Change Co-
ordinator

11:15 *Break with refreshments*

11:40 - Workshop session– Issues and Drivers

12:45 - Feedback

13:00 - Lunch

13:30 – Close

Attendees

Delegates who wish to attend but did not turn up on the day are in grey highlight.

NAME	ORGANISATION
<i>Cllr J Alvey</i>	<i>Peterlee Town Council</i>
Ian Bloomfield – Environment Officer	Durham County Council
Cllr R Burnip	Easington Colliery Regeneration Partnership
David Chapman – Climate Change Manager	NWL
Harry Clark	Seaham Environmental Association
<i>Bob Clifton</i>	<i>Jacobs</i>
Jim Cokill	Durham Wildlife Trust
Terry Coult	DCC - Ecologist
June Crosby	The Weardale Society
Coralie Dickinson	DCC
Malcolm Fallow – Chief Executive	East Durham Trust
Dr Judy Foster-Smith – Marine Ecological Consultant	Envision
Dorothy Gibson	European Team, Durham County Council
Caroline Gregory	Argus Ecological Services
<i>Denis Hancock – Civil Eng Div</i>	<i>Hartlepool Borough Council</i>
Cllr Simon Henig	Leader of DCC
Adrian Hilton	Regional Climate Change Co-ordinator
Colin Horsley	Hartlepool Borough Council
Paul Hurwood – Climate Change Officer	Hartlepool Borough Council
Elaine Jaggs	Norhumberland Biodiversity Partnership
Deborah Jefferson	Hartlepool Borough Council

David Lawrence	British Geological Survey
<i>Cllr Dennis Maddison</i>	<i>Durham County Council</i>
David Miller	
Brian Oram	Durham Voles
Sam Palombella	Groundwork East Durham
William Reilly	Consett North Community Partnership
Elizabeth Mann	CPRE
Iain Robson	Northumberland Coast AONB
Iris Robinson	Durham County Fed WI's
Allan Snape	Northumbrian Water Ltd
Lydia Speakman – Snr Specialist Climate Change	Natural England
Andy Stephenson – Climate Change Partnerships Officer	Durham County Council
John Wearmouth	CDEnt (leaving at 11.15)
Andrew Wood – Planning Policy	Durham County Council
Katharine Warrington	Sustainability Officer, City of Sunderland Council
Freda Weatherspoon	Durham County Fed WI's
Cecelia Wharton	Durham County Fed WI's
Hester Whyte	Envision
Chris Wiltshire	CPRE North East
Peter Richardson	Groundworks Durham
Mike Wilson	CEED
Cllr Eunice Hunter	Durham County Council
Cllr Brian Stephens	Durham County Council
Catherine Grezo	Durham County Council (Landscape)

Cllr D Boyes	Durham County Council
Cllr D Myers	Durham County Council
Dolly Hannon	Durham County Council (Planning)
Cllr Armstrong	Durham County Council
Cllr G Bleasdale	Durham County Council
Cllr P Stradling	Durham County Council
Cllr C Walker	Durham County Council
Niall Benson	Durham Heritage Coast

KEEP INFORMED (BUT COULD NOT ATTEND)

Michael Marston	Soil Association
Cllr R Arthur	Durham County Council
Liz Charles	Durham Rural Community Council
Lindsay Bramwell	Newcastle University

Workshop results

- Results from group work – coding carried out after workshop

Working groups results on issues

Code: S = social, C = economic, N = environmental, I = institutional

ISSUES AND CONCERNS	TIMESCALE	Code
GROUP 1		
Many measures to date have been too short term	Long	I
Need adaptation of informal systems	Short	I
Need better information about climate change impacts on communities	Short	S,C, N
How do we protect economic assets? i.e. TV estuary	Short	N
More power needed at a regional policy level to influence planning decisions	Short	I
Regional prioritisation of high risk sites i.e. landfill breaches; large scale industry	Short	N
Effects on offshore wind farms?	Medium	C,N
What are the important thresholds in the north east and how do we influence or act on them?	Short	N
GROUP 2		
Coastal erosion link to loss of designated wildlife <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - problems for birds nesting - grazing project 		N
Marine life – suffers from pollution etc		N
Coastal pollution		N, C
Economic development – effect on fishing		C,N
Displacement of people		S
Working with other organisations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NWL problems with waste water - sewage - Problem effect on issues listed above 		I
General awareness of the public <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How they travel to the coast, what effects does that have? 		S
Transport links may suffer		C
GROUP 3		
Too many messages that contradict		I
Lack of clarity		I
Mixture of opinions		I, S
Understanding the facts – causes of greenhouse gases and where they come from		S, I
What can they do about it?		S, I
More clarity on possible solutions		I
Is wind realistic or is it a token and what are		N, C

the alternatives?		
Difficult for the single person if large organisations don't do what they preach		I
Real policy needed from Government		I
What are Durham's advantages from it's natural resources and how can they be used?		C, S
Building on flood plains and flood risk areas		I, N
Access of emergency services		I
Negative messages are what is reported e.g. "what about China?" "America won't sign" etc		I, S
Facts need to be in plain English – what can be done, what can I do and what is happening?		I
Culture of blame		I
Effects of run-off from land use in upland areas impact on lowland and coastal areas		N
Messages – give the facts, the arguments, what is happening, use all media inc. press		I
Understand the facts – what is in the information?		I, S
GROUP 4		
Act now		I, S
Go back to Environment Agency consultation on flooding in the north east (Blyth and Redcar) needs to be looked at again		N, I
Coastal Flooding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - top down, should go from local upwards, important to get the correct information locally - communicating back to communities 		I
Importance of climate change is not yet known!		I
Raising awareness of businessmen		I
Get the right information across		I, S
Damage to cliffs from coastal erosion (Limestone project) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - defences can destroy beauty 		N
Innovating ways for defences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - work with local communities – they need opportunity to have their say and become involved 		N, S
Lots of wrong information		I
Do we have the data? Implications are unknown, but data is available		I, N
Exchange of information between "stakeholder organisations"		I
Press relations between project and media – should be involved right from the start		I
Adapt in a way so it does not have a negative effect on the natural beauty		N

Long term solution to projects and work with the natural environment		I
GROUP 5		
Communication means. Who is targeted? – All levels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - businesses - communities - schools - individuals - users of the coast Skype could be used as a communication tool. Lack of joined up thinking or coordination		I
Underused NGO sector as NGO has strong communication links to communities.. Develop, harness and education the community – ‘community will’		I
Activating behavioural challenge		S, I
Champions – the correct champion who people will trust and continue to listen to		I
Present information spread within the context of “what’s in it for me? my community? my business?”		S
Visual results – how the community sees the results of our/their work.		S
The message “it’s going to happen anyway but we can lessen its impacts” isn’t working. People seem to think “why should I bother”		I, S

- In terms of ISSUES – the dominant theme is institutional, with social and environmental issues coming in joint second.

Working groups results on information needs

Code: T = technical improvement, L = improved communication links, A = the approach to coastal issues, P = collation and presentation of materials.

INFORMATION NEEDS	
GROUP 1	
Promotion of issues through popular media	L
Clarity of purpose in advice in planning for the future	A
Greater dissemination of useful information i.e. magic maps	T, L
Develop ONE organisation with statutory powers with regard to the coast	A
Much complex information needs pulling together into understandable list of actions and priorities	P
Clear communication of new realities around adaptation and mitigation	P, L
Better information about cause and effect	T
GROUP 2	
What percentage cause has the combustion engine had on climate change?	T
Key personnel providing information to community - use LAP - explain to individual the effect on them	L
Seeing is believing - provide an idea on time and then options on how they can alter pattern - change perceptions and tackle consumer power	P
Direction needs to come from National Government or EU	A
GROUP 4	
Have information and raise awareness in local communities and make sure they understand why	P, L
Specific information about our natural area – needs to come from local community	L
Get accessible information – communities	L
IM-CORE to collate the information from all organisations involved with climate change	P
Putting information together that is relevant	P
Story telling, DVD's using different techniques for different audiences – music, drama etc.	P
GROUP 5	
Time scaled distinct impact of climate change – this should change the way we communicate	T
Simplify graphs	P
Cartoons as an effective simple method	P
Single source information point – can IM-CORE provide this?	A
Climate change impact along the coast explained – how specific areas will be affected; will tidal reaches encroach further inland?	T, P
Different communication forms for different target audiences. Priority must be to engage the hard to reach groups – those previously not actively engaged or refused to participate	L

Specify targets and change approach to suit – not a ‘one size fits all’	A
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- In terms of INFORMATION NEEDS – the dominant theme is presentation and collation of material, with the overall approach, development of linkages for communication and technical issues running up behind.

Working groups results on constraints

Codes: T = technical, P = people and skills, I = institutional, S = policy & strategy, M = money.

CONSTRAINTS	TIMESCALE	Code
GROUP 1		
We are too complacent in the North East (“I’m all right Jack” attitude)	Short	P
Climate change mapping against coastal communities – economic, social, environmental	Short	S
Concern about lack of joined up thinking – is everybody doing their own thing?	Short	I, P
Only regulations and laws can move this agenda forward		S
It feels like nobody is in control		I
GROUP 2		
Change in people and business behaviour		P
Money		M
Directing information at all ages to understand		P
Time – takes a while for change to occur		I
Take action earlier before the problems are there – awareness raising		I
GROUP 3		
Reliable alternatives e.g. transport (cars to buses)		T
Provision of facilities – bike locks, changing facilities		I
Transport system not integrated		T, I
Lack of investment		M
Good Quality networks – not necessarily joined up		P
Work stops at council boundaries, often won’t work together, needs joined up approach		I
Not a joined up approach to roadworks		I
Policy – national and local – carrot and stick approach		S
Financial benefits and penalties – households, business and L.A.’s		M
“Bang head on the wall” policies		S
Waste not being disposed correctly and finishing up in the sea		T

Local produce and suppliers disappearing meaning an increase of travel and packaging, finishing up in the sea if not disposed of correctly		T, I
Concern of the targets that have been set and signed up to and the public and politicians do not understand what these really mean		P
More linked up public transport system		T
GROUP 4		
MONEY! Deprivation – skills, training, lack of technology		M
Use existing networks/mechanisms – look at local events and use these to further promote IM-CORE		I
Working with disadvantage		P
How to reach harder to reach people		P
Vested interest/conflicted interest		I
Community capacity – is there enough?		P
Short term thinking		P
Need more local input – take these type of workshops to more local areas		I
Get the correct information from the local community		I
GROUP 5		
Funding – an unimaginative approach		M
Intense localism – creates conflict and no co-operation		P
Generate optimism – opportunities available – it's not just a disaster		P
Need for understandable targeted communication for each engaged group		I
Generate optimism and opportunity		P
'Our area is a positive, special place to live in and conserve'		P

- In terms of CONSTRAINTS – then people's skills and attitudes and institutional issues were top, with policy & strategies and money less commonly noted.