



GETTING TOOLED-UP FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

*Jacqui Harman and
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describe how UKCIP is
helping organisations
prepare for climate
change.*

The climate is changing and these changes are already having an impact on our environment, economy and society. We are already facing the challenge of climate change over the next 30 to 40 years and there will be impacts to which we will have to adapt, regardless of what actions are taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP) helps organisations prepare for climate change. UKCIP provides guidance and tools to help

identify how climate change might affect your business and how risk can be reduced and opportunities exploited. The tools and guidance UKCIP provides are described below. All are freely available from the UKCIP website (www.ukcip.org.uk).

Climate change scenarios

The UKCIP climate change scenarios show how the climate of the UK may change over the twenty-first century. They provide a

standard reference for UK climate assessments and are based on modelling by the Hadley Centre. Maps displaying future climate are available from the UKCIP website and the underlying data can be downloaded. Next year UKCIP02 will be replaced by UKCIP08, a new package of climate information that includes probabilistic projections.

Socio-economic scenarios

Socio-economic scenarios, based on the same four emissions profiles used for the climate change scenarios, were developed for UKCIP to provide a consistent set of information for UK studies. These scenarios recognise that vulnerability to climate change depends on both climatic and non-climatic factors. UKCIP also provides guidance on pairing climate and socio-economic scenarios.

Risk, Uncertainty and Decision-making (RUD) framework

This framework, developed in partnership with the Environment Agency, provides an eight-stage process to help stakeholders assess climate and non-climate risks, address uncertainty and identify suitable adaptation measures. It uses standard risk- and decision-making methodology, already used across a range of sectors.

Adaptation Wizard

The Adaptation Wizard is a decision-support tool that also plays an important awareness-raising and educational role. It is a good entry point to impacts and adaptation for many users. The four stages of the Adaptation Wizard include the same principles of good adaptation that underpin the RUD framework. This tool is currently being revised. The new version should be available later this year.

Costings methodology

The UKCIP costings report provides a method for costing climate impacts, and explains how to compare these costs to those of implementing adaptation measures, so that the most appropriate measures can be chosen. The methodology is designed to be used in conjunction with the RUD framework. A simplified costings tool is being developed in response to stakeholder demand. The simplified tool will be an Excel workbook which can be downloaded from the UKCIP website.



Guidance on adaptation

UKCIP has two new products which provide guidance on adaptation. 'Adaptation Actions' is a searchable, online database which contains examples of real adaptation actions which have been undertaken by organisations in the UK. Its purpose is to provide organisations with ideas of things they can do to reduce their climate risks or exploit the opportunities.

Identifying Adaptation Options is a guidance document on the identification and selection of adaptation options that can be used to respond to climate risks. It explores the nature and characteristics of adaptation and provides further background information and examples of strategies and options.

Tools aimed at business and local authorities

UKCIP has developed tools for specific audiences, namely local authorities and business. These include:

- Business Areas Climate Impacts Assessment Tool (BACLIAT): helps businesses to assess the impacts that climate change will have on their operations so they can begin the essential process of adapting to a changing climate

- Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP): recognises that understanding vulnerability to current weather is a good starting point for understanding better the impacts of a future climate. A LCLIP contains examples of impacts of past weather events and the organisational response to these
- Nottingham Declaration Action Pack (NDAP): designed to help local authorities produce climate action plans. The NDAP management tool includes many of the same principles as the Adaptation Wizard

Our climate is changing and organisations are going to have to adapt. The suite of tools and guidance developed by UKCIP can be used to help organisations identify climate risks and manage them. ■

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