



CLIMATE

Adapting to Change

Collaborative

Learning

Initiative



Northern Periphery and
Arctic Programme
2014–2020



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Newsletter

Issue 5

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COLLABORATIVE LEARNING INITIATIVE MANAGING AND ADAPTING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Steering Group Meeting, Sundsvall & Härnösand, Sweden

The CLIMATE project's fifth steering-group meeting was held on 10th to 12th June 2019 in Mid Sweden. Over the course of the three days, partners attended meetings, accompanying workshops and excursions which provided an opportunity for partners to work together on several project outputs including research, adaptation planning, monitoring and evaluation and communications.



Site visits with the Swedish Forest Agency, Sundsvall Rescue Service and The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency illustrated ongoing climate adaptation in practice amongst these agencies in Mid Sweden.



Project partners pictured above at the site of a recent forest fire.

Partners were also given the chance to visit one of the only landslide training centres in Northern Europe as part of the three day meeting.



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Representatives from Härnösand municipality also gave project partners a tour of development locations near the water and future challenges including the Gerestabäcken site which is a partly natural waterway in the southeastern part of Härnösand's urban area.



Climate Adaptation recognition for Sundsvall Municipality

Congratulations goes to CLIMATE Project Partner Sundsvall Municipality who have been named as second in the list of the best municipalities in Sweden on climate adaptation. Sofie Eriksson and Joakim Bergsten from Sundsvall Municipality are pictured receiving a diploma at the headquarters of Insurance Sweden in recognition of the achievement. The mapping of municipalities' climate adaptation work was carried out by IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute and Insurance Sweden.



Pan-Arctic Regional Climate Outlook Forum

The third Pan-Arctic Regional Climate Outlook Forum (PARCOF) organized by the World Meteorological Organization and the Finnish Meteorological Institute took place in Rovaniemi, Finland in May 8-9, 2019. The Pan-Arctic Regional Climate Outlook Forum gathered international climate change experts from various fields such as research institutes, international organizations and governmental and regional agencies. CLIMATE project's associate partner Olli Rönkä from Regional Council of Lapland presented how climate change affects regional land use planning in Finnish Lapland and how regional land use planning can be used to adapt to the climate change.



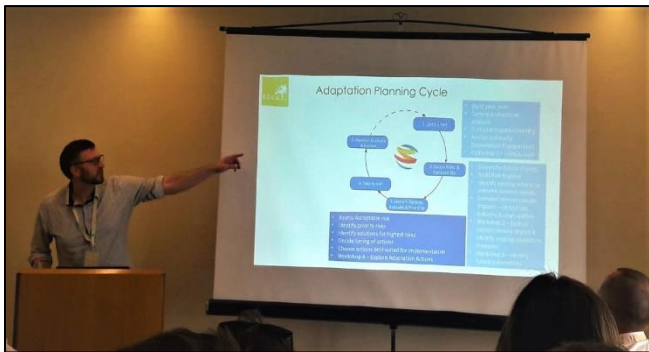
Other topics discussed at the PARCOF meeting included;

- Overview of the Arctic climate, the importance of and evolution of regional climate services
- The Importance of Climate information for traditional life
- Temperature, Precipitation, Sea-Ice Outlooks
- The impacts of climate change on regulation of lakes
- International Maritime Organisation's (IMO) work in the field of search and rescue and work related to Polar areas
- Overview of the results of navigation in the water area of the Northern Sea Route

2019 European Climate Change Adaptation Conference



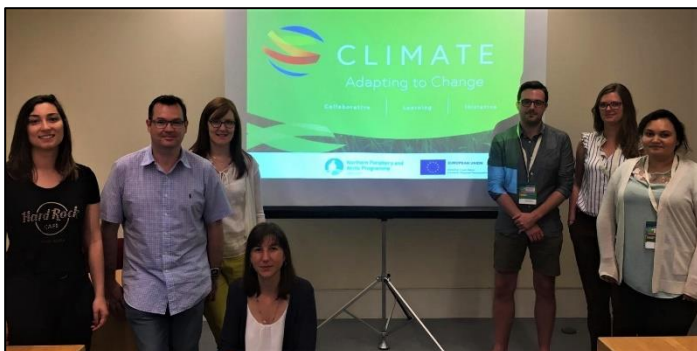
The 4th European Climate Change Adaptation conference took place in Lisbon from 28th to 31st May. CLIMATE project partners from University College Cork and Climate NI and associate partner Adaptation Scotland presented on the Challenges and Opportunities of Place-based Adaptation from a Regional Perspective in the UK and Ireland citing the CLIMATE project as an example.



CLIMATE Partner Dr Stephen Flood from University College Cork presenting the project at ECCA 2019.

In addition CLIMATE Communications lead RAPID held a PR event and discussion with representatives from Quercus (Associação Nacional de Conservação da Natureza) an NGO who are the communications lead on the INTERREG VB Atlantic Area funded ALICE project.

The main goal of the ALICE project is to promote sustainable investments in Blue-Green Infrastructure through identification of the benefits of Ecosystem Services.



The RAPID team also met with representatives of Cascais Municipality in order to learn how the municipality engaged with stakeholders in the delivery of their climate adaptation plan. Cascais was the first municipality in Portugal to develop a climate change adaptation strategy in 2009 and since then has stepped up efforts to develop resilience policies and projects that value both the territory and the involvement of civil society while adapting to climate change.



The municipality has developed an ecological corridor, restored the sand dune system of Crismina, restored the agricultural/environment of Quinta do Pisão, and established resilient green areas that promote indigenous species and reduce water consumption.

The Interpretation Centre Pedra do Sal, Cascais was the first public "Zero Energy Building" at national level in Portugal, making it self-sufficient in terms of energy.



The 8th Nordic Geographers Meeting in Trondheim, Norway, June 16–19 2019

Dr Stephen Flood from University College Cork presented on the CLIMATE project at the recent Nordic Geographers Meeting in Trondheim. The event focussed on Geographies of Sustainability and addressed questions such as: What are the emerging challenges across the world and what role should or could the discipline of geography play in addressing and solving them, both within and beyond the academy? What emotions, behaviours, moralities, powers, transformations, hopes, grieves and responsibilities at different scales are implicated in thinking and acting sustainably?

Dr Flood explored the topic of understanding climate change and informing climate action in the European Northern Periphery. Communities in Europe's Northern Periphery (ENP) face profound climate change impacts. While the region is attracting increasing interest from the maritime transportation and natural resources industries, it also confronts increased risks relating to coastal erosion, melting snow/ice/permafrost, coastal flooding, and disruption to communication and transportation networks, which in turn have non-material and cultural impacts. Considered alongside important geographic factors such as limited accessibility, the changing environments and societies of the ENP presents unique challenges and opportunities for climate action

UK Climate Projections 2018

In May Climate NI, co-hosted the UK Climate Projections 2018

(UKCP18) event in the Met Office at Belfast City Hall. The UKCP18 event provided the opportunity for NI Stakeholders to hear the Met Office present an overview of the latest climate projections and hear experiences from the NI practitioners on how they use the climate projections.

Workshop sessions were held to identify how the 120 delegates could make best use of the data, discussions with colleagues from their own sector. The event was attended by central government, local government, the private sector, community sector and academia.



CLIMATE Programme Manager explaining how climate projections are used in adaptation planning and communications in Derry City & Strabane District Council at Climate NI UKCP18 Event in Belfast

Derry City & Strabane District Council Engagement Event

Climate Programme Manager Cathy Burns recently gave a presentation to the staff and directorates of Derry City & Strabane District Council at the annual staff engagement day.



Cathy stressed the importance of the developing Climate Adaptation Plan and the cross cutting themes of the plan that will make it integral to the work of all Council directorates in the future.



Green Infrastructure & Climate Change conference

Derry City & Strabane District Council hosted a Green Infrastructure & Climate Change Conference in the Guildhall on 12th March. Leading experts provided a real insight into climate change and why councils need to take a lead role in introducing practical measures to combat what is a very real problem. Derry City & Strabane District Council, the first council in Northern Ireland to develop a Climate Adaptation Plan also became the first Council in Northern Ireland to launch a Green Infrastructure Plan.



The Plan and consultation was launched by the Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council, Councillor John Boyle, at the Green Infrastructure and Climate Change Conference that took place at the Guildhall.



The GI Plan is linked to the Local Development Plan and the Strategic Growth Plan and will deliver benefits across four key themes to include people and place; economic prosperity; biodiversity; and climate change.

GI is an interconnected network of multi-functional green and blue spaces, which provide multiple environmental, economic and social benefits. It is mostly comprised of green spaces that are vegetated (woodlands, public parks and allotments) and blue spaces that are our waterways (rivers, canals, reservoirs and lakes). It is widely recognised that Green Infrastructure and Nature Based Solutions have a key role to play in climate adaptation.



The conference attendees heard from CLIMTAE project partners Climate Ireland and Climate Northern Ireland. Associate Partner Adaptation Scotland provided insight into adaptation planning and stakeholder engagement and delegates heard first-hand how local authorities in the Republic of Ireland are adapting to climate change from Mayo County Council's chief Executive.



Mayo County Council Chief Executive Peter Hynes



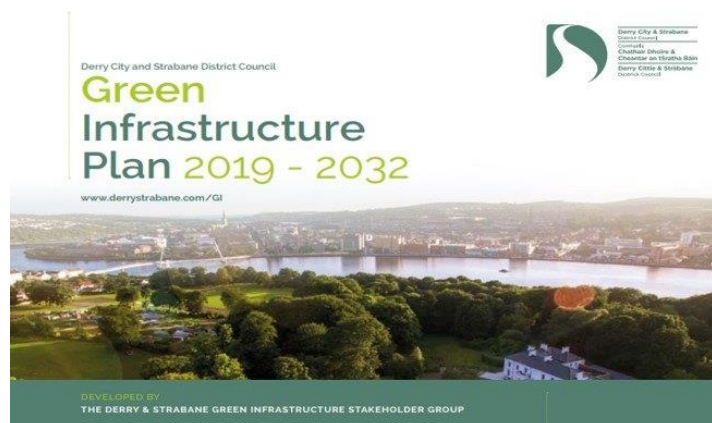
Adaptation Scotland's Anna Beswick

Conference presentations are available to view here;

<http://www.derrystrabane.com/Subsites/CLIMATE/Green-Infrastructure-and-Climate-Change-Conference>

Adaptation Planning in Derry City & Strabane District Council Area

The North West Stakeholder workshop was hosted by Derry City & Strabane District Council on 14th May to identify climate actions to be included in DCSDC Green Infrastructure Plan. Adaptation Planning in Action.



Meetings are being held across Derry City and Strabane District Council to develop and agree the final actions to be included in the final draft of the Climate Adaptation Plan. The actions cover the resilience of essential services and operations to how we plan and develop the city and district now for the future impacts of climate change.

Calculate Your Carbon Footprint

Check out your carbon footprint by clicking on the link below.

<https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/>



Ireland becomes second country to declare climate emergency

On 10th May Ireland became only the second country in the world to declare a climate and biodiversity emergency.

The development came after a Fianna Fáil amendment to the Oireachtas report on Climate Action was accepted by both the Government and Opposition parties without a vote.



The United Kingdom became the first country to declare the emergency earlier this month, on 1 May.

Chair of the Climate Action Committee, Fine Gael's Hildegard Naughton, welcomed the outcome as "an important statement" but added "now we need action."

She said Minister for Climate Action Richard Bruton would speedily return to the Dáil with new proposals, and she looked forward to working "with all parties and none" to scrutinise them.

Green Party leader Eamon Ryan also welcomed the development, but warned that "declaring an emergency means absolutely nothing unless there is action to back it up. That means the Government having to do things they don't want to do".



Vatnajökull National Park is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site

Congratulations to CLIMATE project associate partner Vatnajökull National Park on recently being named a UNESCO World Heritage Site by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee on 5th July 2019.

<https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/2002/>



This iconic volcanic region covers an area of over 1,400,000 ha, nearly 14% of Iceland's territory. It numbers ten central volcanoes, eight of which are subglacial. Two of these are among the most active in Iceland. The interaction between volcanoes and the rifts that underlie the Vatnajökull ice cap takes many forms, the most spectacular of which is the jökulhlaup – a sudden flood caused by the breach of the margin of a glacier during an eruption. This recurrent phenomenon has led to the emergence of unique sandur plains, river systems and rapidly evolving canyons. Volcanic areas are home to endemic groundwater fauna that has survived the Ice Age.



Established as a national park in 2008, Vatnajökull National Park is the largest of its kind in Europe.



Vatnajökull National Park includes the national parks in Skaftafell (est. 1967) and Jökulsárgljúfur (est. 1973) along with the Vatnajökull ice cap itself and extensive areas around it.

Vatnajökull National Park is characterised by diversity on all fronts, be it landscape, biosphere, cultural remains or service levels. For simplification, however, it may be placed into two categories: uninhabited highland areas with limited services and lowland areas with higher service levels.



The park's visitor centres are all located in lowland areas. Each of them has an exhibition about the park's nature and cultural heritage.

The final CLIMATE project steering group meeting and closing conference will take place in Vatnajökull National Park in November 2019.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

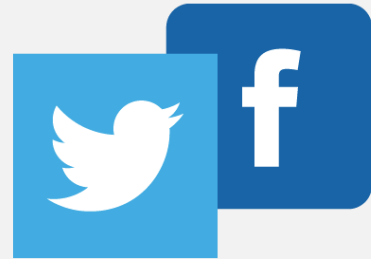
To keep up to date with the progress of the CLIMATE project, you can follow us on our various Social Media Platforms;

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ClimateNPA/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ClimateNPA>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/climate.npa/>

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