



Newsletter

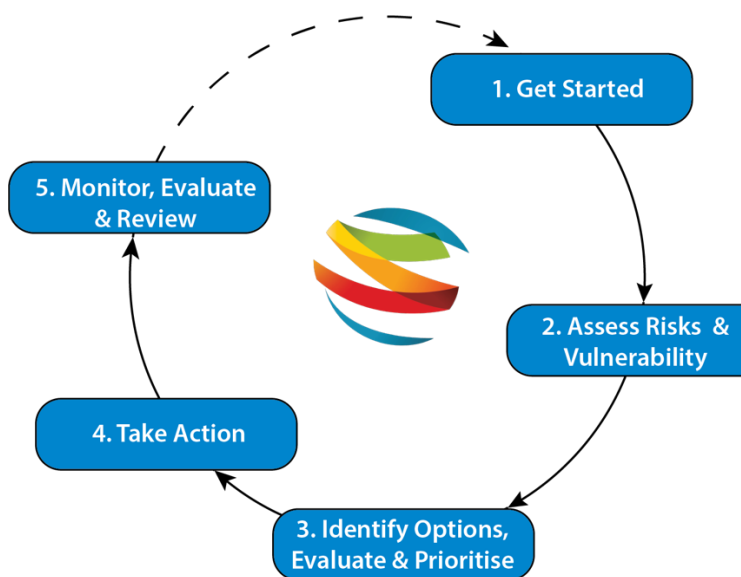
Issue 4

05/03/19

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING INITIATIVE MANAGING AND ADAPTING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Derry City and Strabane District Council Adaptation Planning Working Group

The Council working group on 29th January for the third working group meeting. During the workshop, the group undertook step 2 in the adaptation planning cycle.



This involved assessment of risks and vulnerabilities to Council from the current and projected effects of climate change.



The next working group meeting will take place in April to begin to develop adaptation options and an action plan.

Stakeholder Engagement

The Climate Programme Manager has been undertaking stakeholder engagement across Derry City and Strabane District Council and Northern Ireland.

This has included presenting to local environment group Zero Waste North West as well as supporting local council Climate Training in conjunction with Sustainable NI.

In addition, various news reports and radio interviews have been delivered to promote the work of the project and raise awareness of climate change.

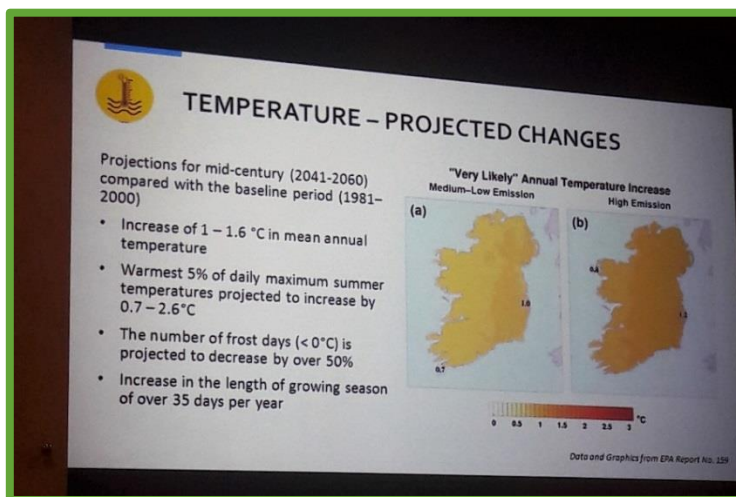


CLIMATE Programme Manager hearing from IPCC Lead Author John Thorne, confirming the link between August 2017 flooding and Climate Change.

Cross Border Adaptation Planning, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

CLIMATE Programme Manager Cathy Burns has been involved in supporting the development of neighboring council Donegal County's climate adaptation plan.

Information has been shared between the two councils across the border with invaluable input from CLIMATE partners Climate Ireland.



The Donegal County Council adaptation plan is due for completion in 2019.

Climate Change, Health and Preparedness

The CLIMATE Programme Manager teamed up with lecturers from Ulster University nursing degree course to increase awareness of the role healthcare professionals have in helping communities prepare for the impact of storms, heatwaves and flooding due to climate change.

Speaking at a university conference attended by over 300 students Programme Manager Cathy Burns informed the final year nursing students of climate projections over the next few years and how healthcare providers play a vital role in terms of emergency response to flooding and heatwaves and helping local people in these emergencies.



Sundsvall Municipality launch Cloudburst Strategy and Heatwave Guidelines

As part of the CLIMATE project, the municipality of Sundsvall has developed a cloudburst strategy for handling extreme rainfall. The aim of the strategy is to ensure that key civic sites are better prepared for future cloudbursts thereby reducing the risks associated with severe flooding events.

The work on mapping flood risks at these sites and identifying suitable mitigation measures will be ongoing until 2024.



Through the CLIMATE project, Sundsvall has also produced guidelines for coping with heat waves in the municipality's housing stock. The introduction of the new guidelines to address standards of municipal housing aims to reduce the risks from heatwaves in the future for the most vulnerable members of society, and it is one more step on the way to making Sundsvall municipality a climate safe place.

Torshavn Municipality Adaptation Planning

As part of the CLIMATE project Torshavn Municipality has been making steady progress in the development of their Climate Adaptation Plan. Workshop 2 having now been completed.

The focus of this workshop was to identify ongoing climate impacts and any current measures taken in response to these.

Representatives from six departments of Torshavn municipality attended the workshop including the departments of environment, technical services, health- and welfare services, construction, city planning, and the Port of Torshavn.



Several risks were identified regarding flooding these included landslides, erosion and torrential rain.

When it came to identifying current adaptation measures, workshop participants felt that current adaptation measures are uncoordinated with most measures based on ad-hoc solutions to specific incidents. This issue of more coordinated adaptation planning will be explored in further detail in Workshop Three.

Härnösand Municipality Working Group

Härnösand Municipality's working group met for their third workshop on January 31st in order to identify long term solutions for current climate issues which will lead to better preparedness for climate change in the future.

The group included representatives from Mid Sweden University, Härnösand's departments for community planning and development and from the local environment and energy company Hemab.



The group are focussing their study on the area of Gerestabäcken, a partly natural waterway in the southeastern part of Härnösand's urban area.

The study area covers a distance of approximately 2.5 km where water from residential areas flows down to into Gerestabäcken. The purpose of the study is to find actions to better handle future risk of flooding.



The study group has agreed that one solution to handle high water velocity could involve the creation of smaller ponds or overflow areas to control water flow, this would also create better conditions for plants and animals thereby increasing biodiversity in the area in the long term.

The study also aims to identify actions which will help to create an attractive recreational area for the public. The study is set to be finalised after summer 2019.

Derry to host first NI Climate Change Conference

Derry City and Strabane District Council is leading the way in the battle against climate change by hosting the first ever Green Infrastructure and Climate Change Conference in Northern Ireland this Spring. The Guildhall will provide the stage on March 12th for a range of global climate change and green space experts who will share their knowledge on the benefits of developing our green infrastructure.



The event will highlight the Council's pioneering climate adaptation and green infrastructure plans - also a first across Northern Ireland - and will explore the benefits of green infrastructure and the issue of climate action at a local authority level.

Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District, Councillor John Boyle, said the event demonstrated Council's commitment to preserving and enhancing the local environment. "We are proud as a Council to be leading the way in climate adaptation and developing our green infrastructure for future generations," he declared.

"Green spaces are so important for the wellbeing of everyone, not only because they enhance our environment but they also have proven health benefits. This conference will put Derry and Strabane on the map as a council that's serious about sustainability, with cutting edge plans to protect and improve our environment while adapting to the inevitable challenges of climate change."

CLIMATE Programme Manager, Cathy Burns said: "This conference will support the enhancement and promotion of our green spaces to improve people's quality of life and health. It will also focus on our local biodiversity, development of greenways, our resilience to climate change and how this all improves our economic attractiveness."

"During the event we aim to explore how we can finance, plan, design and manage green spaces to maximise their value for our environment and people's wellbeing."

Conference speakers include;

Dr. Christine Doherty, Lead - Green Infrastructure, Derry City & Strabane District Council

Peter Massini Lead - Green Infrastructure, Greater London Authority

Robert Lacey, Principal Development Officer, Cornwall Council

Michael Moroney, Strategic Projects Unit, Tipperary County Council

Therese Karger-Lerchl, Senior Economist, Vivid Economics

Cathy Burns CLIMATE, Programme Manager, Derry City & Strabane District Council

Dr. Barry O'Dwyer Lead Research Scientist, Climate Ireland, MaREI Centre

Jane McCullough, Climate NI Officer, Northern Ireland Environment Link

Peter Hynes, CEO, Mayo County Council

Anna Beswick Programme Manager, Adaptation Scotland

Leo Strawbridge, SECURE Project Energy Manager, Derry City & Strabane District Council

Emma Norton, Energy Conservation Coordinator, Ecology Action Centre, Nova Scotia



Tickets for the conference are now sold out but presentations will be uploaded to the CLIMATE Project webpage afterwards.



Derry City & Strabane District Council. Green Infrastructure Plan - Public Consultation Launch

Derry City and Strabane District Council are set to launch the first local council Green Infrastructure Plan on 12th March for public consultation. The plan will provide a strategic partnership approach to the development of green infrastructure across the city and district with a dedicated chapter focusing on climate change and the value of GI for mitigation and adaptation. The final plan is due to be launched summer 2019.



Faughan Valley's ancient woodland: from fragments to thriving forests

CLIMATE project partners Derry City & Strabane District Council and RAPID are currently working closely with The Woodland Trust in the development of a Treescape project in the Faughan Valley of north west Northern Ireland. This project aims to deliver landscape scale woodland creation and ancient woodland restoration initiatives extending to 1,000 acres of accessible woodland. The project focuses on creating a landscape that is resilient to the threats of the present and the future such as climate change.

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2018/06/faughan-valley/>

2019 European Climate Change Adaptation Conference

The 4th European Climate Change Adaptation conference takes place in Lisbon, Portugal from 28th to 31st May 2019. ECCA 2019 is an opportunity to share and learn from professionals in adaptation, while discovering new products and research as well as alternative approaches to engaging with stakeholders.

Dr Stephen Flood from CLIMATE Project Partner CLIMATE Ireland will be presenting at the conference. Stephen's paper will present on the outputs of the NPA funded CLIMATE Project. The presentation will document the process of developing climate adaptation plans, for local and regional levels, with a focus on drawing on best practice approaches from science and policy.



The presentation will explain how the process is informed by a review of seven climate change adaptation models drawn from Europe, Australasia, and the U.S. Adaptation supports and plans are produced at the local scale through a process of co-production and tailoring that then enables application at the regional level. Creating a climate change adaptation plan is an iterative process framed by the aims and objectives of those creating it, with plans developed over time and bound by constraints. Constraints can be associated with resources, data availability, the policy and legislative environment, time available, and expertise.

The paper is focused at the interface between science, policy and practice. As such, it is targeted towards research scientists and practitioners with an interest in climate change adaptation planning.

In addition representatives of CLIMATE project lead partner, Derry City & Strabane District Council, CLIMATE NI and project communications lead RAPID will also attend the ECCA Conference.

The CLIMATE project was launched at the 2017 ECCA Conference in Glasgow and so project partners will also be hosting a PR event at the 2019 conference. At this event speakers from the CLIMATE project will present to ECCA conference delegates, local municipalities and special interest groups in order to further raise awareness of the project and demonstrate the progress that has been made on the CLIMATE project in the two years since the last ECCA conference.



The world is in the middle of what is likely to be the warmest 10 years since records began in 1850, say scientists.

The Met Office is forecasting that temperatures for each of the next five years are likely to be 1C or more above pre-industrial levels.

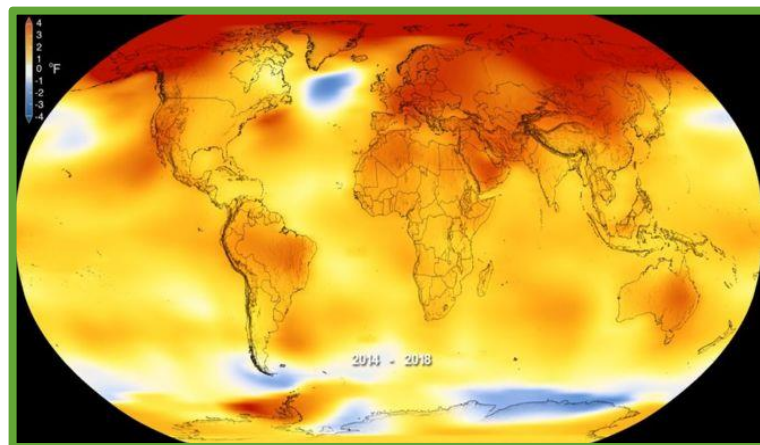
In the next five years there's also a chance we will see a year in which the average global temperature rise could be greater than 1.5C.

That's seen as a critical threshold for climate change.

If the data matches the forecast, then the decade from 2014-2023 will be the warmest in more than 150 years of record keeping.

The Met Office says that 2015 was the first year in which the global annual average surface temperature reached 1C above the pre-industrial level, which is generally taken to mean the temperatures between 1850 and 1900.

Each year since then, the global average has hovered close to or above the 1C mark. Now, the Met Office says that trend is likely to continue or increase over the next five years.



The Met Office says it has a 90% confidence limit in the forecasts for the years ahead.

It says that from 2019 to 2023, we will see temperatures ranging from 1.03C to 1.57C above the 1850-1900 level, with enhanced warming over much of the globe, especially over areas like the Arctic.

The research team says it is certain in its predictions because of its past experience. The team's previous forecast, made in 2013, predicted the rapid rate of warming that's been observed over the past five years. It even predicted some of the lesser known details such as the patch of cooling seen in the North Atlantic and the cooler spots in the Southern Ocean.

Climate change influencing Irish weather extremes, says Met Eireann chief

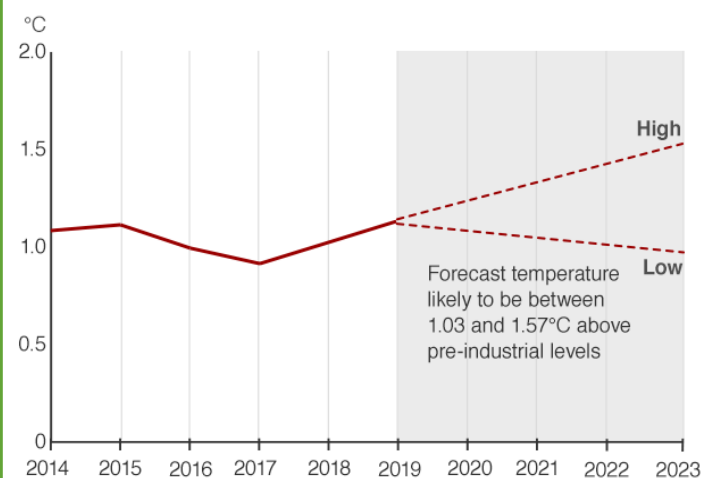
Ireland is set to experience a less stable climate and more intense extreme weather events as global warming takes hold, the Head of Met Eireann has warned.

Speaking before the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Climate Action, the director of the national forecaster Eoin Moran said that climate change has become the new reality as the world warms to levels not seen over the last 125,000 years.

The last four years were the warmest on record on a global average, he said, with 2018 more than 0.4°C warmer than the average temperature from 1981-2010.

Met Office predicts 2014-23 will be the warmest decade for 150 years

Temperatures average about 1°C above 1850-1900 levels



Confidence limit for 2015-2018 figs is 95%, confidence limit for 2019-23 is 90%

Source: Met Office

BBC

FOR MORE INFORMATION

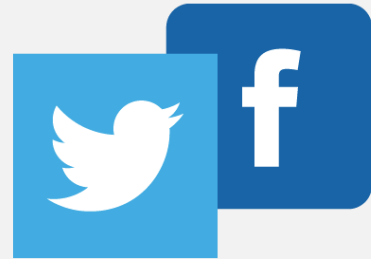
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Adapting to Change

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Northern Periphery and
Arctic Programme
2014-2020



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