



Hampshire
County Council

Preparing for Climate Change
'A Local Authority's Response'

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Climate Change & our communities



- The effects of climate change will be one of the **biggest impacts** on our communities within the next two decades.
- Local authorities have a **responsibility** to ensure their communities are prepared for these impacts and are informed about their choices.
- **Hampshire County Council** as a local authority is a community leader on climate change. We have developed an integrated response to climate change, working internally on corporate issues, externally in partnerships and through networks.



The European Context



- Europe has very complex and established civil, government and technical institutions that have evolved over time through the influence of economic, social and environmental conditions.
- Europe also has areas with combinations of high economic prosperity, high population densities and internationally valuable ecological assets.
- **Climate change will impact significantly on all these sectors.**



The European Context



- These institutions now need to reassess their priorities and processes in order to be able to address the impacts of climate change.
- However, because these institutional frameworks are well established and complex, there is a level of inertia which makes it very difficult to change or influence them.
- Awareness of the impacts of climate change by these institutions is also not consistent and must be addressed.
- **Creating a change will require a shift in thinking and practice.**

Key Ingredients

- Hampshire County Council was one of the first local authorities to sign up to the **Aalborg Commitments** - a set of shared commitments to be jointly implemented by local governments across Europe. These commitments provides us with a framework for much of our climate change programme.
- To tackle climate change effectively your programme must include three key components: **raising awareness**, **mitigation** and **adaptation**. Hampshire County Council's climate change programme incorporates all three.



Raising Awareness & Behavioural Change

- To ensure that our communities understand and commit to the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change, we must **first raise awareness** and **encourage behavioural change**.
- Local authorities are closely **connected** to their communities and are therefore well placed to do this.
- All of the climate change initiatives within Hampshire's work programme have a **raising awareness** component to them.
- Through involvement in a range of **networks** (local – EU level) we are able to influence and promote climate change initiatives
- Through both the ESPACE Project and the ChangeLab Project, Hampshire County Council is also exploring mechanisms for achieving **behavioural change**.



Mitigation



- Scientists agree that the only way to reduce the future impacts of climate change is to cut down greenhouse gas emissions.
- HCC is involved in a range of mitigation activities including encouraging **sustainable transport choices** and promoting and developing local **renewable energy** sources.
- HCC is also an active member in a range of **international initiatives** and **partnerships** including the Councils for Climate Protection Campaign, and ICLEI (Association of Local Governments).



Adaptation

- It is now accepted that even if we were to stop all greenhouse gas emissions today, a certain amount of climate change will still occur.
- Therefore, as guardians of our communities, we must ensure they are prepared by adapting today for the future impacts of climate change.
- Through a range of projects we are developing planning and management approaches to ensure our coasts and biodiversity are managed effectively in a changing climate.
- Through the **ESPACE Project**, we are increasing the awareness of the need to adapt and developing spatial planning policy responses at the European through to the local levels.



The ESPACE Project



Robust spatial planning has a crucial part to play in minimising the risk of climate change. Current frameworks are poorly developed and are unable to deal adequately with this risk.

- **ESPACE** aims to tackle this problem by ensuring that adaptation to climate change is recognised and incorporated into spatial planning systems at the European, national, regional and local levels.
- **ESPACE** will achieve this by developing adaptation strategies and policy guidance to deal with the long-term impacts of climate change.
- **ESPACE** will also tackle a major issue - lack of awareness by raising awareness amongst a wide range of stakeholders including policy makers, practitioners and members of the community.



Outputs of ESPACE



- Recommendations towards the integration of adaptation mechanisms for climate change into transnational spatial planning regimes.
- Revised spatial planning policy & guidance for European, national, regional & local governments.
- Climate change awareness campaign.
- Extended Partnership that will establish a transnational network across all levels of governance, technical institutes and civil society.



ESPACE Extended Partnership



- To help the ESPACE Project deliver its objectives and raise awareness we established an “**Extended Partnership**”
- This partnership allows a wide range of stakeholders to be involved in the project by:
 - providing expert advice & contributing to development and dissemination of outputs;
 - Being a target audience for our outputs
 - Getting involved in process of developing spatial planning guidance;
 - Attending relevant workshops and conferences;
 - Having access to wide network of European contacts & the outputs of ESPACE;
- This partnership is an example of using networks to help deliver a much wider programme than would be possible for an individual project or organisation



Local Authority In Europe



- As a local authority in Europe, Hampshire County Council is trying to **influence and change** European spatial planning mechanisms.
- We are also working with **local, regional, national** and **European** organisations engaged in technical, awareness raising and legislative processes.



Delivering a Climate Change Programme

- As a local authority, resources to tackle climate change are often limited.
- Hampshire County Council uses a range of methods to deliver our climate change programme including:
 - working in **partnerships** (e.g. ESPACE Extended Partnership)
 - securing **external funding** for projects / initiatives
 - **influencing** others
- Hampshire County Council is leading the **ESPACE Project**, which uses all three of these methods to help deliver a groundbreaking climate change project focussing on raising awareness and adaptation.



Conclusion

- As local authorities, whatever our size or our wherever we are, we are all concerned with the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of our communities.
- Climate change is one of the biggest threats to our communities.
- Climate change may be a global issue, but ultimately must be tackled at the local level.
- It is our responsibility to work with our communities, to **raise awareness, change behaviour, mitigate** and **adapt** to the impacts of climate change.
- This **can** be achieve both by ourselves and through working with others.

