

December 2015

WELCOME

CLASP, like many other organisations, has seen first-hand during December the impact of flooding. Based in Lancaster, we were lucky to get away with only 3 days of no power or mobile communications, and ongoing road closures. Others in our local area have suffered far more.

Like others, over the months to come, we will call for greater investment in defences - however the frequency of flooding events is showing that no matter how much we invest in flood defences, we also need to build the ability of local areas to plan, prepare, respond and recover.

CLASP, part of Climate UK, a UK-wide not for profit, has been working with communities, businesses and organisations over the last decade to do exactly this.

In this bulletin we have put together a short guide to existing resources, produced by CLASP, Climate UK, the Environment Agency and other bodies, that may be of use in local recovery, and for preparing unaffected areas for future flood-related impacts.

Whether your area has been affected over recent weeks, or whether you have escaped impacts but would like to improve local awareness and resilience, we hope this will be of interest and use:

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CLASP is the sector-led public sector sustainability support programme, hosted by Climate UK.



CLIMATE JUSTICE

Identify Your Vulnerable Groups

Climate Just is a website that enables you to identify groups in your area that are socially vulnerable to extreme weather.

It was developed last year by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and Climate UK and is now being used by a wide range of organisations to analyse local vulnerability and plan to counter this.

The tool is publically available and free to use at: <http://www.climatejust.org.uk/>

Free Training Places

A new series of free training events on Climate Just are being held over the next few months. CLASP hosted two in Manchester, on 15th December but others are still to follow elsewhere in the UK in 2016.

- Birmingham (University of Birmingham) - 7th January
- Leeds Beckett University - 8th January
- London – 22nd January

Also one hour webinars (all from 2 - 3pm):

- 6th January
- 1st February

You're welcome to attend either, or both, of:

AM Training - 3hr introductory session - learn how to use the tool - An introduction for anybody new to Climate Just tool, its aims and uses.

PM Training - 3hr intermediate session - explore applying the tool in practice - Ideal for those of you who attended the initial workshops last December, or have already been exploring the website.

More info here: <http://climateuk.net/sites/default/files/Training%20flyer2.pdf>

Book places for any date/venue at: <http://climatejust.eventbrite.com>



MAKING THE BUSINESS CASE

Climate Ready Councils

Exploring the business case for managing the impacts of severe weather and a changing climate.

This is a 2015 report produced by Climate Ready for local authorities that aims to capture the economic and financial benefits of climate change adaptation.

It highlights that long-term planning for a changing climate is integral to ensuring business continuity, safeguarding people and places and contributing to a resilient economy. The report and accompanying briefing sheets are designed to help council officers and members make the case for prioritising climate resilience measures within local policies, plans and projects. These resources have been produced by the Environment Agency's Climate Ready Support Service in association with the LGA, CUK and the Core Cities Group.



[Climate-ready councils: The business case for managing the impacts of severe weather and a changing climate](#)
[Climate-ready councils: Briefing sheets](#)

Making The Case For (Cost-Effective) Sustainability

Recent changes continue to threaten to push climate change, carbon reduction and sustainability off the priority list, as authorities handle the cuts agenda, tackle public sector reform and fight to deliver critical services with fewer resources.

In response to this CLASP has produced our latest set of briefings to support actively addressing sustainability. This series of briefings demonstrates how many local authorities are benefitting from actively considering sustainability in their operations and services.

The briefings are 2-sides, suitable for policy-makers across the public sector, with case-studies and contacts that you can follow-up.

1. [Save Carbon – Save Money](#)
2. [Generating Energy and Income](#)
3. [Decent Affordable Housing, Health & Fuel Poverty](#)
4. [Improving Public Health](#)
5. [Travel Choices](#)

6. [Transport Infrastructure](#)
7. [Economic Development](#)
8. [Supporting Communities](#)
9. [Reducing Risks - **Flooding Related**](#)

Or view them all at: <http://claspinfo.org/cost-effective-briefings>



MONITORING AND MANAGING IMPACTS

Severe Weather Impact Monitoring System

Climate UK has been leading the roll-out of a Severe Weather Impacts Monitoring system (SWIMS).

Originally developed by Kent County Council, it is a web-based tool that enables local authorities throughout the UK, and their partners, to measure the cost of severe weather events.

Before councils even begin using the system in earnest, SWIMS provides a **platform for engagement** within a council, or between a council and local partners. Climate change and sustainability officers have used the system to begin conversations with colleagues both inside and outside their councils about the effects of severe weather, thus encouraging better collaborative working and raising the profile of weather and longer term change as an issue.

It provides a valuable **decision-support tool** for service providers and helps to identify the impact of severe weather on services, communities, reputation and the environment. By using this system, organisations can **build up a picture of their vulnerability to severe weather** and **develop business cases** for taking appropriate action.

[Find out more about SWIMS here.](#)

To register to use the system email swims@climate.uk.net

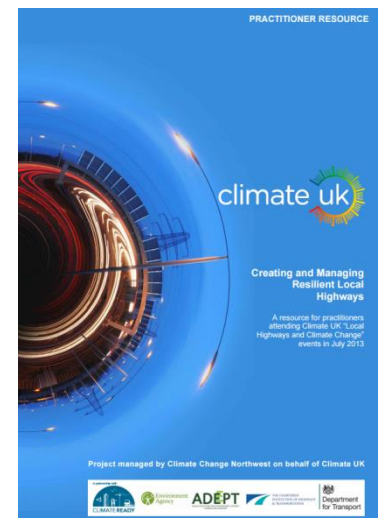


Resilient Highways

Climate UK's guide to planning and maintaining climate resilient local highways was produced back in 2013 as part of a national conversation about improving the resilience of local highway networks across the country.

The guide discusses the risks posed to highways, risk assessment methods, plus potential solutions to extreme weather and future climate impacts on local highway networks. It contains case studies and examples of real-life situations that highways authorities are dealing with across England.

[Download the guide from here](#)

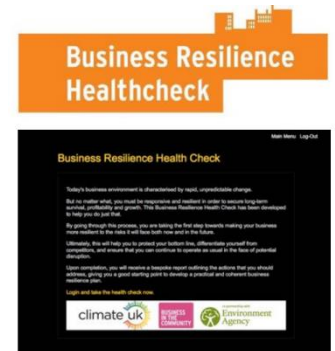


HELP FOR BUSINESSES

Over the last few years CLASP, Climate UK and the Environment Agency's Climate Ready service have worked together to produce a range of support for businesses:

Business Resilience Health Check

This free interactive online tool uses a multiple choice questionnaire to prompt users to think about the different generic aspects of their business - how vulnerable these may be to extreme weather events and what actions they could take to build their resilience.



SMEs – Weathering The Storm

CLASP and local authorities in Cheshire and Warrington developed this guide to climate resilience for small and medium sized businesses in 2013.

"Weathering the Storm" explores:

- What changes we might see to our climate
- What impacts these can have on businesses
- Ways to protect businesses from these impacts
- Opportunities to benefit from climate changes
- Resources and tools to assess and increase business resilience
- Case studies about businesses from the towns of Northwich and Macclesfield in Cheshire



Download the guide from: <http://www.claspinfo.org/SMEadapt>

The guide also comes with a handy 2-side "checklist": [Download the checklist](#)

Tourism Businesses – Climate Prepared

An online, interactive resource designed specifically for tourism businesses to build their resilience to extreme weather.

Tourism businesses are highly climate sensitive and are often based in exposed locations like the coast. They are often small businesses who don't always have the resources to develop robust business continuity plans, or know what preventative actions to take to protect themselves from floods or other extreme weather events - this tool is designed to help.



This tool was developed in the SW and SE of England but is applicable UK wide and is now part of the Climate UK group.

<http://www.climateprepared.com>

FROM THE ARCHIVES...

The importance of preparing for and adapting to climate impacts is something that CLASP, our local authority members, and Climate UK have been working on together since 2011. Here are some useful older presentations and casestudies that we have on the CLASP and CUK websites:

Flood Risk Management and Community Resilience

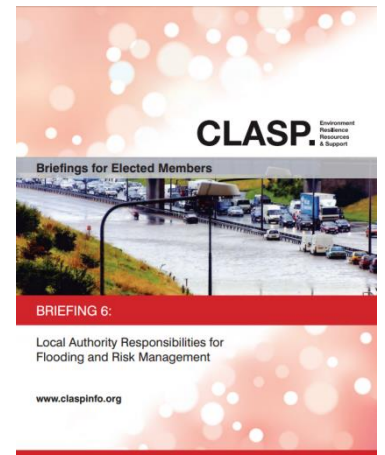
Various presentations from a CLASP training session for elected members in 2013:

<http://claspinfo.org/resources/flood-risk-management-and-community-resilience>

Local Authority Responsibilities for Flooding and Risk Management

A CLASP briefing written specially for elected members, produced in 2012, so some policy has evolved, but the core messages, principles and case-studies are current still today.

<http://www.claspinfo.org/resources/member-briefing-6-local-authority-responsibilities-flooding-and-risk-management>



Climate Change Adaptation for Planning Professionals

The full day workshop was designed to support local planning authorities to better understand climate change adaptation, focusing on risk management and adaptation in a planning context. Presentations from the sessions and accompanying notes can be downloaded:

[Adaption Intro](#), [Climate Change Impact & Role of Planning](#), [Planning for Flood Risk](#), [Flood Resilience in Buildings](#), [Planning Responses](#), [Urban Heat Island](#), [Green Infrastructure](#), [Policy & Action Summary](#), [Adaptation Notes](#)

****Note these are from 2011 and some policy has evolved since these materials were compiled****

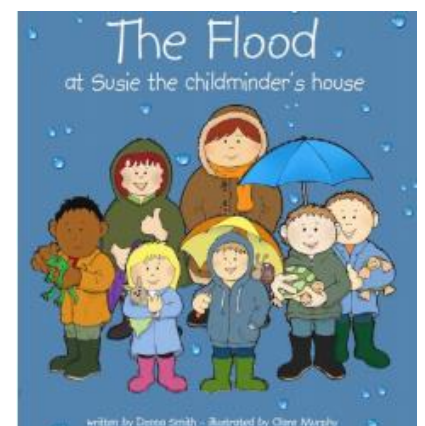
Adapting Well Case Studies

A great set of case-studies from the East Midlands, that provide a range of examples of how adaptation is being delivered in practice. They include different approaches to the management of flood risk in urban, rural and coastal areas, adaptation and the natural environment, sustainable urban drainage, adaptation and the built environment (in new build and existing stock) and the management of extreme weather events, including severe cold in the upland areas of Derbyshire. ****Note these are from 2011****

<http://www.climate-em.org.uk/resources/item/adaptation-case-studies>

Community Resilience and Climate Change

In May 2013 CLASP brought together DCLG with officers and members of local authorities, emergency services, Local Resilience Forums and health authorities to discuss "Community Resilience and Climate Change". This archived event page contains presentations, casestudies and inspiration from a range of UK community projects. http://claspinfo.org/May_2013_Community_Resilience



DÉJÀ VU?

A look back at some of the related research and headlines we featured in just last month's CLASP bulletin:

Future Flooding Challenge Warning

New research commissioned by the Adaptation Sub-Committee of the Committee on Climate Change suggests that much greater investment in the UK's flood defences will be needed in future.

The report looks at future projections of flood risk in the UK, alongside a number of adaptation scenarios. The study suggests that at current levels of adaptation and with a 2°C temperature increase, there would be a 50% increase in annual flood damages by 2080s.

Find out more at: <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/sayers-for-the-asc-projections-of-future-flood-risk-in-the-uk/>

(November 2015)

Bank Of England Governor Speaks Out On Need To Respond To Climate Change

The Governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney, recently highlighted the threat the climate change poses to financial stability, grouped around the physical risks to insured assets, liability risks that may arise in future for carbon extractors and emitters, and the financial risks associated with the transition to a low-carbon economy. His comments came as the Prudential Regulation Authority published a report on the impact of climate change on insurers, and he suggested that while insurers are well-placed to manage near-term risks, the longer-term risks of climate change will require further attention.

- Bank of England: [Breaking the tragedy on the horizon – climate change and financial stability – speech by Mark Carney](#)
- Bank of England: [The impact of climate change on the UK insurance sector](#) (pdf, 2.5 MB)
- BBC: [Bank of England's Carney warns of climate change risk](#)

Above summary from: UKCIP newsletter

(November 2015)

Health Services' Adaptation Report Finds Climate Change Already Impacting

A first ever system wide report from the health sector has shown progress is being made to prepare organisations and communities for the effects of climate change but more is needed to protect people's health.

The Adaptation Report for the Healthcare System 2015 is the first adaptation report submitted by NHS England, Public Health England and the Department of Health. As well as highlighting climate risks, the report emphasises the linked benefits to public health gained through effective adaptation action. Recommendations include ensuring climate change is included in risk registers and sharing information between services.

You can download the report from: <http://www.sduhealth.org.uk/areas-of-focus/community-resilience/adaptation-report.aspx>

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Community Resilience to Climate Change

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation have published a report and four new case studies exploring community resilience to climate change. The consequences of climate change in the UK (which include flooding, heatwaves, and food and energy price rises) are considered, along with how community action is building resilience in practice.

The report and a summary can be found at: <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/community-resilience-climate-change>

(November 2015)

Financing Public-sector Led Adaptation to Climate Change

Leeds University have published a high-level review of finance mechanisms for public sector adaptation projects. Led by Dr Katy Roelich this report provides a useful overview of available: capital grants, loans, revenue funding, bonds, crowd-funding and investment funds.

Find it online at:

http://www.climateexchange.org.uk/files/8714/4663/2824/Financing_adaptation_to_climate_change_web_version.pdf

(November 2015)

New SuDS Manual

CIRIA have just released their new SuDS Manual (C753). The new Manual is the UK's most comprehensive SuDS guidance and focuses on the cost-effective planning, design, construction and maintenance of SuDS.

The updated SuDS Manual (C753) incorporates the very latest research, industry practice and guidance. New chapters include: Designing for amenity, Designing for biodiversity, Designing for specific site conditions, Designing for roads and highways, Designing for urban areas, Trees and Materials.

The SuDS Manual (C753) is available to download freely and physical copies can be bought from CIRIA. Download from: http://www.ciria.org/Resources/Free_publications/The_SuDS_Manual_C753_Chapters.aspx

(November 2015)

More SuDS Standards Guidance

LASOO is the Local Authority SuDS Officer Organisation, formed recently, and active on the LGA Knowledge Hub. They have just produced a useful piece of guidance - Non-Statutory Technical SuDS Standards - to assist Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs), developers and consultants in the inclusion of sustainable drainage within development proposals and considerations for planning applications.

You can find it at: <http://www.lasoo.org.uk/non-statutory-technical-standards-for-sustainable-drainage>

(November 2015)

Accessing CLASP Support

The CLASP support network was part-funded from 2012-2015 by the Environment Agency, and their support allowed us and our partners to produce many of the resources that we've included in this bulletin. This funding has now ended but we still operate as part of Climate UK CIC.

Climate UK and CLASP have a strong network of expertise and associates across the UK and are able to assist you in finding solutions. If you require any assistance over the coming weeks and months with adaptation, resilience and recovery work and would like to know what CLASP and its network of Associates can offer, please contact either:

Ailsa Gibson ailsa@claspinfo.org 01524 824324 or 07931583707

Dan Griffiths dan.griffiths@climateuk.net 07968434518

Supporting CLASP's Future Work

Established in 2008, CLASP is the source of information for public and third sector climate change and sustainability professionals. CLASP offers its Members support, networking, training and recognition for their work on mitigating and adapting communities to the impacts of our changing climate.

The CLASP network is made up of over 1,200 public sector decision makers (officers and elected members), representing local authorities across the UK (including all in the north west), plus many major housing associations, universities, emergency services, environmental groups and communities.

Since our government funding ended in April 2015 we are now a fully independent not-for-profit staffed on a part-voluntary, part-sponsored, part-legacy-funding basis, and we are urgently seeking funding to continue services.

Public Sector Membership

Membership is free to representatives of public sector organisations.

[Find out more here](#)



Corporate Membership

New for 2016 CLASP is formalising its partnerships by offering a Corporate Membership and Sponsorship scheme. If you would like to support this sustainability network to continue its work over the future months, and engage with our members please consider our Corporate Membership scheme, Event Sponsorship, or other funding opportunities.

[Find out more here](#)

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