

Climate justice and climate disadvantage – and the [Climate Just](#) website

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Aims for the session

- 1. What climate justice is and why it matters*
- 2. What JRF research tells us about climate disadvantage*
- 3. Introduce Climate Just*



What is climate justice about?

- *Ensuring that collectively and individually we have the ability to prepare for, respond to and recover from climate change impacts – and the policies to mitigate or adapt to them – by considering existing vulnerabilities, resources and capabilities.*

Banks, N et al (2014) Climate change and social justice: An evidence review. JRF, York. www.jrf.org.uk/publications/climate-change-and-social-justice-evidence-review

- *By ‘just’ we mean: some chance of a safe climate for future generations; an equal distribution of the remaining global carbon budget between countries; and a transition in the UK in which the costs are distributed progressively, and where everyone’s essential needs for housing, transport and energy use are met.*

Childs, M. (2011) *Just transition: is a just transition to a low-carbon economy possible within safe global carbon limits?* London: Friends of the Earth

Why does it matter?

- Climate change ‘biggest threat to public health this century’
- *Risks are unevenly distributed and are generally greater for disadvantaged people and communities in countries at all levels of development: IPCC*
- Moral questions over who we protect and how, rights, roles and responsibilities
- Pressure on public services reducing capacity
- Importance of decisions now for future
- A just transition – who pays/benefits?

Aspects of climate (in)justice



What JRF research tells us

1. Responsibility for emissions varies by income
2. There are inequities in social consequences of energy policy
3. There are unequal impacts on people's welfare from extreme weather
4. Adaptation policy needs to do more to address social vulnerability
5. Community resilience requires capacities at all levels

1. Who contributes to carbon emissions?



Top 10% by income (total direct emissions*)

16.1 tCO₂ per year



Lowest 10% by income (total direct emissions)

5.0 tCO₂ per year

*ie housing/personal transport



7896
KG CO₂



3760
KG CO₂

Mean annual household emissions

 Top 10% earners

 Bottom 10% earners



4598
KG CO₂



605
KG CO₂



Mean private vehicle emissions

 Top 10% earners

 Bottom 10% earners



3116
KG CO₂



309
KG CO₂



Mean aviation emissions

 Top 10% earners

 Bottom 10% earners

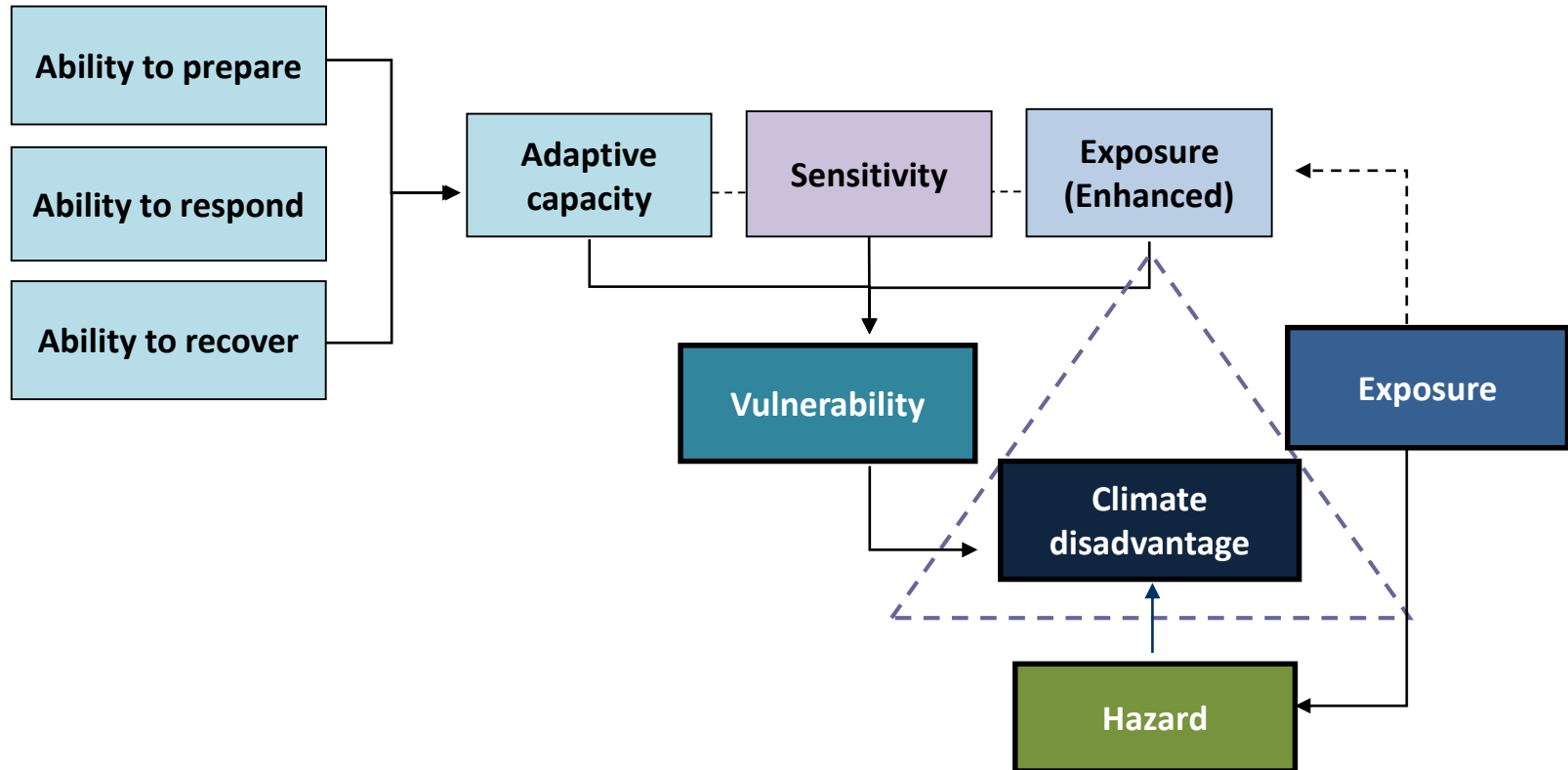
2. Policy costs and benefits on domestic energy bills are not equally shared



3. What creates climate disadvantage?

Climate disadvantage=

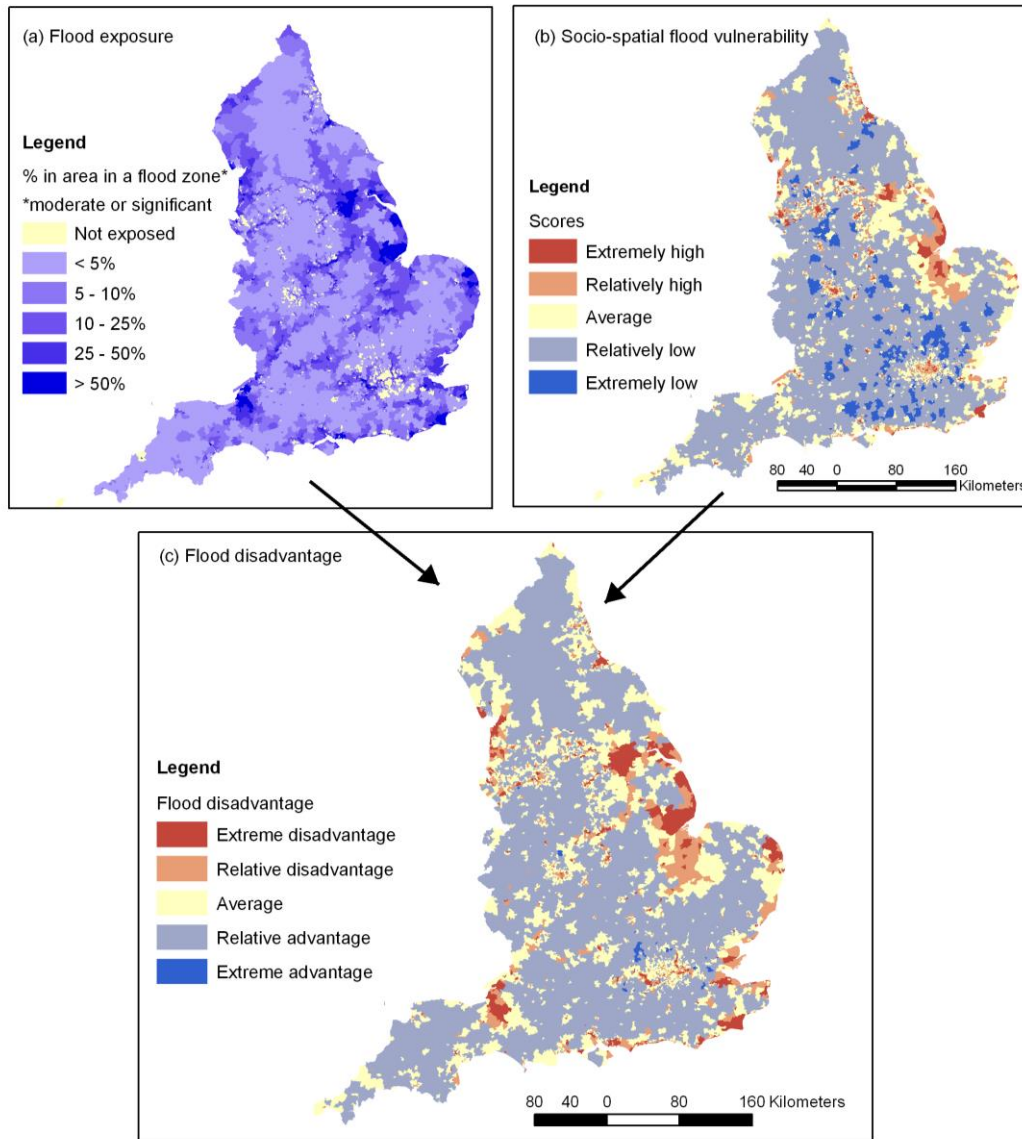
- **Exposure:** likelihood and degree to which communities are exposed to outcomes of extreme weather e.g. drought, flood, heatwave hazards +
- **Vulnerability:** likelihood and degree to which this results in a loss in wellbeing



Factors affecting social vulnerability

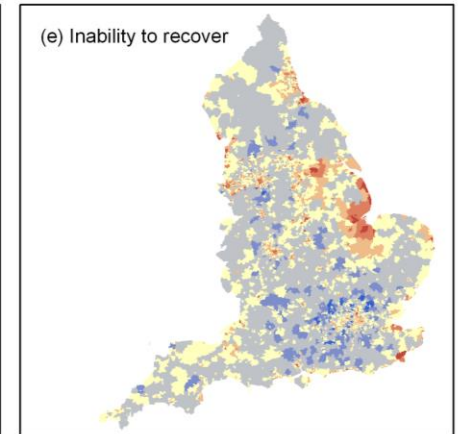
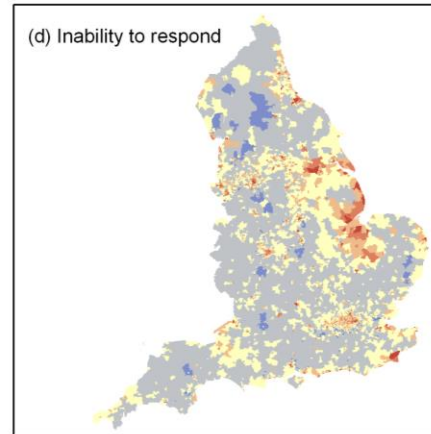
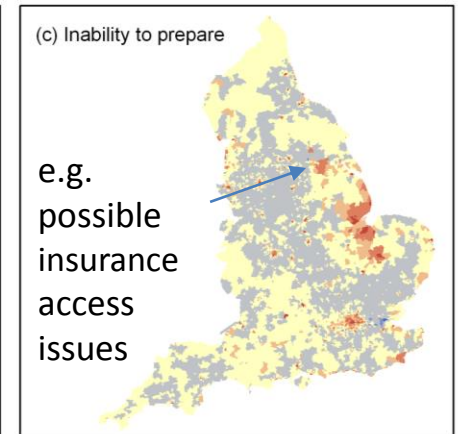
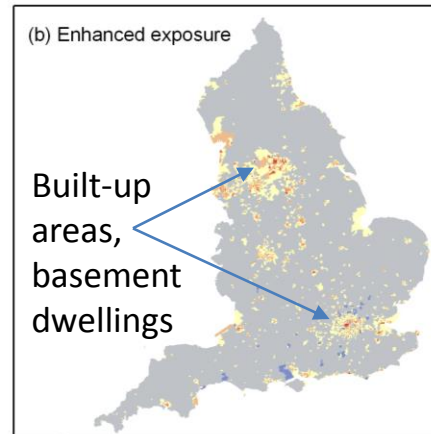
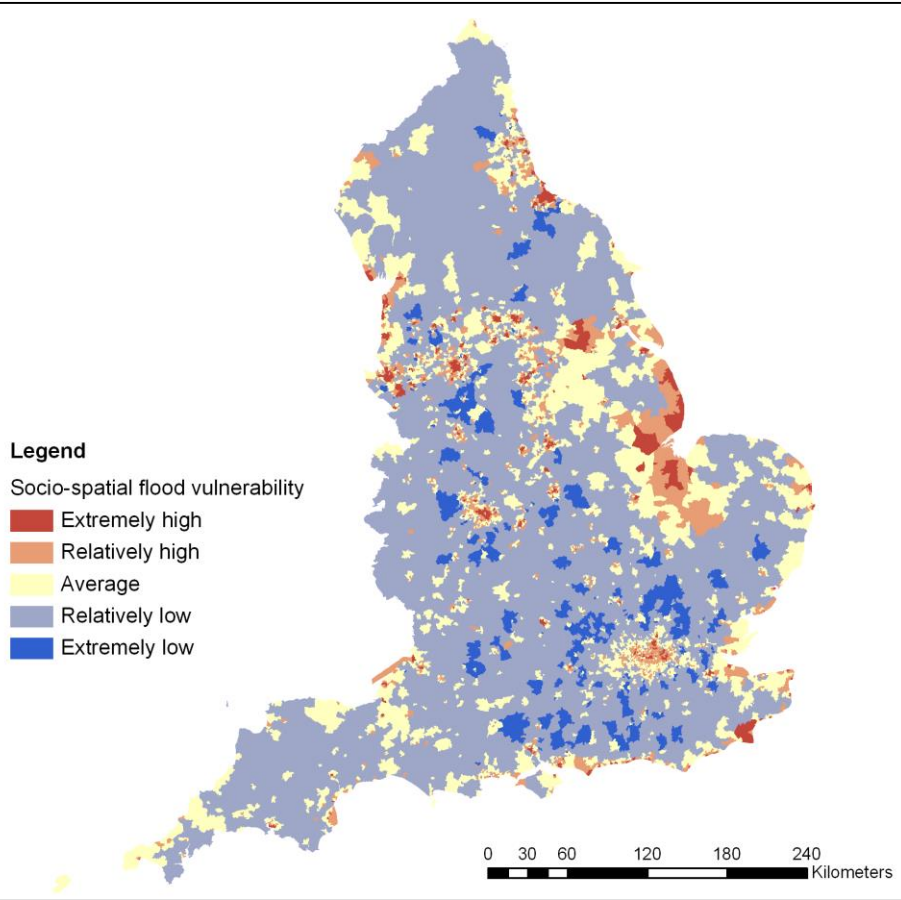
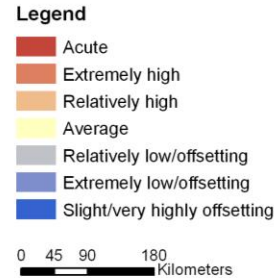
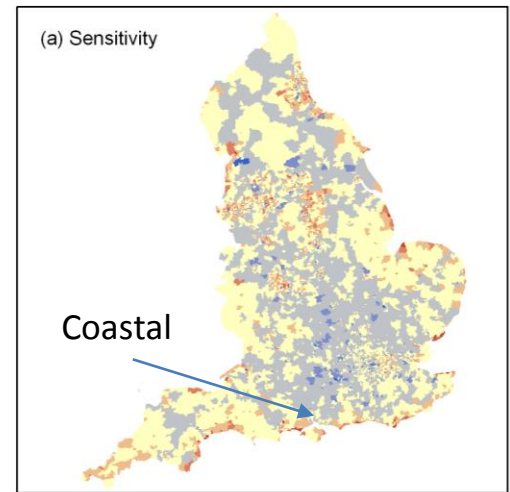
Social factors: Adaptive capacity (prepare/respond/recover)	Personal factors: Sensitivity	Environmental factors: Enhanced exposure
Low income	Age (very young & elderly)	Neighbourhood characteristics (green/blue space)
Tenure: ability to modify living environment	Health status: illness	Housing characteristics: (e.g basement/ high rise/ single storey buildings)
Mobility and access to services	Special care	Buildings
Social isolation	Homeless, tourists, transient groups	High housing density
Information and local knowledge		
Access to insurance		

Flood disadvantage in England



- Some areas have both high socio spatial vulnerability and high potential for exposure to river/coastal flooding and so are flood disadvantaged
- Most flood disadvantaged region = Yorkshire & Humber (ie high social vulnerability coincides with high likelihood of flooding)

Socio-spatial flood vulnerability in England



Overall, most extremely socially vulnerable locations are **urban** and there is a strong **coastal** component.

4. Adaptation policy responses

- Limited evidence of socially just adaptation responses
- Sector focus ignores compounding social impacts
- Evidence on exposure and social context not joined up
- Mismatch between levels of investment and levels of flood disadvantage
- Need to consider overall systems, vulnerable people, long term effects



5. Community resilience

- Community resilience requires a range of capacities – community, social, economic, infrastructural, institutional
- Links between formal and informal institutions important
- Reactive to proactive resilience – bounce back v forward
- Creating a future vision







Why are some people more vulnerable to climate change than others, where are they and what can be done?

Climate **Just**

Key questions



Who is vulnerable?

Which places are disadvantaged?

What actions support resilience?

Map tool:
see how your area is affected



Why does climate justice matter?

Which households emit the most carbon?

What can be done to tackle fuel poverty?

Who needs to do what?