

PRESS RELEASE

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Fit for the Future? - Independent Review of Local Enterprise Partnership Climate Change Good Practice Published

After the recent historic Paris Climate Summit, and the devastating flooding, the first national independent review of local enterprise partnerships good practice on climate change is published.

The report '[Fit for the Future? – Local Enterprise Partnerships' Climate Ready and Low Carbon Good Practice](#)' was produced by Sustainability West Midlands with the support of Climate UK and a range of partners.

The report is aimed at national and local policy makers working with LEPs as they guide £billions worth of investments to help our long-term economic productivity.

The research reviewed the publicly available commitments within key Local Enterprise Partnership documents on issues such as adapting or preparing business for extreme weather events, carbon reduction, and low carbon economy market opportunities.

The results showed:

- There is a good range of local good practice emerging from LEPs on preparing for extreme weather, reducing harmful greenhouse gases, and promoting new low carbon business opportunities.
- Overall performance is very varied. Promoting the low carbon economy, because of its strong links to economic growth, productivity and the requirements of EU funding is the strongest in terms of integration within LEPs leadership, strategy and delivery structures. The weakest is climate adaptation, despite the impact on business supply chains and infrastructure as seen in the recent flooding.
- The amount of funding received by each LEP does not necessarily relate to the capability and ambition of LEPs on climate change and low carbon issues. However, there appears to be a strong geographical correlation, with northern LEPs overall demonstrating stronger commitment than southern LEPs.
- Identifying a sustainability board champion and/or establishing a sustainability working group can help drive forward results on climate change and the low carbon economy and should be considered in all LEPs.

- It would help if LEPs as publically funded bodies would produce annual reviews or reports. In the research less than half of the LEPs appeared to produce a review for the previous year on their website. These reports should include the progress the LEPs and partners are making on managing the business risks and opportunities of climate change.

The results and good practice examples will be shared in more detail at a [national LEP and climate change good practice conference in Birmingham on 8 March 2016](#).

Dr Simon Slater, Director of Policy and Partnerships at Sustainability West Midlands said:

“Despite the challenges many LEPs face in terms of limited staff and resources, and an ever changing playing field, we were impressed by the number of good practice examples in strategic plans and reporting across England. However, the real test will be to see how these intentions are flowing into action with local partners.”

“If the Government is serious about the commitments it made in Paris, the visits in wellies to flooded communities, and supporting local economic growth – then it needs to agree with LEPs clear expectations on how relevant climate change action will be delivered locally, and the accompanying resources and support.”

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