



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Preparing for a changing climate

Part 3: Planning

Statutory Guidance under the Climate Change Act 2008

Acknowledgements

In preparing this Guidance, we have been influenced by existing non-statutory guidance, primarily [Adapting to climate change: Workbook for public sector organisations](#) (Adaptation Scotland, 2011). That document in turn recognises its debt to other guidance, including that by the [UK Climate Impacts Partnership \(UKCIP\)](#) and [International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives \(ICLEI\) Canada](#).

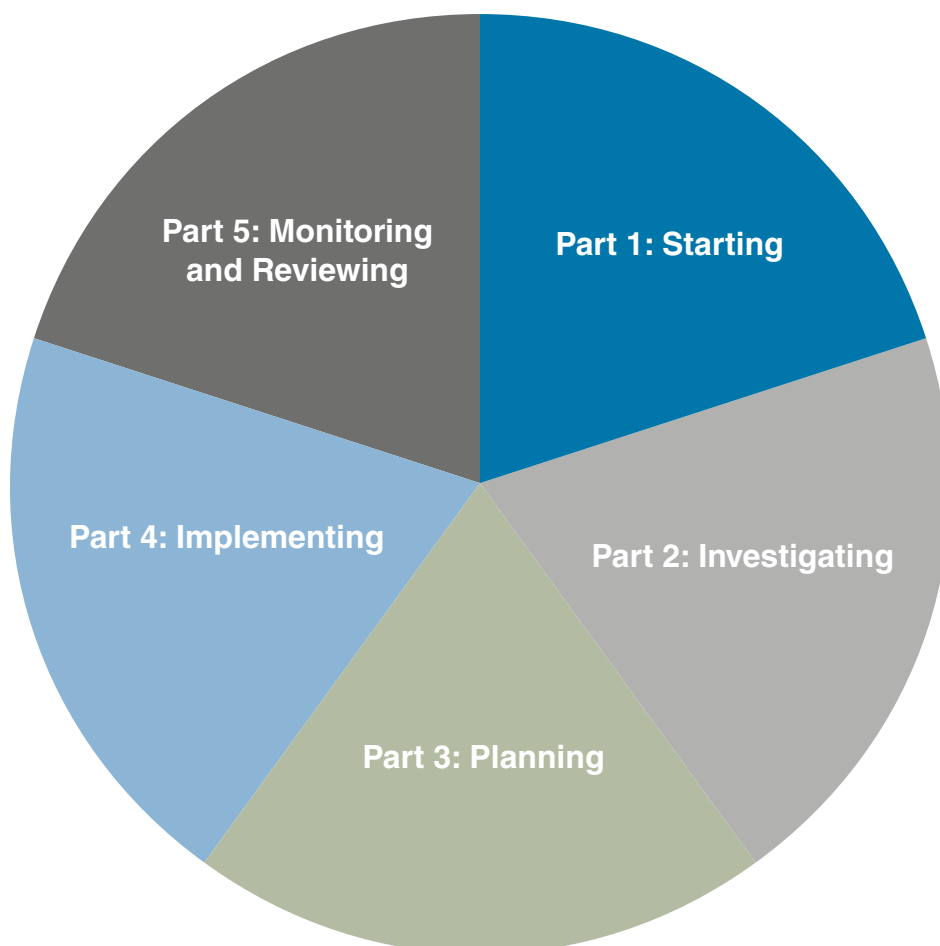
If you have any ideas for improving the Guidance, please contact the Welsh Government Climate Change Team:

climate-change@cymru.gsi.gov.uk

0300 060 3300 (English)

0300 060 4400 (Cymraeg)

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Part 3: Planning

Part 3 involves using information generated by investigations carried out in Part 2 to develop a planned approach to adaptation; this may include the development of a standalone adaptation plan or could focus on integrating adaptation actions within existing policies and plans.

The chapters provide guidance and templates for developing an adaptation plan, as well as establishing baseline and reporting data, which will help with monitoring and reviewing in Part 5.

This part includes:

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Chapter 7: Establishing Vision Statements, Aims and Objectives

Purpose	To develop vision statements and establish aims and objectives for your adaptation work or adaptation action plan.
Contents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vision statements• Setting aims and objectives

Introduction

The outputs from vulnerability and risk assessment work in Part 2 should provide you with a strong indication as to the climate change impacts that are likely to have the most significant effect on your organisation. You can use this information to develop vision statements, aims and objectives that will drive forward the identification and implementation of adaptation actions.

Vision statements

Vision statements can be useful to build a shared understanding of the challenge facing your organisation and what it may need to look like in the future. You may wish to consider:

- Developing vision statements that describe scenarios for the 2020's, 2050's and 2080's and provide an opportunity to describe how changes in climate and effective adaptation actions may have affected different departments, service areas and communities.
- Developing vision statements linked to individual departments, service areas or communities providing an opportunity to raise awareness of key risks and opportunities and priority adaptation actions.

Case Study

The Climate Change Strategy for Wales contains a vision of Wales in 2050 which paints a picture of how a more sustainable, resilient Wales would be different to the Wales we live in now. Reproduced below is an extract from this vision.

Wales in 2050

Across society there is recognition of the need to live sustainably and reduce our carbon footprint. People are taking action to reduce resource use, energy use and waste. They are more strongly focused on environmental, social and economic responsibility, and on local quality of life issues, and there is less emphasis on consumerism. Participation and transparency are key principles of Government at every level, and individuals have become stewards of natural resources.

We have strong, active, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others. Wales is a bi-lingual society, is fairer and more equal, and there is a reduction in the gap between rich and poor. Employment levels are high, and people enjoy a greater work-life balance, with more opportunities for volunteering. People work closer to home.

Many communities are taking action... to ensure that the impacts of climate change do not increase social exclusion in Wales. People are active in maintaining the quality of the local environment where they live.

Good quality housing for all is the norm. Homes and businesses are far more energy efficient and sustainable... New development and infrastructure is located, designed and constructed for the climate it will experience over its design life, and to minimise travel needs.

There is a much greater emphasis on preventative health care throughout society, and many more people are living healthy lives through eating better and getting exercise more regularly as part of their everyday lives. Increased localisation means that people are eating more seasonal, fresh local produce and this has stimulated agriculture and horticulture in Wales and there is much greater consideration given to the provenance of food. Much more food is traded locally where possible and fairly with the developing world when not. There is a huge expansion in allotments and community gardening. The agricultural industry has adapted to a changing climate, including making provision for the impacts of warmer summers, and changes in land use and management.

Wales' historic landscapes have been preserved and we have learnt lessons from our past which inform our future management. We are now also managing land for the wider ecosystem services it can deliver, including carbon storage, water quality, flood management, and landscape quality and connectivity for wildlife to adapt to climate change. As a result the loss of biodiversity has been halted and there is a greater number, range and genetic diversity of wildlife. There is a greater understanding and appreciation of our inter-dependence with the other species we share the planet with.

Setting aims and objectives

Identifying aims and objectives for your adaptation work provides an opportunity to re-engage with those who are affected by the key impacts that you have identified, and in implementing the adaptation actions required to address them.

Aims should provide a general statement of intent explaining the direction that your organisation wishes to take in terms of climate change adaptation. For example, the aim of the Welsh Government's Climate Change Adaptation Framework is to:

...build adaption to climate change into decision making, deliver meaningful action that enhances Wales' ability to respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by climate change and to meet our statutory obligations under the Climate Change Act 2008 Wales's Climate Change Adaptation Framework, October 2009.

Objectives should be more specific and should refer to the ways in which your organisation intends to overcome the impacts and consequences that have been identified (see Chapters 4, 5 and 6).

Example objectives:

- to collate and disseminate high quality information about expected changes on services, assets, infrastructure and communities from the impacts of climate change;
- to identify, implement monitor and evaluate adaptation actions that build adaptive capacity and increase resilience to specific impacts over specific time frames;
- to commission research that will enable increased understanding about the risks associated with a specific impact;
- to identify and implement mechanisms for recording the impacts of weather events and observed, gradual changes in climate in order to better understand future climate change impacts.

Chapter 8: Identifying and Prioritising Adaptation Options

Purpose	To identify adaptation options and prioritise them.
Contents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of adaptation options • Working with others to identify options • Prioritising adaptation options • Financing adaptation action

Introduction

The next step is to identify adaptation options in response to the threats and opportunities that have been identified through work as part of 'Part 2: Investigating'. These options could be broken down into short, medium and long term timeframes, and should reflect your organisation's vision, aims and objectives (Chapter 7).

Types of adaptation options

According to the UK Climate Impacts Programme, adaptation responses fall into one of two categories:

- Building Adaptive Capacity (BAC), and
- Delivering Adaptation Actions (DAA)

Building Adaptive Capacity (BAC) involves developing your organisation's capacity to respond effectively to climate change. BAC activities include:

- Gathering and sharing information (for example undertaking research, monitoring data and organisational records, and raising awareness through education and training initiatives).
- Creating a supportive institutional framework (changing standards, legislation, and best practice guidance, and developing appropriate policies, plans and strategies);
- Creating supportive social structures (changing internal organisational systems, developing personnel or other resources to deliver the adaptation actions, and working in partnership).



Source: The UK Climate Impacts Programme, 2010, Guidance note, 'Identifying adaptation options'.

Delivering Adaptation Actions (DAA) involves taking practical actions to either reduce vulnerability to climate risks, or to exploit positive opportunities and may range from simple low-tech solutions to large scale infrastructure projects. DAA can include:

- Accepting the impacts, and bearing the losses that result from those risks (e.g. managed retreat from sea level rise).
- Off-setting losses by sharing or spreading the risks or losses (e.g. through insurance).
- Avoiding or reducing one's exposure to, climate risks (e.g. building new flood defences, or changing the location or activities).
- Exploiting new opportunities (e.g. engaging in a new activity, or changing practices to take advantage of changing climatic conditions, such as developing new services).

Another way of considering adaptation options is to think of the types of actions that can be taken; these may include:

- Temporary e.g. use of large umbrellas to reduce solar heat gains.
- Managerial e.g. introduce flexi-time, facilitate working from home.
- Technical e.g. refurbish buildings, enhance flood defences.
- Strategic e.g. commission a new building with a climate resilient design as part of a planned capital building programme.

Identifying adaptation options

You can do this in a variety of ways:

1. by organisational area or service area; listing all the relevant impacts and options for each service area;
2. by impact; listing each impact, then identifying options for relevant services;
3. by climatic changes, such as sea level rise, increased temperature etc.

Below is an example of a table which could be used for identifying adaptation options.

Impact (on service delivered or on organisation)	Adaptation options	Timeframe	Lead organisation/ department/ community
Increased risk of damage to buildings from surface water flooding	Building Adaptive Capacity		
	Identify the buildings most at risk of flooding	Next 6 months	Environment Agency/ Estate Manager
	Raise awareness of risk of flooding to buildings amongst building owners, planners and emergency services	On-going	Environment Agency/ Flood Risk Managements Team/Risk Management Teams/Emergency Service Coordinators
	Ensure that planning policies promote the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS)	Next 12 months	Local Authority Planning Dept
	Work in partnership with the Environment Agency and Emergency Responders	On-going	Environment Agency Emergency Responders
	Delivering Adaptation Actions		
	Review and improve insurance cover where possible	Next 3 months	Finance
	Review the location of vulnerable services	Next 6 months	Public health Social services
	Identify opportunities for flood storage areas which encourage the growth of biodiversity	Next 3 months	Countryside Council for Wales

Ways of identifying adaptation options with others

It is useful to draw on the knowledge of others, and involve a variety of staff, partners and stakeholders in the process of identifying adaptation options.

They will be able to identify where actions have already been taken, or are underway (see list in Chapter 1), and identify opportunities to build on existing programmes. A workshop is a good way of bringing people together and brainstorming adaptation actions to address the priority risks.

Alternatively, you may want to discuss and identify adaptation options with individual teams of stakeholders through a series of meetings, and build up a picture, which could then be brought together and assessed by your core team of colleagues and stakeholders. Choosing an approach will depend on time, resources and the size and extent of your organisation.

Aim to identify a range of adaptation options (using the types of BAC and DAA actions listed on page 6 as a guide), that can be implemented individually or collectively. These may be:

- **No-regrets** options that will deliver benefits that exceed their costs, whatever the extent of climate change.
- **Low-regrets** options that would yield large benefits for relatively low costs and seek to maximise the return on investment when certainty of the associated risks is low.
- **Win-win** options that enhance your adaptive capacity, whilst also contributing to the achievement of other social, environmental or economic outcomes.
- **Flexible or adaptive management** options which enable you to put in place incremental adaptation options.

To gather ideas about adaptation options suitable for your organisation, see what others are doing or have done; take a look at adaptation plans being developed in other organisations or other parts of the UK. Or take a look at the Welsh Government's Knowledge Hub which has resources and publications for different sectors and organisations to help them prepare for the consequences of climate change.

Through an iterative process, you may need to delay the identification of adaptation options where you need to find out more about risks and options.

Similarly, a conscious decision to do nothing may be a legitimate and appropriate response in the case of low priority impacts or in situations where climate risks are outweighed by non-climatic factors. However, a decision to do nothing should not be the default position, and should only be reached after careful consideration of your climate risks and adaptation options. Such a decision may also be continually monitored and reviewed to ensure that nothing has changed that requires you to change your position.

Case study

How the Environment Agency Wales identified options for their Adaptation Report¹

In 2010 the Environment Agency prepared its Adaptation Report for the Welsh Government and Defra. They systematically identified all their activities, looked at the potential risks associated with climate change and developed action plans to deal with those risks. They assessed the potential impact upon their objectives using four criteria:

- **Importance** - how much the impact matters to the Environment Agency?
- **Proximity** - when objectives, resources or delivery will need to change in response to climate change.
- **Inertia** - how quickly they can adapt.
- **Resources** - the effort they need to make to adapt.

Prioritising adaptation options

In order to refine and prioritise your list of adaptation options, you will need to evaluate them.

There are three key steps to this:

- 1) Considering factors that may affect your adaptation options
- 2) Evaluating adaptation options
- 3) Financing adaptation options

1. **Consider the factors that may affect the implementation of your adaptation options;** these may be scientific, social, operational, environmental or financial.

Examples of typical drivers and constraints are listed in the Table 1.

Then consider how the constraints may be overcome, and how the drivers could be turned into opportunities. For example, it may be that one of the most frequently occurring constraints is the lack of awareness and understanding of climate change risks and opportunities for adaptation across your organisation's staff and partners. One way in which you could overcome this constraint is to build adaptive capacity through awareness raising and training.

¹ <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/library/publications/130528.aspx>

Table 1: Implementing adaptation options - drivers and constraints

Drivers	Constraints
Existing or new research, legislation, policy or guidelines	Lack of information
Funding opportunities	Limited understanding of climate risks and vulnerabilities - current and projected
Availability of staff	Lack of supportive policies, standards, regulations and design guidance
Availability of external resources	Existing legal or regulatory restrictions
Political leadership	Staff capacity
Consequences of inaction (increased risk levels)	Political will
Benefits of action (increasing adaptive capacity and reduced costs e.g. of maintenance)	Lack of availability, or restricted access, to appropriate technologies
Partnerships	Costs of adaptation options and limited budgets
	Competing and short-term nature of planning horizons
	Social/cultural/financial rigidity
	Effects on mitigation policies

You could identify these and list them in a further column of your table (see [workbook](#)) of adaptation options, as illustrated below.

Impact (on service delivered or on organisation)	Adaptation options	Timeframe	Lead department	Factors affecting implementation (drivers and constraints)
Increased risk of damage to buildings from surface water flooding	Building Adaptive Capacity			
	Identify the buildings most at risk of flooding	Next 6 months	Property/estate managers	
	Raise awareness of risk of flooding to buildings amongst building owners, planners and emergency services	On-going	Environment Agency	
	Ensure that planning policies promote the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS)	Next 12 months	Local Authority Planning Dept	
	Work in partnership with the Environment Agency and Emergency Responders	On-going	Environment Agency Emergency Responders	

2. **Agree the criteria against which you will evaluate your list of adaptation options,** and assess each option in turn. Your first consideration should be how effective the adaptation options will be in helping to achieve your strategic objectives for climate change adaptation.

You should have already identified the aims and objectives as described in Chapter 7. You could also consider:

- Efficiency - the action should not adversely affect other areas.
- Flexibility - it is flexible and will it allow for adjustments and incremental implementation?
- Sustainability - does it contribute to sustainability objectives?
- Practical - can the action be implemented on relevant timescales?
- Legitimacy - it is politically and socially acceptable?
- Urgency - how soon does it need to be implemented?
- Costs - consider social and environmental costs, not just economic.

- Robust - is the option robust under a range of future climate projections?
- Synergies/coherence with other strategic objectives - does it help to achieve other objectives.
- Other factors which your organisation and its partners and/or stakeholders regard as important.

Financing adaptation action

3. You will need to consider whether, and how, adaptation options can be financed. Investing in actions where the return is likely to be long term can be a difficult business case to make, particularly when budgets are tight. When budgeting for climate change adaptation it will be important to consider:

- Which actions can be incorporated into existing projects, maintenance cycles or expenditure? Use the list of existing adaptation actions that you generated in Chapter 1 to identify how new adaptation actions can be incorporated into existing work.
- Which actions will require new expenditure?
- Is there a payback period for the action (e.g. an action with a mitigation co-benefit)?
- What are the potential savings over the lifetime of the improvement?
- What are the project's life cycle costs?
- Is funding available within the organisation's budget?
- What alternative funding sources are available?
- Are there legal or insurance costs associated with inaction?

Below is a list of the types of resources that might support the implementation of your adaptation plan.

Types of resources that might support adaptation plan implementation	
Category	Examples
In-house project funding	Develop the Adaptation Plan, to deliver awareness raising activities Special funds Flood risk management funding
Collaborative projects	Work with other organisations or service areas to identify the risks of surface water flooding, or to deliver public warnings in case of an extreme weather event
Staff time	Within existing workloads: e.g. build climate change adaptation into existing communication/education activities with householders or businesses Additional staff time: e.g. to develop planning guidance on climate change adaptation
Incorporated into contract Specifications	Ensure that new building and maintenance contracts consider the risks of climate change, and adaptation options
Existing budgets	Deliver training and education on climate change adaptation through existing training structures.
Reallocated budgets	Reallocate resources from clean-up operations, to proactive adaptation measures
Rotating funds	Re-invest savings from energy and water efficiency measures into adaptation measures
Advice and support from other organisations	Take advantage of advice and support from other organisations.

You are likely to have to seek the input of senior management and departmental heads to answer the questions above. Make a detailed financial plan, and/or consider the financial mechanisms in as much detail as possible, as this will ease the implementation phase.

Chapter 9: Identifying Baseline Data and Indicators

Purpose	To define a set of indicators and baseline data on which to develop targets and measure progress.
Contents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline data • Indicators for measuring progress

Introduction

Baseline data is used as a basis for evaluating performance. It refers to information, often taken at a snapshot in time, which describes the current status of the variables that are being assessed. Baseline data can provide information about the current sensitivity of your organisation to the impacts of climate change and can also help to identify factors that have the potential to influence adaptive capacity.

Indicators chart progress towards achieving specific objectives and/or individual actions and may include milestones.

The identification of robust baseline information and indicators will allow you to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of adaptation actions.

Work on identifying indicators for adaptation can be challenging and complex to identify.

Baseline data

The process of establishing baseline data can range from exhaustive (touching on sensitivities, adaptive capacity, exposure etc.) to cursory (selecting only one or two sample indicators). Where possible, you should use existing data sources and indicators to reduce the burden of collecting data. For example, as climate change adaptation will affect a range of your organisation's services and existing work, existing organisational indicators, or those collected at a national level may provide appropriate indicators of change and progress. Examples include: flood maps, the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment, air quality data, deprivation index.

Selecting existing data and indicators will also enable colleagues and partners to identify the impact of climate change on their measurable outcomes and existing work (as identified in Chapter 1).

Your choice of indicators will depend on the adaptation actions that you have prioritised for your adaptation plan. They may include quantitative data (e.g. the percentage of council tenants in flood risk areas with insurance cover), or qualitative data (e.g. the increase in public awareness of their flood risk).

Indicators for measuring progress

There are two different types of indicators:

- (i) Progress measures - which measure progress against the key stages in a process leading to an end point. These might include raising awareness of the need to adapt to climate change, or your organisation's progress in developing an adaptation plan (against the five phases of this Workbook); and
- (ii) Outcome indicators - which measure progress towards an explicit outcome. These reveal more about the effectiveness of adaptation action, such as the 'number of excess deaths from heat-related illnesses during the hottest 3 months of the year'. However, these measures are dependent on such weather events or incremental trends happening in the future.

At a local level, outcome indicators should relate to specific actions identified in your adaptation plan.

Identifying relevant indicators to monitor and measure progress

Using the list of possible indicators on the following page as a guide, you may wish to create a list of indicators for each of your prioritised adaptation actions.

Public sector services	Indicators
Progress indicators	The following measures are starting points for developing indicators to measure your organisation's progress in adaptation planning.
Part 1: Starting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number/percentage of organisational policies/programmes/business plans/risk registers which address climate change adaptation. • Public commitments to climate change adaptation made. • Proportion of senior management teams involved in the adaptation planning process. • A vision for an adaptive/resilient organisation has been developed. • Proportion of Community Planning Partners engaged in climate change adaptation group.
Part 2: Investigating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change trends identified. • The proportion of service/geographic areas/issues for which we have identified the impacts of climate change. • Vulnerability assessments completed. • Risk assessments completed. • Percentage of key partners who have identified major weather and climate vulnerabilities and risks.
Part 3: Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aims and objectives established. • Adaptation options identified. • Baseline data and Indicators identified. • Adaptation action plan produced. • Percentage of adaptation actions embedded within other strategies, plans and programmes.
Part 4: Implementing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of staff who have participated in climate change awareness training. • Number of pilots completed. • Percentage of adaptation actions implemented.
Part 5: Monitoring and Reviewing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adaptation plan reviewed. • Progress on adaptation plan reported.

The Welsh Government's approach to developing indicators is The Preparing for a Changing climate Policy Statement references how the processes in this guidance will be used to assess preparedness in terms of the level of implementation of adaptation processes within an organisation. Your organisation may find it useful to develop their own suite of indicators or align themselves with the Welsh Government's approach.

Chapter 10: Creating an Adaptation Action Plan

Purpose	To develop an adaptation action plan.
Contents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing structure • Gathering content • Consulting • Launching the plan • Embedding actions into strategic documents

Introduction

This is the step at which all the research, analysis and engagement with stakeholders will come together to help you to develop a bespoke adaptation action plan and/or a strategic approach that integrates adaptation actions across your organisations plans and policies. The plan/integrated actions will form the foundation of your organisation's adaptation work, and provide a useful communication tool to communicate the need to adapt to a wider audience, and to demonstrate your organisation's commitment. The plan/integrated actions will provide the basis for monitoring and measuring progress in Part 5.

It is not necessary to develop a separate climate change adaptation action plan, but it will enable you to bring together the business case and the implementation plan for adapting to climate change in one strategic document. The adaptation plan should be a succinct document which sets out the context for action, your vision, aims, objectives, the key adaptation priorities for your organisation, who is responsible for their implementation, and the timetable and mechanisms for delivery. By working through this guidance, you will have already prepared the majority of the adaptation plan.

The adaptation plan could be a separate document, but adaptation should be embedded within other corporate strategic documents, such as the risk register, corporate and service area plans.

Developing the structure, and drawing together the content of the adaptation plan

You should structure the adaptation plan in a way which makes most sense to your organisation, colleagues, and the people responsible for implementing the plan. Involving those stakeholders who will be responsible for implementing the actions in the drafting of the final adaptation plan will enable them to take some ownership of it, and will encourage them to help implement it. Key colleagues, partners and stakeholders should have already been involved in developing parts of the plan, such as reviewing climate information and undertaking the risk assessment.

You could involve them further in the drafting of the final plan by delegating responsibility for drafting particular sections of the plan, or consulting them on draft versions.

The UK Climate Impacts Programme suggests that an effective adaptation plan draws on a mixture of approaches to adaptation:

- Coping with risks associated with present climate variability and extremes.
- Introducing adaptation measures incrementally - what makes sense today but designed to allow incremental adjustments.
- Enhancing flexibility or resilience of hard-to-reverse investments; and
- Introducing adaptation measures to coincide with planned maintenance and/or upgrades.

The table below provides a sample structure for your adaptation plan, and highlights the relevant sections of the Guidance which will enable you to complete it.

Adaptation plan contents	Description and relevant sections of this Guidance
Foreword by senior manager	Including a supportive statement by a senior manager, board member and/or partner will help to show others that the action plan has high level support and will encourage others to act.
The case for action	What are your organisations objectives and how will climate change affect the organisation the work it undertakes and the services delivered. Chapter 3 (briefing note)
The impacts of climate change to your organisation	What are the past, current and future impacts and risks to your organisation and its work? This section should provide more detail than the section above, as to the impacts of climate change. Alternatively, it could be presented as a detailed annex to the action plan. Chapters 2, 4, 5 and 6
Vision and strategy	What is the organisation's vision for a resilient organisation? What are the aims and objectives for achieving the vision? Chapter 7
Actions	Which actions should be taken to address the impacts of climate and to deliver the organisation's vision and objectives for climate change adaptation? Chapter 8 Who is responsible for the implementation? See template for action matrix below

Adaptation plan contents	Description and relevant sections of this Guidance
Finance	What is the cost of adaptation actions, and how will they be funded? Chapter 8
Management and governance	How will progress be monitored? Chapter 9 How will implementation be managed, monitored, reviewed and reported? Parts 4 and 5

For each action it is important to identify who will be responsible for its implementation, the timeline for implementation, the costs and funding for its implementation, and how progress will be monitored.

Developing your adaptation actions table

The table below provides a template for summarising your adaptation actions:

Impact	Consequence/ issue/risk	Action	Lead responsible	Timeline	Costs and funding	Indicator and baseline data

Consulting on the adaptation action plan

Many public sector organisations have formal consultation mechanisms, and, where appropriate political consultation mechanisms. These should be used to consult on the adaptation plan.

Refer to earlier work carried out as part of Chapter 3 to identify the stakeholders who should be included in consultation processes.

Following the consultation, the final adaptation action plan can be prepared and submitted for approval by senior decision-makers within your organisation.

Launching the adaptation plan

The launch of the adaptation plan provides the ideal platform on which to announce your organisation's commitment to climate change adaptation. You may wish to launch the plan to different audiences in different ways, such as the staff directly responsible for implementing the plan, other staff, stakeholders with an interest in the plan, and the general public.

There is no one way to launch the plan. It will depend on what publicity and events have been organised during the development of the plan, other publicity at the same time, and what resources are available.

Conferences, workshops, meetings, newsletters and press releases can all form part of your launch.

Embedding climate change actions into strategic documents

Whether you have chosen to develop a stand-alone adaptation plan or not, it is important to ensure that the importance of climate change adaptation is recognised, and that adaptation actions are included, within other strategic documents. This will enable other colleagues and partners working in different fields to recognise the links between climate change adaptation and other issues, and how adapting to climate change can help deliver other strategic priorities.

In Chapter 1, you will have already identified those existing policies and action plans which contain commitments and actions to enable climate change adaptation. You will have also identified those areas where existing policies and action plans could be strengthened. Now that you have developed the adaptation plan and received high level support for its implementation it is a good time to ensure its wider reach, by working with colleagues to embed climate change adaptation within other strategic documents. Key opportunities for doing so may include:

- The development of, and consultation on, new strategies.
- The review and revision of existing strategies.
- Comprehensive consideration of climate change adaptation as part of Strategic Environmental Assessment processes.
- The development of accompanying action plans or supplementary guidance.
- The implementation of specific actions e.g. the spending of a capital programme, where individual developments could be influenced.

You could try to ensure that commitments to climate change adaptation are recognised within different parts of strategies and policies, from their vision, to their objectives, and action plans.

Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) is required of all public plans, programmes and strategies that have the potential to generate significant environmental effects. Although, as covered earlier, climate change is wider than the environment SEA provides a useful tool for embedding climate change adaptation into other strategic documents. The Environment Agency has produced guidance on how climate change issues can be considered in SEA in England & Wales.²

² Strategic Environmental Assessment and Climate Change: Guidance for Practitioners.
<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/policy/40121.aspx>