



Step Five

Monitor,
Review,
Evaluate

Climate Adaptation Monitoring and Reporting

It is important to build in time to monitor the plan as it is implemented, to provide an assessment on:

- The Climate Risk Register,
- The progress of the implementation of the delivery plans' actions,
- The appropriateness of the assigned indicators, and
- The progress towards delivering the programme's outcomes

This ongoing process will allow your organisation to update and add adaptation actions and indicators, and also update delivery plans as appropriate. When done well, it can help to engage colleagues and other stakeholders in a living plan. It will also help to link in with Regional, UK and International reporting commitments as they develop.

Questions to consider including:

1) The Risk Register

- Are the risk statements still accurate?
- Is the scoring of the risks still accurate?
- Are there any gaps?

2) The Progress on Implementation of the Action Plan

- How are the actions belonging to your department meeting the relevant outcome and priority climate risk? Reference the agreed milestones and timescales.
- Please list your departmental policies which include climate adaptation (existing and in development).

- How many F.T.E. staff are working on Climate Adaptation within your Department (listed within their role description and/or in their workplan)?
- Describe any training or capacity building in relation to climate adaptation your department has undertaken.
- What internal or external communications on climate adaptation has your department commissioned?
- How has your department engaged stakeholders (e.g. Charities, Private Sector) in the creation of adaptation policy to the implementation and evaluation of adaptation plans and actions?
- What research and/or evidence gathering has your department commissioned to support delivery of adaptation actions?
- Does your departmental corporate risk register explicitly consider climate risk?
- What networks is your department involved with which offer a forum to share and develop knowledge and information on climate adaptation?
- How does your department consider any justice and equity issues of climate change (economic, social, environmental and cultural) and impact on vulnerable communities?
- What additional support (capacity/expertise/funding/resources) do you require to implement the actions?

3) The Appropriateness of the Assigned Indicators

- To what extent are the adaptation indicators associated with your outcomes still adequate in reducing the Climate Risks Identified?
- Do you have any additional indicators which would be important additions to the current plan?

4) The Progress Towards Delivering the Programme's Outcomes

- How are the actions contributing to the Theme Outcomes? Are there any issues or suggested changes?
- How are your outcomes contributing to the outcomes of the Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme?
- How does your department identify and prioritise options for adaptation decisions?
- What is your departmental monitoring regime, to ensure the impact of actions and delivery of each relevant objective can be properly assessed?
- Please provide any examples of how your department is considering climate mitigation and adaptation in tandem.

Additional Considerations

CCC's Third Independent Climate Change Risk Assessment

This Independent Assessment is used to help inform the third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3). It assesses 61 risks and opportunities from climate change to Northern Ireland, including to business, infrastructure, housing, the natural environment, our health and from the impacts of climate change internationally.

- Of these 61 risks and opportunities, more action is needed now to address 31 of them, further investigation is needed for 19, sustaining current adaptation action is only deemed appropriate for five of the risks or opportunities and six have been classified as watching brief.
- Of the 61, six issues are deemed to be both a risk and opportunity, four of which are associated with the natural environment and each of these require more action or further investigation.
- There are also eight opportunities that could arise from climate change in Northern Ireland, with four of these also related to the natural environment.
- For further information, see the [Third Independent Climate Change Risk Assessment](#).

Scoring Methodology

There are also a range of questions to be derived from the approach taken by the Climate Change Committee in its review of Adaptation Programmes across the UK. This includes the 'Red-Amber-Green' scoring system used in the [Final assessment of Scotland's first Climate Change Adaptation Programme - Climate Change Committee \(theccc.org.uk\)](#). See Table 1.1, p26 of this report for details.

The review process from the CCC for the English Adaptations involves assessing:

- Is there a good quality plan?
- Is progress being made in managing risk?

The table below helps expand on these criteria and help consider if the actions planned or taken are actually reducing the climate risk.

Score	High	Medium	Low
Plan Score	<p>Good quality plan:</p> <p>Considers climate change, including a range of scenarios (adaptation planning for inevitable change i.e. a 2°C scenario, consideration of risks for a 4°C scenario)</p> <p>Sets out specific action – not just guidance</p> <p>SMART – specific, measurable goals with timescales</p> <p>Has effective monitoring and evaluation built in</p> <p>Can see links from the plan down to the actions</p> <p>Plans up to date</p>	<p>Medium quality plan:</p> <p>Considers climate change, though possibly vague on what scenarios are included</p> <p>Requires general action – not just guidance</p> <p>Some aspects of being SMART</p> <p>Some monitoring and evaluation</p> <p>Some links to action</p>	<p>Low quality plan:</p> <p>Minimal or no consideration of climate change</p> <p>No firm actions, not SMART</p> <p>No monitoring and evaluation</p> <p>No firm link through to actions</p> <p>Plans not up to date</p>
Risk Management Score	<p>Evidence that risk (vulnerability and exposure) is reducing at an appropriate rate, and/or is in line to meet goals</p> <p>Good evidence of impact of actions on risks</p>	<p>Mixed picture – some evidence of risk being managed, but other areas where progress is lacking</p> <p>Some evidence of impact of actions on risks</p>	<p>Evidence that risk is not reducing or is increasing, or lack of evidence to judge what is happening to risk</p> <p>No evidence that actions are having an impact on risk</p>

Fig 1: CCC's Adaptation Committee Assessment Criteria. Source: [Progress in Adapting to Climate Change - 2021 Report to Parliament \(CCC, 2021\)](#).

Objective of Future Programmes:

European Good Practice:

The European Environment Agency report on '[Sharing adaptation information across Europe](#)' outlines three key objectives which may be useful to consider. The objectives are:

- Facilitating the sharing of information to build a knowledge base
- Assisting the uptake of information by decision-makers
- Development of collaboration/co-ordination.

UK Good Practice:

Ensure the adaptation actions and the programme as a whole are framed around the principles for good adaptation outlined in the [CCRA3 Advice Report](#):

- Adapt to 2°C warming, assess the risks for 4°C
- Prepare for unpredictable extremes
- Assess interdependencies
- Understand threshold effects
- Integrate adaptation into relevant policies
- Ensure adaptation is sufficiently financed
- Avoid lock-in
- Address inequalities
- Consider opportunities from climate change.