

Planning to Live with Climate Change

Member Engagement & General Assembly Feedback Report

Introduction

This report provides summarised feedback of the results of member engagement on the RTPI's 'Planning to Live with Climate Change' initiative, carried out between February and mid April 2009, including the results of breakout group deliberations and a plenary debate in the General Assembly of 22 April 2009.

A very substantial volume of detail was captured as a result of members' contributions to these processes. It has not been possible to provide more than a high level sense of these in this document, but the policy team would very much like to thank all of those who have committed time and thinking to this important initiative.

Work is now well underway to craft your inputs into two tangible products:

- An Action Plan, setting out commitments that the RTPI will make and deliver on climate change; and
- A Best Practice Compendium, advising, assisting and sharing insights between members on the rapidly moving frontiers of knowledge, policy and practice around climate change response.

However, it is also clear that the Action Plan and the Compendium must be designed from the outset to be living documents, based on our website and updated to respond to the rapid pace of changing knowledge.

A commitment has been made to start this process by launching 'Seven Commitments', the first tranche of actions within the emerging action plan at the Planning Convention in June 2009.

However, this will be but a first step in the process of building partnerships for implementation, framing and launching further commitments and growing the living practice compendium.

The summary reporting below examines your feedback in terms of:

- Additional issues that you raised, which needed to relate to climate change in our response to the New Vision
- Areas of clarification and focus within the issued already addressed in the document
- Your thinking about the roles that the RTPI should take, framing emerging objectives for action
- The particular action highlights or 'diamonds' identified in General Assembly breakout groups; and, finally
- 62 potential actions that could be taken in the emerging Action Plan.
- Seven commitments drawn from these and proposed for initial launch at the Planning Convention 2009.

Whilst not all 62 actions will find their way into the plan, an intensive and fertile period of business and project plan development to take forward many of your proposals has now commenced and progress will be fed back further in coming months.

1. Additional Vision Issues

This section contains member suggestions for 'big issues' which alongside climate change, some felt needed to be responded to within an action plan developing the New Vision.

No.	Topic:
1.	• Population growth & migration
2.	• Urbanisation: new urban agenda
3.	• Global social equity & poverty
4.	• Resource depletion

2. Areas of emphasis and clarification

This section contains member suggestions as to how aspects of Planning to Live With Climate Change and its response to the big issues of contemporary planning could be clarified, and focused.

No.	Issue:
1.	• Proactive focus on 'low carbon living'
2.	• Emphasis on global planning for a global issue
3.	• Focus on living within limits and sustainable development – RTPI to clarify its thinking on climate change within sustainable development
4.	• Inclusion of reference to the need for a new sustainable development conceptual framework & eco-centric methodologies (eco-foot printing etc)
5.	• Clarification of the idea of a 'campaigning profession' and of the boundaries of campaigning
6.	• Clarification of the 'realignment of responsibilities for planning'
7.	• Clarification of the distinct contribution of planning as a profession in responding to and addressing climate change issues
8.	• Reference to positive environmental economics and need for a new relationship between the valuation of public and private goods

3. RTPI role: what action should we take?

This section is organised around five headings: planning policy development, marketing and communications, collaborative working, education and skills, and best practice identification and dissemination to structure members' views on the key areas for RTPI and partnership working. The issues set out below emerged as potential objectives for the action plan.

Planning policy development

Members felt that the Institute should fulfil a very important role, which needed to be realised, in the realm of generating policy ideas and in creation of a coherent framework of principles with respect to climate change for spatial planning.

Ref.	Objective:
A.	The provision of responsible and authoritative 'thought leadership' within the field of spatial planning

B.	The formulation of policy solutions that recognise the need to live within environmental limits
C.	The embedding of sustainable development and the need to respond to climate change within the working practices of the RTPI as part of an ethical framework embracing environmental justice
D.	The application of a spatial planning approach through the assessment of the spatial impacts of initiatives outwith the remit of planning legislation and policy
E.	The production and direction of necessary research into planning and climate change to establish and develop best practice

Marketing and Communications

In the area of promotion and communications members felt there was a great deal the RTPI could do to in terms of asserting the role played by planning and planners in addressing climate change, 'lobbying' government for change, and awareness raising with respect to the issues of climate change. The need to use appropriate language to speak to different audiences was emphasised.

No.	Objective:
F.	To raise the profile of climate change
G.	To articulate a wider role for planning in delivering a low carbon society - highlighting the specific role it plays in directing and managing development
H.	To publicise the role played by planners in helping to tackle the challenge of climate change
I.	To influence decision makers, stakeholders, and the general public to deliver a low carbon future and climate change paradigm shift
J.	To ensure that spatial planning stands up and is counted as a positive force for 'intelligent development'
K.	To inform and mobilise members in addressing climate change

Collaborative Working

The need to work in partnership with others emerged strongly from the general assembly. It was felt there was a recognise and understand the contribution of other professions and agencies, many of which have already undertaken a substantial volume of work in this area, and work with them to deliver the common goal of addressing climate change. It was considered that the RTPI needed to consider its particular contribution within this context, and focus on delivering it in partnership with others. A corollary of this was the expression of a need for a multi-disciplinary approach to addressing an all-encompassing issue.

No.	Objective:
L.	To seek, work with, and play a leading role alongside other agencies, professions and sectors, locally, regionally, nationally and globally, to tackle the challenge of climate change - through the development of partnership working and joint action programmes to ensure effective robust, holistic action on climate change with a broad base of support
M.	To foster an integrated multi-disciplinary approach to climate change

Education and Skills

Education was an area in which members felt that there are, at present, clear shortfalls with regards to planners possessing the tools to address the issues of climate change. There was a consensus behind the imperative of ensuring that planners are equipped with the skills and understanding to tackle climate change issues.

No.	Objective:
N.	To ensure practicing planners are equipped with the skills and understanding and respond to climate change issues
O.	Produce and cultivate 21 st century planning professionals equipped to tackle the issues of climate change
P.	To help in building the capacity of spatial planning to tackle climate change in developing countries

Best Practice Identification and Dissemination

A clear role, hitherto underdeveloped, surfaced during member engagement for the RTPI as facilitator of best practice in the area of planning and climate change. The RTPI was seen as having a role in, as one member put it, 'making it easier for stretched planners facing the new requirements of the climate change agenda and helping 'bump them over the threshold.'

No.	Objective:
Q.	To serve as a repository and arbiter of best practice for the purposes of planning professionals and planning decision-makers
R.	To encourage and disseminate best practice amongst planning professionals
S.	To assist planners to share good practice amongst fellow professionals

4. General Assembly group 'diamonds'

During the General Assembly, members worked in one of eight break-out groups. Each of these groups came together to discuss specific elements of spatial planning. They were initially tasked with identifying the single most important initiative or 'diamond' action to address climate change in that field. In the course of the programme of member engagement and from the General Assembly working groups a large number of specific, detailed suggestions regarding good practice policies, programmes, projects, and working practices at local, regional, national and global levels were also generated. A categorised list of best practice policies, programmes and projects are in the process of being collated for use in the first iteration of the proposed Compendium. Other contributions around potential actions at a more detailed level are set out in section 5 below.

The diamonds which were identified are as follows:

Group A: National Policy and Legislation

- Press for a National Spatial Framework based on deliverable action to tackle climate change

Group B: Regional and Subregional Policy

- Use regional scenario planning models to embrace energy, transport and urbanisation issues

Group C: Development Plan, LDFs and Community Engagement

- Development Plan process needs to align administrative and funding structures to integrate key elements of climate change response

Group D: Development Management and Enforcement

- Local Authorities need a corporate approach to integrate responses from all departments (*i.e. make climate change a corporate aim*)

Group E: Environmental Design and Regeneration

- Incentivise improvements to the carbon performance of the existing building stock

Group F: Planning Education and CPD

- Embed climate change into planning schools' accreditation and formal CPD requirements

Group G: International Issues

- Promote international planning aid to develop a global planning forum and a new urban agenda

Group H: Inter-professional Working and Communications

- Work with other professions and communicate to members and other professions

5. Actions for the RTPI

This section contains member suggestions for concrete actions and approaches through which the RTPI can optimise its role in responding to climate change. The issues set out below emerged as potential actions for the action plan and it is from these that the 'Seven Commitments' have been drawn.

Planning Policy Development

Ref:	Action:	Objectives:
	<u>Policy Response:</u>	
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To formulate policy consultation responses	A, D
2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To Interpret climate change data from a planning perspective (i.e. new climate projections which the UK Climate Change Impacts Programme will publish shortly)	A, D
	<u>Policy Generation:</u>	
3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To formulate a draft PPS and/or draft NSF	A, B
4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To formulate a new urban agenda (based on tackling climate change), setting out the vision for urban life	A, B
	<u>Working Practices:</u>	
5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To create a voluntary RTPI Climate Change Champion	A, C
6.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To create a full-time RTPI Climate Change Officer	A, C
7.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To create a Sustainable Development/Climate Change network	A, C

Ref:	Action:	Objectives:
8.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To create a Climate Change Champion for (and dedicated climate change webpage) for each network to report to a coordination group and/or new RTPI Climate change officer 	B, C
Policy and Practice Commitments:		
9.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To set down the "Global planning standard" for tackling climate change 	A, C
10.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To set down the development an accord for climate change (similar to the EU's Bristol Accord for Sustainable Development) 	A, C
11.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To add a climate change/sustainable development 'clause F' to RTPI Code of Practice 	A, C
12.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To require sign-up to a climate change accord for planning consultancies seeking RTPI accreditation/listing 	A, C
13.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To produce and implement an RTPI Corporate Environmental Management Strategy 	C
Research:		
14.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To commission and produce research into planning and climate change 	E, B

Marketing and Communications

Ref:	Action:	Objectives:
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To carry out an audit of the media and promotional strategies of other agencies 	F
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To outline a framework of views from which the RTPI operates structured for different audiences – include headline issues which may be more likely to reach the media 	F, G, H, I, J
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To produce a dozen strap lines for members about climate change and sustainable development, spatial planning and project delivery 	F, G, H, I, J
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To distil 'Bite size' core messages of the new vision – translated into appropriate mediums for different audiences 	F, G, H, I, J
19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To adopt a: 'global & local, me & you, family & society, this profession and others, now & then, planner and politicians' – conceptual framework for communications 	G, I
20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To initiate a built environment planning and climate change celebrity sign-up 	F, I, J
21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote the RTPI voice on planning & climate change via media appearances & interviews 	F, G, H, I, J
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To launch a planning to live with climate change initiative Planning Magazine 	F, G, H, I, J
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To produce a Weekly climate change feature in RTPI News 	F, G, H, I, J
24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To initiate a campaign on the 'value of planning' (such as being developed by GPN) 	G, H, J
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To use online member polls to gauge/generate member support for RTPI positions on planning and climate change 	I
26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To create a voluntary RTPI Climate Change Champion 	F, G, H, I, J
27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To create a full-time RTPI Climate Change Officer 	F, G, H, I, J
28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To create of a network of RTPI liaison officers in LPAs and consultancies 	K
29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To create an online Global Planning Forum 	S, P

Ref:	Action:	Objectives:
30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To produce and disseminate a newsletter/digest/bulletin collating the latest information on planning & climate change 	K, R
31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To campaign for funds to deliver RPTI actions 	ALL

Collaborative Working

Ref:	Action:	Objectives:
32.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop a stakeholder management strategy to identify the relevant agencies and individuals to secure real change within planning (i.e. making contact / briefing Helen Clark, incoming leader (administrator) at the UNDP) 	L
33.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To carry out an comprehensive audit of the activities of other agencies/stakeholders in the field of planning & climate change 	L
34.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To form a high level partnership board serviced by partner organisations (relevant government departments and other organisations) to develop joint action programmes and progress the climate change agenda within planning 	L
35.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop a web page bringing together and providing access to the activities of other agencies in the field of planning and climate change 	L
36.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To open up RTPI accreditation to other 'climate change professions' – potentially through the creation of new distinct classes of professional membership 	M

Education and Skills

Ref:	Action:	Objectives:
	<u>Lifelong learning</u>	
37.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To organise events regionally to change cultures and promote the new vision 	K
38.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To carry out a review of RTPI member preferences in CPD activity and provide a self-assessment audit of climate change competence, instruction methods, locally sourced materials, etc 	N
39.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the provision of CPD through RTPI records to identify members' most common forms of activity. Target these as delivering climate change learning 	N
40.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure personal development plans include a climate change element 	N
41.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To work to ensure climate change training and education focuses on mitigation and adaptation 	N
42.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify climate change as an explicit learning outcome of accredited courses. 	N
43.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider establishing priorities for CPD such that individuals should be required to demonstrate competence in a variety of areas including climate change – potential definition of core and specialist climate change skills and competences 	N
44.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To carry out a survey of planning and climate change training to research courses offered by commercial, universities, regions and networks providers 	N
45.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To investigate the potential for more substantial climate-change related distance learning to be delivered through Planning Matters 	N
46.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To commit to a programme of inter-disciplinary working of basic built environment skills related to climate change to ensure all are using a common palette of techniques and approaches to address climate change 	M, N, O

Ref:	Action:	Objectives:
	<u>Education:</u>	
47.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To carry out a survey of planning and climate change education to evaluate the provision offered by Universities in planning qualifications 	O
48.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To require universities to demonstrate that climate change is embedded within the whole curriculum of university planning courses. 	O
49.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To investigate the need for modules on subjects related to climate change: energy planning, water management etc & the capacity for the encouragement of specialisation in climate change related subjects 	O
50.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage & support planners to study climate change and sustainable development masters (i.e. De Montfort University) 	O
51.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage, in partnership with other professions, inter-disciplinary working in universities 	M, O
52.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage universities to produce comparative studies to learn from good practice from overseas 	N, R
	<u>Capacity Building in developing countries:</u>	
53.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify ways to help develop approaches to the capacity shortfalls in developing countries 	P

Best Practice Identification and Dissemination

Ref:	Action:	Objectives:
54.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To produce an online good practice toolkit (or "compendium") of best practice in spatial planning and climate change 	Q, R
55.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To produce a planning & climate change toolkit for politicians 	Q, R
56.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To produce a web page bringing together and listing the activities of other agencies in the field of planning and climate change 	Q, R
57.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To produce and disseminate latest good practice via e-bulletins 	R, S
58.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To research existing and potential stimuli to the advancement of the climate change agenda within planning and barriers preventing its wider and deeper advancement 	Q
59.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To research best practice from other countries in terms of their response to climate change (esp. Europe) 	Q
60.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To create an online climate change discussion forum 	S
61.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure and develop mechanisms for, the sharing of best practice between the regions including Scotland and Wales 	R, S
62.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To use the Networks to build up a best practice evidence base for the RTPI (see action 8) 	Q

6. 'Seven Commitments'

Drawing these contributions together and developing them into a form that can be launched at the Planning Convention in June 2009, whilst also enabling the long term development of a robust climate change programme is a major task. The policy team has proposed that work should initially identify a group of key commitments to action that the RTPI could make that would deliver much needed change or improvement in our climate change response, whilst maximising the scope for partnership with others.

The President, the Junior Vice President and Chair of the Policy and Practice Committee, the Secretary General and the Director of Policy and Partnerships have shaped an initial set of commitments which it is now proposed to launch.

These are proposed to be as follows:

1. Promote behavioural change:

The RTPI will ensure that spatial planning optimises its contribution to deliver against carbon budgets and targets arising from the Climate Change Act 2008, by helping to manage demand for finite natural resources and energy usage. This involves behavioural change for individuals, organisations and communities alike, helping to reduce the overall demand for carbon emitting travel, and the use of non renewable energy and natural resources.

We will work with Governments and other partners to devise means of assessing and equitably sharing carbon budget commitments to help reduce carbon footprints that respond to national targets and that can be deployed through the implementation and monitoring of plans and policies.

We will also support spatial planners' contribution to behavioural change as they identify more sustainable futures through effective community engagement in plan making and development management. The RTPI already delivers strongly on this commitment in England via Planning Aid, but will work with Governments, local government and communities to develop this element of its work.

2. Adapt existing places:

The RTPI will demonstrate how planning can better deliver the adaptation to sustainability of existing buildings and places. We cannot rely on new development to ensure a sustainable global future, because most resource and energy use and carbon emissions emerge from existing places. The challenge is to adapt these places and to ensure that planning supports and incentivises the actions and behaviours necessary to bring about adaptation.

We will work with Governments and other partners to identify and disseminate new means by which planning can stimulate and incentivise adaptive change to existing buildings and settlements.

3. Identify legislative obstacles:

The RTPI will undertake a review of planning-related legislative and policy obstacles to achieving sustainable development that responds to climate change at the UK and nations government levels. UK Governments have changed policy and practice to enable better responses to climate change in order to reduce carbon emissions by 80% by 2050. However, there is much still to do.

The RTPI will work with other professional disciplines, development sector and environmental interest groups to undertake an integrated review and identify where further reform is required. We will feed the results of this research back to Governments with specific proposals for further change. We seek Governments' commitments to consider and implement the policy and practice recommendations that

we will make.

4. Improve current practice:

The RTPI will undertake an evaluation of 'Merton' and equivalent policies at the regional and local level, to identify a best practice tool-kit of effective spatial planning practice moving forward. Spatial planners have been innovating to develop new, climate responsive policies and practices, but planners look to the RTPI to help them by identifying what really works.

We will also develop a tool-kit of tests, enabling the climate change proofing of other regional and local policies and proposals. Plans can contain innovative climate change responsive policies, but due to the effects of other policies and proposals, still produce net adverse climate change outcomes. A number of tests have been developed to audit and climate change proof plan policies and again spatial planners seek help to identify what works.

We will seek partners such as CABE, the HCA, the Planning Advisory Service, the Planning Portal and Universities engaged in research to identify, evaluate and disseminate the best of this innovation, supporting innovative climate impact reducing policies and climate proofed plans, whilst further clarifying and simplifying the interface between building design, building control and spatial planning on these issues.

5. Celebrate best practice:

The RTPI will identify projects that demonstrate inspiring responses to climate change for RTPI awards. The RTPI assesses and judges many entries for its existing planning awards. We commit to the achievement of climate change outcomes as a fundamental requirement of all awards, rewarding only those entries that address climate change issues in a manner that demonstrates leadership, inspiration and innovation.

We will use our awards to assemble and disseminate case studies that represent the peak of contemporary practice in responding to climate change.

6. Compile a compendium of best policy and practice approaches:

The RTPI will set out the results derived from these and related action plan commitments in a 'compendium of best planning practice and research', accessible to and owned by spatial planners but shared with other professionals and communities.

There are already valuable sources of data through CABE, the HCA, the Planning Advisory Service and through other professional bodies such as the RIBA. We will work collaboratively to ensure that data is efficiently shared and signposted between these and other sources.

For the above actions to be meaningful, they must be set in the context of **changing skills** in the planning profession, across the built environment professions and in communities. The RTPI will:

7. Develop climate change skills:

The RTPI will change our education and life long learning requirements to prioritise

response to climate change.

We will work with universities – our education partners, to ensure that climate change is comprehensively addressed in all initial planning professional education.

We will establish a prioritisation system for continuing professional development (CPD), ensuring that all planners must identify the learning outcomes that will enable them to provide sound climate change advice through their practice and show how these outcomes are achieved in their CPD record. This process will be underpinned by our ongoing auditing of members CPD and, if needs be, through action taken under our Code of Professional Conduct.

Finally, we will approve training providers, warranting to planners that the training they undertake will be fit for purpose.