

SCRUTINY

**A Summary of Scrutiny 13
Meeting the Climate Change
Challenge - September 08**

**YORKSHIRE
AND
HUMBER
ASSEMBLY**
The Regional Strategic Partnership

Sea level in the UK has risen by an average 10 centimetres since 1900, contributing to coastal erosion.

Since the industrial revolution, the amount of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere has increased by 35%.

An estimated 40% of the greenhouse gas emissions in the UK are created by domestic heat, light and power and fossil-fuelled vehicles.

18% of the UK's power is generated by the power plants in Yorkshire and Humber.

In 2004, the Yorkshire and Humber region produced 13% of the UK's total greenhouse gas emissions - one of the highest rates in the English regions.

By the end of 2009, around 10% of the fuel co-fired at the Drax Power Plant will come from biomass (1.5 million tonnes of biomass each year).

Welcome to this short summary of our scrutiny review on Meeting the Climate Change Challenge in Yorkshire and Humber. Tackling the whole range of climate change issues and opportunities in relation to economic growth and other development is a massive challenge for our region.

This summary complements our full report as it provides a snapshot of the issues that we've looked at, and the recommendations we have made to Yorkshire Forward. It also details how Yorkshire Forward will deliver these recommendations. A copy of our full report can be obtained from the Assembly's Scrutiny Team or on our website, www.yhassembly.gov.uk

While there is a high degree of praise for Yorkshire Forward's Sustainable Development Team, and the projects that they have developed and funded to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the region, still more needs to be done. Clearly, Yorkshire Forward's commitment to a Lower Carbon Economy policy is a positive step in tackling the vital issue of climate change, and I firmly believe the review has shown some key lessons for how we can tackle the issue together.



Paul Jagger
*Deputy Chair of Yorkshire and Humber Assembly
Chair, Scrutiny Board*

Summary

The scrutiny review considered how Yorkshire Forward is addressing the issue of climate change in the Yorkshire and Humber region. Climate change is identified as a regional priority in the Regional Economic Strategy (RES), and the creation of a lower carbon economy is highlighted as a key element of the sustainable development crosscutting theme. The RES has set a key target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the region by 20% - 25% between 1990 and 2016.

The Scrutiny Board looked at three themes on climate change:

Climate Change Targets and Regional Performance

The Scrutiny Board looked at the climate change statutory targets which have emerged from UK and European legislation, and how they relate to the regional targets which Yorkshire has voluntarily set. The Board also considered how well the region is performing against these targets.

Balancing Climate Change Action and Economic Growth

The Scrutiny Board looked at the range of Yorkshire Forward initiatives which seek to alleviate the impact of climate change, and considered the extent to which Yorkshire Forward is able to de-couple economic growth from greenhouse gas emissions.

Adapting to Climate Change

The Scrutiny Board looked at the interventions that Yorkshire Forward and their partners are currently undertaking, or are planning to undertake, which will prepare the region for a changing global climate.

Recommendations

The Scrutiny Board has made ten recommendations on how activities to address climate change in the Yorkshire and Humber region should be developed.

Structures and Processes	What was recommended?	Yorkshire Forward's current activity	Yorkshire Forward's new activity
CLIMATE CHANGE TARGETS AND REGIONAL PERFORMANCE Key Findings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yorkshire Forward has exceeded the remit given to them by Government on addressing climate change issues The data on the carbon 'savings' made on projects is insufficiently gathered and communicated Yorkshire Forward needs to identify remedial activities with partners to ensure that the RES target is reached 	Recommendation 1 Yorkshire Forward should ensure that the Single Regional Strategy better aligns and clearly embeds climate change action and the development of a low carbon economy as a crosscutting theme.	<p>The need for this is set out in the SNR, which clearly states the need to implement reforms in a way that ensures we achieve growth that is environmentally sustainable and makes the transition to a low carbon economy.</p> <p>Yorkshire Forward is committed to the low carbon economy agenda and is currently developing thoughts on how best to promote low-carbon economic development through the new Integrated Regional Strategy.</p>	<p>In line with the outcomes of the SNR, develop a new Integrated Regional Strategy that is based on the principles of sustainable economic development and aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from economic growth through a range of activities. <i>September 2009-September 2011</i></p> <p>This will include prioritising climate change within strategy development, which will incorporate a comprehensive sustainability appraisal and strategic economic assessment. It will also build on the outcomes of the proposed DEFRA Transformation Fund activity which will aim to raise awareness of and build capacity in key regional issues including climate change.</p>
	Recommendation 2 Yorkshire Forward should develop their own dedicated Climate Change Delivery Plan to identify and communicate the climate change issues and actions that they will specifically deliver in the region, how they will develop a low carbon economy in Yorkshire and Humber, and their priority innovation and business support activities that will address climate change issues.	<p>The RES, our Corporate Plan and the Low Carbon Economy Policy Product Range already set out the rationale for developing a low carbon regional economy and our priority climate change actions, essentially forming a basis for this. The Low Carbon Economy Policy Product also sets out clear links to all other Policy Product areas.</p> <p>In view of this, we are currently developing a low carbon economy marketing strategy to identify the best way of communicating our ambitions, activities and best practice.</p>	<p>Deliver the low carbon economy marketing strategy in a way that ensures effective communication on our climate change aims and interventions.</p>
BALANCING CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH Key Findings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organisations and individuals are committed to taking action to develop a lower carbon economy in the region A more equal emphasis needs to be placed on economic, social and environmental factors There is widespread support for Yorkshire Forward's investment in newer and bigger environmental technologies 	Recommendation 3 Yorkshire Forward should develop their own set of output targets for their funding, against which they will measure changes in GVA, the region's economic performance, social well-being and quality of life, environmental progress and protection and carbon emissions reduction.	<p>Work with partners during 2008/09 to identify output targets and outcome measures which reflect our policy priorities in Yorkshire and Humber, including wider and complementary indicators of sustainable economic growth and prosperity such as carbon emissions, climate change adaptation and resource efficiency.</p>	<p>Monitor progress against these targets as part of IRS implementation. <i>September 2009</i></p>
	Recommendation 4 Yorkshire Forward should help to tackle the long-term under-investment in sustainable transport options in the region by strategically influencing Government in partnership with relevant organisations and agencies, to increase the level of national investment in transport, with additional spending ring-fenced for public transport and cycling improvements where there is evidenced need.	<p>We will continue to influence Government and other partners to ensure commitment to the region's long-term transport priorities, through developing the evidence base; influencing transport providers and operators; working with partners to invest in transport by exception and where there is genuine economic rational to do so; and achieving consensus on transport priorities.</p>	

Structures and Processes	What was recommended?	Yorkshire Forward's current activity	Yorkshire Forward's new activity
	<p>Recommendation 5 Yorkshire Forward should promote the use of sustainable development assessments in project development with other public agencies in the region, in order to develop best practice.</p>	<p>Continue to promote best practice and demonstrate the benefits of sustainability appraisal/assessment through publicising key achievements and raising awareness amongst our partners.</p>	<p>Further develop the assessment process to provide "tailor-made" advice for specific project types e.g. Public Realm or major cultural and sporting events.</p> <p>Continue to raise awareness and confidence in the process through further training for project managers.</p> <p>Research best practice to establish what more can be done to better integrate sustainable development into Single Pot projects.</p>
	<p>Recommendation 6 Yorkshire Forward should continue to adopt a strategic approach to support the development and deployment of renewable energy in a manner that benefits businesses and communities and results in best practice. Yorkshire Forward should ensure that this best practice is disseminated region wide so that it may be replicated.</p>	<p>Our work aligns with the Regional Energy Infrastructure Strategy which has the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) working with coal-fired power generators and Government to secure a clean coal project for the region (b) initiating a regional carbon capture and storage programme (c) Delivering the Biomass Action Plan (d) Delivering community scale energy systems (e) Demonstrating and deploying renewable energy technologies through Future Energy Yorkshire 	<p>We will progress delivery of the Regional Energy Infrastructure Strategy. This will include continuing to deliver Community Energy Solutions, lowering costs by facilitating installations and developing heat and power networks in large numbers. Biomass heat and power generation will be developed through the Vision for Biomass, and we will also help to deliver the region's Vision for Coal which recognises the importance of deploying cleaner coal technologies in existing and new plant to meet carbon reduction targets.</p>
	<p>Recommendation 7 Yorkshire Forward should work in partnership with local authorities to establish a pilot anaerobic digestion facility in the Yorkshire and Humber region as an alternative to waste incineration. Yorkshire Forward should also consider ways in which the region's businesses can be supported on dealing with commercial and industrial waste and in becoming more resource efficient.</p>	<p>Continue work in this area as well as a range of other aspects of waste management and minimisation, ensuring priority is placed on resource efficiency and waste management as set out in the National Waste Strategy (WS07) which strengthens Yorkshire Forward's role in these areas.</p>	<p>We will take a regional lead on implementing the National Waste Strategy (WS07) which strengthens our role in delivering resource efficiency and waste management and sets targets up to and including 2020 focusing specifically on business resource efficiency, integrating environmental business support into the wider business support activities of the region, developing the skills levels of practitioners and promoting integrated treatment facilities.</p> <p>More specifically we will continue to promote business competitiveness through reducing energy, raw material and waste consumption; addressing the problems around commercial and industrial waste facilities; providing support on resource efficiency in business; developing and promoting new waste and other environmental technologies; and supporting the region's recycling sector.</p>
<p>ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE</p> <p>Key Findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yorkshire Forward's work on the threat of flooding is commendable • More effort is needed to address ways in which temperature fluctuations can be managed • The consumption of energy and production of waste by businesses and residents must reduce if the region is to adapt to a changing climate 	<p>Recommendation 8 Yorkshire Forward should actively contribute to the Regional Adaptation Study and use the outcomes of the study to identify a programme of activities that are focused on adapting to the economic risks and opportunities presented by climate change.</p>	<p>Yorkshire Forward is committed to working in collaboration with partners to develop the Regional Adaptation Study. Yorkshire Forward is also currently undertaking research which will inform our activities on climate change adaptation.</p>	<p>Yorkshire Forward will use the outcomes of the Regional Adaptation Study to support the development of the Integrated Regional Strategy. Yorkshire Forward will also work with partners on the development of adaptation approaches and action in the region to address the economic and social impacts of climate change.</p>
	<p>Recommendation 9 Yorkshire Forward should ensure that the Best Practice publication clearly explains how new technologies have been used in the construction of buildings in the region, the costs involved, the impact that the technology has had on carbon emissions and how these can be easily replicated in other regions. The publication should also include examples of best practice that originated in other regions and countries and how these have been replicated in Yorkshire and Humber.</p>	<p>Continue to develop the best practice publication taking into account the Scrutiny recommendation.</p>	<p>Publish and promote the document to raise awareness of Yorkshire Forward's approach to sustainable construction and encourage best practice within the region and beyond. <i>December 2008</i></p>
	<p>Recommendation 10 Yorkshire Forward should formally investigate the costs and practicalities involved in developing a regional carbon budget and carbon currency. Yorkshire Forward should also look at how the region's business community can be advised and supported to make a Carbon Reduction Commitment.</p>	<p>We have recently commissioned research on regional carbon budget and currency issues and will implement the recommendations as appropriate.</p> <p>We also support regional businesses to increase competitiveness, take advantage of the opportunities for innovation and meet regional climate change targets. However, our business support activity will not provide financial support in meeting the Carbon Reduction Commitment or any other legislation which is part of business statutory duty.</p>	<p>With regional partners, implement the outcomes and requirements of the Climate Change Bill once it is passed into legislation. <i>Expected to receive Royal Assent Summer 2008.</i></p> <p>Develop and implement the recommendations of research on regional carbon currency as appropriate.</p> <p>Continue to promote the reduction of emissions from business, through both our work on resource efficiency as delivered through the new Business Link IDB model and through the activities of the Sustainable Futures Company.</p>

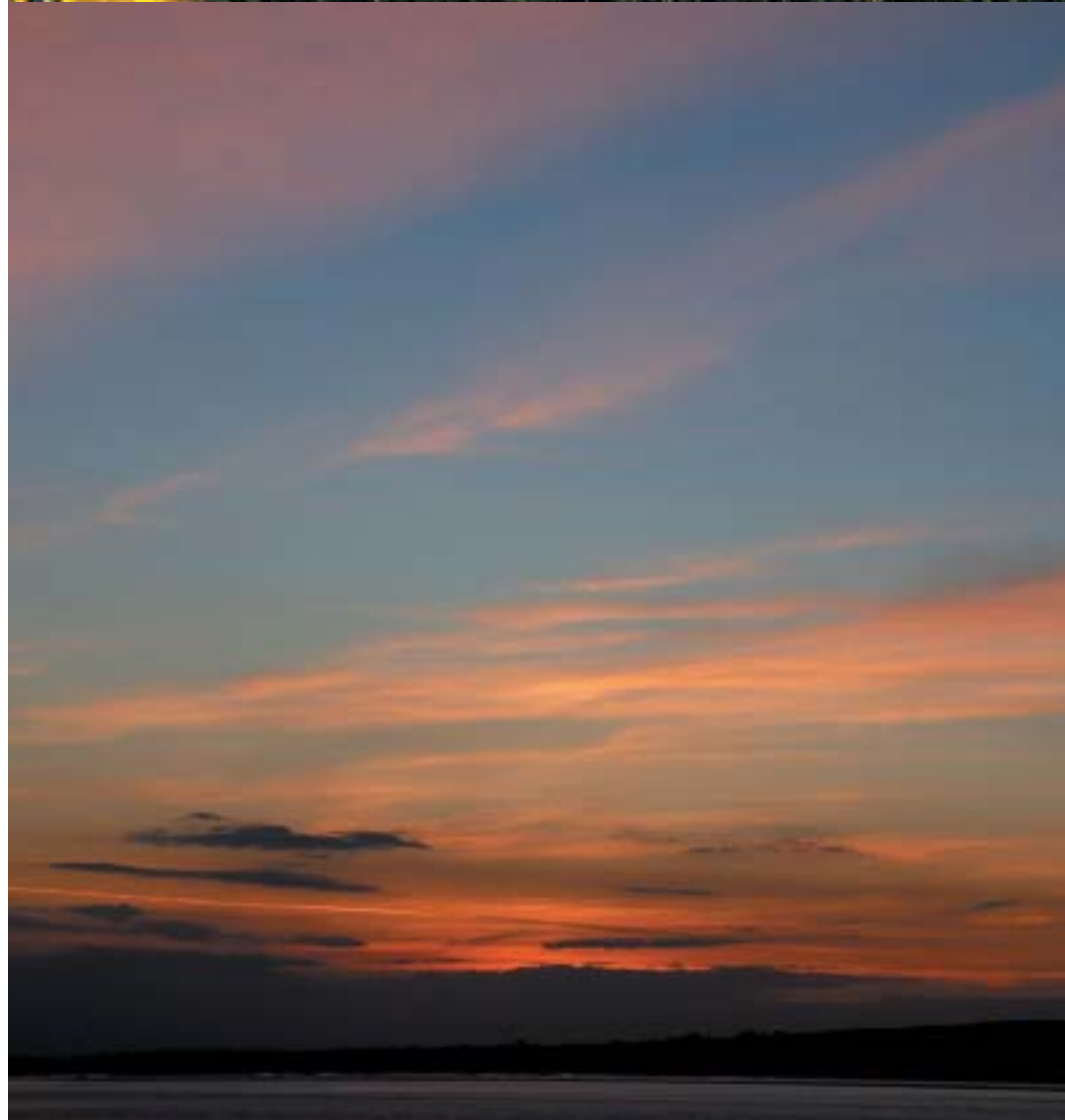
The Assembly's Scrutiny Role

The Assembly has a statutory responsibility to scrutinise how Yorkshire Forward spends its money. Each year we undertake detailed scrutiny reviews on a specific part of the Regional Economic Strategy (RES). The purpose of these reviews is to ensure that Yorkshire Forward is accountable to the region, and that it is achieving the best possible results for the region's economy.

We have completed twelve other scrutiny reviews to date. Since July 2006, the scrutiny reviews have been undertaken by our standing Scrutiny Board. The Scrutiny Board consists of up to eight Assembly members, who are nominated by the Assembly at the Annual General Meetings. The members include the standing Chair of the Scrutiny Board, core Scrutiny Board members, a nominated representative of the Sustainable Development Board, and up to two co-opted members who can provide previous scrutiny experience or knowledge of the scrutiny topic.

We have used a number of methods to obtain the views and comments of partners, business representatives, the voluntary and community sector and residents across Yorkshire and Humber, on the subject of climate change. These methods have included a Public Discussion with Yorkshire Forward, a series of consultative interviews with partners and businesses, written requests for questions and comments, and a two-week consultation on the review's early findings. We also held a focus group meeting, and met with the Yorkshire and the Humber Tenants and Residents Federation.

If you would like to know more about any aspect of the process used, or would like to see the information and data gathered during this review, further detail can be found in the 'Scrutiny' section of our website www.yhassembly.gov.uk



The Assembly's Scrutiny Board

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Yorkshire and Humber Chambers of Commerce

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We would like to thank the following organisations and individuals for contributing their views and comments on Meeting the Climate Change Challenge:

- Appleton and Spaunton Community Energy
- Bradford Metropolitan District Council
- Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
- Campaign to Protect Rural England
- Climate Action in Calderdale
- CRESR, Sheffield Hallam University
- DLA Piper UK LLP
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council
- Forestry Commission
- Forum for the Future
- Friends of Queen Park
- Friends of the Earth
- Hambleton District Council
- Harmsworth, Townley & Co Ltd
- Highfield Technical Assurance Services Ltd
- Humber Industry Nature Conservation Association (INCA)
- Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) Yorkshire and Humber
- Keighley Furniture Project
- Leeds City Council
- Leeds University - School of Geography
- Leeds Voice, Environment Forum
- National Housing Federation
- Natural England
- Network Accent Alliance
- North East Lincolnshire Council
- North Lincolnshire Council
- North Yorkshire County Council
- Pennine Prospects
- Permaculture Association (Britain)
- Renewable Energy Association
- Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
- Ryedale District Council
- Ryedale Energy Conservation Group
- Sheffield City Council
- Sheffield Hallam University
- South Yorkshire Housing Association
- The Woodland Trust
- Tockwith with Wilstrop Parish Council
- University of Leeds
- University of Sheffield
- University of York
- Wakefield and District Housing
- Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
- World Development Movement Leeds
- YHEEMG
- York Environment Forum
- Yorkshire and Humber Regional Energy Forum
- Yorkshire and Humber Regional Environment Forum
- Yorkshire and the Humber Tenants and Residents Federation

In addition, we would like to thank the 15 members of the public who gave their time to contribute their views and comments to the scrutiny review.



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