

CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCE

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing us. The UK will experience increased flooding, heat waves, drought, coastal erosion, sea-level rises and storm surges. The Liverpool City Region's greatest risk from a changing climate is surface water flooding, due to heavier rainfall patterns.

The most vulnerable members of society often produce least emissions. Typically, these include elderly people, deprived communities with low incomes, people living in rented accommodation or poor quality housing and communities that lack awareness of the risks of climate change, or the capacity to adapt. Action on climate change requires a co-ordinated response. Many of the initiatives described in this brochure and during Year of the Environment (such as renewable energy projects, investing in low emission vehicles and preparing a City Region Air Quality Strategy), will have a positive effect on mitigating (reducing) and adapting to the effects of climate change.

What we are doing about it

- Incorporating natural flood risk management and sustainable drainage solutions into new housing, commercial and road developments
- Avoiding building on flood plains and in areas at risk from coastal and river flooding and, working with the Environment Agency, Catchment Partnerships and Local Flood Risk Management partners
- With partners such as United Utilities, investing hundreds of millions of pounds in our water supply and water treatment infrastructure to reduce leaks and resolve sewer flooding
- Incorporating tree planting and natural habitat creation into our city and town centres to adapt to warmer summers (the urban heating effect)
- Choosing climate change resilient species to plant in public places, public parks and gardens
- Preparing local climate resilience strategies and providing guidance to households and communities to be more prepared for extreme weather events (<http://merseysideprepared.org.uk/about-us/> and <https://thefloodhub.co.uk/>)
- Implementing Local Coast Defence Strategies and working with coastal change to protect vulnerable communities and assets

What you can do about it

- Green your commute - take public transport, ride a bike, car-share or use an electric vehicle
- Get a water butt and re-use rainwater in your garden
- Turn down your thermostat - reducing your household temperature by 1°C will reduce emissions and save money
- Washing your laundry at 30°C can save you 40% of the electricity used to wash at 40°C and always wash a full load
- Use porous surfaces (driveways and patios) to soak away heavy rain and not overload the road and drain systems
- Check Year of the Environment activities / events calendar to get more involved