

The Climate Crisis

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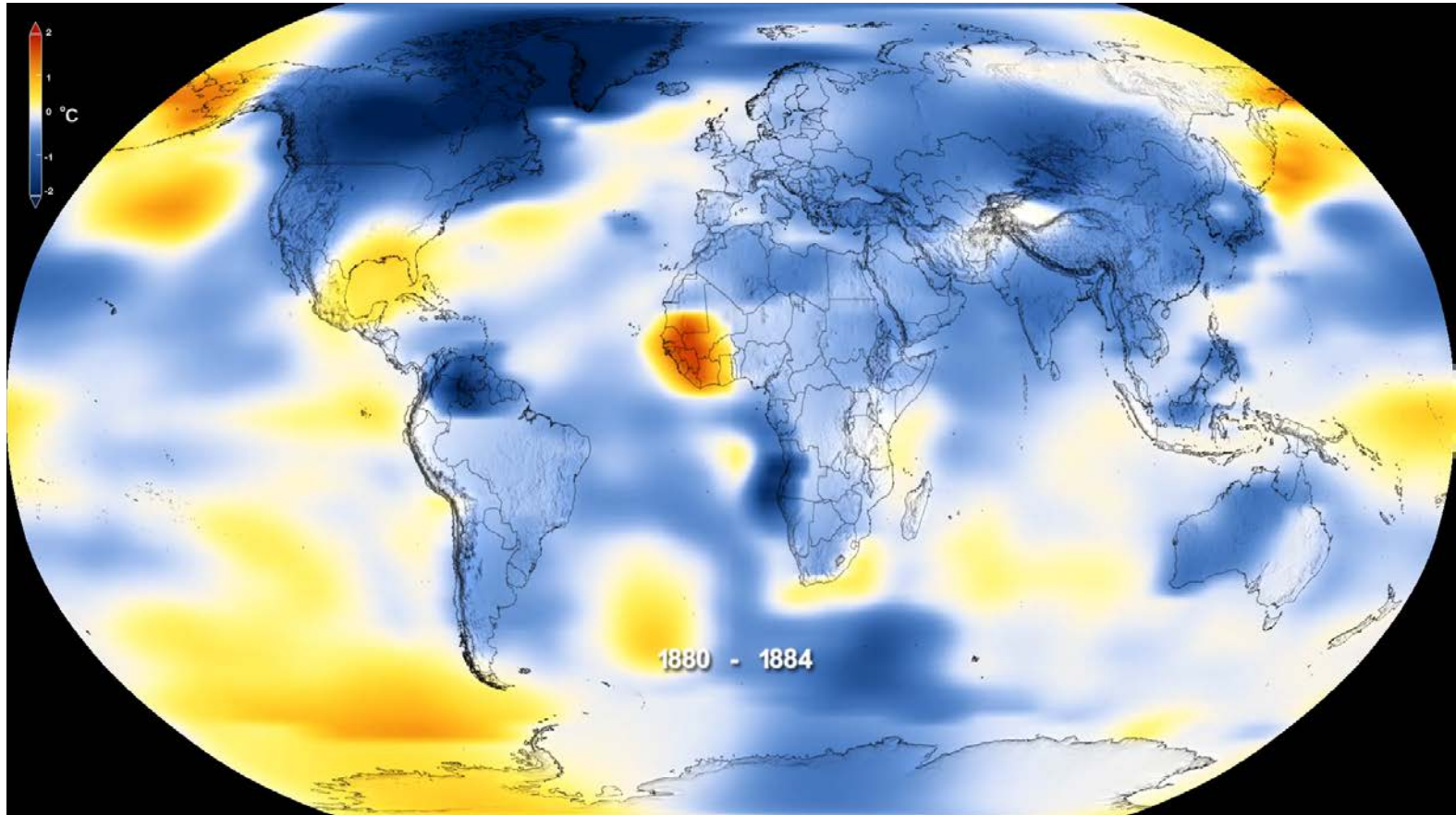


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The challenge

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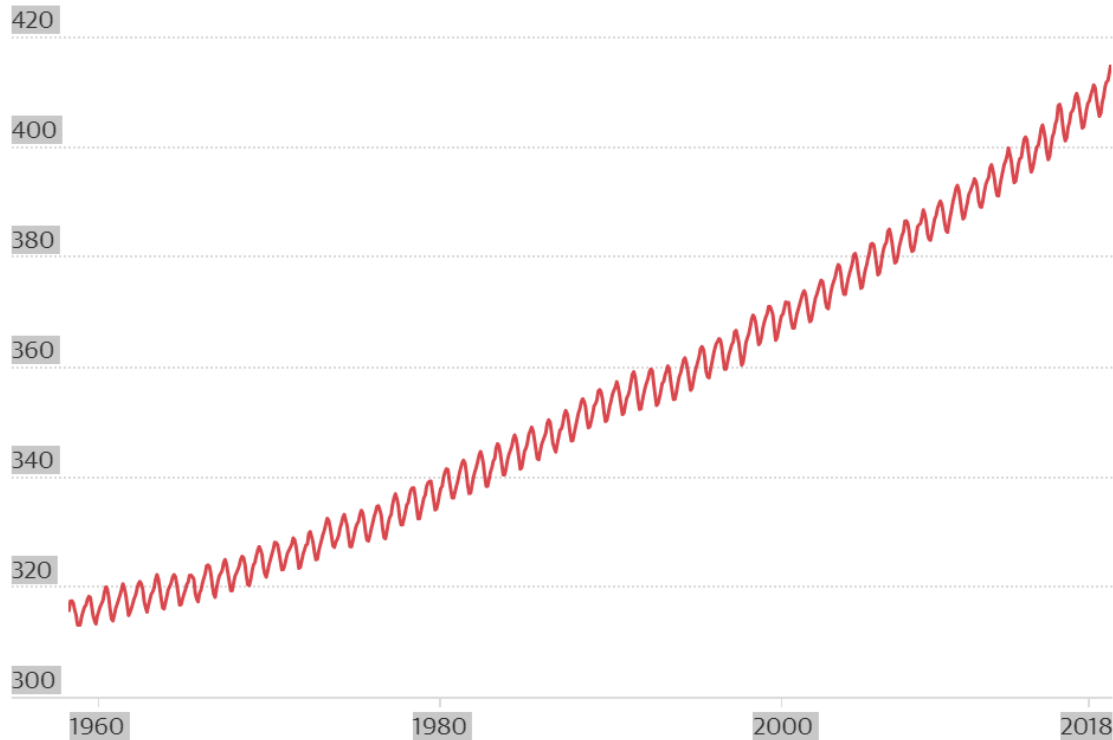


The challenge

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Atmospheric CO₂ rose to a record level in May

CO₂ levels (ppm) are being driven up by human activities but vary with the season



Guardian graphic | Source: US Earth System Research Laboratory, measurements from Mauna Loa, Hawaii

414 ppm
– game
over?



Zero Carbon Commitments

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Kent County Council: The Energy and Low Emissions Strategy outlines the plans for all of Kent to reach zero emissions by 2050 (consultation closed Sept 2019).

Ashford Borough Council: In July 2019, committed to being carbon neutral by 2030, with an 85% reduction in carbon emissions by 2025.

Dover District Council: Declared a climate emergency on November 4th 2019, and the council itself committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2030 and the district by 2050.



The ingredients of success

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- Political leadership
- Corporate prioritisation
- Strong community engagement
- Clear evidence base
- Strong policy with deliverable targets
- Innovation around viability
- Effective monitoring and review

Role of the planning system

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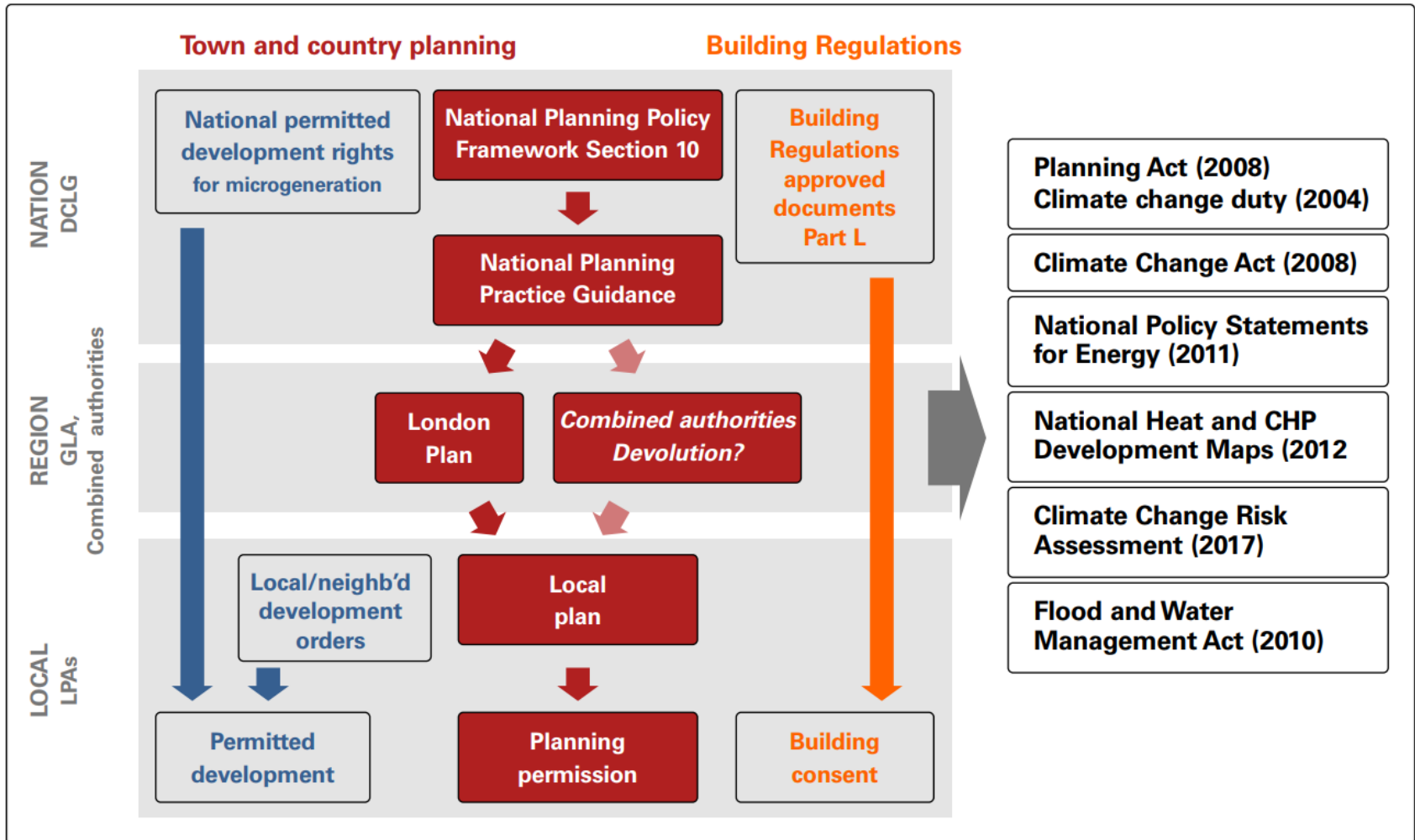


Figure 1 The relationship between planning and climate change considerations in the English planning system



Legislative underpinning

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- Town & Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by 5 later primary planning acts!
- Plus multiple regulations
- But other legislation also touches on planning

Planning outcome-based duties

1. Sustainable development
2. Good design
3. Climate change

NPPF core planning principles

Paragraph 8 of the NPPF makes clear that ‘mitigating and adapting to climate change’ is a core planning objective. To be in conformity with the NPPF, local plans should reflect this principle, ensuring that planning policy clearly and comprehensively deals with climate change mitigation and adaptation. The NPPF also highlights climate change as key part of Strategic planning policy which local authorities are legally obliged to set out in their local plans (see paragraph 20 of the NPPF).



NPPF (2018)

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Paragraph 148 of the NPPF underlines that tackling climate change is central to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The NPPF (in paragraph 149 and accompanying footnote 48) expects LPAs to adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change, in line with the Climate Change Act 2008 and section 19 of the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act .

This has the effect of making the objective of net zero carbon dioxide emissions by 2050 clearly relevant to the discharge of the duty on planning authorities to shape policy which reduces carbon dioxide emissions. As a result, planning authorities will need a clear grasp of their carbon profile, and their policy should support 'radical' reductions in carbon dioxide emissions. The NPPG supports this approach.







The planet saving local plan

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How on earth do we do this?

- Assessment tools and base line;
- Ensure we are 'carbon literate';
- Embed assessment of policy options in SEA;
- Select the right package of policy;
- Defend the policy based on evidence and legal duty. Objections to a policy must offer alternatives of equal carbon effectiveness.



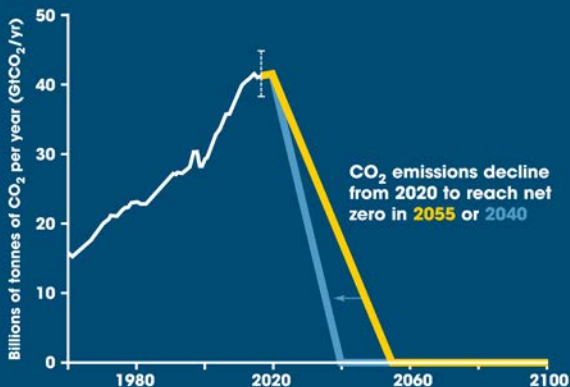
Guidance for local authorities

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Rising to the Climate Crisis

A Guide for Local Authorities on Planning for Climate Change



Supported by



Supported by:

BRE, Floodline Consulting, the EPICURO project, Third Revolution Projects



'Rising to the Climate Crisis – A Guide for Local Authorities on Planning for Climate Change', available at:

www.tcpa.org.uk/planning-for-climate-change



Planning for Climate Change – Law and Policy Briefing

Local planning authorities in England are required to take strong, outcome-focused action on climate change, but delivery on the ground remains slow. This briefing outlines the key overarching legislative and policy requirements, with some aspects also applying in other parts of the UK and EU. In particular, it addresses:

- the law applying to Development Plan Documents and Spatial Development Strategies;
- the law relating to Strategic Environmental Assessment; and
- national planning policy and guidance.

Published September 2019

This briefing supports *Rising to the Climate Crisis: A Guide for Local Authorities on Planning for Climate Change*, which was produced by the TCPA and RTPI in 2018.

<https://www.tcpa.org.uk/planning-for-climate-change>

Law applying to Development Plan Documents and Spatial Development Strategies

Section 19(1A) of the Planning and Compulsory

Purchase Act 2004 provides that:

Development plan documents must (taken as a whole) include policies designed to secure that the development and use of land in the local planning authority's area contribute to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.'

This obligation – introduced through the Planning Act 2008 alongside the Climate Change Act 2008 – makes climate mitigation and adaptation central principles of plan-making.

Plan policies must be 'designed to secure' the outcomes in question, which requires a number of things in practice. In respect of emissions ('mitigation'), these include:

- a robust assessment of the potential for local policy to achieve local emissions reductions over the plan period, taking into account the UK's net zero commitment under the Climate Change Act;
- a local target set in accordance with that potential;
- an assessment of proposed policies' consistency with that target; and

- a monitoring framework using relevant indicators to track the performance of adopted policies (i.e. for reporting at least annually as part of the Annual Monitoring Report process).

The same requirements flow from the obligations that apply to Spatial Development Strategies (see, for example, the *Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (Functions and Amendment) Order 2017, Schedule 1*). In particular, in exercising their planning functions, combined authorities are required to:

- 'have regard to –*
- (a) *the National Planning Policy Framework;*
 - (b) *the effect that the proposed spatial development strategy or revision would have on –*
....
 - (iii) *the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom;*
 - (iv) *climate change and the consequences of climate change;*
 - (v) *the need to ensure that the strategy is consistent with national policies and the EU obligations of the United Kingdom...'*

This commentary is brief and at a high level and should not be relied upon as legal advice – anyone needing such advice should consult a solicitor or other authorised person.

'Planning for Climate Change – Law and Policy Briefing', available at:

www.tcpa.org.uk/planning-for-climate-change



APSE Energy

Local Authority Climate Emergency Declarations

*Strategic and practical considerations
for climate emergency declarations,
targets and action plans*

<https://www.apse.org.uk/apse/index.cfm/local-authority-energy-collaboration/apse-energy-publications1/local-authority-climate-emergency-declarations/#>



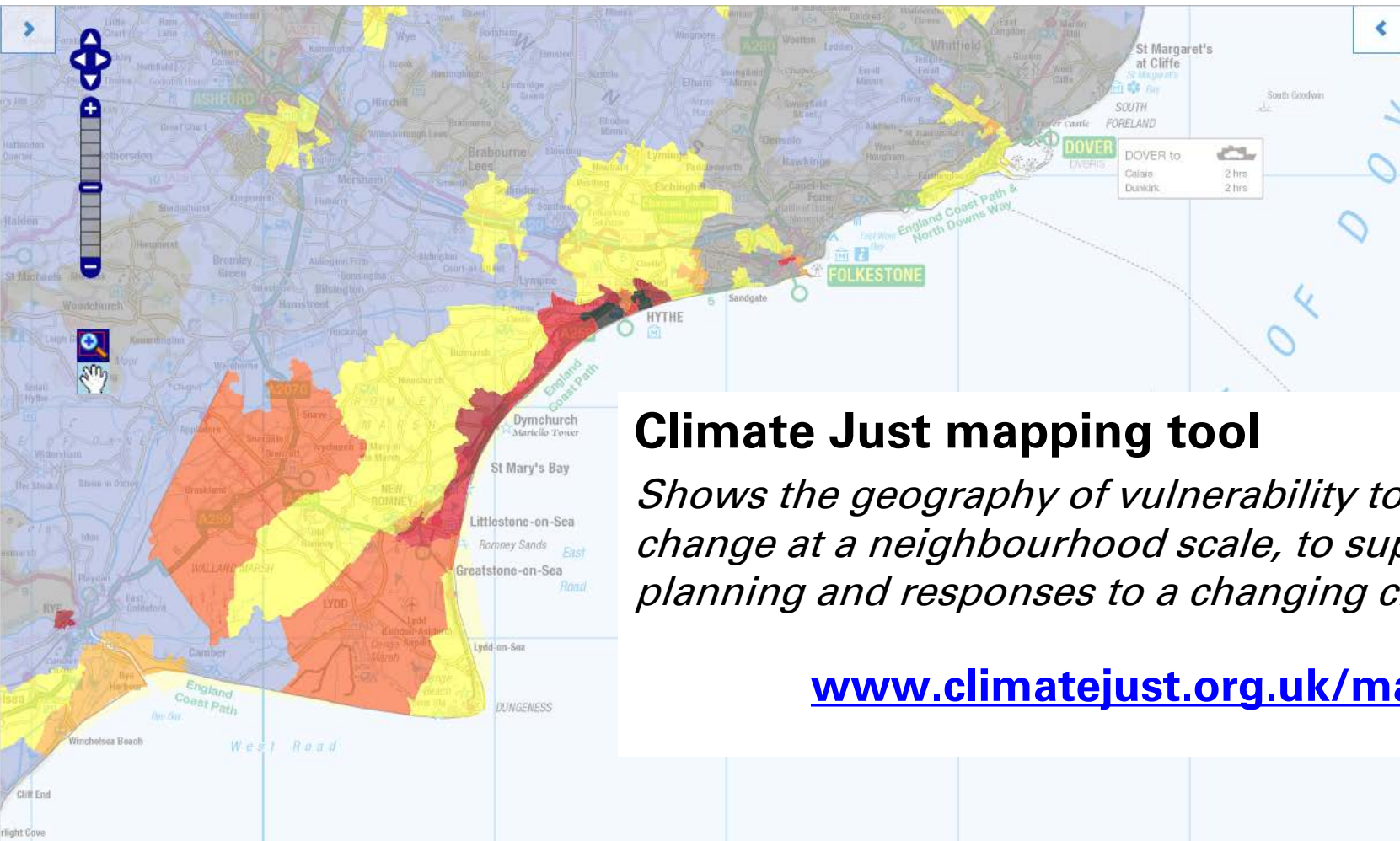
CATAPULT Energy Systems

**Energy Systems Catapult
Local Area Energy Planning**
*Supporting clean growth and low
carbon transition*

Published December 2018

<https://es.catapult.org.uk/news/6952/>

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www.climatejust.org.uk/map



Other resources

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Tyndall°Centre
for Climate Change Research

SCATTER (Setting City Area Targets and Trajectories for Emission Reduction)

UK city-focused low carbon pathway model

- *Provides a free tool to support local authorities and city regions to standardise their greenhouse gas reporting and set targets in line with the Paris Climate Agreement.*
- *Piloted by Greater Manchester in 2018.*
- *BEIS has funded Nottingham City Council to test updates to the tool.*
- *Final version will be released in Autumn 2019.*

GMCA GREATER
MANCHESTER
COMBINED
AUTHORITY

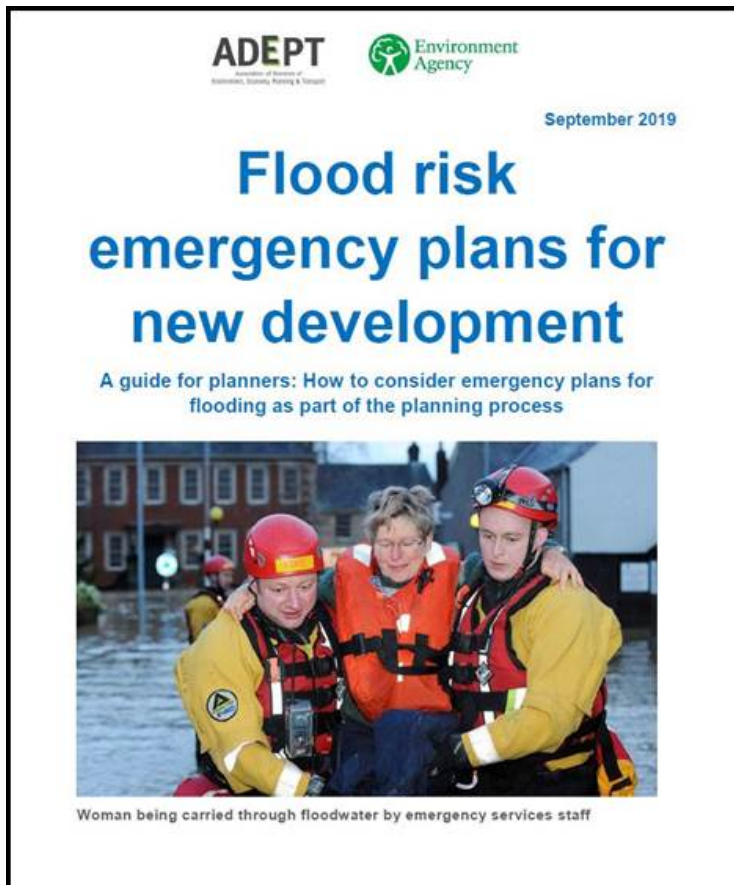


Nottingham

City Council

 **Anthesis**

<https://scattercities.com/>



Flood Risk Emergency Plans for New Development ADEPT/Environment Agency

- *Aimed at local authority planners*
- *To help understand when they should be asking for planning applications to be supported by flood risk emergency plans and what should be included in them.*

www.adeptnet.org.uk/floodriske_mergencyplan



Other resources

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CSE resources

For free support, contact: neighbourhoodplanning@cse.org.uk

www.cse.org.uk/neighbourhoodplanning

