

## Climate change is here today

Global average temperature has already risen by around 1°C since pre-industrial levels and climate risks are increasingly apparent.

Annual average temperature in England has also increased by 1°C and will keep increasing – by only 0.5°C by 2100 if the world acts quickly and decisively to cut emissions, but by 4°C+ if current trends continue. We must therefore plan adaptation strategies for a minimum of 2°C and up to 4°C.

### UK global leadership on climate change must go hand in hand with domestic action



In line with the Paris Agreement, the UK has legislated to become the first major economy to set a net-zero greenhouse gas emissions target by 2050.



Other countries (e.g. France, New Zealand, Sweden) have moved to adopt net-zero targets of their own, while still more (e.g. the EU) are considering them for the future.



As expected host of the COP in 2020, the UK's credibility rests on more effective action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero, and effective planning for climate change adaptation at realistic temperature scenarios.

Despite well-intentioned ambition the UK has fallen behind in progress to tackle and prepare for climate change



**Only a handful** of sectors have plans that consider a **minimum of 2°C**

– water supply, road and rail, flood defences and flood risk planning for infrastructure.



#### Preparing for Climate Change

England is not prepared for the impacts of a **2°C** increase in global and UK temperature, let alone a **4°C** temperature increase.



#### Tackling Climate Change

Current policies and plans are **insufficient** to meet the **fourth** or **fifth** carbon budgets (covering 2023-2027 and 2028-2032).



The government has delivered **just 1** policy action **out of 25** recommended by the Committee in 2018.



**12** of **33** sectors have **no plans** for long-term climate change at all, including aspects of agriculture, the natural environment, health, infrastructure and business.



Of **24** indicators showing underlying progress, **just 7** were on track in 2018.



**None** of the **33** priority areas score well in reducing vulnerability and exposure to climate risk.



The required annual rate of emissions reduction for Net Zero is **50% higher** than under the UK's previous 2050 target and **30% higher** than has been achieved on average since 1990.

#### Key messages to Government on preparing for climate change:



Climate change will impact the majority of Government's key objectives. All relevant policies should include plans which take into account a minimum of a 2°C temperature increase, with consideration of more extreme scenarios.



Leaving adaptation responses to local communities and organisations without a strategic national plan will not manage the risks from climate change. That strategic plan is still missing.



The Government must raise the profile, and ramp up resources for adaptation. It should take action on all of the urgent risks set out in the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment, and improve monitoring of risk, action and the impacts of climate change.

#### Key messages to Government on tackling climate change:



Embed net-zero policy across all levels and departments of government, with strong leadership at the centre.



Provide a clear and stable direction for policy to ensure it is business-friendly. People must be engaged in the challenge and policy designed with their needs in mind.



Use the UK's new net-zero target to help encourage increased effort elsewhere, including adoption of similar targets by other developed countries in the EU and beyond.