

Domestic solar thermal scheme in Grantham



This flyer summarises the current **Climate East Midlands Skills Programme**, a source of support being commissioned for local authorities and communities and that will be delivered during 2011/12.

The programme has been developed in consultation with local authority officers and members. It builds on the history of collaboration and shared achievement amongst the region's city, county and district councils, which began in 2007 when we became the first region with all authorities as signatories to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change.

Communities and Local Government department (CLG) have provided £950k for the East Midlands, as part of a national programme, with all English regions receiving a similar sum. This builds on the Climate Change Best Practice programme, which was funded by the Department for Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) which will be completed by March 2011.

**Climate East Midlands** is one of a family of twelve Climate Change Partnerships in the English regions and the devolved administrations that are supported by central government.

### Programme Aim

The Skills Programme will build skills and capacity across a range of local authority responsibilities needed to tackle climate change. Broadly, the funding is to support the decentralisation of power to the local level by

- enhancing the skills and knowledge planners need, including planning for increased renewable energy supply
- encouraging local communities to take positive action on climate change.

Through collaborative projects, it may be used to support local authorities for the following purposes:

- facilitating the delivery of increased renewable energy supply through the activities of planning departments
- allowing planning departments to promote better community engagement in the planning process, including renewables
- helping local authorities more broadly, including training for members and on adaptation to climate change

### East Midlands Programme

The current programme comprises the seven strands below which are described overleaf. Some are more developed than others and an up to date version of the programme will be maintained on the Climate East Midlands website (address below).

1. **Planners' Climate Change Toolkit**
2. **Community Skills**
3. **Inspiring Leaders**
4. **Cutting Costs and Carbon**
5. **Schools Collaboration on Resource Efficiency (SCoRE)**
6. **Well Adapting East Midlands**
7. **Climate Peer Reviews**

### For more information

Please visit [www.climate-em.org.uk/projects/skills-programme](http://www.climate-em.org.uk/projects/skills-programme) or speak to Anne Gayfer or Mike Peverill

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## 1. Planners' Climate Change Toolkit

CAG Consultants will deliver a series of training events for planners, based on a toolkit developed and piloted in the South West, but tailored to East Midlands planners' requirements. *Contact: Anne Gayfer*

## 2. Community Skills

This strand of the Skills Programme contains three elements designed to support the development of climate change skills within local communities and is managed by Groundwork East Midlands:

- Developing structured support for local communities to enable them to make informed decisions and meaningful input to planning applications that feature renewable energy, low carbon, and adaptation proposals.
- Providing customised support for up to 5 communities to build on the existing Climate Friendly Communities network, and to share best practice on how to develop a low carbon and climate resilient community.
- Upskilling individuals or organisations in remote communities (off the mains gas network) to be able to heat their homes efficiently and lower their carbon footprint.

*Contact: Anne Gayfer*

## 3. Inspiring Leaders

This project is designed to support decision makers who have responsibility for climate change. A wide ranging series of organised visits will take place to sites around the East Midlands that will help illustrate both the issues involved in tackling climate change locally and also some of the emerging solutions. These events will inform, inspire and challenge councillors and officers via expert input and facilitated discussion to draw out the key learning points for all involved.

*Contact: Mike Peverill*

## 4. Cutting Costs and Carbon

This strand contains four projects

- The Carbon Trust have analysed East Midlands authorities' carbon management plans to identify measures that will have high impact but that have not yet been implemented. Specialist consultants will deliver **detailed implementation events** to identify barriers and move these opportunities towards feasibility stage. Each one of these events will look in detail at one particular technology or technique.
- The second element of this strand looks at the broader challenge of reducing carbon emissions from the wider community and involves the application of **specialist carbon modelling software** across the East Midlands. This will enable councils to work out in detail how to achieve long term carbon reduction targets through a combination of realistic measures.

- The Carbon Trust are leading a **decentralised energy project** that will build on a DECC funded regional energy and heat mapping study. Decentralised energy provides heating/cooling energy to a group of buildings and can be served by a range of technologies, including micro-renewables. The aim is that the project will identify around five suitable schemes that can be taken through to feasibility stage and be linked up with private sector funders.
- A **hydropower scoping study** will be led by Climate East Midlands to assess lessons learned from existing hydropower schemes, around life span and generating capacity, for example. A second part of the project will look at the cumulative environmental and cost benefits of weir removal, river restoration, and potential benefits for understanding responsibilities under the Water Framework Directive.

*Contact: Anne Gayfer*

## 5. Schools Collaboration on Resource Efficiency (SCoRE)

Driven in part by the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme, this bespoke project for the East Midlands will be delivered by the Carbon Trust. It is designed to support local authorities in reducing carbon emissions and improving resource efficiency on the school estate. The project will work with small groups of schools, up-skilling site managers and energy managers to build local authority capacity to be able to rollout and exchange emerging best practice across their remaining school estate.

*Contact: Anne Gayfer*

## 6. Well Adapting East Midlands

Ongoing support will be provided to local authorities and their partners to develop their adaptive capacity. This will include the development of online tools and resources, evidence to support adaptation in the community and the exchange of best practice.

*Contact: Mike Peverill*

## 7. Climate Peer Reviews

Based on the Local Government Improvement and Development benchmarking tool, and tools developed locally, Climate East Midlands will organise a programme of climate peer reviews. Small teams of peers drawn from different authorities will conduct short intensive reviews of other councils, offering a two way learning opportunity.

*Contact: Anne Gayfer*