

Press Release – From the Mayor of London

London learns from other cities on adapting to climate change

The Mayor of London was today (Tuesday 18th July) launched a report examining how other world cities are adapting to climate change and which makes recommendations for action London can take.

The '[Lessons for London](#)' report looks at cities across the world that are presently dealing with climatic conditions that London could experience in decades to come. The report highlights the lessons that London can learn from, for example, how Melbourne is managing its water resources efficiently, and how Shanghai and Philadelphia are adapting to city heatwaves. Climate change means that London is likely to start seeing an increasing risk of flooding, higher temperatures and more demand on already limited water resources. The report by the London Climate Change Partnership considers what other international cities are doing to manage climate change and extreme weather risks and makes key recommendations to national, regional and London local government, the Environment Agency, the water industry and health practitioners to help London and Londoners prepare for climate change.

It highlights the importance of [city-wide](#) planning such as through the London Plan and partnership working between different organisations, and across geographic boundaries. It advises that the retrofit of climate adaptation measures to existing buildings and infrastructure presents a real challenge for London and [there](#) needs to be a focus on how this can be done effectively. It suggests that the opportunities for 'climate-proofing' new development should be driven through the planning process.

The report identifies where building's design features – such as green roofs and new parks can provide a win- win solution to climate change, reducing flood risk, cooling the city and providing amenity and biodiversity benefits.

Mayor of London Ken Livingstone said: 'Climate change is at the top of my agenda, which is why last week I asked Transport for London to bring forward plans to tackle the problem of cars with high carbon emissions.

'We have to do more to adapt to the changes in our climate – such as less water and higher temperatures in summer, that are already with us. I would like to thank the London Climate Change Partnership for producing this report. It is important that London looks and learns from the best international examples, adopting those, which work well, and sharing our knowledge with the rest of the world.'

Gerry Acher, Chair of the London Climate Change Partnership said: 'As London swelters in some of the highest temperatures on record, the London Climate Change Partnership is working to help London prepare for its

changing climate. We have commissioned this report on the different measures cities around the world are taking to protect their citizens and their economies and hope that the organisations identified in our recommendations take action now to ensure that London is adapting to the impacts of climate change.

Jane Milne, Head of Property for the Association of British Insurers, said: 'It is vital that London is prepared for the impact of climate change. The increased risks of flooding, drought and heat within the next 50 years will mean that we will need new, innovative ways of dealing with the threats posed by climate change. We must learn from global experience to ensure a vibrant future for London, a goal ABI shares with our colleagues in the London Climate Change Partnership.'

Notes to Editors

1. The London Climate Change Partnership was set up in 2001 and its aim is to help London prepare for the opportunities and challenges of inevitable climate change. The Partnership is comprised of public, private and voluntary sector members working together. These include: Government Office for London, the Environment Agency, Thames Water plc, the Association of British Insurers, the Corporation of London, the Association of London Government, the London Sustainability Exchange, the London Development Agency, Transport for London, Thames Gateway London Partnership and the Housing Corporation. Further information about the London Climate Change Partnership is available at:
www.london.gov.uk/climatechangepartnership
2. The London Climate Change Partnership commissions research into the impacts of climate change and encourages its members and key stakeholders to routinely integrate climate change into their business plans and delivery strategies.
3. The Partnership has undertaken research into the following:
Adapting to climate change: a checklist for development
Climate change and London's transport systems.
London's warming. The impacts of climate change on London.
These can be downloaded from
www.london.gov.uk/climatechangepartnership
4. The report was prepared for the London Climate Change Partnership by acclimatise. Acclimatise is a specialist climate risk management consultancy that helps organisations understand the threats, opportunities and costs of climate variability and climate change. For further information please contact: Dr Richenda Connell, Development Director, acclimatise T: 07909 840731E: r.connell@acclimatise.uk.com