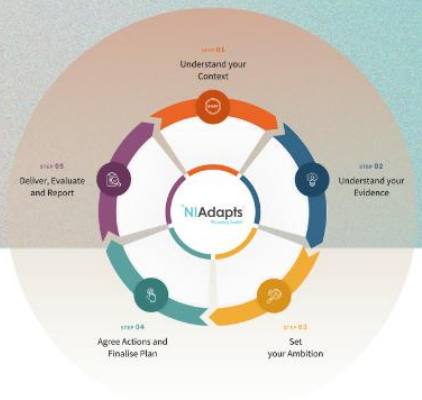

Supporting Document - Examples of Adaptation Actions

In the NI Adapts Step 3 Action Plan guide, you were advised to build a longlist of actions, starting by considering actions which reduce physical impacts for priority risks and then moving on to think about actions which build your adaptive capacity as an organisation.

1. EU – Adaptation Options Search

This resource provides a comprehensive catalogue of climate adaptation options, which are strategies and actions aimed at addressing climate impacts.

Users can explore options by selecting specific climate impacts, sectors, or categories, and learn from practical case studies implemented across Europe. The resource also offers tools to help identify, compare, and prioritise adaptation options.

Learn more about Adaptation Options on Climate ADAPT here.

2. Actions considered in other plans

The following list details examples of adaptation actions you could consider. It is not exhaustive, nor suggesting specific phrasing, but merely cataloguing a list of actions to consider based on other analyses.[1] You may also want to research climate action plans from similar organisations to yours for additional inspiration.

Skills and Communication

- Develop organisation-wide communication and decision structures to raise capacity in addressing climate change impacts on the local area and promote the benefits of proactively planning for adaptation.
- Provide climate change training to employees and volunteers: how is my service at risk from climate change and how can this be addressed?
- Provide climate change training and engage with senior leaders.
- Raise awareness of climate change impacts in schools and youth groups
- Organising summits and workshops to demonstrate best practice
- Increase awareness of climate change and the need to adapt with key stakeholders and with employees
- Raise public awareness of climate change impacts
- Raise awareness of flooding and disruption due to weather

Evidence and Resource

- Review key financial levers such as procurement with consideration for how they demonstrate climate resilience.
- Assess the cost of staff overtime and downstream costs for a given emergency, to inform future business cases.
- Investigating supply chain resilience and locality
- Adaptation considerations in Economic impact assessments
- Developing new and existing streams of funding
- Costing climate change risks and impacts
- Develop an information baseline for a given asset, area or service.
- Develop an information management system including reporting mechanism to record damages, increased staffing and resource costs associated with severe weather events and gradual change.
- Undertake audit of property & assets – assess risk from flooding, heat, storms.
- Undertake climate risk and opportunities assessment for all council capital projects
- Work with universities to conduct research to determine the future evolution of vulnerability at the local scale.
- Coordinate with spatially adjoining local authorities to map out future climate risk across the region.

Behaviour

- Influence behavioural change encouraging staff to become more socially responsible
- Behavioural change in relation to transportation
- Increase promotion of sustainable behaviours

Buildings and Infrastructure

- Construction of sea walls or tidal barrages in response to a sea-level rise.
- Replacement of traditional sprinkler systems with drip-feed irrigation schemes in the face of water shortages.
- Inspecting and maintaining roofs and ensuring they are watertight
- Developing smart buildings
- Increasing efficiency of buildings
- Maintenance of drainage infrastructure
- Assessing risks of extreme weather on highway infrastructure
- Efforts to reinstate dune systems to act as buffers against coastal storm damage.
- Creation of green spaces and parks to counteract urban heat island effects.

Governance

- Delivering and reporting on climate action plan
- Recruiting a climate change strategy post
- Updating business continuity plans
- Reviewing and updating service plans
- Including climate change risks on corporate and service risk registers
- Implementing sustainability working groups
- Work with staff to create grounds for local wildlife
- Updating policies to improve employee involvement
- Local flood management plans
- Developing/continuing flood protection schemes and studies
- Assessing impacts of extreme weather
- Reviewing severe weather plans
- Extend joint working with partner organisations
- Work with colleagues to develop adaptation plans
- Working groups created to review opportunities for home working
- Investments in digital systems and services
- Implementing teleconferencing facilities
- Recruiting project management teams for adaptation initiatives

Community, Health and Climate Justice

- Working Community Planning Partnerships
- Engage in community resilience networks
- Working with key stake holders and communities
- Co-producing adaptation strategies
- Understand how climate justice can be incorporated in equality impact assessments
- Ensuring just transitions are prioritised in decision making
- Promote healthier transport choices
- Surveillance of public health trends
- Introduce gardens to promote wellbeing
- Encouraging active travel

Nature, Food and Agriculture

- Nature based solutions as drainage solution
- Developing a healthy protected and productive environment as adaptation
- River restoration projects along with modelling and topographical studies
- Identifying habitats and species at greatest risk from climate change
- Reviewing tree planting options
- Developing food strategies
- Control and prevention of disease in agriculture
- Long term water resource and system planning
- Reviewing specialist equipment
- Increasing recycling rates
- Monitoring and reducing waste
- Reduction of plastic onsite

References

1. Yule, E. et al., 2024. *'The challenges of implementing adaptation actions in Scotland's public sector'*. Available online at: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2405880723000742#s0080 Accessed September 2024.