

Annual report 2011-12

Executive summary

ClimateXChange was funded from 1 April 2011 through) to provide responsive research to Scottish Government policy teams and other public agencies on climate change and the transition to a low carbon economy. The virtual centre is a collaboration between 16 of Scotland's leading research and higher education institutions.

2011-12 has been a year of initiation and evolution across ClimateXChange in response to increased clarity on our role and remit. This is not surprising given that the centre is a start-up initiative unique to Scotland, offering policy developers access to the very best national and international research evidence.

An important element in these adjustments has been to address gaps between the in-house capability of paid staff and demand from the various policy teams. A fund has been set up to commission specific pieces of work from institutions outside our membership. This fund has proved invaluable in extending the scope of work that ClimateXChange has been able to deliver.

During its first year in operation ClimateXChange has:

- Established the Directorate and Secretariat and have recruited posts funded exclusively through the Centre.
- Processed nineteen "call-down" enquiry requests. Of these enquiries, thirteen had been fully responded to by year end.
- Developed research plans with Scottish Government policy teams under the three interlinked workstreams: Adaptation; Mitigation; and Significance, Risk and Uncertainty.
- Engaged with Scottish Government agencies (CAMERAS representatives), extending to SNH, Transport Scotland, SEPA and Scottish Enterprise.

ClimateXChange members have worked closely with Scottish Government policy teams and analysts to prioritise and shape ClimateXChange's outputs. This has included dedicated workshops run for Scottish Enterprise and Scottish Natural Heritage.

We have scheduled our outputs to deadlines set by the Scottish Government. This has been particularly important in relation to our work on identifying options to be included in the second Report on Proposals and Policies (RPP2 under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act) , and in supporting Scottish Government sectoral teams in writing the Adaptation Programme.

It is crucial that ClimateXChange liaises closely with other Scottish Government funded initiatives, like Adaptation Scotland, to make sure that there are no gaps or overlaps between the services. In our first year we have also established good working relationships with the UK Committee on Climate Change, UKCIP, UKERC and the Met Office. This is important not least to share the latest and best data.

ClimateXChange is funded as one of two Centres of Expertise and we work closely with CREW – Centre of Expertise for Waters. Enquiries are received by either centre and answered by the most suitable resource across both centres. This provides a seamless interface for policy customers.

As a publicly funded network we publish all our work through our website once they have been cleared for publication.

ClimateXChange is Scotland's Centre of Expertise on Climate Change, supporting the Scottish Government's policy development on climate change mitigation, adaptation and the transition to a low carbon economy. The centre delivers objective, independent, integrated and authoritative evidence in response to clearly specified policy questions.