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## CLIMATE CHANGE | ENERGY

City of Edinburgh Council

# Adapting to the challenges of climate change

Adaptation Scotland is working with the [Edinburgh Sustainable Development Partnership](#) (ESDP) to develop an Adaptation Action Plan for the city through the [Edinburgh Adapts](#) project using the ESDP's [Resilient Edinburgh Climate Change Framework](#) as a starting point, the Edinburgh Adapts project brings together stakeholders from across the city to work collaboratively to overcome climate challenges. Led by an ESDP members Task Group businesses, communities, and key organisations will design a five-year climate change adaptation action plan and a long-term vision for a climate ready Edinburgh

Through working with the ESDP, other partners and stakeholders, the Adaptation Action Plan will develop a fuller understanding of the potential impacts of climate change on the city's natural and built environment, infrastructure, communities and local economy, and from this, identify actions and develop recommendations to address these, as well as helping to build community capacity and resilience.

Predicted changes to the local climate in the East of Scotland include an increase in winter precipitation and an increase in the frequency of intense rainfall events, increasing the risk of localised flooding. The City of Edinburgh Council manages flood risk and takes cognisance of climate change through:

1. providing an emergency response.
2. inspection and maintenance of all watercourses including flood defence measures. In addition, the Flood Prevention Team inspects and maintains coastal defences and flood storage reservoirs; by preparing for the future which includes the construction of new defences and by engaging with the Scottish Environment Protection Agencies and other stakeholders to develop a strategy and a plan to mitigate flooding. The team also provides support to ensure future developments are not at risk of flooding.
3. by preparing for the future which includes the construction of new defences and by engaging with the Scottish Environment Protection Agencies and other stakeholders to develop a



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strategy and a plan to mitigate flooding. The team also provides support to ensure future developments are not at risk of flooding.

The Edinburgh Adapts project was approved by the ESDP on 26 March 2015. An Adaptation Task Group is taking the project forward. Membership of the Group is open to ESDP members and partner organisations, including private, community and public sector representatives

The consultation and engagement phase of the project started in August 2015 when over 30 city organisations participated in a workshop to find out more about climate impacts affecting the city, feedback their priorities for action and help begin to shape a vision for a climate resilient Edinburgh.

The second phase of the project – designing the action plan and writing the vision – is now underway. From August to November 2015 a series of workshops will be held to provide feedback on the draft Edinburgh Adapts vision and propose actions for the Action Plan.

From January to March 2016 the Task Group lead on finalising and publishing the action plan which will be jointly owned by members and formally approved by the ESDP. The action plan is likely to comprise of actions owned by a range of ESDP members each of whom will, at their discretion, seek the required approval for specific actions from within their own organisations. The action plan will be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis in line with commitments made in the Resilient Edinburgh Climate Change Adaptation Framework

Adaptation Scotland will work with the Task Group and wider ESDP members to evaluate the impact of the project and, raise the profile of ESDP's adaptation planning work, sharing lessons learned with other community planning partnerships

The Task Group, made up of ESDP members will lead on developing the action plan. The City of Edinburgh Council will play a co-ordination and facilitation role and ensure that the Task Group works efficiently. The Adaptation Scotland programme will support the Task Group in designing and running the project workshops and will lead on monitoring and evaluation of the project, providing feedback to ESDP.

The Task Group will report back regularly on progress to the ESDP. The ESDP will have the final sign off on the action plan. Progress will be reported to the Edinburgh Partnership.

The project aims to:

- develop a shared ESDP adaptation action plan as required by the Resilient Edinburgh Climate Change Adaptation Framework;
- build the capacity of ESDP members to increase resilience and adapt to climate change and, comply with the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties; and
- demonstrate the role of Community Planning Partnerships in developing and implementing a shared adaptation framework and action plans.

This will be achieved through:



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- forming an ESDP led Adaptation Task Group to plan and run three workshops that will identify existing and new adaptation actions, and inform the development of a jointly owned action plan;
- sharing information gathered through the action plan to inform adaptation planning within individual partner organisations; and
- sharing information about the ESDP Adaptation Framework and action plan with Community Planning Partnerships across Scotland, raising the profile of ESDP adaptation work and encouraging replication where appropriate.

The Adaptation Scotland programme will commit 25 staff days to support the project. This time will be allocated to overall management of the project, supporting the set-up of the Task Group and, designing, running and evaluating the workshops. Limited time may also be available to review and contribute to writing the action plan.

- Adaptation Scotland will provide a discretionary project budget in the region of £3,000 to fund workshop venues, catering and associated costs.
- ESDP members will commit staff time to participate in the Task Group.
- The City of Edinburgh Council will participate fully in the Task Group, and will play a key coordinating role with Task

Resilient Edinburgh Climate Change Adaptation Framework was approved by the City of Edinburgh Council in October 2015 and endorsed by the ESDP in November 2015. The Framework sets out Edinburgh's strategic approach to increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change, identifies priority actions, and commits partners to ongoing monitoring and reporting including the development of a detailed action plan during 2015.

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**For further information contact:**

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