

# our future climate

In June 2009, the UK's Climate Impacts Programme published projections of the likely UK climate for the rest of this century. They reinforced our existing understanding – we still expect hotter, drier summers and warmer wetter winters with more extreme weather events. The sea level will continue to rise and the sea will warm.

These new projections give a wealth of information about the future climate of the UK. Our scientists are working with Defra to ensure we include this analysis in our future work.



the need to

# adapt



Climate change is real and happening. The changes mean that we can expect more floods, heatwaves, droughts and intense rainfall. These will affect peoples' lives, homes and businesses, as well as essential services such as transport, hospitals, water supply and energy. There will also be significant impacts on biodiversity and the natural environment.

Much of our developed land lies in the Thames valley or hugs the coast, and is consequently vulnerable to climate change. In the South East 259,000 properties (around 460,000 people) are already at moderate or significant risk of flooding, and this will increase as the climate changes and sea levels rise.



the Environment Agency's



# response

In the Environment Agency we see climate change as the number one environmental challenge. We are one of the organisations taking a lead on helping people and places adapt. Some of the greatest risks in the South East of England are flooding, coastal erosion and water scarcity.

We will focus our adaptation work on reducing the vulnerability of people, property and the environment from these risks.

We are already acting to adapt to a changed climate. For example we already test our flood risk management plans for 20% higher river flows and include about 1 meter of sea level rise for our coastal plans.



working

# together



Environment  
Agency

We believe there has never been a more important time for other organisations and businesses to join us in adapting to a changed climate.

Many have already started this process, but many have not. In Ashford, we are working with Kent County Council, Ashford's Future and South East Water to find ways of reducing household water consumption that could be adopted more widely. In Berkshire, some of the Atomic Weapons Establishment's facilities were flooded in July 2007. As a result, they undertook a review, developed and implemented a programme to improve their flood resilience.

By working together society can continue to function and lifestyles and the environment can be adapted to the impacts of climate change. Above all, we want people to know that the time has come to act on adaptation.

