

Case studies

Title of case study: Regional Climate Change Partnership model: influencing national & regional policy							
Keywords: partnership, regional policy, partnership working, partnership model.							
Audience: Stakeholders to regional and other planning bodies; spatial and other planners							
Messages in the ESPACE strategy to which the case study applies:	1.X	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.
Sentences linking the case study to relevant strategy messages: 1: Partnership working with a diverse range of stakeholders can provide an early input to developing policies and plans – including economic, social and environmental dimensions – at all spatial scales.							
Elements of ‘Guidance’ to which the case study applies: Partnership discussion paper Draft climate change principles for adoption in spatial planning policies				‘Tool’ to which the case study applies: N/A			
Photo/diagram/map: N/A				Overview: The SECCP partnership model has successfully engaged a diverse range of organisations in establishing a shared work programme, setting up groups to focus on priority issues and using these and our relationship with key regional bodies to ensure that new spatial approaches recognise the core importance of climate change.			
Description: The process by which SECCP develops guidance and contributions to regional and national policy shows the strength of regional partnership working on climate change. As well as spatial planning (the Regional Spatial Strategy (RES) – the South East Plan), SECCP work has also successfully influenced the Regional Economic Strategy (RES) (and thus the wider, spatial approach to planning) and has sought to influence national approaches, e.g. through the UK Adaptation Policy Framework. The SECCP approach has been to involve our Partners in developing and delivering our work, e.g. by creating ‘sector groups’ on the priority issues they have identified and to engage a cross-section of Partners in those groups (each of which is chaired by a Partner representative). SECCP groups are: Biodiversity (informing ESPACE’s ‘sister’ project, BRANCH), Business & Economy, Emergency Planning, Emissions Monitoring, Planning, Tourism and Utilities & Infrastructure. The Planning and Business & Economy groups have led, respectively, on our input to the RSS and RES.							

The Planning group developed the guidance for the RSS (2004), recommending these to our Executive. SECCP's Programme Manager then contributed these and other information and advice to the Regional Assembly via its natural resources and climate change advisory group. The Planning group also led on drafting SECCP's response to two rounds of consultation on the RSS (2005 & 2006) and overseeing a statement to the Examination in Public of the RSS (2006). The Regional Assembly has itself been represented on the Planning group throughout the process and the experience of developing guidance and response this way has been a positive one, while enabling the Partnership to work independently and act as a "critical friend" to the Assembly.

The same process and benefits applied in developing our guidance to SEEDA (South East England Development Agency) for its latest Regional Economic Strategy. The new RES (October 2006) provides a much greater emphasis on adaptation to climate risks in policy making and business planning and complements the climate change policy within the RSS. The Partnership will also help to inform the review of the Integrated Regional Framework which, among other roles, acts as the basis for Sustainability Appraisals of policies such as the RSS and RES.

SECCP also engages its Partners more broadly, e.g. through holding events to bring them together and shape a collective response to Government policy developments, such as the UK Climate Change Programme Review and the UK Adaptation Policy Framework. Again, these provided the basis for SECCP's Programme Manager to draft responses for the Executive to revise and approve. Sector groups have led on some national policy responses, including the Planning sector group's draft response to the Department for Communities and Local Government on the proposed Planning & Climate Change supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1.

Partnership working therefore offers a powerful vehicle for ensuring that spatial and other policy becomes more aware and more joined up in building in resilience to a changing climate. The scope and depth of this policy work – as with the development of guidance, tools and communications – also shows the need for a dedicated co-ordinator within regional climate change partnerships, to facilitate the work of and liaise between groups within the partnership and to help ensure a coherent programme of work.

Author:

Further information:

1. SECCP response to South East Plan April 2005
2. SECCP response to South East Plan June 2006
3. SECCP statement to SEP Examination in Public Oct 2006
4. Climate change principles for sustainable economic development
5. SECCP response to RES review Feb 2006
6. SECCP response to SEEDA RES consultation June 2006
7. SECCP response to Adaptation Policy Framework Jan 2006
8. SECCP response to PPS1 Planning and Climate Change Mar 2007
9. www.climatesoutheast.org.uk