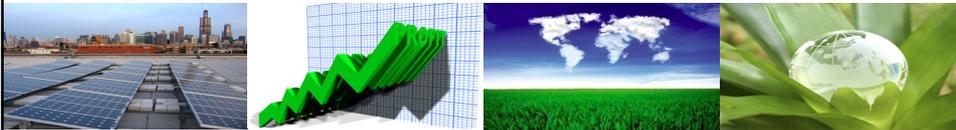


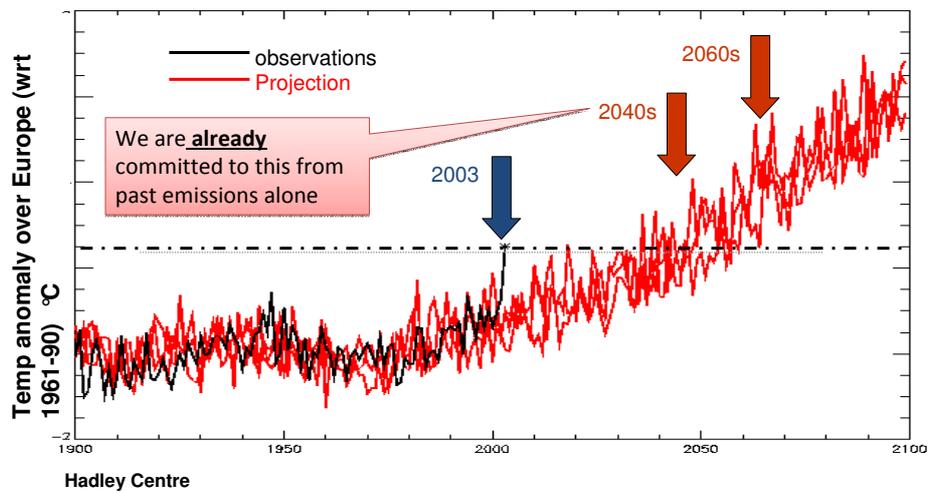
Developing adaptation policy and action for the UK in response to climate change

Dr. Rupert Lewis
Deputy Director
Adapting to Climate Change Programme
Defra

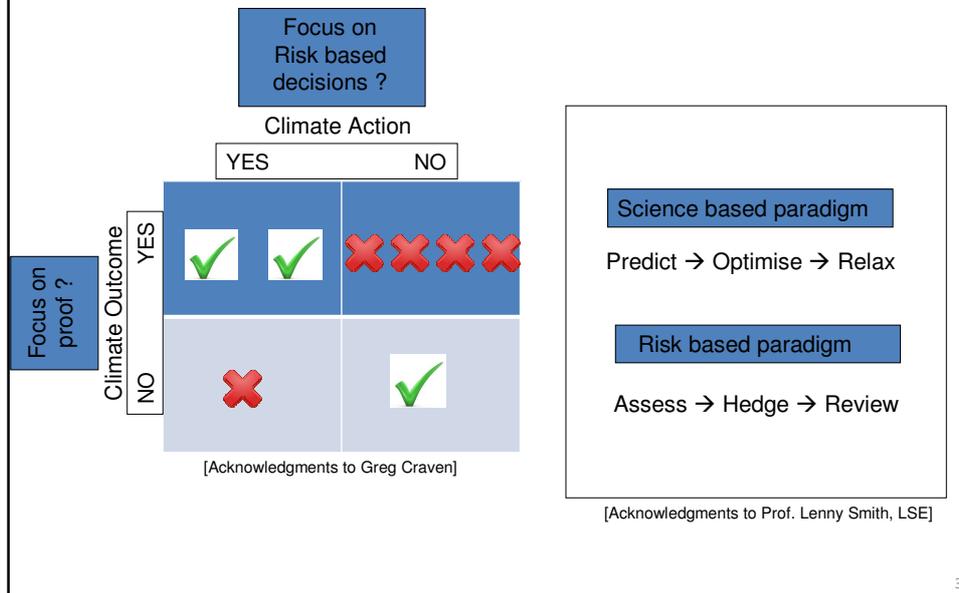
19th October 2011



Mitigation vital, but need to prepare for inevitable climate change



Climate Risk Paradigms



Role of Government ?

Government will need to act, e.g.

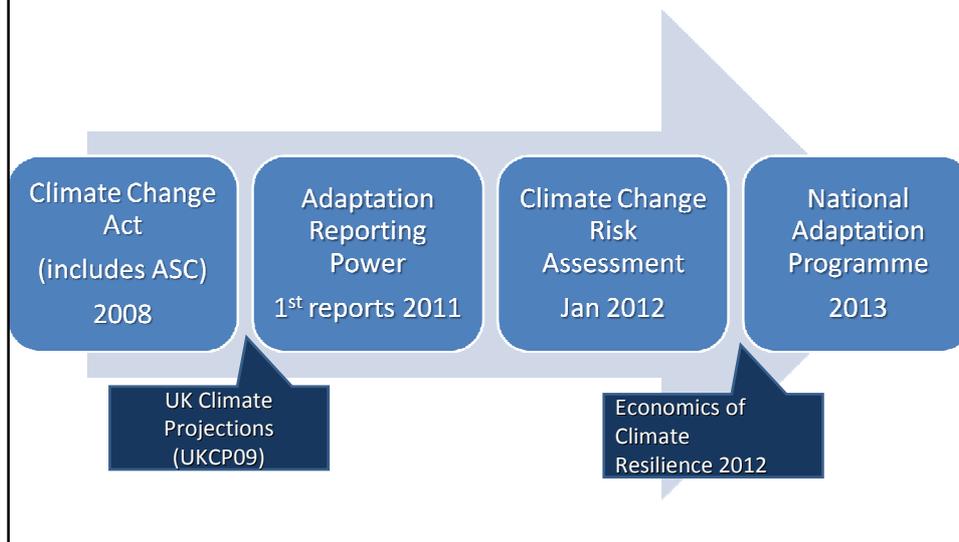
- We own / manage / regulate - relevant assets or interests (transport, national parks, utilities networks)

- Capacity to efficiently generate evidence on behalf of society as a whole (UKCP09, CCRA, Hadley Centre programme, etc.,)

- 'imbalances of private and public risks and opportunities, or inter-generational market failures' (e.g. flood and coastal protection, building standards)

...need to ensure that this is not lost in the noise elsewhere in the economy

Statutory Framework - Climate Change Act 2008



Prioritising – Risk Based Decisions The policy cycle (= Risk Cycle)

- We don't need to get everything right all at once, this time round (and we couldn't if we tried)
- Hence our 'clearing the brushwood' tests for Government engagement:
 - does it really **matter**?
 - does it really matter **now**?
 - does it really matter now **to Government**?
- Share ASC view that we are looking for '**low regrets**' decision-making throughout the economy
- Defra see our job as 'taking adaptation/climate resilience into other people's rooms', **aka mainstreaming**

This isn't all for Government to do...



Central Govt

Local Govt

Business

Communities

This isn't all for Government to do...

- What decisions now, matter long term?
- Many impacts gradual / obvious – adjust as we go (clothing fashion, pavement culture)
- Facts and risks will get clearer over time, and adjustment costs may fall – decisions need to be timely
- Many of the risks and opportunities are for markets and commercial players to judge (which they do best)

Weather & climate impacts - - economic, societal, environmental



Water consumption per capita in the south east is one of the highest sub-nationally

Heatwave 1995: Estimated that the extreme heat-wave resulted in net costs to the transport sector of £16 million

Summer 2007 Flooding: leaves half a million people without water and electricity - biggest since 1945 - and £3 billion in insurance claims



Assessing Adaptive Capacity - The Adaptation Reporting Power

The power is being targeted at organisations with strategic importance to the UK.

About 100 organisations are reporting from the following sectors:

- Water
- Energy
- Transport
- Regulators
- Public Bodies



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