

Climate Change in EIA: Views from the UK

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Context – Drivers

1. Transition to a low carbon economy

- UK targets – GHG emissions
- EU targets - renewable energy

2. Infrastructure renewal

- 40GW new energy infrastructure by 2025
- UK high speed rail network

Context - Guidance

1. SEA

- Guidance since 2004
- New Scottish guidance March 2010

2. EIA

- CC assessment in Planning Policies
- Limited development specific guidance
 - Wind farms on peat lands

Views from the UK

Data Gathering:

IEMA - Roundtables, workshops and surveys

IAIA – Conferences '07 & '09

Findings:

- ~90% believe CC is within scope of EIA.
- >80% believe IA not effectively assess CCA.
- More guidance is needed
 - With 90% identifying a need for EIA guidance.

Advancing UK practice in 2010

Technical Theme:

Climate Change in EIA

Actions:

- Guidance:
 - Principles: CC Mitigation in EIA (May)
 - Principles: CC Adaptation in EIA (October)
- Case studies
- Advice notes
- Communication – magazine, email, networks, workshops and conference.

Principles: CC Mitigation & EIA

Is CC within the scope of EIA?

YES

- Coverage in EIA Directive:
 - Article 3 = Climate
 - Annex IV = Climatic factors
- UK Planning Policy indicates:
‘Standalone [CC] assessments should not be required where the information can be made available through EIA’ – PPS1 supplement

Over-arching Principles

- GHG emissions from all projects contribute to CC.



- CC has potential to significant effect all EIA topics.



- UK has legislative GHG reduction targets.



All EIA should consider project GHG emissions

Assessment Principles

- Include basic GHG performance when assessing alternatives.
- Quantification of GHG will not always be necessary.
- Consider: embodied energy, construction, operation, and decommissioning.
- Where GHG cannot be avoided reduce project emissions through iterative design.
- Only when further reduction is impractical should compensatory action be considered.

Reporting & follow-up Principles

- Where GHG is considered it must be covered in EIS.
- Use appendices for - modelling, calculations & data.
- Actions to reduce or compensate for GHG emissions should give confidence that they will be delivered.
- Include mitigation and monitoring in a draft EMP.
- Additional measures to minimise emissions may arise post-consent and should not be missed.

Next Steps

- Draft Principles on CC Adaptation & EIA
 - Consultation: June – August 2010
 - Adopted: October 2010
- Case Studies – practical experience of considering CC M&A in EIA
- Advice Notes
 - Carbon calculators
 - Linking with other assessments
- **IAIA Symposium, Aalborg, Denmark**
25 – 26th October