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BMENETWORK



**BEN**



# How will Climate Change affect BME Communities in Greater Manchester?

A short exercise for organisations taking part in the  
NCVO climate change project

**Our climate is changing. Here are seven climate change drivers (trends or forces) that will affect life in the UK.**

**What impact could they have on your service users and your organisation?**

## Driver 1

# Rising temperatures

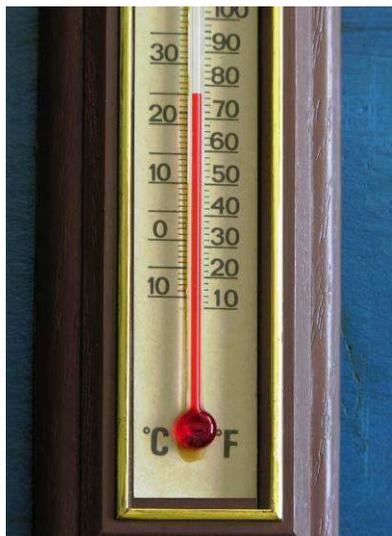


Image: photoXpress

Climate change will bring warmer temperatures to the UK year round. Our winters will become warmer and our summers will be hotter, with more likelihood of heatwaves. We will experience fewer cold snaps.

In cities, the urban heat island effect (where the built environment soaks up daytime heat and releases it at night) will make the effects of hot weather worse.

By 2050 average temperatures in Greater Manchester could be 2 to 2.5 degrees Celsius higher than temperatures in the second half of the 20th century. By the 2050s, central Manchester is projected to experience between 3 and 9 heatwaves a year (with temperatures exceeding 30 degrees Celsius for at least two days in a row).

## So what?

Hot weather is likely to make many homes, work places and public transport uncomfortable. Demand for water is likely to increase, leading to higher risks of drought (see Driver 5 Drought). Higher temperatures could lead to increased air pollution. Risks of heat stress and dehydration in summer will rise; older people and young children will be particularly vulnerable. Cold-related illnesses and deaths are likely to decrease but hotter weather could cause or exacerbate other health problems.

## Moving forward

What will this mean for your beneficiaries and your organisation? For instance:

- How will warmer winters and hotter summers help or hinder your service users?
- Will any of your service users be particularly vulnerable to heat?
- Are your premises equipped to deal with higher temperatures?

## Now what? How could you respond?

Jot down your thoughts:

## Driver 2

# More seasonal rainfall



Image: Golly Gforce, everystockphoto

Climate change will affect rainfall (and other precipitation eg snow and sleet) patterns across the UK.

We'll see more rainfall in winter, and less in summer.

In Greater Manchester by 2050, winter rainfall could increase by 10-16% compared with the second half of the 20th century, and we will see less snow as temperatures rise.

Summer rainfall is likely to decrease by 12-20% and humidity and cloud cover will also reduce.

Year round, we'll also experience more heavy downpours.

## So what?

Less rain in summer could increase the risk of drought and sudden, heavy downpours will also make it harder to harvest rainwater (see Driver 5 Drought). More heavy rainfall is likely to result in increased flash floods (see Driver 4 Floods). Damper winters could make some health conditions worse.

## Moving forward

What will this mean for your beneficiaries and your organisation? For instance:

- Could heavy rainfall make it harder for your service users to get about?
- Are your beneficiaries likely to be more susceptible to damp winter conditions?
- Could drier summers affect your service users?
- Will these more seasonal rain patterns have an impact on your services?

## Now what? How could you respond?

Jot down your thoughts:

## Driver 3

# Rising sea levels



Image: Dominic's pics, everystockphoto

Sea levels will rise around the UK, affecting coastal areas and land surrounding tidal rivers.

Coastal erosion will be accelerated and there will be greater risks of tidal flooding (see Driver 4 Floods).

However, Greater Manchester is unlikely to be directly affected.

## So what?

Although Greater Manchester is too far inland to feel the immediate effects of rising sea levels, coastal areas around the UK will be vulnerable.

## Moving forward

What will this mean for your beneficiaries and your organisation? For instance:

- Could coastal erosion and flooding in other parts of the UK have a knock on impact on your organisation (see Driver 6 Climate Effects Elsewhere)?

## Now what? How could you respond?

Jot down your thoughts:

## Driver 4

# Floods



Image: British Red Cross

Heavier downpours year round and more frequent rainfall in winter will increase the risk of river and surface water flooding. Greater Manchester will be susceptible to these types of floods.

Parts of Manchester, Trafford, Salford, Stockport and Wigan face particular risks from river flooding. Surface water flooding can affect any built up area. Many of the culturally diverse and materially deprived communities of Greater Manchester are at high risk of flooding.

Rising sea levels and sea surges will also increase flood risks in coastal areas (see Driver 3 Rising Sea Levels).

## So what?

Flooding can cause major disruption to communities. Homes, other properties and infrastructure may be damaged. Flooding can cause dangerous and unhealthy conditions. Residents may have to evacuate their homes for significant periods. Insurance costs are likely to rise.

## Moving forward

What will this mean for your beneficiaries and your organisation? For instance:

- How would your beneficiaries cope in a flood?
- What sort of response services would be needed? What role could you play?
- How susceptible are your organisation's premises and resources to flooding?
- Is your organisation's disaster recovery plan up to date?

## Now what? How could you respond?

Jot down your thoughts:

## Driver 5

# Drought



Image: Dru!, everystockphoto

The decrease in summer rainfall and difficulties in capturing rain water from heavy downpours (see Driver 2 More Seasonal Rainfall) will increase the risk of localised drought in the UK.

Hotter summer temperatures (see Driver 1 Rising Temperatures) will also increase the demand for water. However, the North West is projected to be less affected by drought than other parts of the country.

## So what?

Pressure for households and organisations to reduce water consumption will increase. Water metering is likely to become more widespread.

## Moving forward

What will this mean for your beneficiaries and your organisation? For instance:

- Do your beneficiaries require a significant amount of water eg to stay hydrated or maintain their health and hygiene?
- How would water metering affect your service users?
- Could you help your service users to reduce their water use?
- Will you need to pay more attention to your organisation's own water consumption?

## Now what? How could you respond?

Jot down your thoughts:

## Driver 6

# Climate effects elsewhere



Image: photoXpress

Climate change is a global issue, affecting all parts of the world in different ways. For example, scarcity of climate-sensitive resources such as water and arable land is likely to lead to more conflict in some parts of the world.

Migration within and between countries is likely to increase as some areas become uninhabitable due to the impact of climate change.

The cost of energy, food and other goods here in the UK is likely to rise if supply chains across the world are disrupted or sources of items disappear.

## So what?

Local supply chains will become more important. As resources become more costly or harder to obtain people could be driven to become more thrifty; consuming less, reusing and recycling more and sharing resources. The UK could perhaps see a rise in immigration or tougher immigration legislation. Investment in our defence services may increase as some regions become more volatile.

## Moving forward

What will this mean for your beneficiaries and your organisation? For instance:

- Will you and your service users be affected by rising costs of particular goods or services?
- How easily can your beneficiaries access local goods or 'grow their own'?
- How will those service users with family ties or links to other parts of the world be affected?
- Could increased immigration to the UK impact on demand for your services?

## Now what? How could you respond?

Jot down your thoughts:

## Driver 7

# Pressure for a low carbon society



Image: Warm Zone annual report 2008/09

Some climate change is inevitable but to avoid runaway climate change, we will need to adopt low carbon ways of living.

Organisations and individuals will need to reduce the amount of fossil fuel they consume, use more renewable energy and adopt more energy-efficient processes, technologies and products.

This shift to low carbon living will be driven by a range of factors such as legislation, taxation and changing cultural expectations. It will also become an increasing necessity due to rising costs and limited availability of goods (see Driver 6 Climate Effects Elsewhere).

## So what?

Individuals and organisations are likely to be increasingly scrutinised on their 'environmental' behaviour. Carbon-related regulation will need to be carefully designed to avoid exacerbating existing inequalities. The transition to a low carbon society could offer potential for promoting increased wellbeing, better health and stronger community cohesion.

## Moving forward

What will this mean for your beneficiaries and your organisation? For instance:

- How easily can your beneficiaries reduce their carbon emissions?
- What role could you have in helping to ensure carbon reduction measures are fair?
- Is there an opportunity for you to enhance your beneficiaries' wellbeing by supporting low carbon, locally-focused lifestyle choices?
- How can you reduce your organisation's carbon footprint and communicate your environmental performance?

## Now what? How could you respond?

Jot down your thoughts: