



A combined stakeholder view on the CREW (Community Resilience to Extreme Weather) research project

Summarised from the final General Assembly, November 2011¹

The CREW project involved a large array of differing stakeholder groups and interested parties. One effective means by which to reach these persons and to elicit and capture their views was through the programme of 'General Assemblies', of which CREW held three.

The last and final General Assembly was held on 25 November, 2011 in the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors building near Parliament Square in London. At the event, delegates were invited to respond to a series of key themed questions. These responses were collated together with a multiple coding methodology employed in MS Excel for every statement received in order to reveal the common points arising. This section reports on the findings of this analysis, thereby representing a summary stakeholder viewpoint of the issues addressed in CREW.

Key messages from CREW

Participants left the Assembly with several key messages from CREW. The capacity for modelling the socio-economic impacts of flood risk surprised a few and the potential for such a decision-making aid was keenly appreciated. The value of the CREW risk definition tools was remarked upon with equal enthusiasm. The multiple perspectives of adaptation were seen through the multiple disciplines of CREW, which in of itself conveyed the necessity of such an approach. Socially and organisationally, the multiple scales, interconnectedness and layered nature of community resilience were recognised.

How to use the CREW messages in practice

In feeding back how they could envisage using the messages from CREW, attendees reported significant synergies with existing work streams, on mitigation and socio-economic justice issues. Many felt that they could feed through CREW findings to the relevant parts of their organisation and that this would help them inform their respective senior management and in building the case for adaptation generally.

CREW findings and tools helped officials in understanding the nature, spatiality and movement of the risk, by targeting work towards exposed and vulnerable areas and communities.

Further needs to make outputs more relevant to users and informing emerging user requirements

Delegates frequently remarked that access to data and tools would most readily make the CREW research more useful to their organisation. Several highlighted that CREW should interface with the Climate Change Risk Assessment, the National Adaptation Plan and the health sector generally. CREW researchers were involved with the CCRA production process.

Demonstrable impact of results was an emerging demand from stakeholders who were keen to see utility. Though at an early stage, the participatory method of engagement, especially with local decision-makers is tangible amongst concerned stakeholders in Lewisham and Croydon.

Nationally-applicable decision-making aids and community resilience tools were also mentioned. The Building Retrofit Toolkit from Programme Package 1 as well as the Risk assessment framework and forthcoming post-LCLIP tool emerging from the Community Coping work in Programme Package 2 speak to this requirement.

One of the limits to progress on adaptation brought up by this question was the limited, narrow interest shared amongst the stakeholders the CREW project sought to address. The CREW research highlighted that this limiting factor may be subverted by open dialogue, which emphasises reception as well as communication of risk, impact and options.

There were emerging questions about the potential to engage the public using a 'quality of life' argument, and the potential for the uninsured to be stigmatised. Attendees were also interested in the implications of community ecology and the non-idealised adaptive citizen. These demonstrate how adaptation and resilience are set to transform in the coming years as policy discourse and institutional arrangements unfold.

Opportunities and requirements for your sector for the use of CREW outputs

With the mitigation-led climate change activity now well established, significant potential was seen to incorporate CREW outputs within established and in-pipeline programmes, such as the 'Green Deal'.

Adaptation-proofing mitigation programmes were identified as a key first step in developing integrative approaches for addressing the climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.

As envisaged, mapping of hazards was seen as particularly persuasive decision-making tool. Believable and easily understandable communication of the issues to non-experts was also mentioned.

Who to involve in effectively implementing results?

There was broad agreement that community-based organisations were crucial for success in community resilience. Built environment actors, from construction through to operation and maintenance were highlighted as was central government.

Further action for dissemination

As highlighted, in linking to existing spaces, a framework to access data and tools were marked as further action points. Channels explicitly mentioned included: the Green Deal, the building standards debate (PP1), retrofit programmes, the CLG-EA built environment study, local stakeholder forums, the TCPA think-tank, and the Training Climate Change Skills Fund.

It is worth noting finally that in addition to standalone data and institutional engagement, some delegates perceived a need for a 'human network', with a readily accessed online and physical presence allowing engagement with interested parties and present to senior management.

Dr Stephen Hallett
Cranfield University

¹Reference: *Community resilience to extreme weather – the CREW project. Final Report, 2012. p85, 86*

Final General Assembly, 25th November 2011

List of Attendees

(<http://www.extreme-weather-impacts.net/twiki/bin/view/Main/FinalAssembly>)

Jo Allchurch	IGA
Alan Atkin	Environment Agency
Dr Caroline Batchelor	EPSRC
Namrata Bhattacharya	University of Wolverhampton
Dr Stephen Blenkinsop	Newcastle University
Tony Boobier	IBM
Fred Burroughs	Congregational & General plc
Aidan Burton	Newcastle University
Dr Rachel Capon	Consultant Scientist
David Carlisle	London Borough of Croydon
Katie Carmichael	Health Protection Agency
Gerry Cast	London Borough of Lewisham
Dr Albert Chen	University of Exeter
Dr Yu Chen	University of Glasgow
Louise Clancy	Greater London Authority
Jennifer Cole	Royal United Services Institute
Ben Coombes	London Borough of Bromley
Lucy Corfield	Welsh Government
Richard Cox	Cabinet Office
Alison Crompton	AECOM
Juliette Daniels	LCCP
Waldo Davis	Coventry University
Professor Slobodan Djordjevic	University of Exeter
Chris Emberson	Maplecroft
Dr Timothy Farewell	Cranfield University - NSRI
Lorraine FitzGerald	Adaptation Scotland
Tarsem Flora	Flora Associates
Matthew Foote	Risk Management Solutions
Victoria Forman	London Borough of Brent
Suzanne Goff	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Mr Mark Goldthorpe	LCCP
Dr Chris Goodier	Loughborough University
Kristen Guida	Climate South East
Professor Rajat Gupta	Oxford Brookes University
Dr Stephen Hallett	Cranfield University - NSRI
Anne Harper	Esri UK
Alex Harvey	DFID
Emily Hay	DCLG
Dr Vicky Hayman	ARCC Coordination Network, UKCIP
Liam Heaphy	University of Manchester
Samantha Heath	London Sustainability Exchange
Dr Oliver Heidrich	Newcastle University
Fiona Hewer	Fiona's Red Kite
Robert Hitchen	Defra
Alex Hopkinson	Climate East Midlands

Emma Hutchings	Loughborough University
Dr Bingunath Ingirige	University of Salford
Kirsti Johnson	Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Professor Keith Jones	University of Greenwich
Oliver King	AECOM
Rachna Leveque	University College London
Cecilia Liszka	GLA
Jo Lovell	Defra
David Lyon	Irbaris
Catherine Max	Catherine Max Consulting
David McClory	London Borough of Waltham Forest
Mr Middleton	Coventry University
Aaron Mullins	Coventry University
Dr Anastasia Mylona	ARCC Coordination Network, UKCIP
Siu Ng	Environment Agency
Alex Nickson	Greater London Authority
Audrey Nugent	Bromley Council
Dr Katie Oven	Durham University
Meg Patel	Defra
Mike Peverill	Climate East Midlands
Clare Pinder	Committee on Climate Change
Stephen Porritt	IESD, De Montfort University
Professor David Proverbs	UWE
Professor Gwilym Pryce	University of Glasgow
Trevor Pybus	Phoenix Community Housing
Tim Reeder	Environment Agency
Carly Rose	UoW
Lord Selborne	Chair of the Partners' Board, LWEC
Professor Li Shao	De Montfort University
Helen Shaw	Defra
Samantha Simmons	Kent County Council
Daniel Simms	Cranfield
Dr Leon Smith	Defra
Dr Robby Soetanto	Coventry University
Katarina Soltesova	University College London
Roger Street	Technical Director, UKCIP
Kiran Sura	Committee on Climate Change
Dr Duncan Thomas	University of Manchester
Professor John Thornes	University of Birmingham
Ralph Throp	Scottish Government
Amy Tillson	UCL / Cambridge Architectural Research
Ian Truckell	Cranfield University
Dr Paula Vandergert	Resilient Communities
Gayana Wedawatta	University of Salford
Kate Weinberg	Irbaris
Craig White	ARUP
Laura Wilkes	Local Government Information Unit
Professor Katie Williams	UWE
Helen Woolston	Transport for London
Dr Anita Wreford	Scottish Agricultural College