UKCP18 User Groups

The two UKCP18 project User Groups represent the views of Government and Non-Government users to the UKCP Governance Board and provide invaluable feedback on project decisions and outputs to the project team.

Chaired by Kathryn Brown, a member of the Adaptation Sub-Committee of the Committee on Climate Change, the Government User Group has a membership that represents Government Departments and Government Organisations (e.g. Agencies and Arm's Length Bodies) across the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations. These organisations have a direct interest in the outputs of the projections and are responsible for climate risks identified in the Climate Change Risk Assessment.

Members of the Government User Group represent their organisation's requirements for the projections, specifically in relation to how the projections will be used to manage the climate risks. Member's main responsibilities are to:

- Ensure project outputs meet their organisation's needs.
- Keep their organisation and key stakeholders informed of project progress.
- Identify any additional requirements, e.g. products or analysis to support decision making in their organisations.
- Assist the project team by assessing the utility of the projections and providing feedback on the guidance material and web site design and content.

The Non-Government User Group has been formed from representatives who submitted expressions of interest to be on the group. The group includes representatives from academics, businesses, consultants and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) representing agriculture, built environment, business and services, energy, health, infrastructure, marine, natural environment and water sectors. The group is chaired by Harriet Orr of the Environment Agency.

In addition to the responsibilities of the Government User Group members, representatives are asked to:

- Share experiences of applying climate information in analysis and provision of services.
- Assess the utility of climate projections in their context.
- Develop case studies and test project outputs.
- Inform associated professional networks and organisations on progress and seek their views.

Meeting every few months, the groups initially helped to consider the lessons learnt from UKCP09 and fed into some of the decisions on the scope and attributes of the projections. Subsequently, users were instrumental in developing the demonstration projects and ensuring that the guidance material and web site were clear and fit for purpose for the diverse potential audience. Throughout, users have been the conduit for informing communities of practice that have an interest in the UK climate projections.