



# ECEHH Research Insight: Local Climate Adaptation Tool

A bite size summary of research Sept 2023

LCAT is a national tool which supports local decision makers to plan and adapt to climate change.

It brings together complex climate models, adaptation options and health impact evidence and generates recommendations for appropriate adaptation approaches, based on the best available evidence.



## Who is this relevant to?

The tool has been designed with, and is created for, decision-makers at a local level. These might be professionals working for a local authority, NHS body or within the voluntary or private sector.

## Background

A year was spent exploring how decision makers were adapting to climate change, the barriers to action and finding a common language that would allow decision making across traditional boundaries.

The findings were clear, very little action on adaptation was taking place and stakeholders felt unequipped to take action.

The Climate Change Committee has described climate adaptation as the Cinderella of climate change, “still sitting in rags by the stove: under-resourced, underfunded and often ignored.”

LCAT offers decision-makers data and evidence to not only understand, but plan for the future climate. In doing so, they can ensure the communities they work with, and for, are resilient for a future climate so that risks to health and wellbeing are reduced.

## Findings

More than 50 local authorities and cross sectoral lead have been involved in shaping the LCAT and the tool is being iteratively developed in response to their feedback. This includes a need for:

- local future climate models
- data and evidence on the likely impact to their local communities
- clear guidance on appropriate adaptation actions, that are evidence-based
- data and evidence that supports them to understand who is most vulnerable

The health and wellbeing impacts of climate change are complex and wide ranging, affecting everything from health care to transport.

Those with the least resilience to the effects of climate change are often the most vulnerable.

To be able to reduce inequalities and build resilient communities, a joined-up approach is essential.



## Recommendations

LCAT aims to help decision makers to:

- Understand your area's future climate
- Understand the likely risks and opportunities to your local area and local communities
- Explore what the evidence suggests you could do to reduce risks and maximise opportunities
- Understand who is most vulnerable to allow for a targeted and just approach

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change highlights the importance of areas taking multi-agency, collaborative approaches to climate adaptation.

It suggests that “Maladaptive responses to climate change can create lock-ins of vulnerability, exposure and risks that are difficult and expensive to change and exacerbate existing inequalities. Maladaptation can be avoided by flexible, multi-sectoral, inclusive and long-term planning and implementation of adaptation actions with benefits to many sectors and systems”

## Selected References/Resources

The tool can be accessed here:

[Local Climate Adaptation Tool \(lcat.uk\)](https://lcat.uk)

Further info:

[New Local Climate Adaptation Tool Supports Health and Wellbeing - European Centre for Environment and Human Health | ECEHH](#)

[Frequently-Asked-Questions-1.pdf \(ecehh.org\)](#)

[BlueAdapt](#)



# LCAT

LOCAL CLIMATE  
ADAPTATION TOOL

“Adaptation remains the Cinderella of climate change, still sitting in rags by the stove: under-resourced, underfunded and often ignored,”

Baroness Brown, the chair of the CCC's adaptation committee.

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