

An introduction to climate justice and the Climate Just website

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Aims for the session

- *What climate justice is and why it matters*
- *What JRF research tells us about it*
- *Aims of Climate Just website and how it could help you*

What is climate justice?



Why does it matter?

- Climate change ‘biggest threat to public health this century’
- *Risks are unevenly distributed and are generally greater for disadvantaged people and communities in countries at all levels of development: IPCC*
- Moral questions over who we protect, rights, roles and responsibilities
- Pressure on public services reducing capacity
- Importance of decisions now for future
- Making a just transition to a low carbon, resilient society

What JRF research tells us

1. Responsibility for emissions varies by income
2. There are inequities in social consequences of energy policy
3. There are unequal impacts on people's welfare from extreme weather
4. Adaptation policy needs to do more to address social vulnerability

1. Who contributes to carbon emissions?



Top 10% by income (total direct emissions*)

16.1 tCO₂ per year



Lowest 10% by income (total direct emissions)

5.0 tCO₂ per year

*ie housing/personal transport



7896
KG CO₂



3760
KG CO₂

Mean annual household emissions



Top 10% earners



Bottom 10% earners



4598
KG CO₂



605
KG CO₂



Mean private vehicle emissions



Top 10% earners



Bottom 10% earners



3116
KG CO₂



309
KG CO₂



Mean aviation emissions



Top 10% earners



Bottom 10% earners

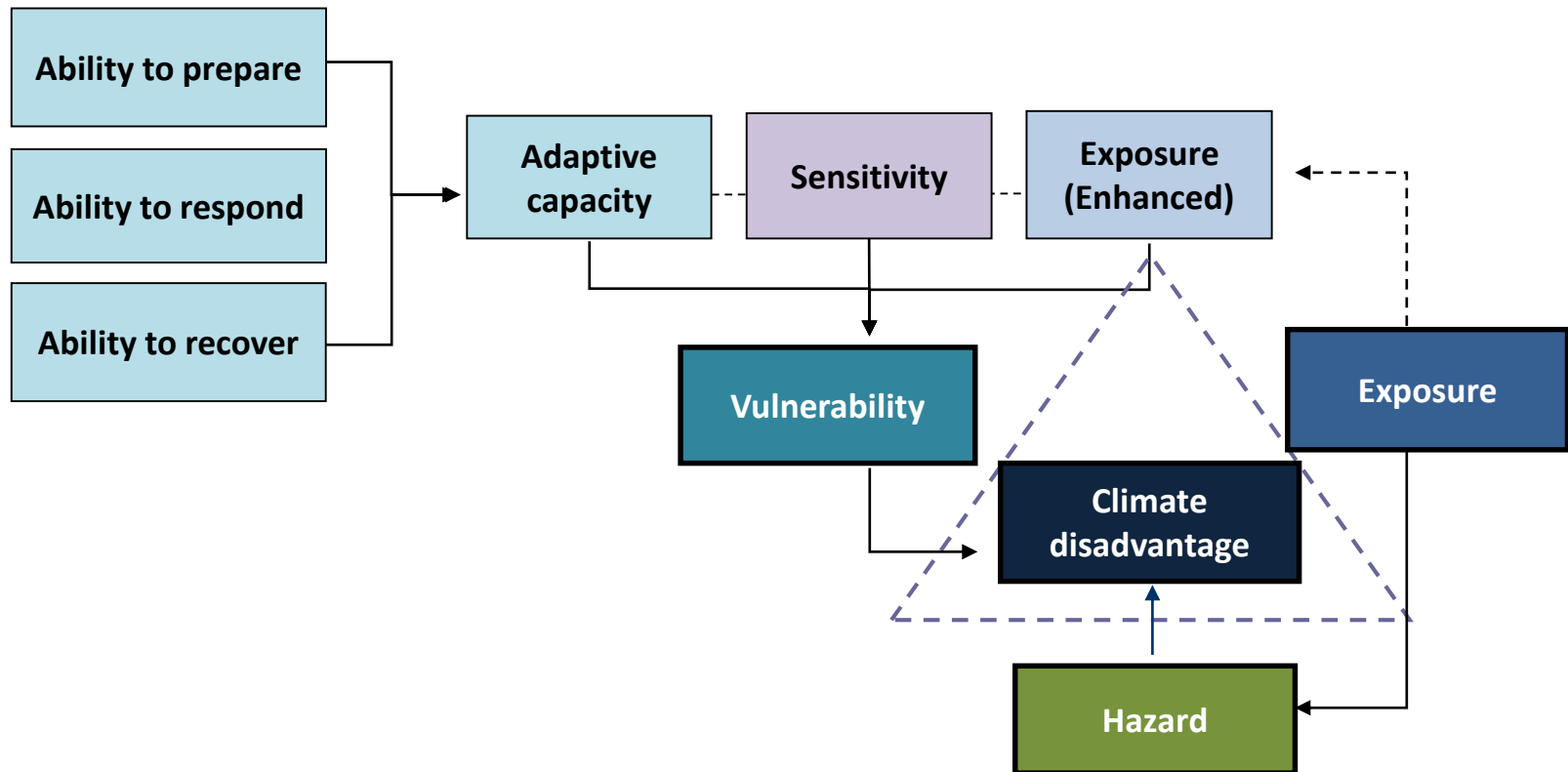
2. Policy costs and benefits on domestic energy bills are not equally shared



3. What creates climate disadvantage?

Climate disadvantage=

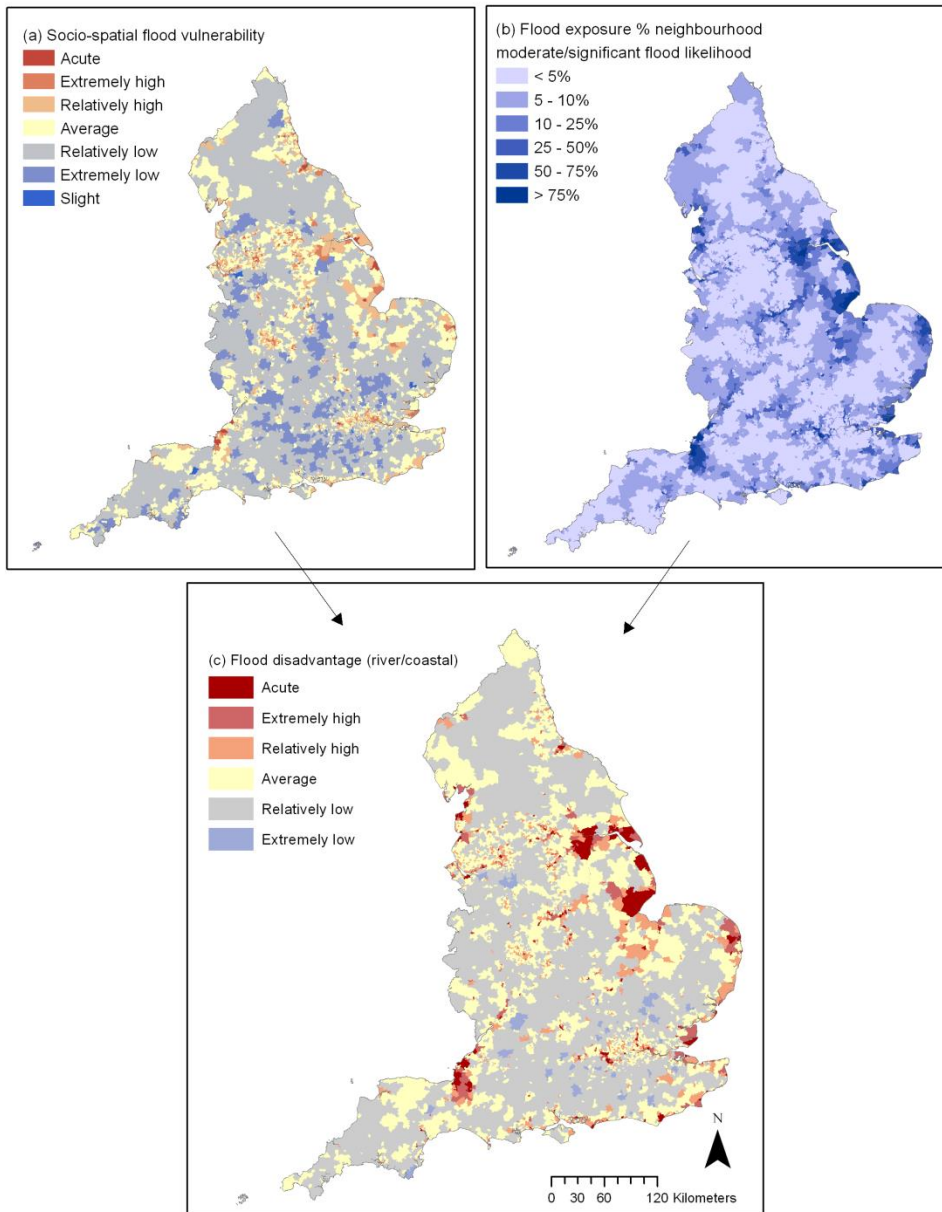
- **Vulnerability:** likelihood and degree to which this results in a loss in wellbeing +
- **Exposure:** likelihood and degree to which they are exposed to outcomes of extreme weather e.g. drought, flood, heatwave hazards



Factors affecting social vulnerability

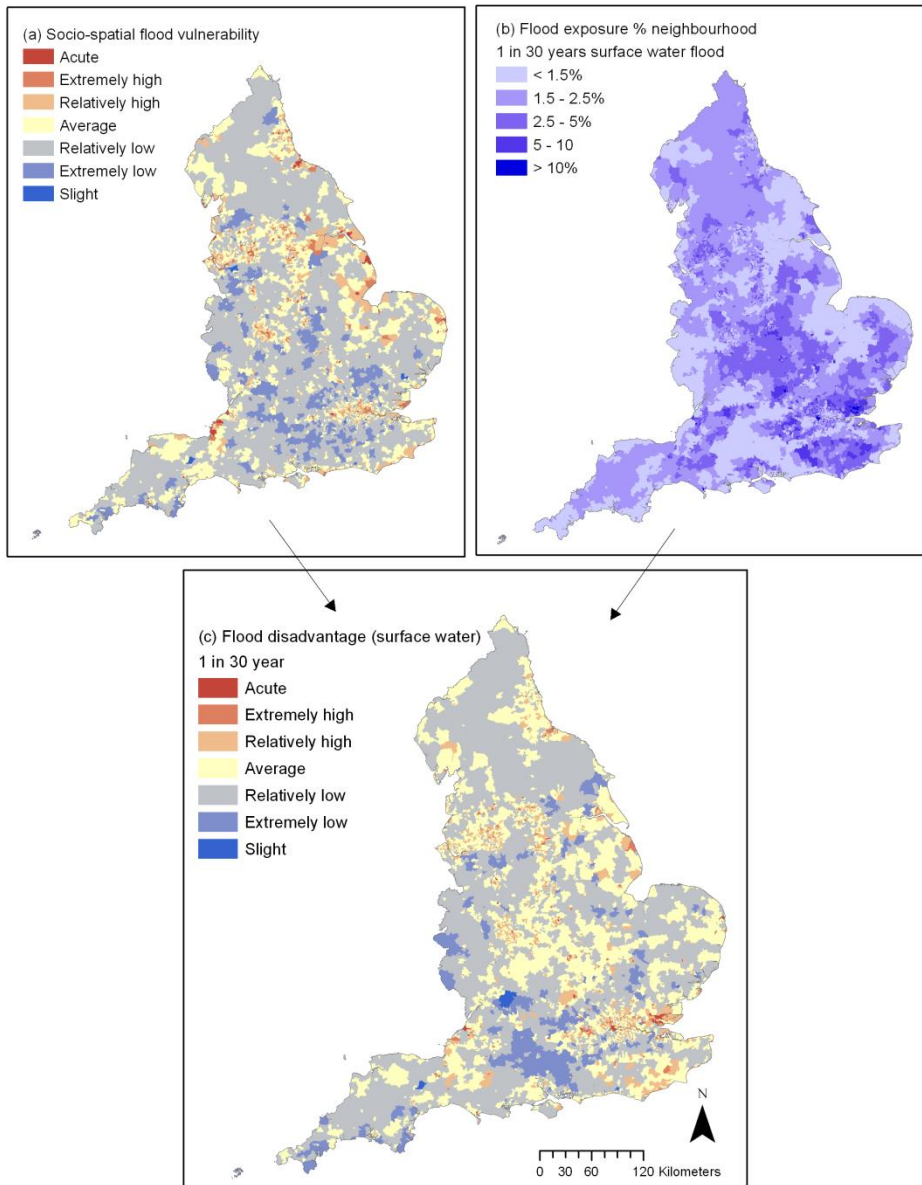
Social factors: Adaptive capacity (prepare/respond/recover)	Personal factors: Sensitivity	Environmental factors: Enhanced exposure
Low income	Age (very young & elderly)	Neighbourhood characteristics (green/blue space)
Tenure: ability to modify living environment	Health status: illness	Housing characteristics: (e.g basement/ high rise/ single storey buildings)
Mobility and access to services	Special care	Buildings
Social isolation	Homeless, tourists, transient groups	High housing density
Information and local knowledge		
Access to insurance		

River/coastal flood disadvantage 2011



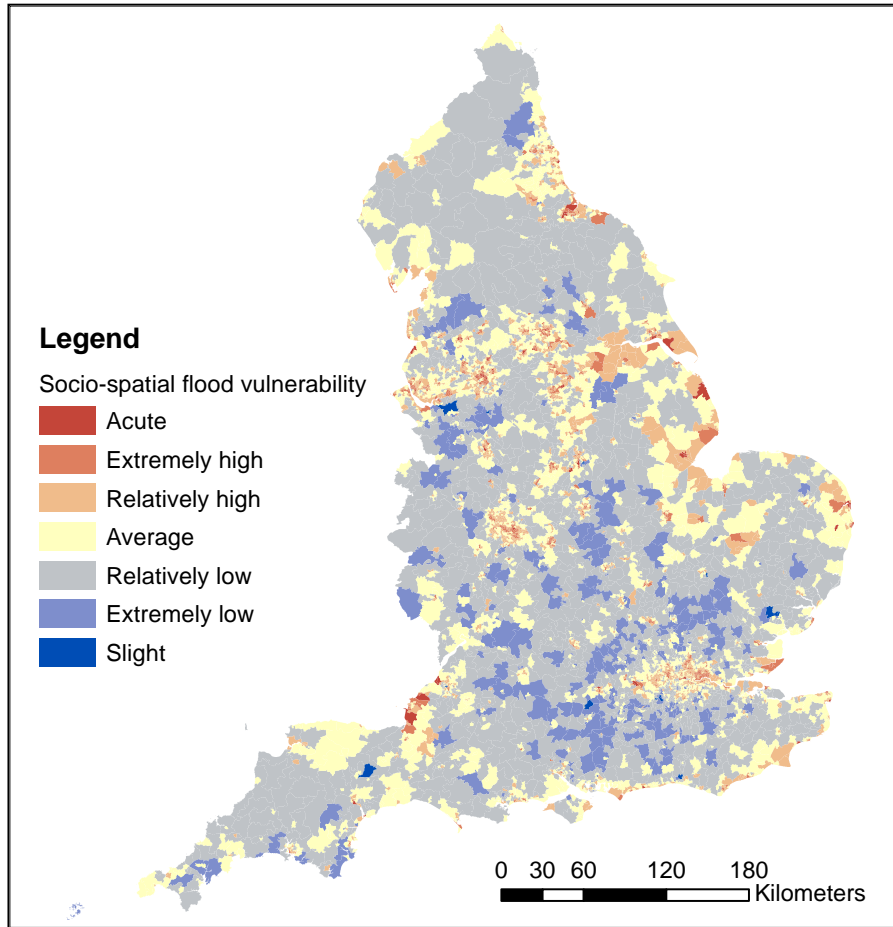
- Some areas have both high socio spatial vulnerability and high potential exposure to river/coastal flooding and so are flood disadvantaged
- Most flood disadvantaged region = Yorkshire & Humber (ie high social vulnerability coincides with high likelihood of flooding)
- 2001 and 2011 similar picture

Surface water flood disadvantage 2011



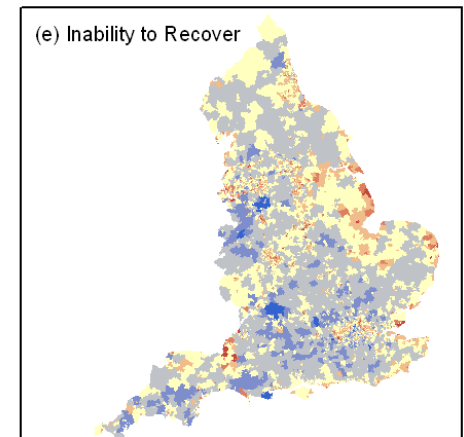
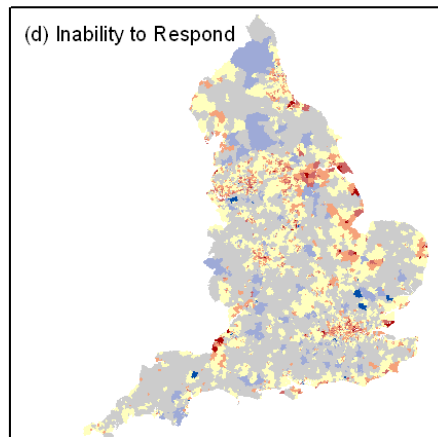
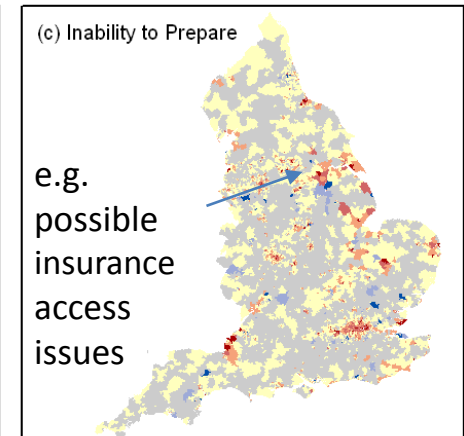
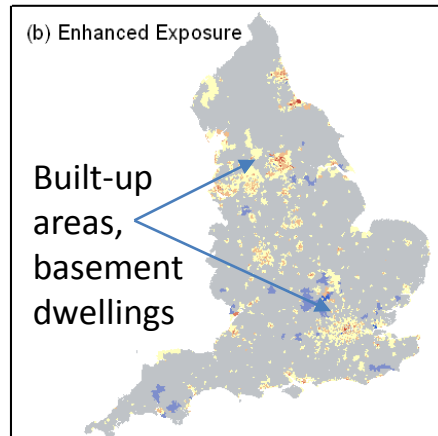
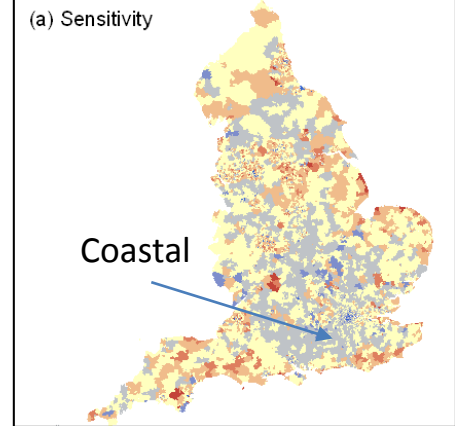
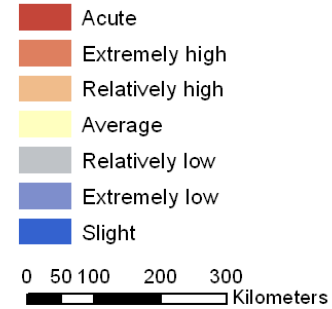
- More diffuse pattern but with a strong urban dimension
- Surface water flood disadvantage is estimated to affect 5.6% of English neighbourhoods for a 1 in 30 year surface water flood event
- Around 7.4% neighbourhoods are estimated to be flood disadvantaged with respect to the more severe but lower probability 1 in 1000 year event

Socio-spatial flood vulnerability in England (2011)



Overall, most extremely socially vulnerable locations are **urban** and there is a strong **coastal** component.

Legend



4. Adaptation policy, vulnerability and justice

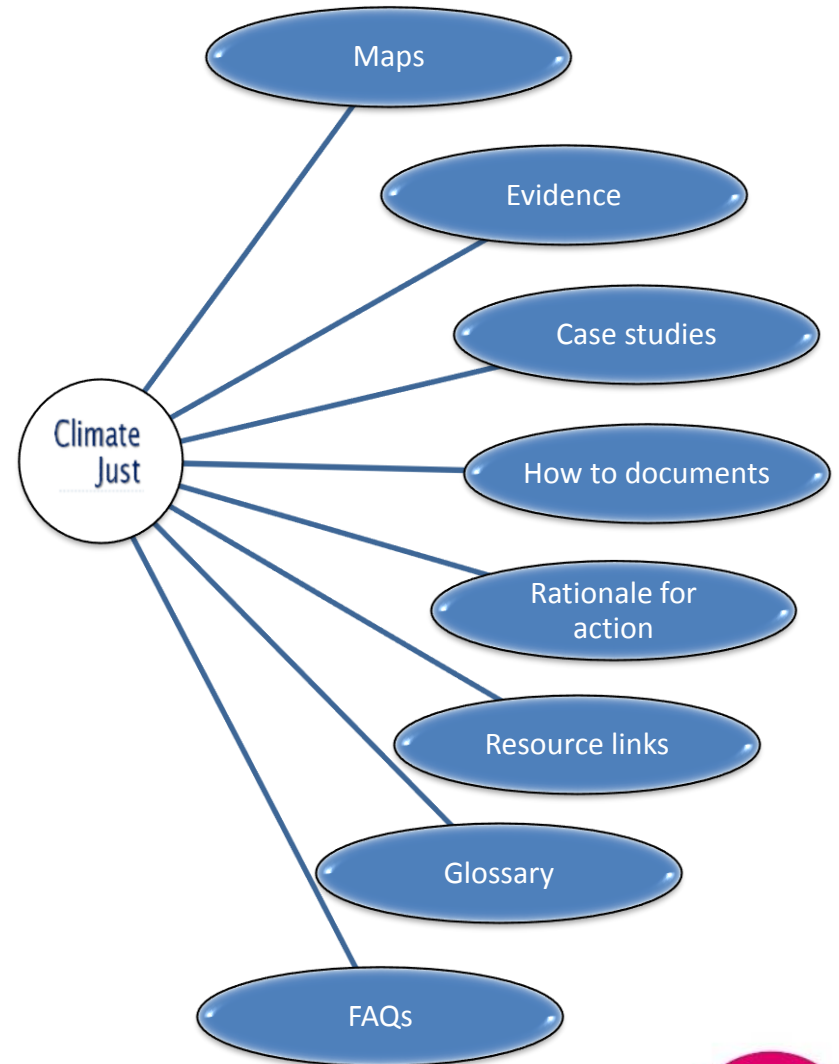
- Limited evidence of socially just adaptation responses
- From principles to practice
- Evidence on exposure and social context not joined up (multiple deprivation, risks, interdependencies)
- From sectors to systems
- Focus on most vulnerable, long term effects
- Need social and environmental stakeholders to work together on responses



Aims of Climate Just

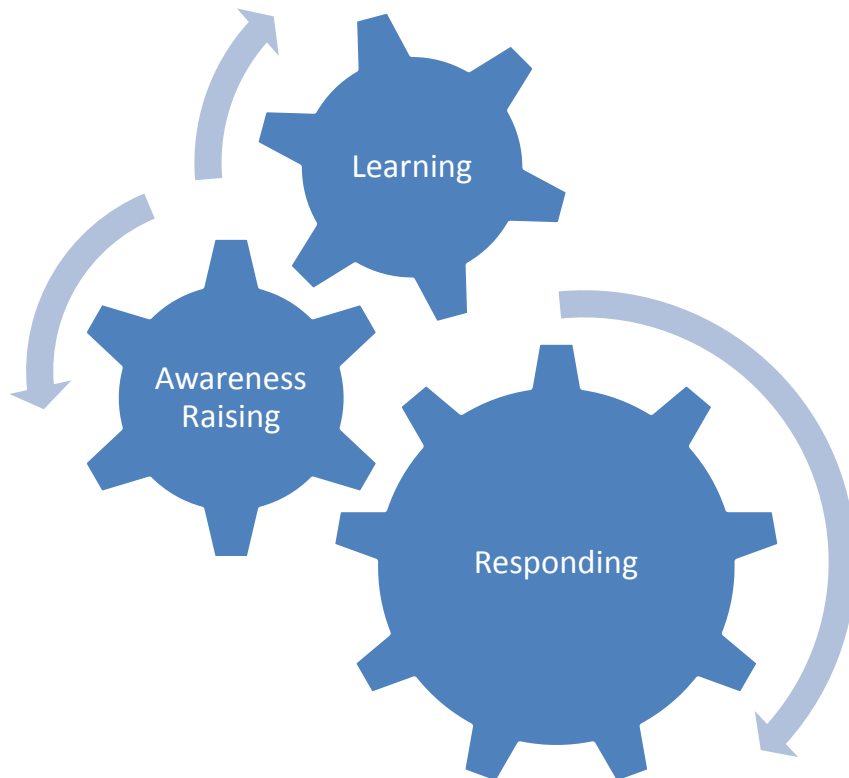
To provide information & guidance to support local authorities and partners in health, social care, housing, voluntary and community sector and others to develop socially just responses to climate change in UK

A decision support tool



Why use Climate Just?

It provides evidence and resources that can be used to support dialogue and responses bridging agendas of those working on climate change and working with vulnerable groups



The **National Adaptation Programme** mentions the Climate Just project as one of the initiatives which can help deliver on its Objective 13:

To minimise the impacts of climate change on vulnerable groups in society by strengthening their resilience to better prepare for, respond to and recover from future climate risk.

What will it help you to do?

- **Increase awareness** of key issues on developing socially just responses to climate change
- **Find evidence on which people and places are vulnerable** to climate impacts of flooding and heat
- **Understand responsibility for emissions** and patterns of fuel poverty
- **Assess local patterns** of social vulnerability using maps and connect these to actions
- **Identify who needs to be involved** in responses
- **Develop possible strategies and actions**
- **Make a case** for equitable action
- **Support responses** by learning from case studies of local action



Why are some people more vulnerable to climate change than others, where are they and what can be done?

Climate **Just**

Key questions



Who is vulnerable?

Which places are disadvantaged?

What actions support resilience?

Map tool:
see how your area is affected



Why does climate justice matter?

Which households emit the most carbon?

What can be done to tackle fuel poverty?

Who needs to do what?