# UK’s climate change adaptation stalls amid rising extreme weather and financial cuts



A recent report from the United Kingdom’s Climate Change Committee (CCC) has raised alarms regarding the nation's preparedness for climate change impacts such as heat waves, droughts, floods, and wildfires. The assessment highlighted a significant lack of progress since the committee's previous evaluation in 2023, asserting that the UK remains inadequately equipped to face these escalating climate challenges.

The CCC's report emphatically states, “The increasing impacts of climate change are clear, both globally and in the UK… Action is needed now whilst we still have the opportunity to address these risks in a way that is both cost-effective and timely.” It further criticises the piecemeal approach to climate adaptation, noting that the majority of assessed outcomes received the same low scores as observed last year. The committee pointedly indicated that the pace of progress is either stagnating or regressing.

In particular, the report emphasised the increasing frequency and severity of extreme weather events in the UK. It noted that the country experienced its 18 wettest months on record from October 2022 to March 2024, alongside unprecedented heat levels, reaching a peak of 104.5 degrees Fahrenheit during the summer of 2022. Lady Brown, chair of the CCC’s adaptation subgroup, underscored the urgent need for action, stating, “The country is at risk, people are at risk, and there is not enough being done,” as reported by The Guardian.

The CCC's assessment examined 46 areas, finding that none were making acceptable progress in climate change adaptation, with only three having established what were considered effective policies and plans. The report also highlighted concerning trends in flooding resilience, noting that policies aimed at mitigating coastal and river flooding had become less effective since 2023. The increasing number of fatalities associated with extreme heat was another critical focus of the CCC's findings.

Financial considerations are also emerging as a substantial hurdle in addressing climate resilience. The UK Treasury has indicated that specific funds would not be allocated to flood defence, and potential cuts could occur as part of the upcoming spending review, raising concerns about the implications for flood mitigation efforts. Lady Brown urged re-evaluation of these financial decisions, saying, “If that means they’re thinking of cutting the money for resilience to flooding, we would ask them to think again.”

An illustrative example of the impacts of climate change is seen in Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire, a town that has faced recurring floods over the past four years, the latest occurrence being in November 2024. Local business owner Polly Pearce recounted the suddenness of the flooding that affected her charity shop, likening it to a tsunami. Residents and shopkeepers have expressed frustration over soaring insurance premiums, resulting in some businesses being unable to secure coverage, with many ultimately closing due to the financial burdens related to repeated flooding.

Despite the Environment Agency's assertion that the more than $30 million cost for flood protection in Tenbury Wells is unaffordable, the government has pledged to assist residents, with initiatives aimed at enhancing properties' flood resilience to commence this summer.

Lady Brown concluded with a caution regarding the financial decisions being made, asserting, “We are very worried about [the government’s] spending review. This is not a tomorrow problem; it’s a today problem. If we don’t address it today, it becomes a disaster tomorrow.” The CCC's findings underscore a pressing need for increased action and investment to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change in the UK.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.ft.com/content/9af67d0a-129b-4e2c-8675-656538a33925> - This article discusses the UK's inadequate preparations for flooding and extreme weather, highlighting the Climate Change Committee's (CCC) criticism of the government's lack of progress in implementing effective measures to tackle climate risks, including impacts on food systems, infrastructure, health, homes, and the economy.
* <https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/cop/britain-unprepared-worsening-impact-climate-change-advisers-say-2025-04-29/> - This report details the CCC's findings that Britain is unprepared for the worsening impacts of climate change, such as flooding and extreme heat, emphasizing the need for clearer adaptation targets and better government coordination to address climate impacts, particularly concerning infrastructure and the health system.
* <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/dec/01/could-tenbury-wells-be-the-first-uk-town-centre-abandoned-due-to-climate-change> - This article highlights the recurring flooding in Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire, and the challenges faced by local businesses and residents due to the financial burdens related to repeated flooding, underscoring the need for increased action and investment to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change in the UK.
* <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/mar/13/uk-climate-crisis-plans-fall-far-short-of-what-is-required-ccc-says> - This piece reports on the CCC's assessment that the UK government's Third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3) falls far short of what is required, lacking a credible vision for a well-adapted UK resilient to climate risks, and calls for immediate strengthening of the government's programme.
* <https://www.nfcc.org.uk/uk-not-fully-prepared-for-impacts-of-climate-change-say-fire-chiefs/> - This statement from the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) emphasizes that the UK is not yet adequately prepared to tackle the growing impact of climate change, with fire and rescue services lacking access to long-term forecasting mechanisms and sustainable funding to adapt to the impacts of climate change.
* <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/127/public-accounts-committee/news/200939/extreme-weather-government-approach-to-societywide-risks-lacks-leadership-and-urgency/> - This report from the UK Parliament's Public Accounts Committee warns that the government's approach to strengthening the UK's resilience to society-wide risks lacks the required robust leadership, oversight, and urgency, with a lack of clarity for communities on how to deal with extreme weather challenges.
* <https://news.google.com/rss/articles/CBMib0FVX3lxTE9YWWhRa0p2c1NKWmFlVXhnenRKWUw4MFZSaF9EcnpOWVZGLW41WVM1bE4xM2RDdEtrX2lnWHlONGR5VWlfRlBZSXhIS043REJOWndiYnhCV1JmeFlhTDJUaFhSMjF0bkZTTkFsZmlpYw?oc=5&hl=en-US&gl=US&ceid=US:en> - Please view link - unable to able to access data