

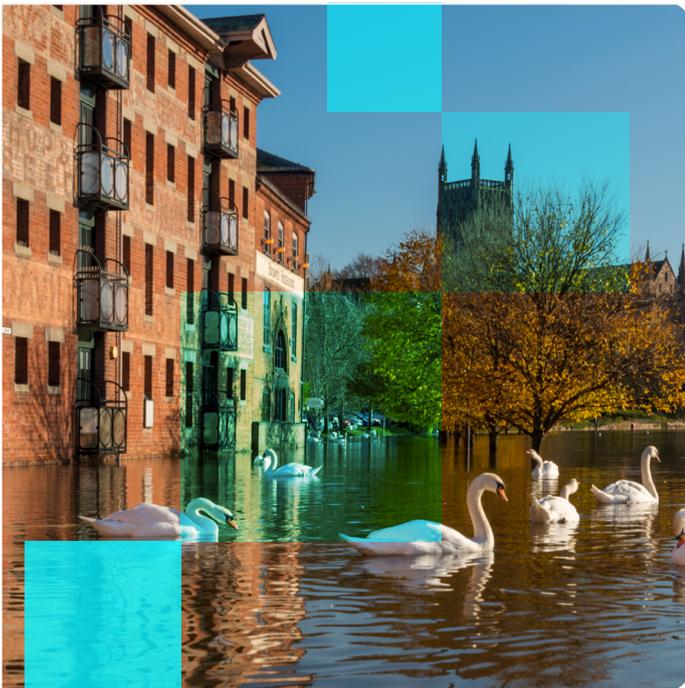
CLIMATE RESILIENCE

EXPLAINER GUIDE

This **Explainer Guide** covers the key principles of climate resilience.

What is climate resilience?

Climate resilience can be defined as 'the capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from the impacts of hazardous climatic events while incurring minimal damage to societal wellbeing, the economy and the environment.' It is linked to climate adaptation; the process or action to change and adapt to a new climatic environment. Climate adaptation can increase our resilience to climate change.



Why is it important?

With the advancing climate crisis comes hazards such as increasing temperatures, changing patterns of rainfall, subsidence, periods of drought and increased flooding. As these become more common, the UK's buildings, cities, critical infrastructure, and the communities that use and occupy these are in increasing danger. **Half** of UK homes suffer from overheating risk. To stay resilient to these shocks, it is vital to address how our buildings and infrastructure can be adapted to ensure they remain fit for the future.

What is the role of the built environment?

The built environment has a critical role to play in reducing our vulnerability to climate risk. Cities and urban areas typically increase exposure to physical hazards; for example, built up areas increase the **Urban Heat Island effect** or increase the likelihood of flooding due to many impermeable surfaces such as asphalt and concrete.

Our buildings and natural environment can protect us from these hazards. Building and retrofitting resilience measures **such as** insulation, nature-based solutions and storm drainage into our buildings, communities and infrastructure can help ensure they remain comfortable and safe in the future.

Built environment professionals have a key role to play in adapting to the climate, from assessing risks to built assets and creating actionable plans, designing buildings that can handle the impacts of extreme weather, to funding extra resilience measures for our cities.



DID YOU KNOW...

...that prioritising the regeneration of nature and biodiversity can also increase climate resilience?

Nature-based solutions such as tree planting, **sustainable urban drainage** and green roofs have **been proven** to reduce urban temperatures, lessen the risk of flooding, and improve air quality and wellbeing, just to name a few!



FURTHER RESOURCES

UKGBC [Climate Change Adaption](#)

UKGBC [A Framework for Measuring and Reporting of Climate-related Physical Risks to Built Assets](#)

UKGBC [How can we adapt our buildings to climate change?](#)