

Climate Change and Energy

Ministry of Defence News Article

MOD Climate Change Aim: To be a leader amongst UK Government Departments and defence departments in EU and NATO states in the sustained reduction of CO2 and other GHG emissions, and to ensure the continued delivery of defence capability in a changing climate.

The 2008 National Security Strategy identified Climate Change as “potentially the greatest threat to global and national security”. The Ministry of Defence takes very seriously its responsibilities with regards to climate change, both through **Mitigation** – reducing our own emissions to minimise our contributions to climate change; and **Adaptation** – Adapting our own policy planning, equipment and estate to the potential threats posed by climate change, as well as contributing to wider UK Government campaigns to raise awareness of the dangers of climate change)

The MOD Climate Change Vision is: Effective delivery of Defence capability that is robust to climate change and does not substantially contribute to its causes.

There are significant benefits to the MOD in reducing our consumption of fossil fuels. Reducing the amount of fuel needed at the front line would lead to a reduced logistics trail, meaning UK armed forces can be more agile and that less personnel would be put at risk protecting fuel convoys. In addition, a reduction in fuel use will have a direct impact on our estate energy bills and the cost of fuel for our ships, aircraft and ground vehicles.

Meanwhile a changing climate may well act as a multiplier of threat in areas of the globe where high tensions already exist, as well as potentially opening up new areas of conflict. The MOD recognises the need to factor this into policy planning and force development.

There are some changes to business that can be made immediately that will have some impact on the MOD’s response to climate change, but many of the solutions are long term and will require a joined-up approach to ensure effective delivery. As such, the MOD Climate Change Strategy (see related documents) sets out our long-term targets for adaptation and mitigation.