



Over-arching Principles: **Climate Change & EIA**

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IEMA

Environmental professionals at the heart of change

iema

Institute of Environmental
Management & Assessment

Outline

- Context: IEMA and EIA in the UK
- Drivers: Climate Change in EIA
- Principles:
 - Climate Change Mitigation & EIA
 - Climate Change Adaptation & EIA
- Future action

www.iema.net/eia-cc

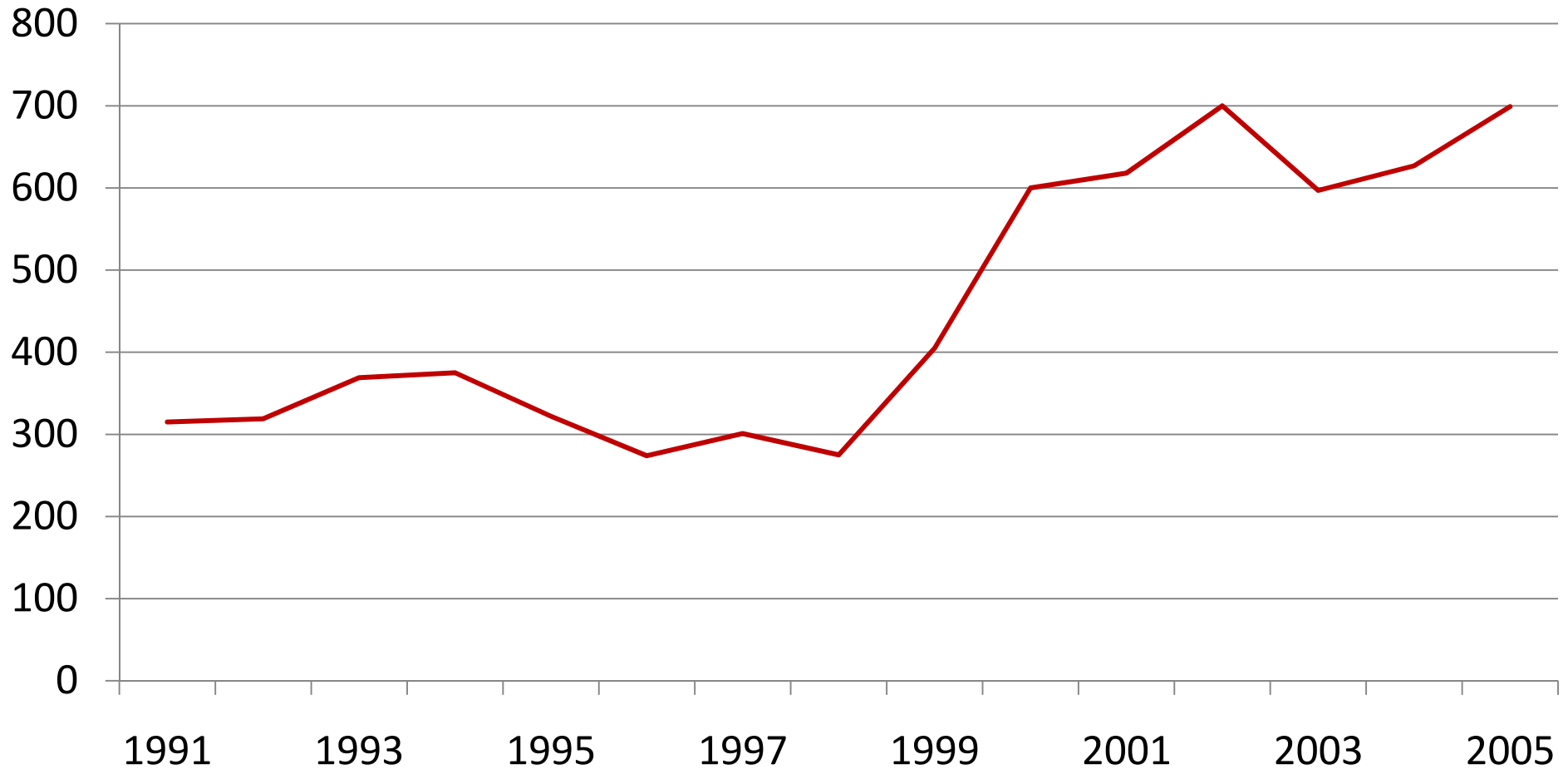
IEMA and its role in EIA

Institute of **Environmental** Management & **Assessment**

- A professional membership body for environmental professionals
- Over 15,000 individuals and organisational members.
- Core theme is improving Environmental Assessment.
- Operate both Individual and Corporate registers for EIA practitioners.
- Produce guidance on EIA, SEA, etc.
- Work with Government and others to improve both legislation and practice related to environmental assessment.

EIA in UK

Total ES submitted in UK 1991-2005





Drivers: Climate Change in EIA

CC and the EIA Directive

EIA Directive:

- Climate change is already included:
 - Article 3 = Climate
 - Annex IV = Climatic factors

ECJ:

- “Wide scope and broad purpose”

Drivers behind *CC&EIA Principles*

- 1. Transition to a low carbon economy**
- 2. Infrastructure renewal**
- 3. UK - SEA & CC guidance since 2004**

EIA:

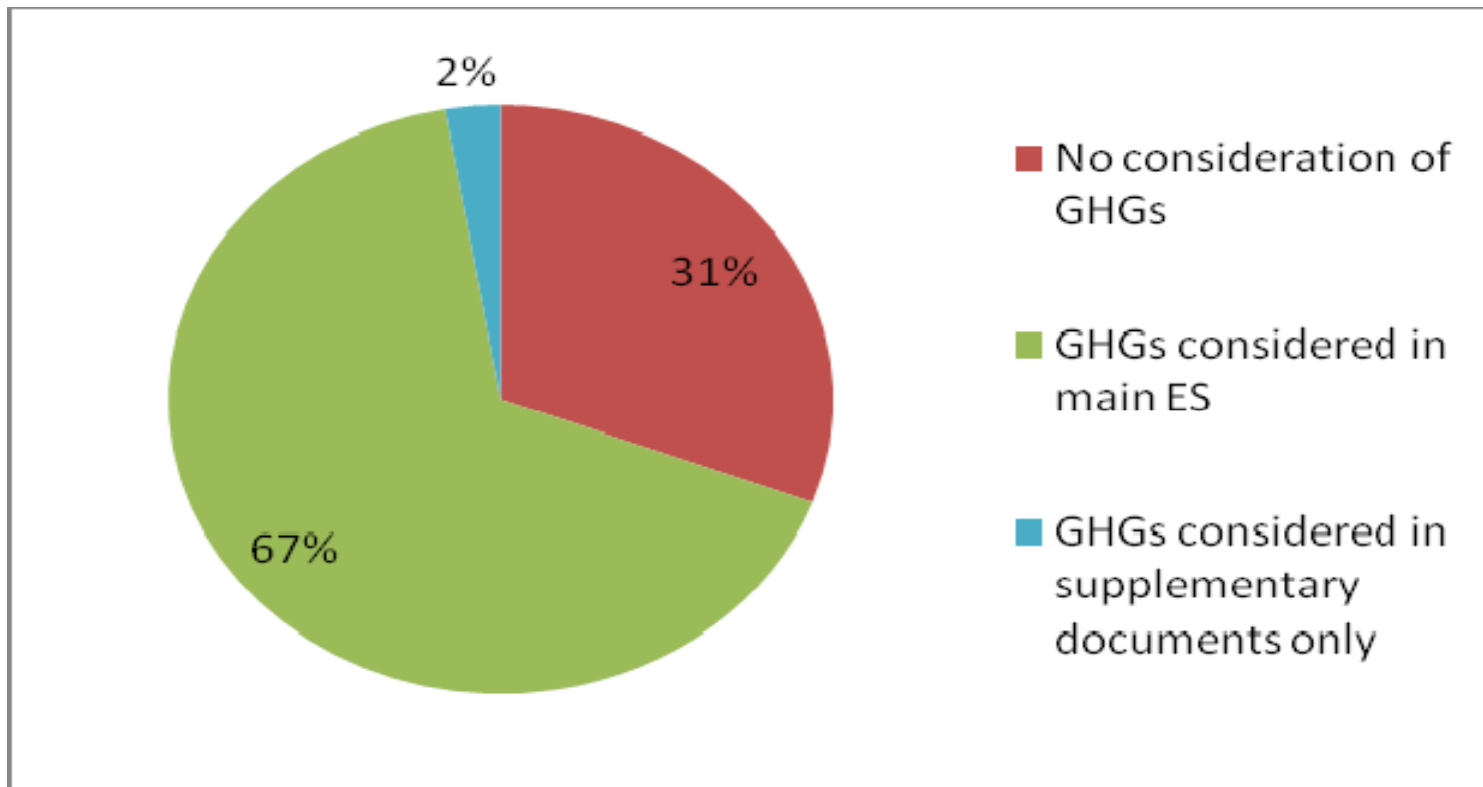
- CC often poor covered in practice
- Guidance limited to specific issues
- Practitioner demand for guidance

Research into current Situation in UK

Laura Seymour (University of Manchester)

75 Environmental Statements for CC Mitigation (07-09)

- Reviewed against 8 criteria based on IEMA's principles.



Only <3% met all 8 of research criteria!



Principles: Climate Change & EIA

Format of the Principles

- **Background advice**
 - Establishes the UK context for CC Mitigation / Adaptation.
- **Over-arching Principles**
 - Justifying the inclusion of CC in EIA practice.
- **Assessment Principles**
 - Direction on: scoping, alternatives, impact identification, significance, and mitigation
- **Reporting & follow-up Principles**
 - CC in the Environmental Statement, the use of Environmental Management Plans and links to Environmental Management Systems.

IEMA Principles Series:

Climate Change Mitigation & EIA

Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions is and will continue to be one of the main policy drivers in the coming decades. Action to manage GHG emissions from existing activities in all sectors of the economy is essential, but action is also needed related when planning future actions. The EIA Directive¹ requires the consideration of the effects of projects on climate (Article 3) and climatic factors (Annex IV).

In a 2009 IEMA survey of EIA practitioners, 88% felt that where relevant, carbon emissions should be considered in the assessment and reported in the Environmental Statement (ES). The supplement to PPS1 (CLG 2007 and forthcoming 2010) indicates Government support in this area, stating:

'Local planning authorities should not require specific and standalone assessments [of climate change] where the requisite information can be provided through... environmental impact assessment.'

Whilst Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Appraisal (SA) can present a broader opportunity to manage GHG emissions this, does not absolve EIA from consideration of climate change mitigation. The principles below focus on climate change mitigation, but EIA practitioners must also consider adaptation, which will be covered in a forthcoming set of IEMA principles to be consulted upon during summer 2010.

Over-arching Principles:

- The GHG emissions from all projects will contribute to climate change; the largest inter-related cumulative environmental effect.
- The consequences of a changing climate have the potential to lead to significant environmental effects on all topics in the EIA Directive – e.g. Population, Fauna, Soil, etc.
- The UK has legally binding GHG reduction targets - EIA must therefore give due consideration to how a project will contribute to the achievement of these targets.
- GHG emissions have a combined environmental effect that is approaching a scientifically defined environmental limit, as such any GHG emissions or reductions from a project might be considered to be significant.
- The EIA process should, at an early stage, influence the location and design of projects to optimise GHG performance and limit likely contribution to GHG emissions.

¹85/337/EEC as amended by 97/11/EC, 03/35/EC, and 09/31/EC

A few CC Mitigation Principles

- GHG emissions from all projects contribute to CC
- When scoping GHG you must consider the relevant policy framework and should review findings from associated SEA.
- Assessment should aim to consider whole life effects, including but limited to: Embodied energy, construction and operational emissions.
- Where GHG emissions cannot be avoided EIA should aim to reduce the residual significance of a project's emissions at all stages.

A few CC Adaptation Principles

- The climate is already changing with inevitable impacts to both human and natural systems.
- CC impacts will be more apparent in the medium term adaptation assessment in EIA should consider focussing on:
 - In-combination effects of project & CC on environment.
 - Resilience of design, materials, operational processes.
- The evaluation of whether an adaptation impact is significant should be based on a combination of:
 - **Scenarios**
 - **Vulnerability**
 - **Resilience**



Future Action on: Climate Change & EIA

European Guidance

European Commission:

- *Practical guidance and recommendations for integrating climate change and biodiversity into EIA/SEA procedures*
- Planned launch in 2011.

To find out more come to:

- *Embedding CC in Professional Practice Session 3*
- **Tomorrow: 13.30 – 15:00**

IEMA's Future Plans

Visit: www.iema.net/eia-cc

In 2011 we will develop:

- A single set of CC & EIA Principles.
- EIA climate change case studies .
- Supplementary advice notes:
 - Effectively scoping CC.
 - EIA & Carbon calculators.
 - CC & significance.