

*Communique*  
**National Planning Forum: Planning for Climate Change.**

*“I believe the world’s greatest environmental threat (is) climate change....a challenge so far-reaching in its impact and irreversible in its destructive power, that it alters radically human existence”*

**The Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Tony Blair MP**

**The NPF welcomes the initiative of the Prime Minister in calling for climate change to be one of the central issues of the current EU Presidency.**

**The NPF agrees with Government that ‘co-ordination of effort both in Government and among stakeholders is now required to achieve a comprehensive and consistent response to climate change across the UK’**

**Everyone has a part to play in meeting the challenge of climate change and the Forum considers that all engaged in the planning and development process can make a contribution in their own field by:-**

- **establishing ‘climate change proofing’ as a key test in the current round of regional strategies.**
- **reflecting more rigorously the climate change imperative already present in Government Planning Policy Statements and Guidance.**
- **strategically planning land use to reduce the demand for travel by car and in particular, peak hour car commuting.**
- **protecting flood plains and vulnerable coastlines from development, creating new water meadows, establishing new woodlands and better managing existing woodlands.**
- **improving the energy efficiency and sustainable drainage of both new and existing development.**
- **harnessing new technology to both inform the public and assist development decision making.**
- **avoiding complex and obscure regulation which burdens business, focussing instead on simple measures to reach carbon neutrality in all new development within 5 years.**
- **making the business and social case more effectively for new development to be fit for purpose in a changing climate.**