

Speech and press interviews

- Climate change is widely accepted to be one of the most far reaching and potentially threatening global challenges facing us today. The warnings in the Stern and Intergovernmental Panel on climate change reports cannot be ignored, nor can the growing and compelling body of scientific evidence that highlights the drastic changes that our climate has undergone in recent years
- For this reason the Government has committed itself to clear and ambitious targets, set out in the climate change Bill.
- But the truth is that we cannot hope to meet these national targets if we do not see a concerted effort from every region.
- As regional Minister I am committed to do all that I can to see that this region plays its part to drive forward a low carbon economy.
- I have already said that I will monitor the regional climate change panel over the next three years.
- When I was appointed regional Minister last year I set a number of key challenges for the region. I am clear that the issues of climate change should be taken account in all of them rather than be looked at as a separate issue.
- I have already said that amongst the key challenges for our region we should set out on a path to cut carbon emission by 23 million tonnes by 2050
- I have taken a keen interest in how the region plays its part in developing green technologies. On 17 March I will visit a business in our region which is a world leader in the development of wind turbine technology. And I will continue to encourage this exciting and vital component of West Midlands.
- And before I finish I want to congratulate Zian Kotadia from Selly Park, Birmingham, who this week was announced West Midlands Youth Climate Change champion. She is proof that individuals can make a difference and I she is an example to us all (see briefing note)