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COUNTRY PROFILE



UNITED NATIONS

INTRODUCTION - 2002 COUNTRY PROFILES SERIES

Agenda 21, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, underscored the important role that States play in the implementation of the Agenda at the national level. It recommended that States consider preparing national reports and communicating the information therein to the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) including, activities they undertake to implement Agenda 21, the obstacles and challenges they confront, and other environment and development issues they find relevant.

As a result, in 1993 governments began preparing national reports for submission to the CSD. After two years of following this practice, the CSD decided that a summarized version of national reports submitted thus far would be useful. Subsequently, the CSD Secretariat published the first Country Profiles series in 1997 on the occasion of the five-year review of the Earth Summit (Rio + 5). The series summarized, on a country-by-country basis, all the national reports submitted between 1994 and 1996. Each Profile covered the status of all Agenda 21 chapters.

The purpose of Country Profiles is to:

- Help countries monitor their own progress;
- Share experiences and information with others; and,
- Serve as institutional memory to track and record national actions undertaken to implement Agenda 21.

A second series of Country Profiles is being published on the occasion of the World Summit on Sustainable Development being held in Johannesburg from August 26 to September 4, 2002. Each profile covers all 40 chapters of Agenda 21, as well as those issues that have been separately addressed by the CSD since 1997, including trade, energy, transport, sustainable tourism and industry.

The 2002 Country Profiles series provides the most comprehensive overview to date of the status of implementation of Agenda 21 at the national level. Each Country Profile is based on information updated from that contained in the national reports submitted annually by governments.

Preparing national reports is often a challenging exercise. It can also be a productive and rewarding one in terms of taking stock of what has been achieved and by increasing communication, coordination and cooperation among a range of national agencies, institutions and groups. Hopefully, the information contained in this series of Country Profiles will serve as a useful tool for learning from the experience and knowledge gained by each country in its pursuit of sustainable development.

NOTE TO READERS

The 2002 Country Profiles Series provides information on the implementation of Agenda 21 on a country-by-country and chapter-by-chapter basis (with the exception of chapters 1 and 23, which are preambles). Since Rio 1992, the Commission on Sustainable Development has specifically addressed other topics not included as separate chapters in Agenda 21. These issues of trade, industry, energy, transport and sustainable tourism are, therefore, treated as distinct sections in the Country Profiles. In instances where several Agenda 21 chapters are closely related, for example, chapters 20 to 22 which cover environmentally sound management of hazardous, solid and radioactive wastes, and chapters 24 to 32 which refer to strengthening of major groups, the information appears under a single heading in the Country Profile Series. Lastly, chapters 16 and 34, which deal with environmentally sound management of biotechnology, and transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation, capacity-building respectively, are presented together under one heading in those Country Profiles where information is relatively scarce.

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LIST OF COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

ACS	Association of Caribbean States
AMCEN	Africa Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMU	Arab Maghreb Union
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CARICOM	The Caribbean Community and Common Market
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CILSS	Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development of the United Nations
DESA	Department for Economic and Social Affairs
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECCAS	Economic Community for Central African States
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FIDA	Foundation for International Development Assistance
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GAW	Global Atmosphere Watch (WMO)
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEMS	Global Environmental Monitoring System (UNEP)
GESAMP	Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GLOBE	Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment
GOS	Global Observing System (WMO/WWW)
GRID	Global Resource Information Database
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission
ICSU	International Council of Scientific Unions
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ICTSD	International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development
IEEA	Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFCS	Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety
IGADD	Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development

ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPCS	International Programme on Chemical Safety
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IRPTC	International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
LA21	Local Agenda 21
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategies
OAS	Organization of American States
OAU	Organization for African Unity
ODA	Official Development Assistance/Overseas Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
SACEP	South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SARD	Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women

UNU	United Nations University
WFC	World Food Council
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWF	World Wildlife Fund
WWW	World Weather Watch (WMO)

CHAPTER 2: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND RELATED DOMESTIC POLICIES

Decision-Making: Development Co-operation policy has been reviewed and changed as a direct consequence of UNCED. New strategies have been introduced to target priority-areas identified by the Prime Minister during UNCED: sustainable agriculture, biodiversity, forestry, energy efficiency, and population. The UK, following the creation of a new Department for International Development (DFID), will re-focus its international development efforts onto the elimination of poverty and encouragement of economic growth that benefits the poor. This will be done through support for international sustainable development targets and policies that create sustainable livelihoods for poor people, promote human development, and conserve the environment.

Programmes and Projects: See under **Cooperation**

Status: DFID implements a bilateral programme of development assistance to developing countries, seeks to influence other bilateral donors, contributes to and seeks to influence multilateral development agencies, and promotes consistent policies across government towards developing countries.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: The UK participates in the work of the EU, and the Paris and Oslo Commissions to promote the transfer of EST. The UK's Environmental Know-How Fund is a bilateral technical assistance scheme that aims to encourage long-term environmental improvement in Eastern Europe, through improving environmental management and institution building. The budget for this Fund was approximately 2 million for 1995/96. In addition, as a member-state of the EU, the UK has a stake in both the EU and PHARE and TACIS programmes and takes an active interest in their management. (PHARE is the EU's aid scheme for countries of Central and Eastern Europe and TACIS is its counterpart for the countries of the former Soviet Union). The environment is one of the priority sectors under PHARE and environmental projects, including those concerned with EST, are expected to account for 10% of its budget over the next five years. Following UNCED, the UK launched the Technology Partnership Initiative (TPI) as a practical response to calls by developing countries for increased access to information on environmental technologies. The initiative seeks to encourage transfer of technology and know-how to the rapidly industrialising developing countries by increasing direct business-to-business contacts and by providing business and organisations overseas with information on technology, management techniques and best practices adopted in the UK. The UK is also contributing to the two year pilot phase of the IEA/OECD Greentech project which aims to provide interested users (mainly developing and newly industrialising countries) with streamlined access to information on "greenhouse gas technologies."

Financing: The UK's overseas development assistance budget will increase from £2.4m to £3.2m from 1998/99 to 2001/02, approximately 28% in real terms over three years. The UK's total contribution to the GEF will be £129.8m for the pilot phase and £89.5m for the second phase. The UK successfully pressed for a fundamental review of the Heavily Indebted Countries (HIPC) Initiative. The UK played a leading role in agreeing the G7 Cologne Debt Initiative, which calls for a doubling of the debt relief provided under the HIPC initiative and the cancellation of aid loans. The UK has forgiven over £1.2bn (worth £5bn in today's prices) of developing countries' aid loans.

Cooperation: DFID is supporting the long-term conservation of tropical forests by helping developing countries to manage their forests sustainably for timber production and for all the other goods and services that forests provide. The UK is supporting approximately 154 forestry projects that are either underway or in preparation at a total cost to the development programme of £128m. DFID's Sustainable Agriculture Strategy aims to maintain or enhance the productivity of the land and aquatic resource base in support of long-term food security. It focuses on policy

and institutional reform, capacity building, sustainable resource management, participatory approaches, technological development and transfer, and facilitating private sector involvement. DFID has spent over £260 million on sustainable agriculture projects since 1994/5.

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**CHAPTER 2: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND RELATED
DOMESTIC POLICIES - TRADE**

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 3: COMBATING POVERTY

Decision-Making: The Government believes that work is the best way out of poverty for people of working age. Accordingly, a number of new policies known as the 'New Deal' have been formulated to help different groups into employment. First, the New Deal to the young unemployed will give them the chance of a job, to work in the voluntary sector or with the environmental task force, or the chance to study. Second, the New Deal for the long-term unemployed will allow them to study full-time on employment-related courses for a year. This will enable them to improve their skills and to gain qualifications that will enhance their chances of returning to work. In addition, employers are to be offered incentives to take on long-term unemployed workers. Third, the New Deal for sick and disabled people is currently being formulated to help those that are able to work, to do so. Finally, the New Deal for lone parents will offer help with finding work, training and childcare to single parents with children of school age. This policy is already showing encouraging results. Policies are also being developed to help pensioners, both through reviewing future pensions provision, and by helping current pensioners through additional payments to help with winter fuel bills this winter and next, and pilot exercises to encourage pensioners to claim their full benefit entitlement. Relevant legislation includes the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992, which is kept under constant review. The UK Government consults fully with a wide range of organizations (including those representing women) on proposed policy changes.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: The national priority of the United Kingdom is to improve living standards for the many, not just the few, and to offer educational and employment opportunities for all. The UK has rated the country's employment situation as 'very good' and access to primary health care, clean water and sanitation 'excellent'.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: The New Deal policies detailed above will cost a total of 5bn, financed by a windfall tax on privatised utilities. The fuel payments made to pensioners this winter will cost around 190m this year, and the pilot take-up exercises will cost an additional 15m.

Cooperation: The UK, following the creation of a new Department for International Development, will re-focus its international development efforts onto the elimination of poverty and encouragement of economic growth that benefits the poor. This will be done through support for international sustainable development targets and policies that create sustainable livelihoods for poor people, promote human development, and conserve the environment. The UK will work closely with other donor countries and international organisations to achieve this, and work in partnership with developing countries to meet these international targets. New forms of public/private partnerships will also be sought. The UK is working towards achieving a consistency of Government policies affecting developing countries. The importance of providing necessary resources for the development programme is recognised. The UK will start to reverse the decline in spending on development assistance, and has reaffirmed its commitment to the 0.7% UN target.

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CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

Decision-Making: The central institution responsible for policy on sustainable consumption and production is the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions.

The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations were developed in 1997 to implement aspects of the EC Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive. They place obligations on producers of packaging to ensure the recovery and recycling of a quantity of packaging waste in proportion to the amount they place on the market. The United Kingdom is also seeking a 30% improvement in residential energy efficiency through implementation of the Home Energy Conservation Act, and to achieve a 15% improvement in energy efficiency on government estates over 5 years. The Government launched a strategy paper in October 1997 which aims to achieve savings equivalent to two million tonnes of carbon by 2010 by moving market sectors (for example domestic appliances) towards better environmental performance. The Government is committed to reducing the proportion of controlled waste going to landfill from 70% to 60% by 2005, and recover value from 40% of municipal waste by 2005. It aims, through the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations, to meet the targets transposed from the Directive: 52% recovery of packaging waste by 2001 and 16% recycling by the same date. The Government is committed to reducing emissions of CO₂ by 20% below 1990 levels by 2010, and will review its targets to take account of the six greenhouse gases included in the Kyoto agreement.

The UK Sustainable Development Strategy is currently being reviewed and a new set of national indicators being developed. The new Strategy and the revised package of indicators will be published together before the end of 1998. Work on developing the new indicators is being carried out by seven advisory groups of experts from within and outside government. The Government has committed itself to developing a framework for sustainable transport. A number of measures, building on earlier work, are already in place, including a commitment to annual increases of 6% in real terms on fuel duty and implementation of EC Auto-Oils standards in 2000, with further measures likely in 2005. A White Paper setting out an integrated transport policy is planned for spring 1998, which will help protect and enhance the environment, foster a strong economy and promote a more inclusive society. Planning Policy Guidance (PPG 13) has been issued to local authorities on integrating land-use planning and transport, which will also be an important aim of the White Paper on integrated transport.

Major Groups involved in decision making include business, consumers, central and local government.

Programmes and Projects: The Government has initiated programmes to encourage the efficient use of energy in all sectors in co-operation with the voluntary and industry sectors. It has supported programmes of insulation for low-income households, including the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme, and has helped fund the work of the Environmental Task Force and for the work of the Energy Saving Trust. Other initiatives include 'Wasting Energy Costs the Earth', the Energy Efficiency Best Practice Programme for business, and a programme to reduce consumption in the public sector. 'Going for Green', established by Government in 1996, launched the EcoCal computer programme in 1997 to help people measure the effect of their actions on the environment. Following the publication of a waste strategy for England and Wales in 1995, and work on strategies for Scotland and Northern Ireland, the new Government will be looking at related issues over the coming year, with a particular emphasis on promoting waste recovery and waste minimisation.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: Over the past five years, the Government has also initiated a number of national seminars and debates, sectoral reviews of consumption patterns, national campaigns to raise awareness of sustainable consumption, and has played a leading role in the EC energy labelling and eco-labelling schemes.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: Through core funding of non-departmental executive bodies, core- and project- funding of charitable organisations, and grant payments to individual households.

Cooperation: A number of initiatives have taken place at EC level, including energy labelling, eco-labelling and public information and awareness campaigns.

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CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS - ENERGY

Decision-Making: Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is responsible for general energy issues, except for CHP (Combined Heat and Power). Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) looks after issues related to transportation, the atmosphere, and energy efficiency including CHP. The two Departments take the lead on setting policy for the area in which it has responsibility. This is done in consultation, at all levels, with other Departments that have a direct interest in the policy in question. Decision-making is delegated to lowest practical level to devolved administrations and local government. The energy production and distribution are all run by the private sector. Its role is coordinated with state agencies through a memorandum of understanding.

The UK (United Kingdom) Government will implement European Union legislation as it is agreed and this will be implemented in place of domestic legislation. Main legislations concerning UK's sustainable energy strategy include: IPPC (Integrated Pollution and Prevention and Control), packaging Regulations, climate change levy, direct help such as fuel poverty, EESOPS (Energy efficiency standards of performance), EST (Energy Savings Trust), CARBON TRUST, and incorporating Best Practice Programmes. The Climate Change Levy will be payable on the use of energy in industry, commerce and the public sector, the revenue raised being recycled via offsetting cuts in employers' National Insurance Contributions and additional support for energy efficiency schemes and renewable sources of energy. The basic design of the levy follows the recommendations made in Lord Marshall's report Economic Instruments and the Business Use of Energy, published in October 1998. Recent consultations have taken place on changes to the Energy Efficiency Standards of Performance scheme, amendments to the energy efficiency of the Building Regulations, and the provisions of the Home Energy Conservation Act.

Short and long term goals of sustainable energy policy of the Government are to reduce energy consumption and minimum waste whilst achieving a diversity of energy supply, access and distribution in a free market environment. The UK Government recognises that emissions trading has a key role to play in the long-term solution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and in helping the transition to a lower carbon economy. The UK Emissions Trading Group (ETG) is developing proposals for a domestic scheme, and presented an outline for a scheme to the Government in March 2000. The aim is to have a broad framework in place by April 2001, with companies taking on binding emissions targets from January 2002. Government has announced that it is actively working towards a target of at least 10,000 MW of installed Combined Heat and Power capacity by 2010, and is currently formulating a strategy to achieve this. The strategy, which is to be issued for consultation, will include a range of measures, including a commitment to review progress and ensure the UK is on track to meet this target.

NGOs, consumer groups and other major interest groups influence the energy consumption pattern in the country through NACBE (Advisory Committee on Business and the Environment), Energy Forums/Advisory Panels Foresight/Energy users council and other such fora.

Programmes and Projects: In June 2000 the New Home Energy Efficiency Scheme (New HEES) was launched. The main aim of New HEES is to alleviate fuel poverty through improvements in energy efficiency, focusing particularly on those most at risk from cold-related ill health: the elderly and families on low incomes and the disabled and chronically sick. The Government continues to support the work of the Energy Saving Trust raising the profile of energy efficiency in the domestic sector. We are also in the process of establishing a "Carbon Trust" - an independent, not-for-profit company limited by guarantee charged with accelerating the take-up of low carbon technologies by business. It will manage the business elements of the Energy Efficiency Best Practice Programme, providing energy efficiency advice and audit, and will also carry out strategic studies. It will also run an integrated programme of market deployment measures ranging from advice & information, fiscal incentives, education & training, and research, development & demonstration. Initiatives, rather than legislation, promote sustainable energy and environmentally sound consumption patterns. Such initiatives include Energy Saving Trust, the forthcoming Carbon TRUST, the Energy Efficiency and Environmental Technology Best Practice Programmes, the Waste Strategy, the UK response to climate change, Greening government, IPPC (Integrated Pollution and Prevention and Control), packaging Regulations, the promotion of CHP (Combined Heat and Power) and renewable energy, and climate change levy. Other initiatives include EESOPS (Energy efficiency standards of performance), fuel poverty (HEES: Home Energy Efficiency Scheme) and Going for Green. Major programmes

undertaken to enhance the accessibility of energy to urban and rural households include EEST (Energy Savings Trust) - Warmth programme, ESCOs (Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation Programme), and Fuel Poverty. The Fuel Poverty programme provides alternatives to unsustainable energy sources to urban and rural households for their consumption, as well as supplies energy to low-income households. The main programmes undertaken to cut down emission of greenhouse gases and reduce GHG concentration in the atmosphere include: Climate Change programme, Climate Change Levy, and Fuel Duty Escalator. The programmes aimed at reducing emissions from the usage of petroleum-based fuels for transport include: Fuel Duty Escalator, EEBPP (Energy and Environment Best Practice Programme)(Fleet Transport), and the Power Shift. The programmes aimed at promoting energy conservation in the country consist of: Energy Efficiency, Environment Technology and Waste BPP's Best Practice Programmes, 'Are you doing your bit' campaign, and EST (Energy Savings Trust) programmes.

Status: The Government has initiated and supported a range of programmes and initiatives to encourage the efficient use of energy in all sectors. The UK continues to be committed to working at the international level to encourage global responsibility and action, not only in relation to climate change, but also more widely in terms of the environmental impact of energy generation and use. In March 2000, the UK Government with the devolved administrations published a draft of the UK's Climate Change Programme aimed at meeting its Kyoto target and moving towards its domestic goal as outlined above. The final programme is due to be published by the end of 2000. The UK has natural coal resources, in addition to natural gas and oil reserves. Access to electricity is very good except some problems with remote locations and availability of supply. Overall consumption of coal has been reduced, particularly for electricity generation. There has however been almost corresponding increase in natural gas consumption. Oil use has been reasonably steady. There is more interest in burning wood and waste products. Energy production from nuclear power plants is likely to decline over next 20 years. There has been a small increase in renewable resources. The energy market is fully market enabled with no major changes likely but general trend away from energy supply to activity suppliers and other related services.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: Tendering training is an element of EEBPP (Energy and Environment Best Practice Programme). Motivational and educational advertisements are used to educate consumers on energy and environment related issues. A major media campaign to reduce consumption undertakes EST (Energy Savings Trust) promotions.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: In March 2000, the Chancellor announced that enhanced capital allowances would be available on energy saving products within a list of generic technologies.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS - TRANSPORT

Decision-Making: The Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) is responsible for overseeing the national transport strategy. The regional administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have responsibilities on prescribed matters. Local Authorities and the London Mayor have responsibility for decision-making at the regional and local level. The Highways Agency maintains, operates and improves trunk roads and motorways in England on behalf of the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions. The Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) has been set up to plan the operation and expansion of the rail network and oversee the performance of the private sector train operating companies. The Rail Regulator sets the level and structure of charges that Railtrack plc, the private sector owners of the track and stations, can make for access to the network. Both operate under guidance from DETR.

In 1998 the Government released a White Paper entitled 'A New Deal for Transport: Better for Everyone', which set out its commitment to create a better, more integrated transport system to tackle the problems of congestion and pollution. The Transport Bill, introduced in the House of Commons on 01 December 1999, which aims to improve local passenger transport services and reduce road congestion and pollution, complements the White Paper. The Transport (Scotland) Bill is currently before the Scottish Parliament. 'Transport 2010: The 10 Year Plan', published in July 2000, sets out a programme and resources to put the policies on European emission standards and fiscal incentives into practice.

The 10 Year Plan for transport recognizes the need to tackle the growing problem of congestion and to make public transport a more attractive option. The overall Strategy concerning the transport system is set out in 'Transport 2010: The 10 Year Plan', and the Government's White Paper on the future of transport 'A New Deal for Transport: Better for Everyone'. The White Paper addresses the UK as a whole; 'Transport 2010: The 10 Year Plan' applies to Great Britain as a whole with regards to railways, and to England for all other transport issues.

An independent body – the Commission for Integrated Transport (CfIT) – has been set up to provide independent advice to Government on the implementation of integrated transport policy, to monitor developments across transport, environment, health and other sectors and to review progress towards meeting our objectives. The Commission advises on developments in Europe, and identifies and disseminates examples of best practice from home and abroad. In January 2000 the Motorists' Forum was established to give motorists a voice in the development of integrated transport policy. In 1999 the Road Haulage Forum was set up to enable closer Government and industry co-operation in assessing the competitiveness of the industry and discussing ways to enhance it.

Programmes and Projects: The UK Government-backed Motorvate scheme is designed to help companies cut their fleet fuel costs and at the same time improve their environmental performance. Motorvate sets core targets of reductions in carbon dioxide emissions and reduced business mileage over a three-year period. Participating fleets are offered fleet management guidance, a telephone advice service, and on-site assistance. The Government is promoting greater fuel efficiency within the distribution (and bus) industries through the Energy Efficiency Best Practice Programme (EEBBP).

Status: In England, 60% of the poorest 20% of households have no car, and 55% of those over 70 years of age live in a household with no car. Women and those under 20 years are also more reliant on public transport. It is these groups that are therefore most in need of an improved public transport system. The scale of London and the complexity of its transport system mean that transport problems in London are of a different magnitude from those in any other metropolitan area in the country. Addressing the capital's transport problems is therefore a priority concern under the 10 Year Plan. Low population densities in rural areas increase the cost per head of providing public transport, which limits its provision. Currently, only 36% of households in rural areas in England are within a ten minute walk of a regular bus service, compared with 94% in urban areas. Rural areas are therefore a priority in developing an improved transport system. Peripheral regions can often be disadvantaged in terms of transport links, and so regional policies of both the UK and the EU are aimed at ensuring better transport links to such areas.

The target of the country is to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in road accidents by 40%, and children by 50%, over the next decade. The strategy for achieving this target is set out in 'Tomorrow's Roads – Safer for Everyone'. We have also reviewed speed management, and issued guidance on safer travel to schools. Passenger numbers through UK airports are projected to increase by 50% by 2010, and freight traffic by almost 100%. The Integrated Transport White Paper set out the Government's desire to see an increase in the proportion of journeys to airports undertaken by public transport, and announced the Government's intention to prepare a new UK airports policy looking 30 years ahead. It also referred to the need to bring forward new policies on civil aviation. This work will be brought together in an Air Transport White Paper, which will provide a long-term framework for the sustainable development of air transport in the UK. The rail industry has committed to a package of safety improvements including speeding up work on installing train protection, improved driver training, and further action to reduce incidents of signals passed at danger. The 10 Year Plan envisages the industry installing the Train Protection and Warning System across the network by the end of 2003 at the latest and fitting full automatic train protection on higher speed lines as they are upgraded. The UK may bring within the Plan further measures subject to the findings of current enquiries into recent rail crashes.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: The UK government runs advertising campaigns aimed at raising people's awareness of the impact of transport on the environment. These messages are spread through a variety of different media – TV and radio ads, promotions in national press, road shows and posters sites. Local Agenda 21 (LA 21) is the process by which local authorities work with their wider communities towards sustainable development, and is about managing and improving the local authority's sustainability performance, as well as awareness raising and education across its area, consulting and involving the community, partnership working with other agencies, and measuring, monitoring and reporting progress. The Transport Bill aims to improve bus services and guarantee free bus passes for all pensioners and disabled people entitling them to half fares. Bus Quality Partnerships have also been developed whereby operators and local authorities work together to improve bus services and related facilities. These will be placed on a statutory basis through the Transport Bill. Quality Partnerships in 120 towns and cities to date have generated increases in bus usage of 10-20%. The requirement for local authorities to produce Local Transport Plans should also lead to improved public transport provision, thus encouraging its use, and should lead to a promotion of cycling and walking.

There are many Government and local authority road safety publicity and information campaigns each year. The most notable national programs may be those aimed at reducing speeding and drunk driving. In terms of road safety "education", the main audience is children. DETR has recently re-issued its leaflet 'Lesson for Life' which offers advice to parents on how and what to teach their children about road safety as they grow up. The Department has also produced a highway code for young road users called 'Arrive Alive', which covers many aspects of road safety including the well-known and well-used 'Green Cross Code', which is about how to cross roads carefully and safely. Road safety messages aimed at children will have a positive impact on how their parents and other members of their family behave too. Learning about sustainable development is a key part of a broad and balanced education. We believe the role of the Government is to support sustainable development education in the classroom and beyond; and to listen to the advice of environmental and educational experts and ensure that accurate information is made available to young people. That information enables them to decide what they can do to contribute to the protection of the environment, and act upon those decisions. In Personal, Social and Health education, pupils learn about what improves and harms their local, natural, and built environments. In design and technology, they learn how to take into account the environmental impact of the products they design and make. In Citizenship, they are taught about global environmental issues, and in history, about the impact of changes in work and transport on society and the environment. DETR has commissioned consultants to develop a database of classroom materials relating to school travel issues. The database will be accessible via the Internet in the autumn of 2000, on DETR's school travel web site. There are a growing number of resources available for teachers wishing to integrate work on travel and transport issues in the national curriculum. The Sustrans Safe Routes to School Teachers' Resource Folder includes materials on transport and the environment, and the Nottinghamshire TravelWise teachers' pack produced by Nottinghamshire County Council looks at travel and transport issues such as health, pollution and congestion. The National Society for Clean Air publishes a Transport Emissions Assessment for Schools pack which helps schools calculate the amount of pollution their journeys to school produce. The Department for Education and Employment is developing two pieces of school travel software. A car-sharing database which will

enable schools to identify parents who are willing to share the car journey to school, or escort children to school by public transport, on foot or cycling. The second piece of travel software is mapping software that will enable pupils to map safer, healthier, and more sustainable routes to school, as well as identify dangers and find alternatives. The mapping software will come with a manual to help teachers use the software in conjunction with National Curriculum subjects. Both pieces of software will be made commercially available to primary and secondary schools from October 2000. Transport operators are responsible for their own training programmes within the framework of the strict regulatory standards and safety codes that apply to each sector.

Information: The overall policy framework and spending plans are set out in Government guidance, including the recently published 'Transport 2010: The 10 Year Plan'. See also under **Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising**.

Research and Technologies: The DETR encourages and funds a wide range of research to support the relevant policy objectives. The Department of Trade and Industry also carries out some relevant research through its Foresight programme. The devolved administrations also carry out research that is relevant to their functions. In addition, a number of UK universities carry out research on transport and traffic as do a range of private sector companies and consultants. The UK participates in a number of European Union research programmes, including the EU Framework Programmes, COST (European Co-operation in Science and Technology) and in OECD research.

Financing: The UK government has put in place a number of fiscal measures designed to facilitate the take-up of alternative fuels and vehicle technologies. This includes low rates of fuel duty on road fuel gas and special low rates of Vehicle Excise Duty and Company Car Taxation for alternatively fuelled vehicles. With regards to traffic management in towns and cities, a substantial increase in funding is being made available to local authorities, Passenger Transport Authorities and other transport providers to develop the packages of measures that best answer people's needs and reflect local conditions. Local solutions will largely be identified in Local Transport Plans, which local authorities will be obliged to develop under the Transport Bill. The Transport Bill will also give local authorities powers to set up congestion charging schemes and/or workplace parking levies in their areas in order to tackle congestion and other problems. A number of authorities are currently developing proposals for such schemes.

Cooperation: The UK participates in a wide range of common transport schemes and initiatives with neighbouring countries, both bilaterally and through the European Union. The UK has bilateral agreements relating to air traffic and the operation of flights between countries with many countries outside of the EU. There is an agreement to allow the operation of flights within the EU between the EU Member States. The UK is a member of a number of organisations, namely the International Maritime Organisation, the International Air Transport Association, the International Civil Aviation Organisation, the OECD, which fosters co-operation on a number of transport issues, and the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT), a body separate from, but associated with, the OECD, which deals with transport matters on behalf of European Ministers for Transport. Being a member of the European Union, the UK participates in joint EU transport ventures, and a Transport Minister attends formal EU Transport Councils to discuss legislative proposals four times per year. Ministers also meet their EU and other European counterparts at various bilateral meetings. These are sometimes wide-ranging and sometimes arranged to discuss specific issues.

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CHAPTER 5: DEMOGRAPHIC DYNAMICS AND SUSTAINABILITY

Decision-Making: The Department of the Environment, and the Office of Population and Census are the bodies that are most directly concerned with demographic issues. The Overseas Development Administration's (ODA) aid programme addresses population issues. These Departments are engaged in integrated policy coordination in the field of population, environment and development policies. Steps have been taken to coordinate project/programme operational activities in the field of population, environment and sustainable development. Public information activities have been conducted in order to create awareness of the linkages between population, environment and sustainable development issues. Although the UK does not have a national population policy, the Government continuously monitors demographic changes and trends. The Government is concerned with improving the well-being of individuals, ensuring that information and services are available for family planning, and ensuring the welfare of dependent children. The Government has been involved in supporting NGO activities related to population, environment and development. The following NGOs have received government support: Population Concern, Save the Children Fund, Oxfam, Christian Aid and Action Aid and the All Party Parliamentary Group on Population and Development. Action Aid and Commonwealth Medical Association were members of the UK delegation to the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994. The UK also held eight meetings of ICPD at the NGO Forum to facilitate discussion between NGOs and Government Departments. Funds were also provided for an NGO coordinator to help organize three NGO workshops to involve an even wider range of NGOs in the Cairo Process. Steps have also been taken to involve women in decision-making at all levels of population and sustainable development, policies, projects and programmes.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: The UK Government has committed over 150 million to population and reproductive health activities between 1994-95 through its aid programme and support of ICPD's Programme of Action. In its response to ICPD, the UK has continued to work closely with its development partners. One example is a new 22 million reproductive health project in Kenya financed equally by the UK and the European Commission.

Cooperation: The UK will continue to give high priority to population and development issues in its aid programme in order to facilitate ICPD's Programme of Action. The Government has attached high priority to promoting better reproductive health, including access to family planning services in developing countries and countries in economic transition through partnerships with governments, NGOs and the private sector. The UK tries to enable more people to have choices about the number and timing of their children. Helping women to go through pregnancy and childbirth more safely is a priority, as is helping women and men to avoid sexually transmitted infections and sexual violence. The goal will be to contribute to meeting by 2015 the internationally agreed targets of reproductive health for all and 75 %reduction in infant mortality.

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CHAPTER 6: PROTECTING AND PROMOTING HUMAN HEALTH

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: The UK is publishing a green paper, titled Our Healthier Nation, which considers, among other issues, the relationship between health and the quality of the environment. Effective protection of the environment is a prerequisite for a healthy nation. The way in which environmental quality affects health is sometimes easy to define, but usually involves complex interactions, and effects on health cannot always be measured. Nevertheless, there can be no doubting the importance of environmental factors associated with good air quality; safe, secure and good quality housing; safe drinking water; access to open spaces; and proper use of chemicals and potentially hazardous substances.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 7: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: The Central Government and local authorities plan and manage human settlements. Local authorities are charged with planning for natural disasters within their areas. An integral part of the planning system is community participation through involving individuals and non-governmental organizations in decisions on development plans and their application. The Health of the Nation programme recognizes the need for a safe and healthy home environment and commits the Government to ensuring that decent housing is accessible to all families. The UK Town and Country Planning Systems set a framework of rules and incentives, so that patterns of land use reflect the interests of the community as a whole. The Government and local authorities work through the Town and Country Planning Systems to reconcile the conservation of the environment with development needs. Local Waste Plans are also drawn to complement development plans drawn up under the Town and Country Planning Systems. The Government is also developing a sustainable development strategy that takes greater account of social inclusion. The Government published a Green Paper on Household Growth in November 1996, in order to initiate a wide-ranging public debate on possible options for accommodating the projected household growth. The Environment Act 1995 introduced mechanisms for the identification and regulation of contaminated land, as well as clarifying existing general statutory controls. The regulation of contaminated land allows for the market and voluntary actors to provide improvements to formerly contaminated land. The Government commits 250 m each year to facilitate development on such land, largely through bodies such as English Partnerships, the Welsh Development Agency and Scottish Enterprise. The UK contributed to drafting of the Habitat Agenda (Global Plan of Action) and drafted a National Report on UK planning for sustainable settlements in an urbanized world.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: The Government is encouraging the following activities: attractive and convenient urban areas in which people will want to live and work; new development in locations which minimize energy consumption; initiatives that promote the regeneration of urban land and buildings; the restoration and conversion of derelict and contaminated land to open space; rural economic development; and research to promote a better understanding of sustainable development. Household projections published in March 1995 by the Government suggested that some 4.4 million more homes will be needed in England between 1991 and 2016. This growth is largely due to longer life expectancy, increasing numbers of single person households, people wishing to live alone, and immigration from Europe. Simultaneously with the Green Paper on Household Growth in November 1996, the Government issued a report on the urbanisation implications of the household growth. Approximately 700 responses were received and the Government is now considering its policies on planning for household growth, taking into account the public consultation on the Green Paper. The Government remains committed both to protecting the countryside and to regenerating towns and cities, by encouraging local authorities to make the best possible use of previously developed land. The Government has taken steps to invigorate the transformation of large scale, poor quality public housing estates by 2005. The government is committed to promoting effective local authority strategies to reduce the proportion of vacant homes to 3% by 2005, as well as ensure that half of all new housing is built on re-used sites by that same year. The objectives of local government through the International Union of Local Authorities and the International Council of Local Environment Initiatives includes: improving human settlement management; promoting human resource development and capacity-building for human settlement development; and promoting the integrated provision of environmental infrastructure (water, sanitation, drainage and solid-waste management). Government has published research findings on rendering the preparation of city development plans more efficient. In the future, a research project will focus on ways to enhance local participation in the preparation of development plans.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: Simultaneously with the Green Paper on Household Growth in November 1996, the Government issued a report on the urbanisation implications of the household growth. Approximately 700 responses were

received and the Government is now considering its policies on planning for household growth, taking into account the public consultation on the Green Paper.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 8: INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN DECISION-MAKING

Decision-Making: The Sustainable Development Unit within the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' (DEFRA) co-ordinates the UK Government's work on sustainable development, and is the focal point for contact with the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development. DEFRA has lead responsibility within Whitehall for promoting sustainable development, including monitoring progress and reporting on the sustainable development strategy, supporting the work of the Green Ministers Committee, now ENV(G) a Cabinet Sub-Committee and improving access to environmental information and justice, and encouraging public participation.

The Government is putting sustainable development at the heart of every Government Department's work, To make sustainable development a reality, it must be built into policies and decisions. The UK Strategy for Sustainable Development (1999) set out a broad framework to help that happen. But we also need specific measures to drive change, both at home and abroad.

The Government has also affirmed its commitment to sustainable development in the next Spending Review (SR). The published guidance to departments on sustainable development in Spending Review 2002 demonstrates the important role that public spending can play in delivering the Government's quality of life objectives. It is vital to ensure that the contribution to sustainable development of the Government's spending of £394 billion a year is assessed and recognised.

Government Departments were asked by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Andrew Smith, to ensure that sustainable development issues are considered and reflected in their bids for the 2002 Spending Review. This is the first time that specific sustainable development guidance has been provided.

Sustainable development has featured in previous spending reviews and is an overall theme for SR2002. As part of its Spending Review submission, each department has been asked to produce:

- A sustainable development report, in which departments will have an opportunity to explain the sustainable development dimension to their work;
- A summary of how sustainable development has influenced the department's priorities;
- An explanation of how its Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets relate to sustainable development.

The sustainable development report will be the main product, giving departments an opportunity to explain in more detail the sustainable development implications of their bids and expanding on information provided elsewhere in the SR2002 bid. The report should set out any anticipated significant social, economic and environmental implications for departments' top priorities.

Action within Government Departments is co-ordinated by "Green Ministers" charged with ensuring that environmental considerations are integrated into the strategy and policies of their own Departments. Green Ministers report to the Cabinet Committee on the Environment chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister. This Committee has responsibility, at the strategic level, for ensuring that environmental considerations are fully integrated into all areas of policy in a joined up way in order to help achieve sustainable development.

In 2001 ENV(G) was given an improved work programme that set out the scope of activities across policy making, awareness raising and management of the Government estate. Its remit is "to consider the impact on sustainable development of government policies; to improve the performance of Departments in contributing to sustainable development; and to report as necessary to ENV Committee".

ENV(G) will increasingly focus on the broad scope of sustainable development rather than just environmental impacts. The Committee produces an annual report, the third of which was published in November 2001. The third annual report, builds on the previous two report, and set out the contribution all Government departments made to achieving sustainable development in the last Parliament, as well as identifying future priorities. The Committee is placing increased emphasis on raising awareness of sustainable development within Departments and integrating it into policy making. For this Parliament, ENV(G) has agreed that the term "Greening Government" no longer adequately covers the range of policy and operational issues that fall within the remit of the Committee. In

recognition of this, the Greening Government Initiative will now continue as 'Sustainable Development in Government'. Three broad priority areas have been agreed:

- Integrating sustainable development into decision making;
- Improving the performance of the Government Estate;
- Promoting understanding of sustainable development across Government.

Early priorities under the first two themes will be:

- Promoting the integration of sustainable development in SR2002;
- Setting challenging long-term targets for the Government Estate;
- Government Procurement.

As proposed in Strategy, the Government has established the [Sustainable Development Commission](#) (SDC), subsuming the UK Round Table on Sustainable Development and the British Government Panel on Sustainable Development. It has done so jointly with the Scottish Executive, the Welsh Assembly and the Northern Ireland Executive. Jonathon Porritt chairs the Commission. There are 23 other members, drawn from a wide range of backgrounds and from all parts of the United Kingdom. The Commission's role is to advocate sustainable development across all sectors in the UK, review progress towards it, and build consensus on the actions needed if further progress is to be achieved.

In April 2001 the Sustainable Development Commission published its mission statement, strategic objectives and programme of work for the next two years. This built on a range of preparatory exercises, including four reports, and a targeted consultation of key stakeholders. Full details are available on the [Commission's website](#) at www.sd-commission.gov.uk During 2001, the Commission's first full year, work has focussed on five key topics:

- *Climate change.* In October 2001, the Commission published a major report 'Forging an energy policy for sustainable development', which was its substantive input to the Government's review of energy policy. The Commission concluded that, on the basis of a sustainable development analysis, nuclear power performed less well than a combination of renewables and demand management. The Commission's future work programme in this area includes an audit of UK policies and programmes and an action study of how to make deep cuts in carbon emissions in a region, a city and more locally.
- *Farming and food.* In October 2001, the Commission published 'A Vision of Sustainable Agriculture', which defined the Commission's position on sustainable agriculture to inform the work of the Policy Commission on the Future of Farming and Food. The Commission pressed for a broad view to be taken of the public benefits generated by the food production sector, and for environmental and social benefits to be fully reflected in public policy. In December 2001, this was followed up by 'Sustainability appraisal of policies for farming and food', the Commission's assessment of other submissions to that Commission against a set of sustainable development criteria. In 2002, the focus of the Commission's work will switch to food procurement issues, especially in the health sector.
- *Productivity plus.* This project looks at how to improve the quality of economic growth, not just the quantity, improving the productivity with which we use resources and ensuring that we all share the benefits. The Commission is working with consultants on a new model of economic success, which seeks to disconnect well-being from social and environmental damage, and to question the relationship between growth and consumption.
- *Regeneration.* The Commission is seeking to ensure that programmes of urban and rural regeneration are implemented in a sustainable way. The Commission is embarking on a series of detailed investigations of projects and programmes. Following the publication of the Government's Green Paper in December 2001, the Commission is working with consultants on a major submission to the Government's review of the planning system.
- *Communicating sustainable development.* The Commission will be convening a forum of communications professionals and forming partnerships to support others; and communicating its work in a way that is persuasive, inspiring and engaging. A major communications event for the Commission was the publication in November 2001 of the Commission's review 'Headlining Sustainable Development', which took six of the major news events of the Commission's first year, and re-presented them through the prism of sustainable

development. This publication sought to show that for government, business and private citizens, sustainable development has something to tell us about everything we do, and every decision we take.

In addition, the Commission seeks to work with a range of sectors: not only central Government and the devolved administrations, but also business and English regional organisations; and it aims to encourage sustainable development at a local level. For example, the Commission is working closely with organisations at the regional level to ensure that sustainable development is reflected in regional strategies and programmes. On the business front, the Commission will be publishing in spring 2002, in partnership with DTI, a guide to the production of business sectoral strategies, an assessment methodology, and a good practice review.

Following a commitment in the 1997 Labour Party Manifesto, the House of Commons established an [Environmental Audit Committee](#) to consider how policies and programmes of Government Departments and non-departmental public bodies contribute to environmental protection and sustainable development. The Government particularly welcomes the Committee's emerging practice of returning to topics to assess progress, and to identify where weaknesses still exist. The Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) has a remit to consider "to what extent the policies and programmes of government departments and non-departmental public bodies contribute to environmental protection and sustainable development; to audit their performance against such targets as may be set by Ministers; and to report thereon to the House".

In January 2001, the EAC published a report that proposed the establishment of an independent Environmental Auditor General within the National Audit Office with the duty to report on the Government's environmental performance. Following the Government's response, which encouraged them actively to promote such a debate on this issue, the Committee have drafted a Bill to achieve these ends. The Committee recently launched an inquiry to examine how the UK is preparing for WSSD and the progress that has been made since the Rio Summit.

It is not possible for the UK to give an estimate of how much legislation, and administrative guidelines have been reviewed and revised since Rio, taking into consideration sustainable development aspects. However, since the Rio Summit, sustainable development has been central to the government's policies in all areas, and the UK has therefore endeavoured to make sustainable development a consideration whenever formulating legislation or guidelines. This process has been re-invigorated following the publication of the 1999 UK Strategy.

Sustainable development provisions written into statute since May 1999:

Strategic Rail Authority, Transport Act 2000

207. (1) The Authority shall exercise its functions with a view to furthering its purposes and shall do so in accordance with any such strategies as it has formulated with respect to them (except when exercising the function of reviewing those strategies).
- (2) In exercising its functions in accordance with subsection (1) the Authority shall act in the way best calculated-
- (a) to protect the interests of users of railway services,
 - (b) to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development,
 - (c) to promote efficiency and economy on the part of persons providing railway services,

Greater London Authority Act 1999; General functions and procedure: The general power of the Authority:

- s. 30. (1) The Authority shall have power to do anything which it considers will further any one or more of its principal purposes.
- (2) Any reference in this Act to the principal purposes of the Authority is a reference to the purposes of-
- (a) promoting economic development and wealth creation in Greater London;
 - (b) promoting social development in Greater London; and
 - (c) promoting the improvement of the environment in Greater London.
- (3) In determining whether or how to exercise the power conferred by subsection (1) above to further any one or more of its principal purposes, the Authority shall have regard to the desirability of so exercising that power as to further the remaining principal purpose or purposes, so far as reasonably

practicable to do so; and secure, over a period of time, a reasonable balance between furthering each of its principal purposes.

(4) In determining whether or how to exercise the power conferred by subsection (1) above, the Authority shall have regard to the effect which the proposed exercise of the power would have on-

- (a) the health of persons in Greater London; and
- (b) the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom.

In February 1998 the Government published '[Opportunities for change](#)', a consultation paper on a revised UK Strategy for Sustainable Development. A [summary leaflet](#) for the general public and supplementary consultation documents on particular aspects of sustainable development were also produced. The Government also [consulted](#) on a set of headline indicators of sustainable development. In preparing the revised Strategy, the Government built on the achievements of the previous Government's 1994 Strategy, but recognised that a broader approach was needed, which emphasised the social dimension of sustainable development alongside economic issues, the environment and resource use.

In May 1999 the Government's revised Sustainable Development Strategy, '[A better quality of life](#)' was published. It defines sustainable development as "ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come" and has four objectives which must be met at the same time: social progress which recognises the needs of everyone; effective protection of the environment; prudent use of natural resources; and maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

It also commits the Government to take account of ten guiding principles and approaches when making policy:

- putting people at the centre;
- taking a long term perspective;
- taking account of costs and benefits;
- creating an open and supportive economic system;
- combating poverty and social exclusion;
- respecting environmental limits;
- the precautionary principle;
- using scientific knowledge;
- transparency, information, participation and access to justice;
- making the polluter pay.

In the Strategy, the government made a commitment to report annually on progress against a set of 15 headline indicators – a quality of life barometer - in order 'to provide a high level overview of progress, and be a powerful tool for simplifying and communicating the main messages for the public'.

The government made a further commitment 'for all the headline indicators to move in the right direction over time, or where a satisfactory level has been reached, to prevent a reversal. Where a trend is unacceptable, the government will adjust policies accordingly, and will look to others to join it in taking action' (paragraph 3.7).

The headline indicators were selected from a larger set, which were published as '[Quality of life counts](#)' by the government in December 1999 to provide a baseline assessment against which progress towards sustainable development can be measured. Quality of life counts explains why we need indicators; the criteria and frameworks used to develop the indicators; how indicators will be used; and how they may need to develop over time to respond to changing circumstances. It also explains the value of producing the headline set of indicators presented here. Some of the other indicators in 'Quality of life counts' are included elsewhere in this report.

The Strategy also says that we will bring together and publish once a year the latest information about progress against each of the headline indicators of sustainable development, and will account for the action the Government has taken, and proposes to take in priority areas.

The first of these annual reports, [Achieving a better quality of life: Government annual report 2000](#) was published in January 2001, the second report charting progress in 2001 ([Achieving a better quality of life: Government Annual Report 2001](#)) was published in March 2002.

Achieving sustainable development requires a partnership between Government, business and voluntary and community groups. In his speech to the WWF conference on 6 March 2001 the Prime Minister invited business and NGO leaders to develop innovative strategies in the key areas of water, energy, tourism, finance and forestry. Government is currently:

- Working with the UK water industry to develop an initiative to help make progress towards the internationally agreed targets for water and sanitation.
- Working with a stakeholder group to identify ways the World Summit on Sustainable Development can give a boost to the use of sustainable energy. The G8 Task Force Report and the G8 Summit in Genoa are important parts of this process.
- Managing a multi-stakeholder process to develop innovative means of incorporating sustainable development into the tourism sector.
- Working with the financial services sector to generate ideas to integrate sustainable development into their work, making use of London's position as a global financial centre.
- Working with the UK pulp and paper industry to produce a package demonstrating innovative work in promoting sustainable forest management.

The Prime Minister also identified the need to improve our productive use of resources and Government will be working with business to agree environmental productivity indicators and long-term resource use targets.

Programmes and Projects: The 'Modernising government' White Paper, published in March 1999, calls for more inclusive and integrated policymaking. This included a commitment to produce and deliver an integrated system of impact assessment and appraisal tools to support sustainable development. To deliver this commitment, an interdepartmental group was tasked with producing a comprehensive database of existing impact assessments and appraisals and sources of guidance in the form of a '[Policy Makers Checklist](#)'. The checklist requires policy makers to screen policy proposals taking account of Government objectives and key issues such as sustainable development, health impacts, environmental impacts, consumer impacts, scientific evidence, risk and the Human Rights Act. The Cabinet Office/Centre for Management and Policy Studies and individual Departments are working to develop the Policy Makers' Checklist further to produce a more fully integrated appraisal system.

The 'Modernising government' White Paper also calls for "policies and programmes, local and national, [which] tackle the issues facing society – like crime, drugs, housing and the environment – in a joined up way, regardless of the organisational structure of government." In practice, policy development in the UK is increasingly demonstrating integrated thinking.

National Instruments and Programmes, Existence

1. Sustainable Dev. or environmental education incorporated into school curricula:	YES
2. Sustainable Development Indicators Programme:	YES
3. Ecolabel Regulations:	YES
4. Recycle/Reuse Programmes:	YES
5. Green Accounting Programme:	IN PROCESS
6. Access to Internet:	YES
7. Access to World Wide Web:	YES
8. National World Wide Web Site for Sustainable Development or State of the Environment:	YES

Policies, Programmes and Legislation, Existence

1. Combating poverty:	YES
2. Changing consumption and production patterns:	YES
3. Atmosphere:	YES
4. Land Use Planning:	YES
5. Forest and Deforestation:	YES
6. Desertification and Drought:	DROUGHT MEASURES IN PROCESS
7. Sustainable Mountain Development:	YES
8. Sustainable Agriculture:	YES
9. Biological Diversity:	YES
10. Biotechnology:	YES
11. Oceans and Coastal Areas:	YES
12. Freshwater Management:	YES
13. Toxic Chemicals:	YES
14. Hazardous Wastes:	YES
15. Solid Wastes:	YES
16. Radioactive Wastes:	YES
17. Energy:	YES
18. Transport:	YES
19. Sustainable Tourism:	

Status:*National Decision-Making Structure, Existence*

1. National Sustainable Development Coordination Body:	YES
2. National Sustainable Development Policy:	YES
3. National Agenda 21/other strategy for SD	YES
4. Local/Regional Agenda(s) 21:	YES
5. Environmental Impact Assessment Law:	YES
6. Major Groups involved in Sustainable Development Decision-Making:	YES

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: The ‘Are you doing your bit?’ publicity campaign encourages people to take simple everyday actions to help protect their local and global environment. Focussing on four priority areas: transport, climate change/energy efficiency, waste and water, the campaign aims to change attitudes and show that individual action is important.

The first year of television advertising created a strong campaign identity and raised awareness using humour to persuade people that environmental action is relevant to everyone. In May 2000, the campaign moved on to stress both the personal and collective benefits of action. Research undertaken to measure public reaction to the campaign is encouraging with continued high levels of campaign recognition and it shows that the campaign continues to maintain positive attitudes towards helping the environment.

- Nine out of ten people recognise the campaign;
- Seven out of ten say that the advertising made them think they should be doing their bit;

- Almost seven out of ten say they plan to start or increase the environmental actions in the adverts; whilst
- Over six out of ten claim to have started or increased one of the actions featured in the campaign in the 12 months.

Information: The Freedom of Information Act, which received Royal Assent in November 2000, is a major piece of legislation that builds on the progress made through Open Government. It directly supports sustainable development by providing enhanced access to information held by public authorities about their responsibilities and activities. This will be used to produce a culture of greater openness so that decisions taken are more transparent and, as a consequence, public authorities more accountable for their actions.

The government is committed to improving public access to environmental information. The United Nations Economic Council for Europe (UNECE) Aarhus Convention strengthens the existing public access regime for environmental information making it more liberal and more responsive.

In November 2001 the Lord Chancellor announced the timetable for implementing the Freedom of Information Act. By November 2002, publication schemes (statements about proactive dissemination of information) are required for central Government bodies. The requirement will apply to local Government, police forces, the health service, education bodies and then the remaining public authorities at 6 monthly intervals after that with the individual right to make requests for information following in January 2005.

New Regulations on access to environmental information are now expected in 2002. These will upgrade the public's existing rights of access to environmental information set out in the 1992 Environmental Information Regulations (SI 1992 No 3240) to bring the regime into line with the Aarhus Convention. They will also take account of the new EC Directive on access to environmental information.

The independent Information Commissioner set up under the Freedom of Information Act will also hear appeals against refusals to grant access to environmental information. The Government continues to promote proactive information provision to encourage informed decision making by the public. For example, since November 2001, all new cars must be labelled with data on their fuel consumption and carbon dioxide emissions. The Government also remains committed to introducing energy rating systems for houses.

The Environment Agency extended its 'What's In Your Back Yard?' website in December 2001 (an on-line database of information) to cover data on areas likely to flood, real time information on areas where flood warnings are currently in place, information on landfill sites and discharges to the sea. Local environmental information such as the emissions from a particular factory can be accessed simply by typing in your postcode

New laws at the European level mean that, for the first time, the public has a right of access to documents held by the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers. EU Regulation 1049/01 came into force on 3 December 2001. The Regulation is a welcome development in providing transparency in European processes but it does not deliver the obligations that arise from the Aarhus Convention with regard to access to environmental information. The Government will continue to press the European Commission to play its part in achieving full compliance with the Aarhus Convention.

As many of these examples (not least our own reporting website www.sustainable-development.gov.uk) show, more and more information is being made publicly available via the Internet. It is therefore important that everyone is able to access information and public services in this way. The website is designed to provide continuous monitoring and reporting of progress towards sustainable development by society as a whole. It also includes a Discussion Forum to provide a less formal, more creative mechanism for debating and exchanging information on sustainable development issues. In 2001 the Government set a goal of ensuring that everyone who wants it has access to the Internet by 2005, which will ensure that this is the case

Research and Technologies: In April 2001, the Government established a Sustainable Development Research (SDR) Network. Its aim is to strengthen the delivery of high quality, crosscutting research relevant to those in the UK who make decisions in the context of sustainable development. In particular, it will:

- facilitate knowledge sharing between the academic research, public policy and business communities;
- identify gaps in current knowledge; and
- promote sustainable development research.

The Network, which has a rolling series of workshops, a user-forum and an annual conference planned for the next two years, is currently compiling a database of relevant sustainable development research, which will be made publicly available via the Internet later this summer.

The SDR Network contributes to the 'Modernising government' agenda, by facilitating the better use of evidence and research in policy-making. It is funded by Government and is co-ordinated by the Policy Studies Institute (PSI), in association with the Centre for Sustainable Development (CfSD) at the University of Westminster and the Centre for the Study of Environmental Change and Sustainability (CECS) at the University of Edinburgh. Membership of the SDR-Network is free and open to all individuals and institutions with an interest in UK SD research. Members receive a regular email newsletter and notice of relevant events. Details of how to join the SDR-Network are available at <http://www.sd-research.org.uk/>

Financing: The Government has put in place a framework to deliver a stable economic environment, now and in the future:

- The monetary policy framework has been reformed to deliver low inflation. The Bank of England sets interest rates to meet the Government's inflation target of keeping the annual increase in the Retail Price Index (excluding mortgage interest payments) at 2.5%;
- The Government has introduced the '[Code for Fiscal Stability](#)' and specified two strict fiscal rules: the 'golden rule' and the 'sustainable investment rule'. These require that, over the economic cycle, the Government borrows only for investment, and not consumption, and that the level of borrowing must be consistent with keeping public sector net debt, as a proportion of GDP, at a stable and prudent level.

The UK Strategy for Sustainable Development committed the Government to explore the scope for using economic instruments, such as taxes and charges, to help deliver sustainable development. Such measures can promote change, innovation and efficiency, and higher environmental standards. They are a way to put the 'polluter pays' principle into practice, although care is needed to consider the impact on competitiveness and social consequences: for example, ensuring that the price of essential goods like fuel or water does not lead to hardship for the least well-off.

The November 2001 Pre-Budget Report made clear the Government's strategy to ensure that growth is sustainable environmentally as well as socially and economically and many economic instruments reflect this strategy. Key developments in taking forward the government's strategic approach to sustainable development include:

- Further tax incentives: for low-carbon vehicles and fuels.
- Green Technology Challenge: tax incentives for environmentally friendly investments by business.
- Inclusion of sustainable development requirements in Spending Review 2002.
- Improvements in the public space: reviewing steps to improve the safety and attractiveness of streets and public places as part of spending Review 2002, to create stronger communities and a better quality of life.
- Vehicle excise duty (VED): launching a consultation on options for modernising motorcycle VED and discussing with stakeholders the possible role of tax incentives, such as VED, to encourage cleaner vans.

The Government's Climate Change Levy, a tax on the use of energy in industry, commerce and the public sector, came into effect from April 2001. The scheme offsets cuts in employers' National Insurance Contributions and additional support for energy efficiency schemes and renewable sources of energy. The levy forms a key part of the Government's programme to tackle climate change and meet the Kyoto Protocol. In March 2001, it was

announced that energy intensive industry sectors had signed more than 44 agreements with formal targets for cutting carbon emissions and tackling climate change.

The £1.6 billion England Rural Development Programme, announced in October 2000, represents the largest increase in support for a range of measures which will encourage more sustainable farming, including:

- Agri-environment schemes such as Environmentally Sensitive Areas, the Countryside Stewardship Scheme and the Organic Farming Scheme;
- The Rural Enterprise Scheme – specifically designed to help farmers, rural businesses and rural communities to develop more sustainable, diversified enterprising rural economies;
- Vocational Training Scheme – to broaden the skill base of agricultural and forestry workers; and
- Energy crops – to deliver more sustainable and efficient energy production, so helping to meet climate change targets and help farmers to diversify.

Cooperation: The Government will encourage international organisations to integrate sustainable development into all areas of their work. The framework for UK developmental policy is set out in the 1997 White Paper ‘Eliminating World Poverty: A challenge for the 21st century’ and expanded on by the 2000 White Paper ‘Eliminating World Poverty: Making Globalisation Work for the Poor’. The 1997 White Paper committed the UK Government to supporting the International Development Targets (IDTs), which had been developed from a range of targets agreed at UN Summits and conferences in the 1990s. The IDTs set out a vision for reducing world poverty by 2015.

The UK spends half of its money on development programmes through international organisations, and will promote sustainable development principles in these programmes. For example, the Government will:

- continue to press for effective implementation of the European Commission’s environmental assessment procedures and will work to ensure that its policies do not inadvertently undermine the interests of developing countries;
- work to ensure that the successor to the Lomé Convention - which provides a framework for EC aid to Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific - has a strong poverty elimination focus and that its new trade arrangements help to integrate developing countries into the global economy;
- encourage the World Bank to apply stringent environmental and social assessment criteria to its projects, and to promote sustainable development through all of its activities;
- continue to play a significant role in the United Nations system, including through its Commission on Sustainable Development, whose overarching themes for the next five years are sustainable consumption and production, and poverty eradication. In May 2001, 193 governments, participating at the Third UN conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), adopted a political declaration.
- In July 2001 the Group of Eight (G8) leaders agreed to take decisive action to make globalisation work for the world’s poor;
- support initiatives to build sustainable development into the work of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The OECD’s Ministerial Council in May 2001 concluded with Ministers endorsing policy recommendations to improve integration of economic, environmental, and social objectives, and de-couple economic growth from a range of environmental pressures. The OECD Environmental Strategy for the First Decade of the 21st Century was also adopted, committing to specific national actions over the next 10 years to deal with environmental problems and cooperate on environmental sustainability.

In February 2001 Chancellor Gordon Brown and International Development Secretary Clare Short, called for a global campaign to fight child poverty and meet the IDTs. They also launched a fund to help achieve universal primary education in the Commonwealth and introduced a series of health measures to help for countries hit hardest. At the same time, the Chancellor announced a new international initiative to address the devastation caused by killer diseases, his intention introduce tax incentives for research and development into effective and affordable drugs and vaccines for these diseases and his intention to remove constraints in the tax system on donations of drugs and vaccines.

In June 2001, at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS Clare Short announced that the UK would provide \$200 million to the newly established Global Health Fund.

In July 2001 a pioneering long-term international research project, 'Young Lives', was launched to examine the lives of thousands of children born into poverty in the new millennium in four developing countries: Ethiopia, Peru, Vietnam and India, following their lives from infancy to adulthood.

Also in July 2001, the UK Government's Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) spearheaded a new international agreement. This agreement means that the 26 export credit agencies (ECA's) in the world's main trading nations will now make sure that their exporters provide insurance support only for projects which provide social and economic benefits to the world's 41 poorest nations.

At the 4th World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial in Doha in November 2001, UK Ministers for Development and Environment attended in addition to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. This reflects the importance the UK attaches to trade as an engine for global sustainable development.

The Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions co-ordinates the UK Government's work on sustainable development and is the focal point for contact with the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development. Action within other Government Departments is coordinated by "Green Ministers" charged with ensuring that environmental considerations are integrated into the strategy and policies of their own Departments. Green Ministers report to the Cabinet Committee on the Environment chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister. This Committee has responsibility, at the strategic level, for ensuring that environmental considerations are fully integrated into all areas of policy in a joined up way in order to help achieve sustainable development. The Government Panel provides Government with independent advice on sustainable development, both at home and abroad; identifies major problems and opportunities, monitors progress, and considers priorities. The UK Round Table was established in the beginning of 1995 to bring together leaders from a range of disciplines to seek to build a consensus about action necessary to achieve sustainable development. The Government proposes to establish, from the beginning of 2000, a new Sustainable Development Commission. This will subsume the Panel and the Round Table. Its main responsibility will be to monitor progress on sustainable development, and to build consensus on action to be taken by all sectors to accelerate its achievement. Environment Agency (for England and Wales, and a similar agency for Scotland) established by the Environment Act to protect and programmes of Government Departments and agencies contribute to environmental protection and sustainable development.

On 17 May 1999, the United Kingdom Government published a better quality of life: a strategy for sustainable development for the UK. The Strategy defines sustainable development as ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come. It sets out the objectives and principles of sustainable development, some of the priorities for action in the UK, key actions being taken and commitments that the Government has made. It also includes indicators that will be used to judge whether or not the country is progressing towards a more sustainable form of development. It is not possible for the UK to give an estimate of how much the legislation, decrees and administrative guidelines have been reviewed and revised since Rio, taking into consideration sustainable development aspects. However, since the Rio Summit, sustainable development has been central to the government's policies in all areas, and the UK has therefore endeavoured to make sustainable development a consideration when formulating legislation or guidelines. This process has been re-invigorated following the publication of the UK Strategy. The Environment Act of 1995 places a duty on Ministers to give the Environment Agencies guidance periodically on objectives and the contribution they make to achieving sustainable development. It is believed that greater integration will mean that it will be better placed than its predecessor bodies to: consider the environment as a whole, rather than compartmentalised; deliver a consistent approach to regulation and; provide a more streamlined service to industry and the public. Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) are generally required where a project would be likely to have significant environmental impacts.

The UK is engaged with a multi-sectoral Local Agenda 21 process, which is co-ordinated and driven by the Improvement and Development Agency (formerly the Local Government Management Board) under direction of Local Agenda 21 Steering Group. Local Agenda 21 involves all sectors of the community and it aims to develop local policies for sustainable development and building partnerships between local authorities and other sectors to implement them. The Prime Minister has made clear that he wants all local authorities in the UK to adopt Local

Agenda 21 strategies by the year 2000. The following major group organisations are full members of the National Sustainable Development Co-ordinating Mechanism: (women) National Federation of Women's Institutes, (youth) Great Barr Grant Maintained School (1), (NGOs) Friends of the Earth & International Institute for Environment and Development, National Federation of Consumer groups, National Society for Clean Air, Neighbourhood Energy Action, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds & World Wide Fund for Nature, World Wide Fund for Nature Scotland, (local authorities) Convention of Scottish Local Authorities Planning Committee, Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council, Leicester City Council, Local Agenda 21 Steering Group, (workers and their Trade Unions) British Petroleum Company, Confederation of British Industries, General Electric Company, Northern Foods Plc, PowerGen, Severn Trent Water, Weetabix Ltd, Whitworth Holdings Ltd, (scientific and technological community) Centre for Transport Studies, Green College Oxford, Open University, and (farmers) Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group. Going for Green, UK Round Table on Sustainable Development, Secretary of State for Scotland's Advisory Group on Sustainable Development and Environment

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: Going for Green develops ideas on getting sustainable development across to the general public, and organises promotional events.

Information: Beginning in 2000, the UK Government will bring together and publish annually the latest information about progress against each of the headline indicators in the UK Strategy, and to account for the action that the Government has taken, and proposes to take, in priority areas.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: In 1995, the UK submitted the UK Report to the CSD. The UK played full part in April CSD session and preparations, including pressing for agreement to the establishment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests. The UK contributed to drafting of the Habitat Agenda (Global Plan of Action) and drafted a National Report on UK planning for sustainable settlements in urbanised world. The UK has participated in funded studies by Natural Resources Institute/ UN Development Programme on desertification indicators and participatory planning. In 1995, the UK developed an operational strategy, monitoring and evaluation systems and linkages to the Climate Change and Biodiversity Conventions for the GEF. The UK will continue to work towards the GEF's adoption as the permanent funding mechanism for the Climate Change and Biodiversity Conventions and develop use of ODA Project framework system as a means of assessing and evaluating GEF projects and programmes.

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CHAPTER 9: PROTECTION OF THE ATMOSPHERE

Decision-Making: The government department primarily responsible for the issues concerning the protection of atmosphere is the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR), which is a member of the national coordinating mechanism for sustainable development. The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, published in January 2000, aims to provide the best practicable protection to human health and the environment by setting health-based objectives for the main local air pollutants and objectives to protect vegetation and eco-systems. The objectives are to be achieved by a range of dates, from 2003-2008.

Programmes and Projects: The UK Climate Impacts Programme, initiated by the Government in 1997, is designed to encourage a wide range of stakeholders to be involved in the assessment of climate change impacts and adaptation in the UK. The programme has attracted considerable interest from the public and private sectors and a number of regional and sectoral projects are now underway. The UK has put in place a comprehensive programme to tackle climate change. Its draft programme, published in March 2000, sets out policies and measures to attain the UK's Kyoto target of a 12.5% reduction below 1990 levels by 2008-2012 and move towards the domestic goal of a 20% reduction in carbon dioxide (CO₂) below 1990 levels by 2010.

Status: The basket of six greenhouse gases are projected to be about 15% below the 1990 level in 2000, and CO₂ emissions on their own are projected to be about 9% below. This means that the UK will meet its UNFCCC commitment to return greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2000. UK emissions of the 6-gas basket are projected to be about 13.5% below 1990 levels in 2010, with emissions of CO₂ about 7% below. These projections reflect the impact of a number of measures the UK has introduced since Kyoto. The UK is therefore also on course to meet its Kyoto target. Although cautious about the use of sinks to help meet commitments under the Kyoto Protocol, the Government supports the conservation and enhancement of sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases in general. The Government has taken measures, through grant programmes, to protect existing forests and encourage reforestation as well as undertaken research to improve the quantification of UK sinks. National goals concerning the phase-out of CFCs and other ozone-depleting substances include: production and consumption of CFCs (except for limited essential uses) phased out by 1995; halons by 1994; carbon tetrachloride by 1995; methyl chloroform by 1996; methyl bromide by 2005; and consumption of virgin HCFCs by 2010 and recycled HCFCs by 2015. The average number of days per site in the UK in 1999 when air pollution was "moderate" or higher was 30 days, compared with 59 days in 1993. In rural areas, there were on average 46 days per site in 1999 when air pollution was moderate or higher. These figures represent an increase on the 1998 levels, largely attributable to transboundary pollution. The figure below shows the trends in air pollution since 1987.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: The UK Government has established a set of 15 headline indicators of sustainable development. One of these measures the average number of days per site on which pollution levels were "moderate" or above National Air Quality Standards. The pollutants included within the indicator are particles (PM₁₀), ozone, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide. There are over 1500 sites across the UK that monitor air quality. Information gathered through these monitoring networks, and through other research projects, is made available through the UK National Air Quality Information Archive.

Research and Technologies: The UK carries out a wide range of research on climate change. The Government funds the Met Office's Hadley Centre, a world-leading centre for climate change research. The Hadley Centre monitors global and national climate trends and develops state of the art ocean-atmosphere coupled climate models. It uses them to provide long-term global and regional projections of climate change and estimates of the extent to which climate change so far is attributable to human activities. The UK also supports a variety of activities relevant to Global Climate Observing Systems (GCOS). The Research Councils support significant programmes of research linked to climate change. Three of the Research Councils have formed an interdisciplinary centre for climate research with a budget of up to £10 million over five years. The UK has a strong involvement in research into stratospheric ozone depletion and undertakes long term monitoring of the total atmospheric ozone column over the

UK and Antarctica. The UK participates in co-ordinated European Research projects such as the Third European Stratospheric Experiment on Ozone. The Natural Environment Research Council has several strategic research initiatives into atmospheric chemistry that contribute greatly to the understanding of stratospheric ozone depletion. The UK has always made a very significant contribution to the WMO/UNEP scientific assessments of the depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer.

The Government sponsors various research projects monitoring levels of nitrogen in the air and in waters, and projects intended to explain the fluxes of oxidised and reduced nitrogen between the various environmental media and vegetation. Models have been developed to describe and predict the movement of nitrogen and its likely environmental impacts. The Natural Environment Research Council has also chosen nitrogen as a priority area for basic research. Its GANE programme is intended to provide better explanations for and characterisations of the nitrogen cycle. The UK has an extensive hydrocarbon-monitoring network, providing real-time monitoring of 26 compounds at 13 locations. This, together with 71 monitoring stations for ground-level ozone and the development of sophisticated models for ozone transport and formation, is enabling the UK to better understand the occurrence of ozone in the UK. The UK takes particular pride in the continuing research designed to describe the chemistry leading to the formation and removal of ozone, and its incorporation into models. Model development is now most apparent in accounting for ozone transport across transcontinental distances. Under the UNECE Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution, the UK leads the International Co-operative Programme on Vegetation, whose main focus is on assessing the vegetation stock at risk from ozone. The UK also has similar programmes for acid rain, heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants.

UK companies are among the world leaders in monitoring of CFCs and other ozone-depleting substances and developing alternative technologies. The Government works closely with private companies to facilitate technology transfers to developing countries. In monetary terms, this transfer amounted to US\$8.75 million multilateral aid in 1995, which is similar to figures for previous years.

Financing: The Government is sponsoring the Carbon Trust, an organisation set up to recycle £130 million of climate change levy receipts to help promote low carbon technologies and business energy efficiency. In the field of renewable energy, the Government has earmarked £40 million to promote offshore wind over 3 years, and £12 million for energy crops over 3 years. A range of government-funded programmes have been set up to promote technological development in the transport sector, such as 'Powershift' which provides grants towards the purchase of electric vehicles. From 1992 to 1997 the Government contributed US\$15.1 million to the Vienna Convention/Montreal Protocol trust funds and has contributed some US\$49 million to the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol to assist developing countries. The UK has committed over £215 million to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the financial mechanism of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Cooperation: The United Kingdom signed the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on 12 June 1992 and ratified it on 8 December 1993. The UK supports the aim of ratification and entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol by 2002. The United Kingdom signed the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer on 20 May 1985 and ratified it on 15 May 1987; and ratified the Montreal Protocol on 16 December 1988; the London Amendment on 20 December 1991; and the Copenhagen Amendment on 4 January 1995. The UK also signed the Montreal Amendment in 1997 and the Beijing Amendment in 1999. In December 1999 the UK signed the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Gothenburg Protocol to abate acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone, which sets national ceilings for emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds and ammonia to be achieved by 2010. The UK supports international action to reduce transboundary air pollution. The UK has already achieved its targets under the 1988 EC Large Combustion Plant Directive to cut emissions of sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides from large combustion plants by 2003 and 1998 respectively. The UK is also well on course to achieve its target under the UNECE Second Sulphur Protocol of an 80% reduction in sulphur dioxide emissions by 2010. On air pollution from ships, the UK supports Annex VI to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) that, on entry into force, will designate the North Sea and Baltic Sea as low sulphur fuel zones. The UK participates in the Global Ozone Observing System and as of 1997, has two observation stations. No one country can hope to address effectively all the scientific issues associated with climate change and UK scientists are active in many international collaborative

research programmes relevant to climate change, including the World Climate Research Programme and the International Geosphere Biosphere Programme. The UK plays a significant role in the work of the WMO/UNEP-sponsored Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which was set up in 1988 to assess the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of climate change. The Government funds expert support for the Working Group I co-chair Sir John Houghton and provides expenses for UK lead authors involved in the preparation of the Third Assessment Report and other IPCC reports. The Department for International Development (DFID) aims to eliminate poverty by a number of means including protection and better management of the natural and physical environment. Through its bilateral programmes, the UK is working to improve its understanding of the possible impacts of climate change on developing countries. It hopes to help poorer countries take account of these in their development planning in order to reduce their future vulnerability. It is also working to help them improve their energy efficiency and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. The UK also provides bilateral technical assistance for environmental projects to countries in transition through the Environmental Know How Fund (EKHF). Current projects include: the development of an Air Quality Monitoring and Management System for Budapest, which will serve as a model for other towns and cities in Hungary; and best practice guidance for environmental management and energy efficiency in the iron and steel sector in Romania. Recent projects include: support for the World Bank's air pollution abatement programme in Bulgaria; and support for the World Bank's National Commitment Building Programme to Phase Out Lead from Gasoline in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, the introduction of clean-coal technologies in the Romanian and Ukrainian power sectors; and advice on the approximation of EU air legislation in the Baltic States.

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CHAPTER 10: INTEGRATED APPROACH TO THE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

Decision-Making: The Environment Act of 1995 introduced a specific regime for the identification and regulation of contaminated land, building on and clarifying the more general existing statutory controls. The system will operate within a framework of statutory guidance from the government and site-specific technical advice and guidance from the new environment agencies, enabling controls to be applied consistently. The overall emphasis of policy is on allowing the market and voluntary action - which are both normal processes of development - to bring improvements to formerly contaminated land.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: In 1996/97, around 225 million of Government money was given to English Partnerships to assist developments on such land, which includes the Derelict Land Grant paid to English Partnerships as agents. Money is also set aside for such bodies as the Welsh Development Agency and Scottish Enterprise.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 11: COMBATING DEFORESTATION

Decision-Making: The responsibility for individual components of the National Forest Programme is spread across many Ministries and Agencies. In the UK there is close co-operation between Government Departments and Agencies. Forestry therefore features in the UK's integrated land management strategy/ policy. Although many of the issues identified in the IPF proposals for action are catered for to some extent by existing arrangements in the UK, responsibilities for individual components of the UK national forest programme are spread across many Ministries and Agencies and policies are contained in a number of different sources. Many players do not necessarily see themselves as having a part to play in sustainable forest management, even though their activities have an influence on sustainable forest management. The UK will revisit the arrangements for allocating forest-related responsibilities between Government departments, the mechanisms for co-ordination and the ways in which other stakeholders are involved.

The national forest programme for the UK is not contained in a single document, but in a number of key documents. The UK Forestry Standard, published in 1998, sets out how these principles of sustainability will be delivered in practice, bringing together in one document a wide range of detailed guidance. The Standard: explains the international and domestic setting in which guidance and regulation of forestry has developed, sets out the criteria for sustainability in forestry and the indicators by which they can be assessed, not only at the national level but also locally by forest managers, and commits the Government to monitoring performance against these criteria. The Government is committed to monitoring performance against these criteria and will continue to develop and refine the Standard and report on progress. The criteria developed for the UK are based on the resources attributable to forests: Soils; Water; Air; Trees; Biological diversity; Workforce; Communities; Heritage and Landscapes. To allow progress to be monitored, criteria are supported by measurable or assessable "indicators", at both the national and the of the forest management unit level. Results from monitoring exercises, in all their different forms, will influence policy, regulations, incentives and guidance, including the Standard itself.

Cross-sectoral policies related to forests are harmonised through close inter-departmental co-ordination and joint representation in international fora. The UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS) was launched in June 1999. The UKWAS is a voluntary scheme in support of sustainable forest management, developed by a partnership of forestry and environmental organisations in response to the growing consumer demand for timber products from sustainably managed forests. The certification process is voluntary and represents a new way of doing business for the broader forest community so that UK forestry continues to improve its environmental and economic performance. By the end of the year 2000, the Forestry Commission wants all the forest it manages to be certified under the UKWAS.

A wide range of bodies, including central and local Government, wildlife and countryside agencies, voluntary bodies, and the forestry industry, delivers forestry policy. A number of fora exist to encourage communication between different interest groups. These mechanisms enable major groups such as rural communities, trade associations, NGOs, local authorities, scientists and academics to be consulted and actively involved in forestry.

Programmes and Projects: A national forest programme (NFP) for the UK was mapped out, defining the major elements, responsibilities and actors in the public, private and voluntary sectors who have responsibility for individual aspects of the NFP. This task was undertaken in the context of the Government's review of its strategy for sustainable development with the aim of developing a more integrated approach and improving the co-ordination of the mechanisms and processes that deliver the national forest programme in the UK. The individual proposals were sifted and assessed and a preliminary review identified actions already underway and by whom, and considered what else needed to be done. The relevance of the proposals was assessed and they were clustered into common themes and subjects, to reduce technical language and repetition. Consultation with stakeholders on how to move forward with implementation followed. A distinction was made between the relevance of proposals at the national level (i.e. relevance to the UK forest sector) and their relevance within the wider context of international discussions, and development co-operation in particular. For the most part, it was found that the proposals did not represent radical new departures in thinking about forests. Much of what was proposed was underway in the UK

and in the UK's partner countries, and the proposals are only one of many sources of influence and guidance about how countries should change, in their own interests and in that of the wider international community.

Status: In 1997 at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session, the Prime Minister reaffirmed the UK's commitment to sustainable forest management. The UK has agreed in the context of international processes to produce a national forestry programme and the Government is preparing a strategy for delivering sustainable forest management in the UK, updating the 1994 'Sustainable Forestry - the UK Programme' to be published later in 1999. The Government's approach is based on better management of existing woodlands and continuing expansion of our woodland area. The UK (represented by the Forestry Commission and the Department for International Development) assessed the relevance of the proposals for action in the context of the 6-Country Initiative. Reforestation can make a useful contribution to UK balances of non-atmospheric carbon. Trees extract carbon from the air as they grow at a typical rate of two tonnes per hectare per year, and the rate can be as high as six tonnes. As timber is a renewable resource, there are advantages in using this rather than fossil fuels. The burning of timber not only helps to reduce the rate at which fossil fuels are depleted, but is also beneficial to the control of atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide. The process of growth, harvesting and combustion is largely carbon-neutral except for the consumption of fuel in the course of cultivation and harvesting, but this is usually less than the cost of exploiting fossil fuel.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: Information is made available through various consultation networks, in publications and through the Internet. The Forestry Commission, like many other Government Departments, has its own website (www.forestry.gov.uk) All of the criteria and indicators used in the UK are considered to be useful in assessing progress towards sustainable forest management.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: Grants are available for planting which aims to create wildlife habitats, recreation opportunities, enhance landscapes etc as well as to produce timber.

Cooperation: The UK played an active role in the IPF and continues to play a key role in the IFF. The UK participated in a number of intersessional initiatives, including the 6-Country Initiative in support of the IFF, which explored how the IPF proposals for action could be put into practice at the national level, in a way that meets the circumstances of individual countries. The UK plays an active part in the Pan-European Process. The UK plays an active part in the international debate on sustainable forestry and we have sought to ensure that the UK continues to bring its influence to bear in promoting sustainable forest management. The UK also plays an active role in the forestry discussions within the G8 Process. The G8 Action programme on Forests, launched at the Birmingham Summit in 1998 addresses monitoring and assessment, protected areas, support to the private sector, national forest programmes and illegal logging. G8 countries will report on actions taken at the G8 Summit in Japan in 2000.

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CHAPTER 12: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: COMBATING DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: The UK has no areas that fall within the Agenda 21 definition of a desert, nor any areas that are likely to. However, it has played a full part in the workings of the International Desertification Convention.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: The UK has participated in funded studies by the Natural Resources Institute/ UN Development Programme on desertification indicators and participatory planning.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ratified the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification on 18 October 1996. Through the UK Department for International Development the UK provides substantial funding designed to counter the effects of desertification in developing countries.

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CHAPTER 13: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: Social, economic and cultural incentives for sustainable mountain management in Scotland include: management agreements between owners and the Scottish Natural Heritage to protect areas of high natural heritage value; and Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) schemes which offer incentives to farmers to manage land in the interest of conservation, the Community Woodland Grant Scheme, and the Rural Challenge and Rural Strategic Support funds.

In the Welsh mountain systems, land use policies are under preparation for Ceredigion, Brecknock, Montgomery, Dinefwr and Radnorshire. Official bodies for the Welsh mountain system include: Countryside Council for Wales, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Snowdonia National Park Authority and Sambrian Mountains. The upland and mountain areas of Scotland provide homes and livelihood for thousands of people. Their sustainable development is a matter of importance to the UK Government, for the mountain areas are part of the general economic and social structure of the United Kingdom. In recognition of this importance, the Secretary of State for Scotland established the Cairngorms Partnership who have prepared a Management Strategy for the Cairngorms massif and surrounding area. The relevant authorities have also prepared proposals for the future management of the Loch Lomond & Trossachs area.

The following NGOs are involved in mountain issues: National Farmers' Union (Scotland), Cairngorms Partnership, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (Scotland), Scottish Wildlife and Countryside Link, John Muir Trust, Save the Cairngorms Campaign and Friends of Loch Lomond. NGOs involved in mountain issues in Wales include: National Farmers Union, Farm Union of Wales, National Trust, Mountain Rescue, Prince of Wales Committee, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, among others.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: There are no parts of the UK designated by the European Union as “mountain areas”, but the vast majority of designated Less Favored Areas (LFAs) in the UK are in upland areas. The Secretary of State for Scotland has announced his intention to establish National Parks in Scotland, the management of which will reflect the particular circumstances relevant to Scotland, and it is envisaged that the Loch Lomond & Trossachs area and the Cairngorms will be the earliest to be established by the Scottish Parliament following its establishment. In 1996, Scotland played host to the first session of the European Inter-Governmental Consultation on sustainable Mountain Development held in the Cairngorms; the second session followed in Trento, Italy.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 14: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: The following Ministries and Departments are responsible for agriculture and rural development and related policies: The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF); Department of Environment (Rural Development Division); Scottish Office, Rural Affairs and Heritage Scottish Executive Rural Affairs Department, the Welsh Office National Assembly for Wales and the Northern Ireland Office.

Relevant national legislation covering agriculture and rural development includes: the Agriculture Act 1996, the Food and Environmental Protection Act 1985, the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Environment Act 1995. There are a variety of initiatives to encourage environmentally friendly farming, including both incentive schemes and free advice. The incentive schemes are governed by the EC agri-environment regulation (2078/92). This regulation is to be replaced by Regulation 1257/99 from 1 January 2000. Regulation 1257/99 ('the Rural Development Regulation') seeks to simplify the framework for supporting rural development by combining nine former regulations in one to provide a wide range of schemes, which are available in principle throughout Member States, not just in areas designated under the Structural Funds. The Regulation lays the foundation for a new European framework in which reforms in the agricultural commodity sectors will be complemented by more closely integrated measures to support rural development and to protect and improve the environment. This twin track approach will bring agricultural and rural policy closer together, recognising that the future of rural areas and communities depends both on farmers' broader role in sustaining the countryside and local economy and on the adaptation and diversification of rural economies through support to non-farming interests. The UK has designated 72 Nitrate Vulnerable Zones under the EC Nitrate Directive (91/676). Since December 1998, farmers within the Zones have been required to comply with mandatory measures to control nitrate pollution from agriculture. These include requirements to limit applications of fertilisers and organic manures and to observe closed periods for fertiliser and some applications of livestock manures as well as rules on record keeping and waste handling and storage facilities.

A Government strategy for alternative crops was issued in 1995. MAFF's Alternative Crops Unit Agri-Industrial Materials Branch is working to take forward the strategy by developing policy, by disseminating information and organising events to encourage new developments on industrial and energy crops. Pesticide Minimisation Policy also aims to promote and encourage sustainable farming practices. MAFF launched on 26 August 1999 a consultation exercise on the implementation of those areas of the EU's adopted Agenda 2000 package on the Common Agriculture Policy where national discretion applies; and on a wider-ranging future strategy for agriculture, including rural development measures as well as sector specific measures (i.e. beef, dairy, arable). The Government is drawing up a Rural White Paper which, among other things, will look at how policies on matters such as the economy, agriculture, health, transport, education, housing, crime, energy efficiency and planning will support rural communities and how rural areas can contribute to the Government's objectives in these matters. It will also look at how the Government's regeneration policies can assist deprived rural communities and give rural people the opportunity to participate fully in our society.

NGOs with interests in this area include: the National Farmers' Union, Country Landowners' Association, Wildlife Trusts, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Council for the Protection of Rural England, Scottish Natural Heritage and Scottish Environment Protection Agency. Statutory agencies are the Countryside Commission Agency, English Nature and English Heritage. There are equivalent organisations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Programmes and Projects: The largest agri-environment scheme in the UK is the Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) scheme. There are 43 ESAs in the UK, 22 of which are in England, covering 15% and 10% of agricultural land respectively. These areas are all of particularly high landscape, wildlife or historic value, and are threatened by changes in agricultural practices. Within the ESAs farmers can enter into voluntary ten-year agreements to undertake specific management practices and, if they wish, to take action to enhance, extend or restore features of particular conservation value. The Nitrate Sensitive Areas offer five-year voluntary agreements to farmers in designated areas for the adoption of practices designed to reduce or stabilise nitrate levels in public

water supplies. The Nitrate Sensitive Areas Scheme farmers in designated areas enter into voluntary five-year agreements requiring them to follow practices designed to reduce or stabilise nitrate levels in public water supplies. The Scheme has closed to new applicants. The Organic Aid Farming Scheme offers payments to encourage farmers to convert to organic farming. In July 1997 the Government announced its intention to review the rates and structure of aid under this scheme. In England, outside the ESAs farmers are able to enter into voluntary ten-year Countryside Stewardship agreements that are targeted at specific habitats and landscape types. The Scheme has a wide range of environmental objectives, including sustaining landscape beauty and diversity, protecting and extending wildlife habitats, conserving archaeological sites and historic features, restoring neglected land or features, creating new habitats and landscapes and improving opportunities for people to enjoy the countryside. Over £17 million has been made available over the last three years for the approval of new agreements and in 1999 MAFF plans to approve applications with a total first year cost of £7.5 million. In addition, in January 1998 MAFF introduced a three-year Arable Stewardship pilot scheme in two areas, West Midlands and East Anglia. This is aimed at restoring wildlife in arable farmland areas. £0.5 million is being made available for new agreements in both 1999 and 2000. In addition, in 1999 it launched a two-year experimental project in two areas, Forest of Bowland and Bodmin, to test an integrated approach to economic and rural economy issues in the uplands. Other agri-environment schemes include the Moorlands Scheme and the Habitat Scheme. New enhanced options for the uplands have been introduced to supersede the Moorlands Scheme and enhancements to supersede the Habitat Scheme are also being considered. The Countryside Premium Scheme offers similar opportunities in Scotland, as does the Countryside Management Scheme in Northern Ireland. In Wales, 'Tir Gofal' embraces the best practices from the existing range of agri-environment schemes.

Status: Member States are required to draw up seven-year Rural Development Plans to begin on 1 January 2000, describing which measures will be used, the geographical areas covered, the proposed expenditure and the economic, social or environmental justification. Plans are currently being prepared, following consultation, for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The plans must include agri-environment schemes and an appropriate balance of the other measures contained in the Rural Development Regulation. The Government is also implementing activities to address rural welfare. It has prepared initial plans and is ready to implement farm employment opportunities and establish databases on rural employment. Other schemes include the Habitat Scheme designed to benefit wildlife on particular types of land, and the Moorland Scheme, which promotes the extensification of livestock production on heather and other moorland. The Government has an extensive research and development programme in agriculture. The results of this work are disseminated to farmers through agriculture advisory services Government sponsored research institutes, and agriculture and related departments in universities and colleges. Plant breeders in the private sector carry out plant breeding research. Research has also been commissioned on the awareness, use and promotion of integrated pest management and integrated crop management techniques for farmers and growers.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: Since 1992/93, MAFF has funded farm waste management plan campaigns annually in targeted river catchments. In the campaign for 1999/2000 up to 500 farmers will be encouraged to prepare plans which will show how manures and similar organic wastes can be managed on-farm in the most economically and environmentally friendly way. In addition, free on-farm advice is offered to farmers on conservation opportunities on their farm. In addition, in June 1996 a free Organic Conversion Information Service was launched providing both a telephone help line and free individual on-farm advice for farmers considering conversion to organic farming.

Information: MAFF is developing a set of indicators for sustainable agriculture in the UK as a way of measuring the main impacts of agriculture and its contribution to sustainable development. The agriculture indicators are designed to identify the key sustainability issues for the agriculture industry, NGOs and the public at large, in four main areas: socio-economic issues; the environmental impacts of input use; resource use; and conservation value of agricultural land. The aim is to publish a pilot set of indicators later this year. MAFF has published Codes of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Water, Air and Soil. Other Agricultural Departments have done likewise. The Codes provide practical advice for avoiding pollution and following good agricultural practice. The Codes complement the advice given in the Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Pesticides on Farms and Holdings (the Green Code).

Research and Technologies: The LINK programme on Technologies for Sustainable Farming Systems (TSFS) has been established as a mechanism for joint Government and private funding of collaborative research between industrial and science-based partners. The programme will provide strategic research into novel technologies, which will lead to new sustainable crop and animal production systems. The LINK programme on TSFS has been extended by one year (closed March 1997) and the total value is expected to be 14.5 million. Three new LINK programmes (Sustainable Livestock Production, Sustainable Arable Production - SAPPPIO, and Horticulture) have been established as a mechanism for joint Government and private funding of collaborative research between industrial and science-based partners. All three programmes fund research into more sustainable production technologies. A previous LINK programme on Technologies for Sustainable Farming Systems (total value of £14.5 million) has already provided strategic research into novel technologies, which will lead to new sustainable crop and animal production systems.

Financing: The Government funded is funding approximately 0,95m £125m worth of research and development in 1995/96 1999/00 focused on agriculture. This figure includes £0.25m d 0,25m on agri-environmental R&D largely concerned with environmental protection and under-pinning the operation of agri-environment schemes, including just over £2 m on R&D related to organic farming.

Cooperation: The December 1996 Environment Council of the European Union agreed that securing sustainable agriculture is one of the key priority areas in their review of the EU's Fifth Environmental Action Programme. Some EU environmental legislation is specifically aimed at reducing pollution from agriculture (e.g. the Nitrate Directive), while agri-environment schemes introduced under EU Regulations encourage environmentally beneficial agricultural practices. In addition, the EU provides support for rural development under Objectives 1 and 5b of the EU Structural Funds. A Working Group will be formed in the autumn to progress a strategy for integrating environmental concerns into EU agricultural policy. The OECD has work underway on the environmental impacts of agricultural policy reform, which will inform meetings of Ministers from OECD countries during 1997/98 and is seeking to develop agri-environmental indicators as a policy tool to help analyse and monitor the current situation and improve the environmental performance of agriculture. The UK is an active participant in this work.

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CHAPTER 15: CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Decision-Making: The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals entered into force in the United Kingdom on 1 October 1985. The Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Natural Heritage (Scotland) Act 1991 reorganized the way nature conservation was administered by creating separate agencies for England, Scotland and Wales and a Joint Nature Conservation Committee to co-ordinate UK international functions. The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 provide a statutory framework for the conservation of land important for wildlife, natural features and the protection of birds and other endangered wild plants and animals.

The UK Action Plan on Biodiversity was published in January 1994. The plan defined 59 broad targets for forward action and provided a strategy for the next 10 and 20 years to conserve and enhance wild species and wildlife habitats. A Biodiversity Steering Group, comprising representatives from central and local government, agencies, business and leading academic and non-governmental bodies, was appointed to implement the commitments and develop a range of specific targets for key species and habitats for the years 2000 and 2010. The report of the Group of December 1995 recommended that local plans and targets be developed as part of Local Agenda 21 in addition to national targets. The report also contained guidance in developing Local Biodiversity Action Plans, and a number of other proposals aimed at increasing public awareness and involvement of biodiversity by various sectors including the media. The Government response of May 1996 endorsed the aims and main proposals in the report as the basis for follow up action. To date over 100 Local Biodiversity Action Plans are in various stages of preparation. Organisations involved in these plans include local government, the statutory and voluntary nature conservation sectors, landowners, business and the local community. This very much reflects the fruitful partnership approach that has been a feature of national work in biodiversity. Particular emphasis is given to partnership, and continuing the cross-sectoral approach which has proved so successful. 'Champions' from non-government sectors, including business and industry, have been invited to join the Government and its agencies in contributing to implementation of the individual species action plans. The report of the Biodiversity Steering Group contained action plans for 116 species and recommended the preparation of action plans for 286 more species within 3 years. 1,252 species were recommended for monitoring. 38 key habitats were identified for early conservation action: 14 had costed action plans published as part of the report, which recommended that the other 24 habitats had action plans prepared for them within 3 years. The UK is the first country in the world to prepare costed action plans in this degree of detail.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: Implementation of the action plans is being co-ordinated by the UK Biodiversity Group, chaired by the DETR. This is supported by four country Groups; England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. These groups are chaired and serviced by the relevant territorial Departments.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: Development of a strategy on public awareness is currently an important task for the UK Group.

Information: Three further groups have been established with responsibility for Information and Data, Target Setting and Local Issues. The UK Local Issues Group published the first tranche of Local Guidance in April 1997. This guidance is aimed at assisting everyone involved in developing Local Biodiversity Action Plans throughout the UK. The first four Guidance Notes in the series cover: Partnerships; How Local Plans Relate to other Plans; Evaluating Priorities and Target Setting. A fifth Guidance Note on Delivery Mechanisms will be produced towards the end of 1997. A detailed report on progress in implementing the action plans will be made to Government by the UK Biodiversity Group every five years with the first report due in the year 2000 - a Millennium Biodiversity Report. There has been no comprehensive base line survey in the UK. However, other mechanisms are in place to monitor the component parts of biodiversity resources where data could be used as a base line. The Countryside Survey made a major contribution to knowledge of biodiversity in the countryside. There are plans to undertake another major survey in the year 2000. The UK Action Plan recognised the need for better access to information

particularly at local level. To this end a National Biodiversity Network consortium has been established: a partnership of local and national custodians of biodiversity data. Their overall aim is establish, within agreed standards, a conduit to provide complete access to information about the state of the nation's wildlife regardless of where this information is held. The consortium is currently leading a number of projects to establish the foundations of the network.

Research and Technologies: Research on biological diversity is carried out by various Government Departments, educational establishments, the private sector and research councils, etc.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: The United Kingdom ratified The Convention on Biological Diversity on 3 June 1994; the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora on 2 August 1976; and the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage on 29 May 1984. The UK is a major fund contributor of the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, a contributor to the European Cooperative Programme for Crop Genetic Resource Networks, and a member of the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. The UK has participated in discussions leading to the adoption of the EU Regulation on the conservation, characterization, collection and utilization of Genetic Resources in Agriculture. The Darwin Initiative for the Survival of the Species enables UK expertise in the field of biodiversity to aid those countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources to meet their obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity. This 15 million initiative is already funding 145 projects with links to more than 70 countries. The UK has spent 34 million to support 51 projects concerned with biodiversity under the UK Aid Programme. The UK has committed a total of 190 million to the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

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CHAPTERS 16 AND 34: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AND TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGY, COOPERATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

Decision-Making:

Technologies: The UK's White paper on Science and Technology aims to encourage near market research, which should stimulate development of new technologies, including environmentally sound technologies (EST), which will then be available for transfer.

Biotechnologies: The official body established to deal with legal and policy issues related to the environmentally sound management of biotechnology is the Department of the Environment and the Health and Safety Executive.

Legislation has been passed to control all activities involving the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and the marketing of GMO products. Advice on risk assessment and risk management of individual activities is provided to the Government by independent, statutory, expert committees, which also provide written guidance about how to achieve safety. These mechanisms contain principles on biotechnology risk assessment and management and have been complied with and updated periodically. An EU Regulation on novel food and novel food ingredients came into effect in May 1997 and will control foods produced from GMOs.

Programmes and Projects:

Technologies: In June 1994, the UK Government launched an Environmental Technology Best Practice Programme. One of the functions of this programme is to act as a centre of expertise on cost effective environmentally sound technologies, to which UK industry and commerce can refer to questions related to environmental topics and sign posting.

Biotechnologies: The UK has specific policies to promote the use of traditional and modern biotechnologies. The Department of Trade and Industry's Biotechnology Means Business programme promotes the use of modern biotechnology by industry to improve competitiveness and enhance environmental performance, e.g., the use of living organisms as an alternative to chemicals in processes, (i.e. cleaning up contaminated land or water, etc.). Policy initiatives for the environmentally sound management of biotechnology have resulted in the establishment of regulatory authorities, expert advisory committees and research programmes to target risk assessment and risk management. There are three significant programme projects on environmentally sound management of biotechnology. The first project is publication of guides about making proposals to conduct gene therapy on human subjects and the establishment of an advisory committee on gene therapy. The second project is ongoing research to assess the economic and environmental costs and benefits of biological and non-biological remediation methods. The national body responsible for these two projects is the Department of the Environment. National level funding for this project is approximately 50,000 and the project has a professional staff. The third project, the Crop Molecular Genetics Programme, is the responsibility of MAFF and has a budget of 1m.

Status:

Technologies: The UK has a fully functioning accreditation system and a rapidly developing market in certification to ISO 14001. By the end of 1997, approximately 500-600 certificates had been issued to UK firms. A grant scheme - SCEEMAS - exists to encourage the adoption of EMS by smaller companies. UK Certification Bodies had also issued a similar number to organisations worldwide - with the largest number being issued in the Far East. As a member of the EU, the UK also participates in the EMAS scheme, and 41 sites had been registered under the scheme by the end of 1997.

Biotechnologies: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:

Technologies: No information available.

Biotechnologies: The National Biotechnology Conference, in March 1997, was held to facilitate public debate about various aspects of biotechnology. There are no specific policies or plans in place to promote the use of traditional and modern biotechnologies in agriculture or food but the Government has been active in supporting educational initiatives to enhance awareness and understanding. For example, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) has funded the Biotechnology Information Transfer Club (targeted at the food industry) and has

produced a booklet on genetic modification and food as part of its Foodsense information programme for consumers. MAFF also jointly funds school teaching material. The Medical Research Council has commenced work on school resource materials and exhibitions on genetics for public interest groups and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) works with schools science organisations, education authorities, science advisors and teachers. Finally, as part of its FoodFuture Initiative, the Food and Drink Federation has entered into partnership with the Institute of Food Research and the Science Museum with the support of the BBSRC. MAFF has funded work under this initiative to set up an interactive touring exhibition designed to inform the general public about biotechnology. This was launched on 20 November, 1997. The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has announced a public consultation exercise on the issues arising from developments in genetic and biological sciences. Information exchanged at national and community levels with regard to the procedural requirements for the safe handling, management and conditions of release of biotechnology products are organised so that all applications to release GMOs are advertised and details are placed in public registers. The registers also contain expert advice and the final decision about each application for consent, including any conditions and limitations attached to the consent.

Information:

Technologies: The Joint Environment Markets Unit (JEMU) has been established to increase UK firms' awareness of the large and growing market for environmental goods and services, and to assist and encourage UK firms to utilize such opportunities. JEMU is also in the process of establishing a database of UK suppliers of environmental technology.

Biotechnologies: No information available.

Research and Technologies:

Technologies: No information available.

Biotechnologies: There are a number of LINK programmes that promote industrial collaboration in environment-related biotechnology research and development within the UK. These are Biological Treatment of Soil and Water, Technologies for Sustainable Farming Systems, Sustainable Livestock Production, Horticulture, Aquaculture, and there is a new programme on Arable Crops. The BBSRC supports four interdisciplinary research centres: Advanced Centre for Biochemical Engineering, University College of London, Centre for Genome Research, University of Edinburgh, Oxford Centre for Molecular Sciences and Sussex Centre for Neurosciences, University of Sussex at Brighton. The BBSRC also supports research in a large percentage of UK universities. The Council supports basic and strategic research programmes in biotechnology underpinning the biology-based industries. The Health and Safety Executive have 470 centres that carry out activities involving the contained use of genetically modified organisms. Some of these are industrial and the remainder are universities and research institutes. The Department of Environment has granted consent to release genetically modified organisms to 19 organizations, of which approximately 75% are from industry. Overall, there are many large and multi-national companies with substantial biotechnology interests. In addition, there are approximately 150 small and medium-sized enterprises whose operations are based on biotechnical research and development.

Financing:

Technologies: According to OECD figures, 95% of all transfers of technology take place under normal commercial mechanisms. The Government does not intervene in the establishment of venture capital funds to finance the transfer and application of EST.

Biotechnologies: The total budget of the BBSRC for 1994/95 is 157m. The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) allocated approximately 1,5m per year directly to research institutions that focus on biological research and development. In addition, much of DTI's approximately 7,5m annual biotechnology research and development grants support industrial research contracts placed in universities.

Cooperation:

Technologies: The UK participates in the work of the EU, and the Paris and Oslo Commissions to promote the transfer of EST. The UK's Environmental Know-How Fund is a bilateral technical assistance scheme that aims to encourage long-term environmental improvement in Eastern Europe, through improving environmental management and institution building. The budget for this Fund was approximately 2 million for 1995/96. In

addition, as a member-state of the EU, the UK has a stake in both the EU and PHARE and TACIS programmes and takes an active interest in their management. (PHARE is the EU's aid scheme for countries of Central and Eastern Europe and TACIS is its counterpart for the countries of the former Soviet Union). The environment is one of the priority sectors under PHARE and environmental projects, including those concerned with EST, are expected to account for 10% of its budget over the next five years. Following UNCED, the UK launched the Technology Partnership Initiative (TPI) as a practical response to calls by developing countries for increased access to information on environmental technologies. The initiative seeks to encourage transfer of technology and know-how to the rapidly industrializing developing countries by increasing direct business-to-business contacts and by providing business and organizations overseas with information on technology, management techniques and best practices adopted in the UK. The UK is also contributing to the two-year pilot phase of the IEA/OECD Greentech project, which aims to provide interested users (mainly developing and newly industrializing countries) with streamlined access to information on "greenhouse gas technologies".

Biotechnologies: The UK and the Netherlands have jointly developed draft international technical guidelines on safety in biotechnology in conjunction with international experts and organizations.

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CHAPTER 17: PROTECTION OF THE OCEANS, ALL KINDS OF SEAS, INCLUDING ENCLOSED AND SEMI-ENCLOSED SEAS, AND COASTAL AREAS AND THE PROTECTION, RATIONAL USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR LIVING RESOURCES

Decision-Making: The Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions is responsible for the sustainable development of coastal areas. The Environment Agency also has a significant role in coordinating anti-pollution and anti-flooding measures in England and Wales. Departments with specific responsibilities (such as the Department of Trade and Industry for oil and gas exploitation) are responsible for coordinating the planning and implementation of national strategies on these issues in conjunction with other Departments. The Urban Waste water Treatment Directive sets priorities for the treatment of sewage according to the nature and sensitivity of the area receiving the sewage discharge and the size of the discharge. For the most significant discharges, the Directive specifies secondary treatment as the norm but provides for higher standards of treatment for discharges to sensitive areas and at least primary treatment for discharges to areas with high natural dispersion characteristics. The Directive will also require an end to the disposal of sewage sludge at sea by the end of 1998. The EC's Shellfish Waters Directive is designed to protect or improve coastal waters that will support gastropod and bivalve molluscs. Through the Bathing Water Directive, substantial progress has been made in improving the quality of UK bathing waters. The private sector is addressing these requirements through the UK water industry's capital programme. The UK and EU have signed the UN Agreement on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and the ratification process is under way. Since UK Fisheries are managed under the European Union's Common Fisheries Policy, any response to the Code of Conduct of Responsible Fishing, adopted at the FAO Conference in November 1995, will be made collectively by the EU. The UK's national policy on oceans is integrated into a national strategy. The following national policies have been partially addressed: coastal vulnerability assessment; identifying on-going and planned programmes for the systematic observation of the marine environment, integrating activities and establishing priorities; and research to determine the biological effects of increased levels of ultraviolet rays due to depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer. The Government rates sewage related issues as very important in all areas, and policy gaps are being addressed in the area of coastal outfalls. The Government is committed to phasing out the dumping of waste from collieries at sea by 1997, and the dumping of sewage sludge by the end of 1998. The UK has taken steps to reduce inputs of organohalogenes in water bodies, but does not believe that full elimination is currently achievable or that these substances should be treated as a uniform group. Major Groups participate fully at the national and local level.

Programmes and Projects: An integrated coastal area management programme has been implemented.

Status: Regular assessments of coastal and marine areas have been undertaken since 1987. The Government supports improvements of local and national programmes. Human resource development and training, as well as public education and awareness building, are considered important. A wide range of monitoring techniques are deployed as part of systematic programmes.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: See under **Cooperation**.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: The United Kingdom ratified United Nations Convention on Law of Sea on 25 July 1997. The UK cooperates in many international science programmes including: the International Council for the Exploration of the SEA (ICES), the International Whaling Commission (IWC), the scientific working groups of the London Convention, and of the Oslo and Paris Commissions, Global Oceans Observing System (GOOS), World Ocean Circulation Experiment (WOCE), Group of Experts on Scientific Aspects of Marine Environment Protection (GESAMP), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), European Union (EU) Programmes, and the

International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP). It is the government's policy to support the implementation of relevant and effective UN programmes in the area of strengthening international and regional cooperation, e.g. GEF. The UK has committed US\$200 million to the GEF. The UK hosted a workshop in 95 on the role of environmental science in policy-making as part of inter-sessional work for CSD 96.

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CHAPTER 18: PROTECTION OF THE QUALITY AND SUPPLY OF FRESHWATER RESOURCES: APPLICATION OF INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO THE DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT, AND USE OF WATER RESOURCES

Decision-Making: The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands came into force in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 5 May 1976. The Environment Agency (EA) is charged with protecting water resources, the quality of water in inland and coastal waters and the natural aquatic environment. The corresponding authorities in Scotland and Northern Ireland have similar functions. They all participate, as appropriate, in international water monitoring programmes. Work is in progress to convert current water quality standards into legally binding quality objectives. The Government considers that such an arrangement would facilitate the environmentally sustainable management of water resources, including the protection of aquatic ecosystems and freshwater living resources. The Environment Act 1995 amended the Water Quality Industry Act 1991, and required placing a duty on water companies to promote the efficient use of water by their customers.

Programmes and Projects: See under **Status**.

Status: All dwellings and other buildings in the UK have adequate supplies of wholesome drinking water and drainage. Public water supplies must meet statutory standards for microbiological, chemical and organoleptic parameters. In accordance with the requirements of the European Community Directive, regular sampling and testing are carried out to make sure that these standards are met. About 96% of dwellings are connected to the public sewerage systems. The Environment Agency (EA), in England and Wales, and the parallel authorities in Scotland and Northern Ireland lay down legally required standards for all sewage discharges to inland, estuarial and coastal waters. All sewage discharged to inland waters is given at least secondary treatment before discharge. A major investment programme is being developed to ensure compliance with the European Community's Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive. Remaining discharges from public sewage systems will be given primary treatment before discharge, and such discharges will be limited to the areas where comprehensive scientific studies show that no harm to the local or regional environment can be expected from such limited treatment. The quality of drinking water continues to improve: the Drinking Water Inspectorate's annual report published in 1996, showed that of 3 million tests made during 1995, 99.7% met the stringent requirements of the regulations. The improvement of water treatment plants has led to the elimination of trace exceedences of pesticides. However, *Cryptosporidium* - a minute parasite that causes serious gastro-enteritis - continues to be a difficult organism to eliminate completely. Demand for water has been growing at 1% a year for over 25 years. An action programme is being developed to deal with approximately 40 cases where over-abstraction has resulted in unacceptably low flows in rivers. An investment programme is under way to deal with problems in the water supply system - particularly in combating leakage in the distribution system, where mains installed long ago are in need of replacement. Water companies now have to meet mandatory targets for the reduction of leakage. The Government supports the introduction of pollution control charges and is developing economic instruments and measurements for water pollution. In the future the government intends to publish a discussion paper on this topic while exploring the feasibility of trial applications. Water resource yields have been re-assessed in England and Wales. The implications of various climate change scenarios for those yields are being studied. In July 1997, the Government launched a review of the water abstraction licensing system in England and Wales. The government is committed to improve coastal water and river quality, including specific class changes to some 1000 km of rivers by 2000, bringing bathing waters fully to EC Directive standards by mid-1990s, reducing inputs of North Sea Priority List substances by 50% between 1985 and 1996, and halve atmospheric inputs of 17 harmful substances by 1999.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: Research results on the implications of climate change on water resources have been published. To illuminate further the implications of climate change, a desk study of the economic impacts of the

exceptional summer of 1995 was carried out, and work continues as part of the UK Climate Impacts Programme which takes an integrated approach to impact assessment across various sectors.

Financing: The Environment Agency is financed through charges on the abstraction and discharge of water to inland and coastal waters, thus ensuring the application of the “polluter pays” principle.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 19: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF TOXIC CHEMICALS, INCLUDING PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN TOXIC AND DANGEROUS PRODUCTS

Decision-Making: The UK has comprehensive legislation in place covering the manufacture, distribution, use and disposal of chemicals and major hazards, at both national and European Union level. Pesticides and biocides are subject to statutory approval procedures and conditions of use are specified to ensure protection of human health and the environment. Human and veterinary pharmaceuticals are also subject to statutory market authorisation schemes. It is UK Government policy to restrict pesticide use to the minimum necessary for effective pest control, subject to overriding considerations of human health and environmental impact. A Pesticides Forum has been established to promote this policy, and an Action Plan for the Responsible Use of Pesticides was published in 1997.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: Industrial chemicals placed on the market for the first time and high priority existing chemicals are evaluated for effects on human health and the environment under EU legislation. The UK completes about 100 assessments of new chemicals and 10 assessments of high tonnage chemicals each year as part of EU and OECD programmes. When the assessments identify potential risks to health or the environment control measures are taken under appropriate legislation, including controls on marketing and use when necessary. In addition, the UK actively participates in the production of IPCS Environmental Health Criteria Documents and Concise International Chemical Assessment Documents (CICADs). In October 1995 the UK Government hosted a conference seeking expert views on how to develop and pursue a policy on minimisation of use of agricultural pesticides. Following a recommendation from the conference, an independent Pesticides Forum was set up, bringing together a range of interested parties representing farmers, growers, manufacturers, distributors, advisors, retailers and environmental interests. The Forum met for the first time in May 1996 and has since published an Action Plan for discouraging pesticide use.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: The UK participates actively in UN programmes on international trade in chemicals, including the prior informed consent procedure, under the UNEP London Guidelines and EU Regulation 2455/92. The UK has also taken an active part in negotiations on global harmonisation of classification and labelling of chemicals, the legally binding instrument on PIC and the proposed UNECE Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants. The UK reviewed 30 assessments of chemicals from other OECD countries. The Draft Directive on Control of Major Hazards (COMAH) ensures the uniform implementation and enforcement of accident prevention and control measures across the EC.

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CHAPTERS 20 TO 22: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF HAZARDOUS, SOLID AND RADIOACTIVE WASTES

DECISION-MAKING:

Hazardous wastes: The UK's obligations under the Basel Convention are implemented by Council Regulation (EC) 259/93, subsidiary UK regulations (SI 1137/1994) and the UK Management Plan for Exports and Imports of Waste, published in 1996. This framework precludes measures to prevent and punish illegal international traffic in hazardous wastes. The Plan bans all exports from the UK of waste destined for disposal operations, and most imports for disposal are also banned, except where wider environmental considerations apply. Exports for recovery generally banned other than in exceptional circumstances, in line with the ban agreed by Parties to the Basel Convention in September 1995. Imports for genuine recovery operations can continue. The plan implements the UK's policy of self-sufficiency in waste disposal, as well as the proximity principle. Transfrontier shipments of waste are controlled in line with the Government's commitments as a Party to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. The Government has respected the 1994 decision and from May 1994, exports of hazardous waste from the United Kingdom to non-OECD countries have been banned, other than in exceptional circumstances.

Solid wastes: The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 1997 came into force on 6 March 1997. Developed with industry, they aim to double the amount of recycling and recovery of packaging waste to around 50% by 2001. They place obligations on producers of packaging to ensure the recovery and recycling of a quantity of packaging waste in proportion to the amount they place on the market. Packaging is the largest recyclable element in the household waste stream, and this initiative will bring convenient recycling facilities to 8 out of 10 households by the year 2000. The Government has supported the case for periodic review of the Regulations. A Producer Responsibility Operators' Forum is being set up to provide an opportunity for those involved in the implementation of the Regulations to develop partnerships and discuss various issues. An announcement is expected shortly on the handling of the fundamental Review in 1998.

The waste strategy for England and Wales, as published by the previous Government in the White Paper Making Waste Work, provided a policy framework for sustainable waste management by encouraging waste minimisation and recovery. The waste strategy was directed at a wide audience, including industry and the public sector, as well as individual householders and consumers. The strategy set a range of primary and secondary targets and included a commitment by the Government to setting further targets as more and better information became available. The Government produced a summary version of the strategy and leaflets targeted for industry and households in order to disseminate information about waste to producers, as well as galvanise widespread action for waste minimisation activities. The new Government has undertaken to review this strategy at some point in the future.

Radioactive wastes: The last statement of Government policy on radioactive waste management was the previous Government's White Paper, 'Review of Radioactive Waste Management - Final Conclusions' (Cm 2919), published in July 1995. The White Paper followed a review that explored how to ensure that radioactive waste, whatever its origin, is properly managed so that people and the environment are not exposed to unacceptable risks. The White Paper set out the roles of the Government, regulators and operators in the sustainable management of radioactive waste. Specific policies included a commitment to the disposal of intermediate level radioactive waste in a deep repository on land; developing a disposal strategy for high level radioactive waste; five yearly reviews of nuclear operators' decommissioning strategies; establishing a regime to deal with radioactively contaminated land; and the import and export of radioactive wastes. The 1995 White Paper also reaffirmed that UK Nirex Ltd has the task of providing a deep underground repository for intermediate level waste. In 1989 it was announced that Nirex would conduct detailed geological studies in the vicinities of Dounreay and Sellafield, and in July 1991 Nirex chose to concentrate its investigations on Sellafield. Nirex chose to concentrate its work on a site at Longlands farm, near Sellafield, Cumbria. To test the geology and the hydrogeology of the site, Nirex proposed to construct an underground rock laboratory or a 'rock characterisation facility' (RCF). In July 1994, Nirex submitted a planning application to Cumbria County Council for the RCF. In December 1994, the County Council refused planning consent, Nirex appealed against the decision and a planning inquiry was held. The Inspector of the inquiry

submitted his report to the Secretary of State for the Environment in late November 1996. In March 1997, the then Secretary of State for the Environment decided to dismiss Nirex's appeal. The Government is now considering the implications for radioactive waste management policy of the former Secretary of State's decision.

Programmes and Projects:

Hazardous wastes: No information available.

Solid wastes: The Government is committed to reducing the proportion of controlled waste going to landfill from 70% to 60% by 2005, and recover value from 40% of municipal waste by 2005. Some 1.1 million tonnes (dry weight basis) of sewage sludge is produced annually in the UK as a by-product of sewage treatment processes. This will rise to 1.5 million tonnes by 2005 as treatment standards are raised, in particular for coastal discharges. Currently 50% is used as fertiliser on agricultural land, 30% is dumped at sea, 10% incinerated and 10% landfilled. Disposal to sea will cease by the end of 1998 and it is expected that the proportions recycled on agricultural land and incinerated will increase to 66% and 28% respectively. In the Government's view the recovery of value from sewage sludge, in the form of fertiliser and organic matter, through controlled application on land is the best practicable option for most sludge.

Radioactive wastes: No information available.

Status:

Hazardous wastes: No information available.

Solid wastes: No information available.

Radioactive wastes: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:

Hazardous wastes: No information available.

Solid wastes: No information available.

Radioactive wastes: No information available.

Information:

Hazardous wastes: No information available.

Solid wastes: No information available.

Radioactive wastes: No information available.

Research and Technologies:

Hazardous wastes: No information available.

Solid wastes: No information available.

Radioactive wastes: No information available.

Financing:

Hazardous wastes: The UK strongly supports the objectives of the Basel Convention, and is an active contributor to the work of the Convention and its subsidiary working groups. The UK hosted and sponsored a meeting of the Convention's Technical Working Group in September 1996. Contributions to Basel Convention Main Trust Fund were: \$189,400 (1995), \$176,700 (1996), and \$210,369 (1997); and to Technical Co-operation Trust Fund: \$8,200; \$225,750, and \$73,000 in respective years.

Solid wastes: The Landfill Tax was introduced on 1 October 1996 and it applies to waste which is disposed of in licensed landfills. The tax seeks, as far as practicable, to ensure that the price of landfill fully reflects the impact which it has upon the environment. It provides an incentive to reduce the waste sent to landfill sites and to increase the proportion of waste that is managed at higher levels of the waste hierarchy. The cost of the tax has been offset by a 0.2% reduction in the main rate of employer national insurance contributions since April 1997. There are two rates of tax; a standard rate of 7 per tonne and a lower rate of 2 per tonne. Customs and Excise are currently reviewing the level and operation of the tax with the assistance of the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions and other Government Departments. The results of the review are expected early in 1998. As part of the landfill tax provisions, landfill operators who make payments to approved environmental bodies for spending on approved environmental objects will be able to claim a credit from the tax of 90% of the payments made, up to a

maximum of 20% of their annual landfill tax liability. This is estimated to be worth up to 84m annually, although the scheme is voluntary and the level of funds that are made available to these bodies will depend on the take-up by landfill operators. The aim of this initiative is to promote sustainable waste management practices for the future and remedy the consequences of unsustainable practices in the past. Environmental bodies will be non-profit distributing bodies and not controlled by landfill operators or local authorities. Environmental bodies will be able to engage in activities related to a list of approved objects set out in the Landfill Tax Regulations. Environmental bodies have no direct relationship with Customs and Excise. They are registered and supervised by ENTRUST, a regulatory body approved by Customs and Excise. This scheme is being reviewed in the main review of the landfill tax.

Radioactive wastes: No information available.

Cooperation:

Hazardous wastes: The United Kingdom ratified the Basel Convention on Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal on 7 February 1994, and ratified the amendment to the Convention, banning exports of waste characterised as hazardous from Annex VII parties to non-Annex VII countries on 13 October 1997.

Solid wastes: No information available.

Radioactive wastes: No information available.

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CHAPTERS 24 TO 32: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF MAJOR GROUPS

Women: Decision-Making: In the past, women's views were often under-represented in policy making. The Ministers for Women and the Women and Equality Unit in the Cabinet Office help to promote women's interests and to communicate their concerns and insights.

Over the next 3-4 years the unit will work with colleagues across Government in ministerial priority areas to:

- bring about measurable improvements in the position of women which benefit society generally;
- promote equality for all regardless of gender and sexual orientation, particularly in the development and delivery of Government policy and services.
- The Sex Discrimination (Elections Candidates) Act

The Government has brought in legislation to allow political parties to take positive measures to reduce inequality in the numbers of men and women elected to the UK's democratic institutions.

The Government is committed *to* reducing the gender pay gap. The price women pay over the course of their working lives for being female is £250,000, plus another £140,000 if they have children. The pay gap has steadily decreased from 37% in 1975 to 18% in 2001 - but we need to make more progress. The Government action plan published in December 2001 includes:

- Implementing most of the recommendations of the Kingsmill Review
- Dissemination of authoritative research, the Gender Pay Gap, on the causes and relative importance of the pay gap.
- Introduction of annual Castle Awards to encourage employers to undertake and act on voluntary pay reviews. These will recognise employers' excellence in addressing equal pay and causes of the pay gap.
- Making it easier for women and men to take up equal pay claims, by simplifying and speeding up existing tribunal procedures.
- Introduction of equal pay questionnaires in the Employment Bill.
- Developing a means for voluntary reporting of pay and deployment of human resources as part of Company Law Reform.
- Appointment of Fair Pay Champions from business, the public sector and trade unions to promote and share good practice.

Everyone should be able to balance work and family life, not just because it is good for individuals but because employers who take action on work-life balance report convincing improvements in retention, morale and productivity. Work-life balance is for everyone who wants to enjoy life as well as work. It is for every employer who wants to attract and retain the best talent.

Together the Department of Trade and Industry and the Women and Equality Unit will work to promote work-life balance and flexible working practices at all levels. Key areas for further work in the public sector include access to flexible training at all levels, and flexible working to improve the delivery of public services.

The Government aims to create a society that will not tolerate, excuse or ignore domestic violence. A new Ministerial Group has been convened to ensure co-ordinated and concerted action across Government to reduce and prevent domestic violence. The WEU provides a joint secretariat with the Home Office for this Group and works with other departments on developing and implementing a new action plan.

Women form the majority of those employed in our health and education services. They are also key users, often responsible for ensuring good services for their families. A report on how the Government is improving the delivery of health and education services for women, 'Better Services – Better Working Lives', highlights over 40 Government commitments to promoting further action and recommendations for local action. It features over 30 examples of flexible and responsive services already available at local level. WEU chairs the cross-departmental group implementing these recommendations and is working with the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit to monitor and evaluate improvements.

The Government is committed to an equal representation of women and men on the boards of public appointments, pro-rata representation of members of ethnic minority groups and increased participation of disabled people. Appointments however, will be made on merit.

In 1998 the Home Office (race) DfEE (disability) and the Cabinet Office - Women's Unit (women) issued Policy Appraisal for Equal Treatment (PAET) guidelines to all government departments. PAET covers the responsibility officials have for assessing how their work is likely to affect different groups and the action needed to ensure this is taken into account from the beginning of the policy process to final evaluation. How the guidelines were to be implemented or monitored was left to individual departments to decide internally.

In recognition of the need for supporting processes that increase understanding of PAET, the Women's Unit has developed a draft framework for assessing the impact of policies on men and women (Gender Impact Assessment). The framework is targeted at gender issues and adopts a proactive approach to gender impact assessment. Although it asks policy - makers to consider whether policies are lawful or if differential effects can be justified, it also encourages them to challenge each stage of policy making by asking a series of questions aimed at incorporate gender equality into policies and service delivery. The draft will be finalised this summer.

Groups representing women's interests are full members of the national coordinating mechanism for sustainable development. Steps have been undertaken to foster opportunities for women in non-traditional fields and eliminate gender stereotyping in curricula through, e.g., improving enrolment opportunities, reforming entrance and teacher staffing policies and providing incentives for establishing child-care facilities.

Programmes and Projects: WEU is leading an EU funded project called Advancing Women in the Workplace (November 2001-December 2002) under the Community Framework Strategy on Gender Equality (2001-2005) with Denmark and Ireland as transnational partners and EOC, TUC and Opportunity Now in the UK. The aim of the project is to establish the current position of women in the EU labour market – opportunities and barriers to advancement in the three partner countries. It will identify how employers and unions can remove barriers to opportunity, (training/promotion/ flexible -part time working/work-life balance): to increase access to training for low skilled workers, increase range of flexible jobs, overcome stereotypical attitudes to women in the workplace. The outputs will be a robust analysis of position of women in the labour market; a two-day conference for target groups (Employer/Union equality officers/Equality organisations); a handbook/tool kit of best practice, disseminated across EU; a website (summary of research and toolkit handbook); and a Newsletter (from employers federation/TUC/EOC).

Under the same Community Framework Strategy, the UK, represented by WEU, is also participating in a transnational European project called 'Towards a Closing of the Gender Pay Gap' (October 2001 - December 2002). The project is led by Norway; other participating partner countries are Austria, Iceland, Greece, Denmark and the UK. The project aims at promoting equal pay between men and women for equal work and work of equal value and to identify an efficient mix of tools and instruments for promoting equal pay in the context of each partner country. It will study and compare the gender pay gap and wage formation and pay systems in a broader perspective, in both the public and the private sector. The three Target Occupations to be researched for the purposes of the project are secondary education teachers, unskilled workers in the food processing industry, and skilled engineers. The outputs of the project are a report containing a) comparable main indicators of segregation and the gender wage gap b) results from a qualitative study on wage formation, wage system and equal pay in the three occupation groups; a website on the Internet a conference in Oslo in the middle of November; a conference report which contents best practices of activities in the bargaining system and firm-based activities according to closing the gender pay gap; and a handbook of ways to improve wage systems to close the gender pay gap.

Status: Key achievements to date include:

- Government is legislating so that employers have to seriously consider requests to work flexibly from employees with children under 6 years. This is in addition to parental leave, time off for emergencies and the same rights for part-time workers as full timers.
- Improved maternity rights and pay - maternity pay will increase to £75 a week from April 2002 and £100 a week from April 2003. Paid maternity leave will also rise from 18 to 26 weeks, from April 2003.
- A boost to the pay of low paid workers – 70% of whom are women – through the introduction of the National Minimum Wage - increased to £4.10 an hour in October 2001 and rising to £4.20 in October 2002. Around 1 million women have benefited.
- A national childcare strategy to support choice by expanding good quality, affordable childcare. Between April 1997 and June 2001, new childcare places for almost 880,000 children were created; the Government is on track to achieve its target to create places for 1.6 million children by 2004, as well as a guaranteed nursery place for every 3 and 4 year-old who needs it. As part of the Working Families Tax Credit, help with childcare costs has been extended to the lowest-paid.
- Improved representation in public life. The Government has legislated to allow political parties to take positive measures to reduce inequality in the numbers of men and women elected, both at national and local level. It is also taking action to encourage more women onto the boards of national public bodies.
- New Deal for lone parents and partners of the long-term unemployed – for the first time, targeted help has been given to these groups, predominantly women.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: Significant progress is being made in efforts to involve women in Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) policy making. The Rising Tide target of 25% (as an average) involvement of women on SET related advisory bodies by 2000 has been increased to 40% by 2005. Other related efforts include:

- ‘Science Year’ in the UK (September 2001 - September 2002) is involving women in SET in the planning stage and stimulating organisations to work more closely together. A planning forum, drawn from across 30 organisations, for women in Science Year has been set up aiming to develop a range of integrated material produced across the SET sector.
- A study of the education and employment of women in Information Technology and Electronic Communications (ITEC), commissioned in UK, USA, Spain, Ireland, Canada and Taiwan, was launched in November 2001 and considered good practice and identified actions for the UK to try and improve the participation of women in this sector.
- UK is a participant in the European Women Experts database, which was re-launched on 22nd September. The database contains names of high profile women who in addition to being competent professionals in their field of expertise are at ease talking about their subject as well as having talents in strategic thinking. <http://www.setwomenexperts.org.uk/>
- The Promoting SET for Women Unit will be offering again small grants for ‘Science week’ and other small events around the country. These are for a maximum of £2000. The grant round for Science Week 2000 enabled 5700 girls and women to come into contact and get hands on experience of science or engineering.
- The ATHENA project, funded by the Office of Science and Technology and the UK’s higher education funding councils aims to address the under-representation and loss of women from the academic sector.
- The ‘Speaking Out Project’ aims to build an army of practising women scientists and engineers to visit schools and careers fairs. The vision for the project is to enable every school to have had a visit by a practising woman scientist or engineer by the year 2003. The project will offer training and resource packs. The Women into Science and Engineering (WISE) Campaign database <http://www.engc.org.uk/wise/> was re-launched in September 2001.
- ‘Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) partnerships co-ordinate the diverse range of locally based information, advice and guidance services available at no charge to adult women (and men), and have national priority clients including women returners. Contracts for delivery of IAG are now managed by the Local Learning & Skills Councils.

Information: All research and publications produced by the Women and Equality Unit web site are usually available online at www.womenandequalityunit.gov.uk

Research and Technologies: Women and Equality Unit research and statistics team provides information and analysis that assists policy development and evaluation within the unit and contributes to the improvement of Government policies for women. The WEU 'Gender Briefing' also provides a wide range of statistical information on women's position in the labour market and is up-dated every quarter. The Briefing is disseminated widely and posted on the Unit's website. The Government's statistical body, the ONS, also collects all its data disaggregated by sex. Current/ recent projects include:

- 'Key Indicators of Women's Position in Britain' – Commissioned in September 2001 this project aims to provide a comprehensive overview of available up-to-date information on the position of women in Britain. The objectives are to produce a set of indicators that will be accurate, relevant and as economical as possible to collect and up-date and to provide a baseline against which to monitor improvements in the position of women relative to that of men in Britain.
- In December 2001 the Women and Equality Unit published research into the gender pay gap undertaken by the National Institute for Economic and Social Research. The research identified the complexities behind the pay gap and has enabled the UK Government to focus actions where they will make a difference.

A comprehensive list of research summaries and research publications is available on the WEU web site.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: The United Kingdom ratified the 'Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women' on 7 April 1986.

Children and Youth: Decision-Making: In February 1998 the Deputy Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Education and Employment set up an advisory panel of sustainable development education experts, made up of members of business, local government, education and voluntary sectors. Its terms of reference are to work together to identify gaps, opportunities, priorities and partnerships for action in providing sustainable development education in England, and to highlight good practice. The Panel has held over 42 meetings to date, and has established subgroups looking at Schools, Higher and Further Education, General Public, Youth, Professions and Work. It has formally submitted its first (1998) Second (1999), Third (2000) and Fourth (2001) Annual Reports to the Government, and has made representations in respect of Government consultations, notably the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority's review of the National Curriculum and the Department for Education and Employment's review of National Training Organisations. The Panel has also commissioned and published consultancy work providing information to develop its strategy.

The National Curriculum framework is set out in the Education Act 1996. Changes to the National Curriculum to include further aspects of sustainable development were the subject of secondary legislation, most of it enacted in 1999.

Following a recommendation made by the Sustainable Development Education Panel, education for sustainable development has been included as one of the aims of the new National Curriculum 2000. On 8 September 1999 the Secretary of State for Education and Employment announced the revised National Curriculum for England and Wales. This creates a new subject of citizenship education and makes clear reference to both environmental issues and sustainable development education in the National Curriculum's general statement of rationale, as well as in the detailed curricula for science and geography. The values statement determines that: [The school curriculum] "should develop [children's] awareness and understanding of, and respect for, the environments in which they live, and secure their commitment to sustainable development at a personal, local, national and global level".

The Government is now consulting on proposals that would introduce further flexibility into the National Curriculum at Key Stage 4.

The Government is consulting on a draft strategy for children and young people with versions of the consultation document for both young people and for adults. Ministers across departments are committed to giving children and young people more of a real say and real choices about the government policies and services that affect them. The

Government's Children and Young People's Unit has asked all main departments to launch a three-year action plan, by the end of April 2002, to introduce and implement strategies for involving children and young people in their work, in accordance with the Unit's core principles. A range of other fora also promote dialogue between youth and government, including the International Children's Conference, the UK Youth Parliament, and the Government-sponsored WWF 'Our World' project (see below). The First Sitting of the [Youth Parliament](#) took place in February 2001 at which a draft Manifesto was presented to ministers.

Programmes and Projects: Three programmes and projects of note are the 'Our World Project', the 'Healthy Schools Programme', and the 'Children's Parliament on the Environment'. The Our World Project is a joint partnership between WWF, DEFRA, DFES and the devolved administrations. The Prime Minister announced the project in March of last year. (DEFRA are the largest donors and are providing £100,000 in support of the project). The overall project aim is to motivate and enthuse schools to link their curriculum activities with the World Summit on Sustainable Development through grants, resources and competitions. This will actively engage young people in preparations for the summit. There are two parts to the project; a schools challenge and on-line activities.

International preparations for the summit have been bottom up, rather than top down, to ensure as wide an ownership as possible of the summit. The UK has also been advocating this approach and has been working hard to ensure that all UK stakeholders have an opportunity to contribute to or participate in the preparations for this event. Youth is a key area and this project with WWF is our key way of reaching this group.

The winners of the Schools Challenge were announced in March 2002 by WWF at South Africa House. 4 schools, one each from England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland each won £15,000 towards a sustainable project in their school and the opportunity for one of their pupils to join world leaders in Johannesburg at the World Summit, and report back in the UK. These 4 young people will be known as 'Earth Champions', and have been carefully selected by BBC Newsround. The Schools Challenge is the first in a series of Our World activities, including on-line debates, quizzes and study aids, which will take pupils on a trip from the UK to Johannesburg.

The Healthy School Programme was launched in 1998, jointly funded by DH and DfES with a healthy schools team located at the Health Development Agency. Eight pilot projects were commissioned one in each NHS region. The evaluated results of these projects, together with a widespread professional consultation, formed the basis of the National Healthy School Standard, the key instrument for accrediting LEAs and local schools. It has undertaken a series of projects, such as Cooking for Kids and Safe Travel to Schools related to wider Government programmes. A website 'Wired for Health' exists to guide teachers. Interactive websites are available for pupils at key stages 1-4, while information for over 16s is currently being developed. We also fund a number of initiatives through our Environmental Action Fund, which funds a wide range of regional and national projects to promote sustainable living to the tune of £4m a year of which 36 with a total value of £314k this year are focussed on education and awareness raising. Education and awareness raising is one of only two priorities for 2002-05);

One such project is the Council for Environmental Education and Development Education Association's Sustainable Development Youth Project. This is a major strategic project in England in partnership with National Youth Agency to embed sustainable development principles and concepts within the changing youth agenda, particularly the formation of the Connexions service.

There are too many other school initiatives (many Government supported) to mention, but they include¹:

¹ Schemes are listed in relation to (a) name of scheme, (b) managing organisation, (c) main funding body (ies), (d) main themes, (e) the approximate number of schools involved (where known), and (f) a brief outline of the programme as of October 2000.

Table 1. Partial Listing of School Initiatives Related to Sustainable Development

a.	Action at School
b.	Global Action Plan (GAP)
c.	Environmental Action Fund & Landfill Tax
d.	Waste, energy, water and transport
e.	40-50
f.	Offers a programme of information and support in relation to the above themes for secondary schools and colleges
a.	Animal Friendly Schools Award
b.	Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)
c.	RSPCA
d.	Animal welfare
e.	20 schools have received the award
f.	An award scheme for schools who already have the Partners in Animal Welfare (PAW) status for a whole school approach to animal education
a.	Backyard Biodiversity Day
b.	Action for Biology in Education (ABE)
c.	Chelsea Physic Garden, Linnean Society of London, Systematics Association
d.	Biodiversity
e.	33 schools either took part in or arranged activities for the Backyard Biodiversity Day
f.	Programme to encourage children aged 9-12 to explore the biodiversity of their garden or school grounds
a.	Bag It and Bin It: Don't Flush It Campaign
b.	UK CEED & Water UK
c.	DEFRA
d.	Waste
e.	6,000
f.	Waste management initiative involving schools and other institutions; study cards with teachers' notes for 9-15 years old pupils
a.	CREST programme
b.	SATRO Network
c.	Unilever, Environment Agency, NERC and others
d.	ESD in science, engineering, & technology
e.	500-1000 per annum
f.	Project-based award scheme with 3 levels- bronze, silver and gold for secondary pupils
a.	Eco-Schools Awards
b.	ENCAMS (Tidy Britain Group)_
c.	SITA (Landfill Tax) & Coca-Cola Youth Foundation
d.	ESD general
e.	356
f.	An award scheme and programme for promoting environmental awareness in schools in a way that links many curriculum subjects and ESD
a.	Energy Efficiency Best Practice Programme (EEBPP)
b.	EEBPP
c.	DEFRA and DTLR
d.	Energy
e.	Information not available
f.	Helps schools develop and implement travel plans

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- a. Energy Matters
 - b. Centre for Sustainable Energy
 - c. Shell Foundation for Sustainable Energy Programme
 - d. Energy
 - e. 450
 - f. Support for whole-school approach to energy management in schools
-
- a. Four Seasons
 - b. Groundwork
 - c. National Grid
 - d. Climate
 - e. Information not available
 - f. Web-based monitoring programme enabling pupils to study and compare the effects of weather through the seasons
-
- a. GLOBE Programme
 - b. Warwickshire Wildlife Trust
 - c. BT & self-supporting
 - d. Energy, waste, transport, biodiversity
 - e. 300+
 - f. Web-based monitoring programme with INSET sessions and support service for teachers
-
- a. Green PowerEd
 - b. National Energy Foundation (NEF)
 - c. Marlec
 - d. Energy
 - e. 39
 - f. Renewable energy system - wind turbine and solar photovoltaic panel installed within school grounds at a discounted price. Aims to encourage a better understanding of renewable energy in schools through practical renewable energy projects
-
- a. Greenlink
 - b. Groundwork
 - c. RMC (Landfill Tax)
 - d. Waste & business
 - e. Information not available
 - f. Schools develop teaching plans, incorporating visits and class work, in partnership with local businesses
-
- a. Grounds for Improvement Programme
 - b. Learning through Landscapes & Sport England
 - c. New Opportunities Fund (NOF)
 - d. Physical play
 - e. 309
 - f. Targeted scheme for schools in areas of deprivation
-
- a. Growing Schools
 - b. Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens
 - c. DFES
 - d. Gardening
 - e. Information not available
 - f. An initiative for enhancing teaching and learning through farming and growing
-

a.	Living Land Award
b.	Young People's Trust for the Environment and Nature Conservation (YPTENC)
c.	Barclaycard
d.	ESD general
e.	Information not available
f.	Award programme for whole class projects grouped under 5 categories, with several winners and a final top prize
a.	National School Grounds Week
b.	Learning through Landscapes
c.	Environmental Action Fund; funder being sought for 2002
d.	School grounds
e.	5000
f.	Whole school focused events and activities to celebrate the importance and value of school grounds
a.	North South Linking Programme
b.	Central Bureau
c.	Department for International Development (DfID)
d.	School linking
e.	800
f.	Partnership scheme for world links to support teachers in introducing and maintaining global dimensions in schools
a.	Organic Network for Schools
b.	Henry Doubleday Research Association (HDRA)
c.	JJ Charitable Trust
d.	Gardening
e.	Information not available
f.	INSET sessions, website, telephone help line, advice and support for teachers and pupils on organic gardening
	Our World & Teacher Challenge Essay
a.	WWF-UK
b.	DfES & DEFRA
c.	ESD general
d.	Information not available
e.	Schools challenge, online activities and teacher essay competition leading up to the Earth Summit 2002
f.	
	Partnership Schools
a.	Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)
b.	RSPCA
c.	Animal welfare
d.	500
e.	Support for the development and incorporation of animal welfare initiatives within schools
f.	
	Practical Environmental Projects (P.E.P.)
a.	Volvo
b.	Volvo
c.	Biodiversity, waste & sustainable technology
d.	Information not available
e.	Resource packs, including CD-ROMS, and grants for local environmental projects
f.	
	Safe Routes to Schools

-
- a. Sustrans
 - b. Community Fund
 - c. Travel
 - d. Information not available
 - e. Programme for schools to develop travel plans for reducing number of car trips and improving safety on school journeys
 - f.

School Energy programme

- a. CREATE
- b. Energy Saving Trust, British Gas & DfES
- c. Energy
- d. 1800
- e. Whole-school approach to energy management, with a website to support the programme
- f.

Schools Turnkey Energy Programme (STEP)

- a. BRECSU
- b. DfES
- c. Energy
- d. Information not available
- e. Publications and training events for whole school approach to energy management
- f.

Schools Waste Action Club

- a. Waste Watch
- b. Landfill Tax + Local Authorities
- c. Waste
- d. Information not available
- e. Practical advice and help on waste reduction and recycling initiatives within schools in 8 counties
- f.

SPRINTS - Schools Participating in Recycling Initiative and New Technology Scheme

- a. Eurosource Europe Ltd
- b. Various companies
- c. Waste
- d. Information not available
- e. Points redemption recycling scheme, with points earned and exchanged for school equipment
- f.

Tetra Pak Award

- a. Tetra Pak
- b. Tetra Pak
- c. ESD general
- d. Information not available
- e. Annual awards for teachers in primary schools
- f.

Volvo Ocean Adventure

- a. Volvo
- b. Volvo
- c. ESD general
- d. Information not available
- e. Internet-based programme for pupils aged 10-16 years old
- f.

Walk to School Week

- a. Pedestrians Association
 - b. Self supported via core resources
-

c.	Health & travel
d.	2.5 million children nationally
e.	A week in May in the UK and in October internationally, consisting of activities to support and promote
f.	environmentally friendly and healthy travel options for schools
	Young Environmentalist of the Year Award
a.	Managing organisations(s): Young People's Trust for the Environment and Nature Conservation (YPTENC)
b.	9 companies including BT, Powergen & Thames Water
c.	ESD general
d.	Information not available
e.	Award scheme for project ideas from people aged 8-16 years in schools linked to the companies, based on
f.	sustainable development.

The Government launched a competition, as part of 'The Children's Parliament on the Environment', for 10-11 year old schoolchildren in 1998 as an opportunity for schools to develop children's understanding of sustainable development and the democratic process. Children from 3,500 schools registered to take part in the competition, which involved essay writing and debating competitions. Six winners from each region took part in the Children's Parliament in May 1999. The children questioned Government Ministers and presented their action plan to the Prime Minister.

The wide range of voluntary sector material and face-to-face support available for schools to support education for sustainable development education can be challenging. The QCA website will help to direct teachers and learners to high quality material appropriate to specific subjects and age groups, while not losing sight of the need for a whole school approach to sustainable development. We are funding the Council for Environmental Education to research what face-to-face support is likely to be most useful for schools.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority has sent schools detailed guidance on implementing this new curriculum and is developing on-line support for teachers. The Panel is also looking at what non-web-based support might be offered, including the potential that the DfES/DH Healthy Schools initiative² has to carry sustainable development content. The Panel is also considering how both inspection regimes and the initial/continuing professional development of teachers can support the sustainable development education of young people. Young people in higher and further education are also a concern of the Panel, which needs to consider far-reaching changes that are likely in the education of the 14-20 year old age group in the next few years, and for which it is developing Life Skills for a Sustainable Future.

Information: We have produced, jointly with the Council for Environmental Education, a voluntary code of good practice for producers of sustainable development education materials. This provides publishers with the opportunity to show teachers, parents and others that their materials were prepared in accordance with exacting standards, that they are well researched, unbiased and innovative. The Code has free guides for users and producers available in hard and virtual copy.

The Council for Environmental Education, with the aid of an Environmental Action Fund grant, provides a 'Gateway to Education for Sustainable Development' with details of member organisations and other supporters of ESD; Guidance on teaching material by NC subject and whole school issues; Lists resources for ESD including

² The Healthy Schools Programme is funded and managed jointly by the Department of Health and the Department for Education and Skills, with the support of the Health Development Agency (HDA). £5.7m per year is made available to support the National Healthy School Standard.

grants and awards in the UK. It also provides a co-ordinated scheme in which other NGOs buy into CEE's mailing service to named and self-nominated individuals in schools, preventing multiple mailings by many groups.

Government departments also provide free information for teachers and children on a range of policies and programmes, in virtual, paper and video form.

Research and Technologies: No information is currently available.

Financing: The Government supports education through local authority grants that accrue to schools via local education authorities, through grants made directly, and from the Lottery Distributaries it has set up, to Non Governmental Organisations developing programmes.

Cooperation: In 1996 the UK entered into an agreement with the USA in respect of the GLOBE programme.

Indigenous People: No information is available.

NGOs: Decision-Making: During the first two sessions of the CSD, the Government included representatives from the NGO community, the business sector and the local government in its delegation. The Government's Environmental Action Fund assists voluntary organisations in carrying out environmental work. There is extensive collaboration and consultation with NGOs on a variety of sustainable development issues through mechanisms such as the Sustainable Development Commission.

Programmes and Projects: We are working with NGOs to promote stakeholder participation and public interest and involvement. As part of this process we have funded UNED Forum to orchestrate consultations across civil society and we will be working further with them to try and involve UK NGOs and others in the run up to the Summit. UNED Forum has already facilitated a number of successful events including national stakeholder working groups and a conference in June 2001 on 'Governance, Business and Sustainable Development'. For details of previous and forthcoming events organised by UNED visit their website at <http://www.unedforum.org>.

In association with [WWF](#), and in partnership with BBC Newsround, BBC On-line and the Daily Mail, the Government is also sponsoring a unique project called Our World to offer young people around the UK the opportunity to add their voice to the debates on environment and poverty in the lead up to the World Summit (see Youth Section).

Local Authorities: Decision-Making: Most Local Agenda 21 processes are led by the local authority, with broad involvement by other local groups. Some councils have gone further, with community groups taking a lead role in drawing up a strategy. Experience with Local Agenda 21 will help local authorities in developing consultation arrangements under the Community Strategy regime, Best Value and when involving the public in discussion on other local initiatives.

All of the English [Regional Chambers](#), have now agreed [Regional Sustainable Development Frameworks](#). These are the high-level visions for sustainable development promised in 'A better quality of life', and are drawn up by partnerships including Government Offices, Regional Development Agencies as well as business, local authorities (drawing on [Local Agenda 21](#)), charity and voluntary groups. They provide a clear reference point for other regional and sub-regional plans. The Frameworks set out indicators and targets for the region that will inform about other activity in the region. Regional Frameworks inform Regional Planning Guidance and Regional Economic Strategies and provide an important link between local level work on Community Strategies, and the national sustainable development strategy. The relationships which have been formed as part of this process within each region will go on to enhance joining-up and co-operation in a range of future work. The emphasis now is on ensuring that the targets and strategies agreed are implemented through other plans and strategies, and in developing monitoring and review processes.

The Government has issued guidance to improve the preparation and content of Regional Planning Guidance, ([Planning Policy Guidance Note 11](#)). This sets a long-term spatial framework for future development in English

regions and confirms the need for a sustainability appraisal to be undertaken of the environmental, economic and social impacts of development options.

The Local Government Act 2000, under the heading 'Promotion of well-being' states:

s. 2. - (1) Every local authority are to have power to do anything which they consider is likely to achieve any one or more of the following objects:

- (a) the promotion or improvement of the economic well-being of their area,
- (b) the promotion or improvement of the social well-being of their area, and
- (c) the promotion or improvement of the environmental well-being of their area.

2.-(3) In determining whether or how to exercise the power under subsection (1), a local authority must have regard to the effect which the proposed exercise of the power would have on the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom

Sustainable development is now at the heart of local authority decision-making and long-term planning. The Local Government Act 2000¹ has given them a new duty to prepare Community Strategies for promoting or improving the economic, social and environmental well being of their areas, and contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in the UK. These strategies will involve all key local partners through local strategic partnerships and these will also be the main vehicles for delivering the National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal. Community strategies will build on the success of Local Agenda 21, an initiative which has brought global sustainable development issues to many local communities in a meaningful and practical way

The new duty on local authorities to obtain [best value](#), in the delivery of services will stimulate new ways to carry out their functions in line with the sustainable development objectives set by the Strategy. Local authorities are required to consult with their communities during review of all their functions and services over a rolling 5 year programme. Many local authorities are using Citizens' Panels and other means of engaging their communities to find out what people think of the services they use. Best value is a key tool in ensuring that the aspirations identified in the community strategy are turned into effective action on the ground.

Participation must mean more than periodically casting a vote, attending local authority meetings or returning questionnaires. The Home [Office's Active Community Unit](#) promotes voluntary activity and community involvement and is pursuing a range of measures designed to increase local people's capacity to participate.

On average, only 30% of the electorate vote in local elections. This is too low. Public engagement in the work of their local council will result in better decisions which are more responsive to local circumstances, improve the quality of life for local people and deliver high class public services.

Various initiatives have continued to be developed to generate higher turnout at elections such as electronic voting and new constitutions for local Government. Most authorities now have new constitutions, the majority favouring a 'cabinet style' structure whilst a few have selected a system involving a Mayor.

Voting (and improving turnout) is important but it is just the start of the process. Much more participation needs to happen between election days on specific issues and in developing a vision for each community. The 'Sustainable Communities' section of this report covers much of the progress made in day-to-day participation. Since May 1999, other policies have been put in place that support community participation in decision-making. These include; the [National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal](#); the new guidance on [local transport plans](#) and the new [Compact](#) between government and the voluntary sector.

Programmes and Projects: No information is available.

Status: Many local authorities have already begun to build on the excellent foundation laid by LA21 strategies - over 90% of local authorities met the Prime Minister's target to have a Local Agenda 21 strategy in place by the end of 2000. Crucial to the success of the new Community Strategies is how they are drawn up. As well as involving

other local bodies in the form of a Local Strategic Partnership, it is vital that the people served by the authority are involved in the preparation of the strategy.

Research by the Local Government Association ('Follow the Leaders: A Survey of Local Authority Approaches to Community Leadership' November 2001) shows that 79% of local authorities say that they will have published a strategy by 31 March 2002 and the remainder by 2003.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: Public involvement is essential for a truly sustainable community. It is a major theme running through the Government's [modernising agenda for local government](#), and policies on [regeneration](#) and [social exclusion](#).

Workers and Unions: Decision-Making: The Trade Union Sustainable Development Advisory Committee (TUSDAC) was set up in 1998. TUSDAC is the main forum for consultation with trade unions on policy within the areas covered by its terms of reference. These are:

- To direct trade union input into the policy process to enable constructive dialogue with Government on sustainable development and other related environmental issues.
- To provide a trade union perspective on the employment consequences of climate change, and the response to it.
- To help mobilise the trade union movement to become involved in the move towards better environmental practice in the workplace, building on existing initiatives and activities, disseminating information and experience.

In order for TUSDAC to fulfil these objectives it needs to be able to consider the potential implications of the UK's moves towards a more resource efficient economy in the future. In particular, this will involve significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in line with the UK's climate change objectives (both its legally-binding Kyoto target and domestic goal) and potential further reductions beyond. The major objective must be to reshape the economy, to ensure continued economic growth and wealth creation whilst improving resource productivity, and reducing waste and pollution.

TUSDAC is currently looking at the following issues:

- It has commissioned a report to provide an insight into the changes in employment under a move towards a low-carbon economy and suggest ways in which TUSDAC can contribute to the preparations.
- It is developing a number of important initiatives on Environment and Training for Trade Unionists. DEFRA supported a three-day pilot environmental training scheme for IPMS members.
- It will also be considering trades union input into the establishment of the Carbon Trust, which will administer £30m to encourage business to adapt successfully to the challenges presented by Climate Change.
- It has set up a Working group to look more closely at the issues discussed at the main meetings and suggest practical measures that unions can adopt to begin to address them. They have achieved notable successes in the last year, including several regional seminars on energy-efficiency training for union representatives, with more planned for the future.

TUSDAC meets three times a year (March, July and November) and is co-chaired by Michael Meacher, Minister for the Environment, and John Edmonds, General Secretary of the GMB. The two co-chairs agree the Agenda two weeks in advance of each meeting.

Between the main meetings, Government officials work to ensure that interested sections of the Trade Union movement have effective access to those responsible for specific policy areas within the Department. At such meetings the Trade Unions may wish to be represented by those with relevant interests/knowledge, eg environmental officer level.

Those attending include DEFRA and DTI officials, TU representatives invited by the TUC, and others as invited, with the final decision on membership resting with the Department. For some meetings, Committee members may wish to be represented by a substitute with more specialist knowledge.

Status: The Government works in partnership with trade unions, employers, and other interested parties in developing and implementing its policies. The United Kingdom also supports partnership approach within workplaces, encouraging employers, employees and their unions to work jointly to produce safe and efficient workplaces. The Government will publish a White Paper in the first part of 1998, which will set out its policies on partnership and fairness at work. The White Paper will include proposals to establish a statutory right for unions to be recognised for collective bargaining purposes, where a majority of the relevant workforce vote for it in a ballot.

To meet the challenges of sustainable development, we need a skilled and adaptable labour force and a flexible labour market. To promote jobs and employment, better education and training are essential. In a world which is changing rapidly, people need the skills to adapt, and opportunities to update them throughout their lives. At the same time, goods and services should be produced in ways which reward work, and treat employees fairly. We cannot base our economy on low wages and long hours for workers. To do so risks damaging family life and limiting people's ability to become involved in their own communities.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: The Government's policies are based on promoting life long learning, [investing in education and skills](#), making work pay, and [helping people from welfare to work](#) - creating a culture of 'work for those who can, security for those who cannot'. In that way, the number of people able to take up employment will increase, allowing the economy to grow without running into skills shortages and wage inflation, which would threaten sustainable development.

The Trade Union Sustainable Development Advisory Committee (TUSDAC) is developing a number of important initiatives on Environment and Training for Trade Unionists. DEFRA supported a three-day pilot environmental training scheme for IPMS members. They have also held several regional seminars on energy-efficiency training for union representatives, with more planned for the future.

Business and Industry: Decision-Making: The Advisory Committee on Business and the Environment (ACBE) provides for dialogue between Government and business on environmental issues and aims to help mobilise the business community in demonstrating good environmental practice and management.

Most recently it has provided recommendations to Government on the establishment of the Carbon Trust and produced a report on resource productivity and the level of the landfill tax. On the business-facing side it has produced guidance for company directors to assess how sustainable their companies are and further material aimed specifically at the pensions and investment industry.

The UK Strategy for Sustainable Development committed the Government to explore the scope for using economic instruments, such as taxes and charges, to help deliver sustainable development. Such measures can promote change, innovation and efficiency, and higher environmental standards. They are a way to put the 'polluter pays' principle into practice, although care is needed to consider the impact on competitiveness and social consequences: for example, ensuring that the price of essential goods like fuel or water does not lead to hardship for the least well-off.

The November 2000 Pre-Budget Report makes clear the Government's strategy to ensure that growth is sustainable environmentally as well as socially and economically and many economic instruments reflect this strategy. The Climate Change Levy, for example, has been payable on the business use of energy since April 2001. In accordance with the Government's commitment to shift the burden of tax from 'goods' (like labour) to 'bads' (like pollution), the levy will be used to cut employers' national insurance contributions by 0.3% as well as to fund additional support for energy efficiency measures and for energy saving technologies.

In August 2001, the Government launched its £215 million [Emissions Trading Scheme](#) which could cut up to two million tonnes of carbon a year from the atmosphere by 2010 and generate new job and investment opportunities for industry. This scheme is the first of its kind in the world and it could cut up to 2 million tonnes of carbon a year from the atmosphere by 2010 and generate new job and investment opportunities for industry. Emissions trading allow a group of companies to achieve a target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions flexibly and cost effectively.

Under the scheme participants sign up to delivering emission reduction targets which can either be made by cuts in-house or by buying and selling emission 'allowances' on the market to meet those targets. If firms can reduce emissions cheaply and beat their targets, they can sell the surplus allowances or bank them for future use. The government has pledged up to £215m over five years from 2003-04 to provide incentive payments for companies to join the scheme. This will be allocated through an auction in Spring 2002.

A summary of recent UK environmental taxation is set out below.

Environmental Tax	Date of introduction	Details of tax	Revenue
Landfill tax	1996	Rate now £12 for standard waste (increasing by £1 per year until 2004) and £2 for inert waste. Landfill tax credit scheme allows operators to allocate up to 20% of liability to projects run by approved environmental bodies.	Approx. £500m pa (offset by 0.2 percentage point cut in employer NICs).
Climate change levy	April 2001	Tax on business use of electricity, gas, coal and LPG. 80% discount for energy-intensive sectors which agree energy-saving targets with DEFRA. Exemptions for renewable and good quality CHP.	Revenue of £1bn pa recycled to business through 0.3 percentage point cut in NICs and £50m energy efficiency fund
Aggregates Levy	April 2002	Will apply to commercial exploitation of aggregates.	Revenue approx £385m per annum - to be offset by 0.1 percentage point cut in NICs and £35m per annum for a 'Sustainability Fund' to promote greener quarrying and to assist local communities affected by quarrying.
Fuel duty	On-going	Fuel duty escalator introduced by last Conservative Government to encourage the development of more fuel-efficient vehicles and discourage unnecessary journeys. This was maintained up to 1999. Since 1999, increasing use has been made of fuel duty differentials to encourage take-up of cleaner fuels (e.g. LPG)	Projected revenue for 2001/02 £22.5 billion.
Vehicle Excise Duty (VED)	On-going	VED for cars registered after 1 March 2001 depends on the CO ₂ emissions performance of the car to encourage the purchase of less polluting cars. For cars registered before this date, when CO ₂ data was not available, it depends on the engine size to encourage smaller cars. Lorry VED reforms come into force on 1 December 2001 and will provide a better environmental signal.	Projected revenue for 2001/02 £4.5 billion.

Source: HM Treasury

Through the policy of producer responsibility, the Government is working with business to achieve higher levels of re-use, recovery and recycling in the packaging, vehicles, tyres, batteries, newsprint, and electrical and electronic equipment sectors. Most of these sectors are the subject of proposed EC recycling legislation and one, packaging, is the subject of an adopted Directive which has been implemented through the 'Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations' 1997.

ACBE recently produced a guidance note 'How Sustainable is your Business' as part of its work towards internalising sustainable development issues into business decision-making. This has been sent to 10,000 company chairmen throughout the UK. ACBE is involved in development of a financial services initiative for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. ACBE is also considering how to respond to the Prime Minister's call for all businesses to improve their resource efficiency, beginning with a review of resource productivity through its existing waste working group.

In October 2000, the Prime Minister challenged the top 350 UK companies to produce environmental reports by the end of 2001. Environmental Reporting involves the publication in a company's annual report and/or self-standing reports of general environmental policy statements, usually including details of environmental performance such as greenhouse gas emissions, waste, water use and other relevant impacts giving quantified data and improvement targets.

Although all company reports for the year ending December 2001 will not be published until April 2002 it is estimated that 71 companies in the FTSE 350 have met the Prime Minister's challenge by reporting on their environmental policies and publishing some environmental performance data. A further 84 have taken the first steps although they are not as yet publishing a full environmental report

The 'Making a Corporate Commitment Campaign' (MACC2) was re-launched in June 2000, following an earlier campaign focusing on energy efficiency. MACC 2 encourages corporate commitments to the much wider sustainability agenda. 35 organisations have so far signed up, making a public commitment to performance improvement targets and annual progress reports.

In general, sustainable development and environmental reporting issues are gaining momentum in business. Key drivers are:

- revisions to the Pensions Act in 2000 requiring occupational pension funds to state whether they take social, economic and environmental considerations into account in investment decisions;
- the launch in July 2001 of '[FTSE4Good](#)', a London based socially responsible investment index. This follows the launch of the successful Dow Jones Sustainability Index in 1999;
- the announcement by Morley Fund Management (a branch of CGNU with £100 billion of assets) to vote against company annual reports where companies do not produce environmental reports; and
- the final report of the company law review, published in July 2001, which contains a blueprint for comprehensive reform and modernisation of the law, that would support the creation, growth and international competitiveness of British companies.

DEFRA and DTI also produced a general set of guidelines for business in November which set out in straightforward terms how to produce a good quality environmental report. The guidelines were developed with a wide range of stakeholders and have been endorsed by the CBI. They explain how to produce an environmental report, outline its main contents and suggest key indicators to report against. The general guidelines complement earlier specific guidelines on reporting on greenhouse gas emissions, waste and water use.

In response to encouragement from government, a number of trade associations have been developing sustainability strategies. [The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders](#) launched their strategy in 2000 and more recently produced a report on progress.

The [Soap and Detergent Industry Association](#) regard its 'Wash Right Code' as playing a significant role in their general approach. [Water UK](#) has developed and reported on a set of indicators measuring the industry's progress

towards environmental sustainability. The Chemical Industries Association recently published their [Sustainable Development Leadership Statement](#); and the UK Offshore Operators Association is expected to launch their strategy in the first quarter of 2001. Significant progress is also being made with a number of trade associations within the construction industry under the wider strategy for sustainable construction [Building a better quality of life](#) that was published in 2000. The Non-Ferrous Alliance is also well advanced in developing its strategy. Additionally, a number of other industry organisations are also taking forward work in this area for the sectors they represent.

One of the predominant features of 2001 with regard to the creation of a sustainable economy was the concept of corporate social responsibility (CSR). In February 2001, one of the world's most respected equity index calculation specialists, (FTSE), launched the FTSE4Good Index series. One aim of the series is to establish a global standard for socially responsible investment (SRI). The series, created and managed by global index provider FTSE, covers four markets: UK, Europe, US and Global.

Constituents of the FTSE4Good series will be determined by assessing a company's achievements in the following areas:

- working towards environmental sustainability;
- developing positive relationships with stakeholders;
- upholding and supporting universal human rights.

Initial indications reveal that a greater percentage of UK companies qualify for inclusion in FTSE4Good than companies from any other country, reflecting the high standards of corporate social responsibility (CSR) adopted by UK business. The first review of FTSE4Good in September 2001, revealed that an additional thirty-seven UK companies have met the corporate social responsibility (CSR) entry criteria since the index launched in July, and will be added to the UK benchmark index.

Programmes and Projects: The Government supports a range of initiatives to help business and industry contribute to sustainable development. A notable example is the 'Environmental Technology Best Practice Programme' launched in June 1994. This programme encourages the adoption of cost-effective clean technologies and promotes waste minimization.

Resource efficiency lies at the heart of the sustainability challenge for business. Business needs to become more 'eco-efficient' by creating more value with less impact; seizing opportunities to innovate and to enhance competitiveness through better use of physical, human and financial resources, while meeting growing consumer demand for more environmentally and socially acceptable goods and services.

Adopting best practice works, and it can improve productivity and profitability significantly. The average organisation can use cost-effective technology and management practices to save up to 20% of their energy bills, to minimise waste, and to employ environmentally efficient methods of design, production and construction. In most cases, the technology and processes exist already.

The Government's 'Environmental Technology, Energy Efficiency and Construction Best Practice Programmes' provide practical help and advice to firms on cost-saving measures. Big savings in fuel use by vehicle fleets can be made by adopting best practice. The Government will encourage this with a *Green Fleet Certification Scheme*. The new *Waste Strategy* helps in identifying areas and setting targets for improvement.

In March 2001, the [Carbon Trust](#) was launched as a new, independent, not for profit company, funded by the Government and the Devolved Administrations. It was set up on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Business and the Environment (ACBE) to take the lead in low-carbon technology and innovation in the UK. The Carbon Trust has three main objectives:

- to ensure that UK businesses and the public sector meet ongoing targets for carbon dioxide emissions;
- to improve the competitiveness of UK industry through resource efficiency;
- to support the development of a UK industry that capitalises on the innovation and commercial value of low-carbon technologies both nationally and internationally.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) also set up a web site on Corporate Social Responsibility, launched in March 2001, which sets out what Government is doing to promote CSR and highlights examples of socially and environmentally active businesses across the country.

Status: The UK is a trading nation in a rapidly changing world. For our country to prosper, our businesses must produce the high quality goods and services that consumers throughout the world want, at prices they are prepared to pay. To achieve that, we need a workforce that is equipped with the education and skills for the 21st century. And we need businesses ready to invest, and an infrastructure to support them.

The number of business leaders citing sustainable development as the major new challenge of the next century grows daily. They are alive to the significant new opportunities it will provide to win competitive advantage and add shareholder value. They know the successful businesses of the future will be those that have embraced the concept of sustainable development.

Greening business is central to the Government's drive to modernise the economy. It goes hand-in-hand with improved competitiveness and creating a knowledge-driven economy. We are witnessing revolutions in information and communications technology and biosciences that will transform our underlying assumptions about what is sustainable. Business needs to exploit this by investing in research and development, plant and machinery, and the skills and capabilities of the workforce.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: The Government's policies are based on promoting life long learning, investing in education and skills, making work pay, and helping people from welfare to work - creating a culture of 'work for those who can, security for those who cannot'. In that way, the number of people able to take up employment will increase, allowing the economy to grow without running into skills shortages and wage inflation, which would threaten sustainable development. Helping people into the labour market and improving skills levels is the best way to reduce poverty and social exclusion, and promotes sustainable communities based on employment rather than welfare.

The Government's proposals on lifelong learning were set out in its 1998 Green Paper, *The Learning Age*. They aim to develop skills needed for a productive workforce and competitive economy, and to increase participation in learning throughout life, especially among disadvantaged groups.

The Government's Skills Task Force will advise on skills needs and shortages, as part of the development of a National Skills Agenda. Initiatives to boost workplace and lifelong learning such as Investors in People, Individual Learning accounts, the University for Industry and the Learning Direct telephone helpline will ensure that people can attain and build on educational qualifications and improve their employability. A National Learning Target is for 10,000 small organisations, and 45% of larger bodies, to be recognised as Investors In People by 2002.

The Trade Union Sustainable Development Advisory Committee is developing a number of important initiatives on Environment and Training for Trade Unionists. DEFRA supported a three-day pilot environmental training scheme for IPMS members. TUSDAC have also held several regional seminars on energy-efficiency training for union representatives, with more planned for the future.

Information: The [Digital Futures](#) project, launched in February 2000, aims to explore the social and environmental impacts of e-commerce and assess whether the digital economy could evolve into a powerful ally of sustainable development. In March 2001 '[Digital Futures: an agenda for a sustainable digital economy](#)' was published.

Research and Technologies: The Government is determined to build on and improve the support it provides. It is currently reviewing the Environmental Technologies Best Practice Programme and the Making a Corporate Commitment Campaign. The goal is to make them more relevant to the wider challenge of sustainability. The Government is also sponsoring work to develop a next generation "sustainability management system" for companies.

Financing: The 1999 Budget announced a national IT strategy to increase access to and use of IT in communities, homes, businesses and schools, with £470m of funding to create up to 1000 learning centres across the UK.

Cooperation: The Technology Partnership Initiative (TPI), launched in 1993 following the Rio Earth Summit, fulfils the need for networking and information on environmental technology. TPI provides a link between companies and organisations in rapidly industrialising and developing countries, and UK industry. It provides them with signposting, advice, and information that they need to tackle their environmental problems. TPI's Network currently has a membership of nearly 6,000 worldwide including decision-makers throughout the developing world.

Scientific and Technological Community: Decision-Making: The proper use of scientific knowledge is one of the key approaches towards effective, inclusive decision-making. Developing this approach, the Office for Science and Technology's (revised) Guidelines 2000 set out the key principles that apply to the development and presentation of scientific advice for policy making. The Guidelines are primarily aimed at individual government departments, but the principles have application in wider fields. The key messages are:

- those seeking scientific advice should think ahead and identify early the issues on which they will need advice;
- they should get a wide range of advice from the best sources, particularly where there is scientific uncertainty; and
- publish the scientific advice and all relevant papers.

The principles reinforce the government's drive for evidence-based policy making, sustainable development and the government modernisation agenda.

Sustaining growth and improving competitiveness will depend on increasing the capacity of business to pre-empt and to respond positively and quickly to emerging environmental, social and economic challenges and opportunities. The technological advances needed to develop the products of the future crucially depend on our science base. That is why the Government has boosted investment in science and technology. For example, the [Sustainable Technologies Initiative](#) provides £15m of government funding over 5 years for collaborative projects to improve the sustainability of UK business.

But in the longer term we must not fall into the trap of thinking that technological innovation and step changes in productivity are a panacea for our problems. It is only by finding new, less wasteful ways of meeting our needs that we can move to a sustainable path. That will require social and institutional innovation just as much as technological advances.

Major Groups involvement: Improving the understanding and long-term assessment of the social, economic, scientific and technological dimensions of environment and sustainable development policies is the fundamental objective of many UK domestic and overseas education and development programmes. The latter are funded by a wide range of Government and private bodies.

Programmes and Projects: The national Forensic Programme contributes significantly to setting priorities and stimulating initiatives such as the LINK Programme on Technologies for Sustainable Development. Considerable effort is devoted generally to improving public understanding of science.

Information: The Sustainable Development Research (SDR) Network is a new initiative funded by DEFRA and co-ordinated by the Policy Studies Institute (PSI) in London in collaboration with the Centre for Sustainable Development (CfSD) at the University of Westminster and the Centre for the Study of Environmental Change and Sustainability (CECS) at the University of Edinburgh. The Network was formally launched, with the endorsement of Environment Minister Michael Meacher, in April 2001.

The overall goal of the Network is to contribute to sustainable development in the United Kingdom by facilitating the better use of evidence and research in policy-making. Its specific aims include:

- fostering a network of organisations with an interest in sustainable development research either as funders, executors or beneficiaries;
- mapping and monitoring current patterns of sustainable development research;

- facilitating the flow of information about current and planned activities to avoid duplication and enhance the coherence, quality and relevance of the body of research as a whole;
- promoting sustainable development research activity by influencing funders and research organisations; and,
- identifying specific gaps in knowledge and assessing research opportunities.

Farmers: No information is available.

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CHAPTER 33: FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS

This issue has been covered under the heading **Financing** in the various chapters of this Profile.

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CHAPTER 35: SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: The Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) is responsible for the legislation, policy and related applied research sustainable development. Many other UK and territorial (e.g. Scottish) Departments and agencies contribute significantly in their areas of responsibility.

The UK's White paper on Science and Technology aims to encourage near market research that should stimulate development of new technologies, including environmentally sound technologies (EST), which will then be available for transfer.

The Government is keen to promote participation of women in all aspects of public life including science, engineering and technology, and has placed much greater emphasis on relevant initiatives than hitherto!

Programmes and Projects: The Office of Science & Technology (OST) in the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) also funds the LINK initiative on technologies for sustainable development, which is one of many relevant initiatives developed from the national Foresight Programme. This programme aims to exploit and focus science and engineering for sustainable quality of life and wealth creation in the longer term. The Natural Environment, the Engineering & Physical Sciences, the Biotechnology & Biological Sciences, the Medical and the Economic and Social Research Councils and the Royal Society support fundamental research and post-graduate training. There are inter-agency committees for Global Environment Change (IACGEC) and Marine Science & Technology (IACMST) to ensure co-ordination of national efforts in all the sciences. Science, engineering and technology are considered vital to sound policies for the environment and sustainable development.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: Sustainable development indicators have been developed often from national environmental monitoring and research programmes.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: The UK continues to play active roles in the EU Research and Development Framework Programme IV and in the formulation of Framework Programme V, in the International Panel on Climate Change, in the International Geosphere Biosphere the World Climate Research and the International Human Dimensions Programmes, and in the Europe North Africa International Programme on Climate Change. Research Councils co-operate closely with the Department for International Development (DFID) and international bodies and contribute to a range of training and research programmes in developing countries covering issues such as water and geological resources, agriculture, forestry, fisheries and human health. DETR also supports training and research to assist developing countries in maintaining their biodiversity through the Darwin Initiative. A range of other bodies including universities, the Natural History Museum, the Royal Botanic Gardens, the Natural Resources Institute and the Fisheries and Forestry Departments' agency laboratories make other important contributions. Improving understanding and long-term assessment are fundamental objectives of many UK domestic and overseas programmes mentioned above. UK research funders have, for example, collaborated to develop a number of new research programmes in sustainable urban development. Many of those programmes in developing countries are designed to build lasting capacity and capability.

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CHAPTER 36: PROMOTING EDUCATION, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND TRAINING

This issue has been covered under the heading **Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising** in the various chapters of this Profile.

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**CHAPTER 37: NATIONAL MECHANISMS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR
CAPACITY-BUILDING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.**

This issue has been covered either under Chapter 2 or under the heading **Cooperation** in the various chapters of this Profile.

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CHAPTER 38: INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

This issue deals mainly with activities undertaken by the UN System.

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CHAPTER 39: INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND MECHANISMS

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status : In signing/ratifying international agreements, there is an established administrative and legal process that considers the relationships and overlaps between international legal agreements through an *ad hoc* process - consisting of consultation with lawyers to ensure there is no overlap and it is consistent with other Departments. The UK believes a simplification of negotiations at the international level and a reduction in the number and length of negotiations and meetings is possible. There are no major constraints in the UK to implementing international legal instruments related to sustainable development.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising : No information is available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information is available.

Financing: No information is available.

Cooperation: No information is available.

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CHAPTER 40: INFORMATION FOR DECISION-MAKING

Decision-Making: Improved awareness of sustainable development can be a powerful tool for change. In March 1998, the Government launched ‘Are you doing your bit?’, a campaign in England which focuses on specific issues related to sustainable development and shows people how they can influence their local and global environment. Early themes covered climate change and energy efficiency, transport and air quality. In 1999, it will extend to packaging, waste and water conservation, and links between transport and health. The Government will work with public bodies, voluntary organisations, business and trade unions to reinforce the campaign's messages.

The Freedom of Information Act, which received Royal Assent in November 2000, is a major piece of legislation that builds on the progress made through Open Government. It directly supports sustainable development by providing enhanced access to information held by public authorities about their responsibilities and activities. This will be used to produce a culture of greater openness so that decisions taken are more transparent and, as a consequence, public authorities more accountable for their actions.

The government is committed to improving public access to environmental information. The United Nations Economic Council for Europe (UNECE) Aarhus Convention strengthens the existing public access regime for environmental information making it more liberal and more responsive. New Regulations to bring the access regime up to this more demanding standard are expected in 2002.

An important element in the UK is the subset of key headline indicators, intended to focus public attention on what sustainable development means, and to give a broad overview of whether we are achieving a “better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come”.

Sustainable Development objectives are broad and to deliver them we must focus on specific issues. One way to do this is through indicators, which quantify and illustrate the important issues. In the UK Strategy for sustainable development, the Government made a clear commitment to report annually on progress against a set of 15 headline indicators - a quality of life barometer – in order “to provide a high level overview of progress”. The primary purpose of the indicators is to monitor and report on progress towards sustainable development, both within the UK and to international organisations.

Indicators are central to the monitoring and reporting of progress towards sustainable development. They are also powerful tools that can help focus public attention on what sustainable development means and to give a broad overview of whether we are achieving “a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come”. They cover the three pillars of sustainable development, namely social progress, economic growth and environmental protection, including people’s everyday concerns - like health, jobs, crime, air quality, traffic, housing, educational achievement, wildlife and economic prosperity.

On 17 May 1999, the United Kingdom Government published ‘A better quality of life: a strategy for sustainable development in the United Kingdom’. The document sets out the principles of sustainable development, some of the priorities for action in the UK, key actions being taken and commitments that the Government has so far made. Within the UK the new devolved administrations for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will, in the future, be developing their own sustainable development strategies, with their own objectives, priorities and indicators. The Strategy says that we will bring together and publish once a year the latest information about progress against each of the 15 headline indicators of sustainable development, and will account for the action the Government has taken, and proposes to take, in priority areas. The second annual report in the series was published in March 2002.

In addition, the government's website www.sustainable-development.gov.uk was launched in January 2001 alongside ‘Achieving a better quality of life’. The website had been designed with three aims in mind:

- To act as a forum for debating sustainable development issues and exchanging information.
- To link to a wide range of sustainable development related websites.
- To act as a mechanism for continuous reporting of progress towards sustainable development.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: The indicators have been developed following wide consultation and with reference to work in other countries and international organisations - particularly UNCSD, OECD, the European Commission and the European Environment Agency. However, they are not fixed. They will need to be revised in response to changing circumstances, and as our knowledge develops. It is, however, intended that this UK national framework of key objectives and indicators might provide a useful reference and checklist for those working to develop indicators - for sub-national and local use, for use in business reporting, and for those working in other countries and in international organisations.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: The Government is committed to improving public access to environmental information. In December 1999 in Newcastle the UK hosted an international workshop on Public Participation in Making Local Environmental Decisions. Participants from 36 countries across Europe, central Asia and North America attended to share and discuss good practice, as well as exploring practical issues in the implementation of the Aarhus Convention which gives the public the right to obtain information on the environment, the right to participate in decisions that affect the environment and the right to justice in environmental matters.

The Chemicals Stakeholder Forum was launched by Michael Meacher, Minister for the Environment in December 2000, to “provide a voice for people and organisations with an interest in chemicals and their effects on the environment”. Membership of the Forum includes environmental and conservation organisations, the chemical industry, trade associations, consumer groups, trade unions and the scientific community. It advises on public concerns about chemicals in the environment; on the selection and assessment of chemicals considered likely to cause serious or irreversible damage to the environment; and on industry proposals for action to reduce these risks.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: International organizations, e.g. the OECD, EC-EUROSTART, UNICEF and UNEP, play an active role in environmental, social and economic data collection. Much of the information required is already available, but further consideration is needed on what additional information is desirable or needs to be better integrated.

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CHAPTER: INDUSTRY

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: In June 1994, the UK Government launched an Environmental Technology Best Practice Programme. One of the functions of this programme is to act as a centre of expertise on cost effective environmentally sound technologies, to which UK industry and commerce can refer to questions related to environmental topics and sign posting. The UK has a fully functioning accreditation system and a rapidly developing market in certification to ISO 14001. By the end of 1997, approximately 500-600 certificates had been issued to UK firms. A grant scheme - SCEEMAS - exists to encourage the adoption of EMS by smaller companies. UK Certification Bodies had also issued a similar number to organisations worldwide - with the largest number being issued in the Far East. As a member of the EU, the UK also participates in the EMAS scheme, and 41 sites had been registered under the scheme by the end of 1997. The Joint Environment Markets Unit (JEMU) has been established to increase UK firms' awareness of the large and growing market for environmental goods and services, and to assist and encourage UK firms to utilize such opportunities.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: JEMU is also in the process of establishing a database of UK suppliers of environmental technology.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER: SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: Tourism is a vital part of the national and local economy, bringing in much extra money for the country and creating many jobs. It can also benefit local communities by helping to maintain local facilities and services, such as public transport and shops, and can help to regenerate areas through improvements such as the use of derelict land, restoration of buildings, and conservation and repair of the countryside. But there are also concerns that growth in tourism may cause congestion, inconvenience to local people and environmental damage. We would welcome views on how to manage tourism to ensure its benefits while minimising potential problems.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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