

Sustainable Development: A Review of Progress by the Scottish Government (2009)

Annexe Three: Delivery on recommendations from *Sustainable Development: A review of progress by the Scottish Government, 2008*

Recommendations to the Scottish Government from SDC Scotland's Second Assessment (*Sustainable Development: A review of progress by the Scottish Government, 2008*) and review of delivery of those actions.

Building a Strong Sustainable economy

Recommendations for Government	Review on Delivery
The Government should undertake further work to ensure that the concept of sustainable economic growth is embedded across all areas of Government and by the enterprise agencies, wider public sector and business	<p>Increasing 'Sustainable Economic Growth' is the Purpose of this Government and that of Scottish Enterprise and HIE. The Government Economic Strategy (2007) sets out how it is intended to achieve this Purpose. There is still not a consistency of understanding of what 'sustainable economic growth' means with not all areas of Government viewing it as being fully aligned with sustainable development.</p> <p>The Commission's 'Prosperity without Growth' report highlighted the lack of evidence for full decoupling of growth from resource use increases.</p>
A particular challenge will be to ensure the alignment of economic growth and GHG reduction targets. In this context the Government's work on carbon assessment is welcome. It is vital that these assessment tools are developed and used to guide policy in time for the next Spending Review	A Carbon Assessment of the draft budget has been prepared and the pilot Individual Level Assessments (ILAs) completed.
Scottish Enterprise should set targets for GHG reduction and Corporate Social Responsibility, following the example of Highlands and Islands Enterprise	Scottish Enterprise has been piloting work on carbon assessment of projects.
Visit Scotland, Scottish Enterprise and HIE should work together to develop a clear vision for a sustainable tourism industry in Scotland that is aligned with Government GHG targets	VisitScotland is currently working with the enterprise agencies and the industry to develop a new national tourism investment plan but it is not clear as yet as to whether sustainability will be at its heart.
The Government, working with Skills Development Scotland, should review the extent to which the current approach helps provide the skills required (e.g. in	Skills Development Scotland is working as part of the Renewable Energy Skills Group (RESG) to develop a detailed workplan to

engineering) that can help move Scotland towards a more sustainable economy	support the RAP Skills Framework for Action.
What the Commission will Do	
Provide advice to Government on the use of the national performance framework to deliver sustainable economic growth, including use of targets and indicators to measure performance. To support this work, we will host seminars with Government to discuss this topic	Discussions held with Government on sustainable economic growth. Major Commission report Prosperity without Growth launched at Ministerial event. Plans for further work in this area with Commissioner Tim Jackson due to meet Government early in 2010.
Provide advice on additional measures of progress that can be used alongside GDP	Advice on this issue provided when required.

Transport and Travel

Recommendations for the Scottish Government	Review of Delivery
The Government to develop a Greenhouse Gas reduction strategy for Scotland, setting out how all sectors, including transport, can help move Scotland towards the 80% target	Government has published a Climate Change Delivery Plan and will publish more detailed proposals in 2010. A Carbon Account for Transport has also been published.
The Scottish Government to set out clearly how it will integrate the use of carbon assessment, the Carbon Balance Sheet (now the Carbon Account for Transport) and the Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance to inform all future investment in transport infrastructure. The Government and Regional Transport Partnerships should also extend the balance sheet approach to the Regional Transport Strategies and make this information publically available.	There has been steady progress on the development of data and tools to guide transport investment with further detailed information on the role transport will play in meeting the 2020 climate change targets planned for next year.
Government should not give consent to additional airport capacity until it has resolved the problem of contested evidence on the costs and benefits of aviation	Only limited work has so far been undertaken by Government at UK and Scottish level on the contested evidence around the economic and environmental impacts of aviation. Anecdotal evidence is that the greater number of Scots holidaying at home this year has been beneficial for the economy, challenging orthodox opinions as to the benefits of additional flight connections from Scotland.
What the Commission will do	
Review the Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR) when published and provide our advice to Government on how well we see this contributing to Sustainable Economic Growth	The Commission has actively engaged with Transport Scotland over the STPR and also presented evidence on this issue to the Scottish Parliament. A Commission Sustainable Transport paper will be published early in 2010.
Work as a member of the National Transport Strategy Steering Group to input	The Commission has continued to be involved in this work.

into strategy deliver and the 2010 Strategy review	
Provide advice to Government on the use of assessment tools such as Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG), and their integration with carbon assessment and the Carbon Account for Transport	SDC Commissioner Jan Bebbington has continued her work on carbon assessment tools
Act as a sounding board for wider Government action on carbon assessment	SDC Commissioner Jan Bebbington has continued her work on carbon assessment tools

Education

Recommendations for Government	Review on Delivery
The Scottish Government to build on the work undertaken by the Scottish Further Education unit and include sustainable development literacy as part of the training of those working as lecturers in further education	SFEU published 'Scotland's Colleges Sustainable Development Education Survey' in January 2009.
The Scottish Government's Standards Council to explore how skills and course materials relating to the promotion of sustainable development can be reflected in community learning and development courses	Work on developing skills for sustainable development has progressed over the last year through a number of initiatives.
What the Commission will Do	
Continue our work coordinating an expert working group advising Government on the development of its action plan for the second half of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development	Objective met. Action Plan for second half of the decade to be launched in early 2010
Support dissemination of the results of our work on carbon footprinting in English schools	Planned for this year

Health and Well-Being Policy and Strategy

Recommendations for the Scottish Government	Review of Delivery
<p>Building on the work of the Ministerial Task Force the Government must create an integrated approach to policy that has well-being at its heart. This requires greater integration of all relevant policy levers. It also requires further action to help and support individuals to make better health choices</p>	<p>There continues to be progress in this area but far more must be done. The Commission believes that a long term policy aim should be to reallocate 20% of health spending from illness treatment to public health and preventative measures based around housing, greenspace, sport and exercise, behaviour change and active travel and transport.</p>
<p>Increase the support available to tackle fuel poverty. Current investment levels, both from Government and other sources, are wholly inadequate and substantial further investment will be needed to meet the 2016 target</p>	<p>The Government has increased spending on fuel poverty and also developed a more integrated approach to the delivery of expenditure on addressing the causes of fuel poverty. Spending is still far below the level that is believed is required to meet the 2016 target and new scheme installation rate is below what is expected.</p>
<p>Act to support sustainable procurement in the health service as part of wider public sector action on procurement</p>	<p>The Scottish Sustainable Procurement Action Plan (SSPAP) was launched in October 2009. Additionally, NHS national procurement are core members of the Scottish Government's Public Procurement Delivery Group and Scottish Procurement Policy Forum.</p> <p>Action to support sustainable NHS procurement is also being advanced through the Good Corporate Citizenship Assessment Model (GCCAM) being piloted at present with support from the Commission, Health Facilities Scotland and the Scottish Government.</p>
<p>Set out a commitment to support the uptake of the Good Corporate Citizenship model throughout the NHS in Scotland</p>	<p>Achieved. The Government has provided funding to the Commission and Health Facilities Scotland to establish a Scottish Good Corporate Citizenship programme for the NHS. Its application elsewhere has led to improvements in working sustainably.</p>
<p>In light of announcements on car parking charges, set out more clearly the role of Health Boards in Delivering Government's sustainable transport policies</p>	<p>Guidance on this has been set out in the recently published Sustainable Development Strategy for NHS Scotland. In addition, Scottish Government is also working with NHS Boards through the Travel Planning Advisory Group established by Health Facilities Scotland.</p>

Support the work of Audit Scotland in integrating Best Value into the health audit process, ensuring that sustainable development performance is a central part of the assessment of NHS performance and helps promote a more sustainable approach	Audit Scotland continues to develop its approach to Best Value Health Audits.
What the Commission will do	
Build on the existing work of the Commission across the wider UK to implement the Good Corporate Citizenship model through NHS Scotland	The Commission, supported by Government and Health Facilities Scotland, has now established a Scottish Good Corporate Citizenship Programme.
Advise Government on delivery of sustainable procurement policy	The Commission has engaged with Government in the preparation of the Scottish Sustainable Procurement Action Plan.
Promote understanding of the climate change impacts of health through dissemination of our report for NHS England on the carbon footprint of health	Action to be undertaken.

Food Policy and Strategy

Recommendations for the Scottish Government	Review of Delivery
Establish a clear definition of sustainable food and drink based on the need to promote healthy eating, support local economies, meet the needs of the less well off and live within environmental limits	The Commission supports the aim of Recipes for Success as being in line with sustainable development principles.
Develop closer links between policy on education, social justice, sustainable development and health and agriculture with the aim of tackling obesity and promoting good health. The Commission believes 'choice editing' has a role to play in encouraging people to select healthier diet options	Some progress has been made on school food and education policy but far greater action required to address Scotland's obesity time bomb.
Develop a strategic plan for climate change and GHG reductions across the food chain from agriculture to food waste	Has not yet been undertaken although the Climate Change Delivery Plan does include appraisal of the ability to save carbon from food and agriculture. More action on food and carbon is vital given the food chain's contribution of around 25% to Scotland's greenhouse gases
What the Commission will do	
Act as a champion on sustainability within the Government's Food and Drink Leadership Forum	The Commission has been actively involved in the Forum both at the strategic level (through Commissioner Jan Bebbington) and through contributions to individual work streams.

The Built Environment

Recommendations for Government	Review on Delivery
The National Planning Framework is set within a clearer sustainable development framework. Of particular concern with the draft is the likely impact of most National Developments on GHG emissions	The final Second National Planning Framework has improved from the draft. There is a commitment to carbon assess all national developments and the list of national projects is now more balanced.
The Government to adopt in full the recommendations of the Sullivan Report and set out a clear timetable as to how it intends to move towards the actions recommended for both new build and the existing built environment	<p>Government now in the process of implementing the Sullivan report.</p> <p>Of the 56 recommendations for Scottish Government within the Sullivan report, over 40 have been addressed. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage improvement for energy standards announced in February 2009 ahead of public consultation • Proposed energy standards for new domestic and non domestic buildings publically consulted on (consultation closed 2 October 2009) • Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, includes provisions for assessment of energy performance and emissions from existing non-domestic buildings and requires procurement of buildings for the Civil Estate to be in the upper quartile of energy performance. • Energy standards to be reviewed every 3 years until 2016. <p>A Sullivan update report will be published in early 2010.</p>
The Government must put forward proposals for significant further investment in improving the energy efficiency of the existing housing stock. Such action could contribute to cutting fuel poverty, energy security, climate change targets and employment	Energy efficiency action plan currently being consulted upon – now over one year late. Despite this the Government has assembled an effective team to work on these issues.
What the Commission will Do	
Review progress on fuel poverty, energy efficiency in buildings and the Second National Planning Framework in our Third Annual Assessment	Now being delivered

Creating Sustainable Communities

Recommendations for Government	Review on Delivery
The creation of the Fairer Scotland Fund as a single focus for regeneration activity, and its delivery through Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) is to be welcomed. However, it is important that funding allocated by Partnerships is aligned with sustainable development principles. Particularly important is that all new capital investment is directed towards construction of the highest environmental standards, and that it supports integrated communities	The Fairer Scotland Fund has not been in existence for long enough to appraise the sustainability of the actions it has supported, although anecdotal evidence is that new capital investment is mixed in terms of its sustainability performance standards. The Commission will review this issue more fully as part of an overall assessment of Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs)
One vital partner that has not always been at the heart of CPPs is the community itself. Given the central role that these Partnerships now have in regeneration and joined up community level action, they must ensure that sufficient emphasis is placed on the involvement of the community in their work	It is not clear that the community are sufficiently involved in CPPs and the Commission therefore welcomes the publication of the National Community Empowerment Action Plan. The spirit of this Action Plan must be taken forward by CPPs. The Commission will review this more fully as part of an overall assessment of Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs)
A commitment to use public procurement to help promote social enterprise is very positive, as are aspirations to promote 'greener' procurement. To deliver on these commitments requires stringent monitoring and capacity building among procurement staff	The Scottish Sustainable Procurement Action Plan (SSPAP) was launched in October 2009. The challenge now will be to ensure that the Procurement plans prepared by public bodies are ambitious and effectively delivered.
What the Commission will Do	
Work with partners to explore the concept of indicators of sustainable communities	Commissioner Jan Bebbington involved in ongoing work on alternative measures of progress but detailed work on sustainable community indicators still to be commenced.
Provide advice and support to Government on sustainable procurement	The Commission has been in discussion with Government procurement staff in the development of the Sustainable Procurement Action Plan (SSPAP). We will monitor the delivery of the aspirations of the SSPAP

Climate Change

Recommendations for Government	Review on Delivery
The Scottish Government should set a specific target for a percentage cut in emissions to be delivered by 2011. Given the scale of the challenge (in absolute terms), Government must challenge itself and set targets that equate to the three percent absolute annual reductions required	No commitment from Government to this although a statutory report on proposals and policies to be produced in 2010 will set out plans for meeting annual targets up to 2022.
The Climate Change Bill must enable Government, the public sector and indeed the whole of Scottish society to act to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the rate required to meet the 80% target. We would expect the Scottish Government to follow the recommendations set out by the Committee on Climate Change	Scotland has delivered a Climate Change Act with targets in line with the more ambitious scenario outlined by the Committee on Climate Change
The development of carbon assessment across Government and a carbon balance sheet for transport are both welcome steps. More clarity is needed from Government about how it intends to use the balance sheet to reduce transport emissions as part of an overall package of carbon assessment and management	Work on Government progressing with more detail to be available in 2010. The carbon assessment of transport (as the balance sheet has now become) has been published but there has been some criticism of the methodology used to assess the carbon impact of projects.
What the Commission will Do	
Act as a sounding board to Government on carbon accounting tools	SDC Commissioner Jan Bebbington has continued to participate in high level work on the effective development of carbon assessment with both Government and Parliament
Provide advice to Government on the development of a Climate Change Bill and of a Strategic Overview of policy options for emissions reductions in the short, medium and long term	The Commission engaged with Climate Change staff within Government in relation to a number of aspects of the Bill and will continue to do so
Provide information on our work on nuclear power as required	Limited but ongoing work undertaken
Help inform the Parliamentary scrutiny of the draft Climate Change Bill through the organisation of expert workshops for MSPs and Government officials	A series of 5 workshops was held involving MSPs, Government officials and external experts. Report on workshops published.

Natural Heritage and Resources

Recommendations for Government	Review on Delivery
Following the publication of new footprint data the Government should develop an action plan setting out how it intends to stabilise and then reduce Scotland's ecological footprint. Action to cut the footprint could have significant economic, social, health and environmental benefits	New footprint data now published but no commitment to an action plan despite negative trends in the indicator. There is also now a commitment (through the Scottish Climate Change Act) for consumption based reporting of GHGs. This must also be developed
Clear action is required to address those aspects of biodiversity that are showing a negative trend at present. While it is accepted that some changes in biodiversity are an inevitable consequence of climate change, more still needs to be done to protect and enhance those aspects of biodiversity that are currently in decline	Action to assess progress on biodiversity can only be truly judged over the longer term. Indicators currently showing mixed trends
The Government, working with the fishing industry, must move towards a situation where 100% of Scotland's fisheries are sustainable	A far more coherent policy framework for marine issues and aquaculture has been developed over the last year. However fish stocks are still far from being sustainable – there has actually been a negative trend over the last year
In partnership with Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Local Authorities and other relevant parties, continue to act to address air and water quality issues. It is also important that the likely impacts of climate change on water quality are considered	Issues addressed through the planned Climate Change Adaptation Framework and through River Basin Management Plans.
What the Commission will Do	
Support and advise the Government on action to cut Scotland's footprint through integrated action on economic development, transport, waste management and resource use.	Over the last year the Commission has been active in working with Government on the development of more sustainable policy on Health, Sustainable Economics, Food, Waste Policy, Climate Change, Transport and Planning.

Waste

Recommendations for Government	Review on Delivery
<p>The Government review of waste policy and the establishment of the Zero Waste Think Tank are welcome. Government will need to consider the conclusions of this Group when drafting its revised Waste Management Plan and in particular, will need to focus on how to tackle waste prevention and business wastes to deliver its Outcome to reduce the local and global environmental impact of consumption and production</p>	<p>Government has supported the think tank and produced a draft Zero Waste plan out for consultation August to November 2009. The Plan has clearly taken account of the Think Tank work, and is a good step forward in action on Zero Waste. In particular it considers setting a broader range of targets to monitor waste performance which will hopefully mean that primary interest is not only municipal waste recycling. The Plan also integrates the separate waste policy documents on household waste reduction and business waste, which is very welcome.</p>
<p>Government will need to work closely with local authorities to ensure that local action on waste continues apace. Further waste infrastructure is required if recycling and landfill avoidance rates are to improve further. Government must ensure that there is sufficient expertise and advice to help local authorities here, and that waste infrastructure requirements are properly factored into the Second National Planning Framework.</p>	<p>Recycling rates still on rise, and funding for waste services is part of local authority baseline funding, with an additional £152m of funding in the period 2008-11 to deliver Zero Waste. SEPA has published its Thermal Treatment Guidelines setting out its approach to permitting thermal treatment of waste facilities. Waste issues are addressed in the second National Planning Framework</p>
<p>Government to make a stronger link between waste and climate change policies (both in terms of waste heat and waste biomass developments) and set in place wider measures to cut waste emissions</p>	<p>Progress has been made. The Climate Change (Scotland) Act contains powers for taking wider action on waste, and the Climate Change Delivery Plan also has a section on waste setting out waste's role in delivery of 42% carbon reductions by 2020. There has also been an improvement in the internal working of government in terms of linking energy and waste.</p>
<p>What the Commission will Do</p>	
<p>Jan Bebbington, Vice-Chair of the Commission sits in a personal capacity on the Government's Zero Waste think tank. The Commission will provide information to Professor Bebbington and the think tank as required</p>	<p>Delivered</p>
<p>Provide advice to Government as part of the advocacy of our A Burning Issue report</p>	<p>Delivered. We have provided further advice on the 25% Energy from Waste (EfW) cap, and also considered issues of waste treatment through our Renewable Heat in Scotland work.</p>