



Sustainable
Development Commission

Sustainable Development Commission Annual Review

2008 -2009

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Message from the CEO

Looking back on a year which has brought a great deal turbulence in the form of an ongoing economic crisis, and ever increasing understanding of the environmental and social challenges ahead, it seems a good time to take note of some of the more positive developments we've seen.

It's been a year of increasing awareness that we cannot live beyond our means – in environmental terms as well as economic ones; and more and more Government policy across the UK has reflected this. The UK government brought energy and climate change together under one Secretary of State with the creation of the Department of Energy and Climate Change – a move the SDC called for in 2007. The Scottish Government passed a world-leading Climate Change Act; and the Welsh Assembly Government is drawing up groundbreaking plans to make sustainable development its central organising principle. Our report on the sustainability performance of UK Government Departments found that, for the first time, Government as a whole was on track in most major target areas. Beyond government, more than 30 leading organisations representing the construction sector in Wales teamed up to sign the first green building charter of its kind in the UK.

The Sustainable Development Commission too can count some achievements this year. Our partnerships with the Department of Health (DH) and the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) have resulted in a strong emphasis on sustainability in children's policy, and almost half of all NHS trusts signing up to make their operations more sustainable through the Good Corporate Citizenship Strategy. The Prime Minister's Strategy Unit's report Food Matters – Towards a Strategy for the 21st Century strongly reflected the SDC's recommendations for Government to lead on developing of a vision for a sustainable food system. The SDC Capability Building Team provided guidance and support to over 34 organisations across Government in

drafting their departmental Sustainable Development Action Plans (SDAPs); and our work with public sector regulators – not due for completion until next year – has already resulted in progress towards more sustainable practices at both the Audit Commission and Ofsted.

The challenges ahead remain many and serious. But our work with the four Governments across the UK demonstrates that there is in increasing willingness to take the decisions which will benefit populations tomorrow as well as today. We look forward to building on this progress in the coming year.

Andrew Lee

Chief Executive, Sustainable Development Commission

Neges gan y Prif Swyddog Gweithredol

Wrth edrych yn ôl ar flwyddyn a ddaeth â chryn gynnwrf yn sgil yr argyfwng economaidd, yn ogystal â'r ffaith ein bod yn deall mwy a fwy am y sialensiau amgylcheddol a chymdeithasol sydd o'n blaenau, da o beth fyddai rhoi sylw i rai o'r datblygiadau mwy cadarnhaol yr ydym wedi eu gweld.

Mae wedi bod yn flwyddyn o gynnydd yn ein hymwybyddiaeth na allwn fyw yn uwch na'n stad - o ran yr amgylchedd yn ogystal ag o ran yr economi; ac mae mwyfwy o bolisiâu'r Llywodraeth ledled y Deyrnas Unedig wedi adlewyrchu hyn. Bu i llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig ddod ag ynni a newid yn yr hinsawdd at ei gilydd o dan un Ysgrifennydd Gwladol drwy greu'r Adran Ynni a Newid yn yr Hinsawdd - newid yr oedd y Comisiwn Datblygu Cynaliadwy wedi galw amdano yn 2007. Pasiodd Llywodraeth yr Alban Ddeddf Newid yn yr Hinsawdd sydd wir ar flaen y gad; ac mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wrthi'n llunio cynlluniau arloesol i wneud datblygu cynaliadwy yn brif egwyddor drefniadol ganddi. Canfu ein hadroddiad ar berfformiad cynaliadwyedd Adrannau Llywodraeth y DU fod Llywodraeth yn ei chyfarwydd, am y tro cyntaf, ar y trywydd iawn gyda'r rhan fwyaf o'r prif feysydd a dargedwyd. Y tu hwnt i llywodraeth, ymunodd mwy na 30 o sefydliadau sy'n cynrychioli'r sector adeiladu yng Nghymru gyda'i gilydd i lofnodi'r siarter adeiladu gwyrdd cyntaf o'i fath yn y Deyrnas Unedig.

Gall Comisiwn Datblygu Cynaliadwy hefyd ymfalchiö mewn rhai llwyddiannau eleni. Mae ein partneriaethau gyda'r Adran Iechyd (DH) a'r Adran Plant, Ysgolion a Theuluoedd (DCSF) wedi arwain at bwyslais cryf ar gynaliadwyedd ym mhonisau plant, ac ar ben hynny mae bron i hanner yr holl ymddiriedolaethau GIG wedi ymrwymo i wneud eu gwaith yn fwy cynaliadwy drwy'r Strategaeth Dinas-yddiaeth Gorfforaethol Dda. Roedd adroddiad Uned Strategol y Prif Weinidog Food Matters – Towards a Strategy

for the 21st Century yn adlewyrchu yn gryf argymhellion y Comisiwn Datblygu Cynaliadwy y dylai'r Llywodraeth arwain ar ddatblygu gweledigaeth ar gyfer system bwyd cynaliadwy. Fe wnaeth Tîm Meithrin Gallu y CDC gynnig arweiniad a chefnogaeth i fwy na 34 o sefydliadau ledled Cymru wrth ddrafftio Cynlluniau Gweithredu Datblygu Cynaliadwy eu hadnannau (SDAPs); ac mae ein gwaith gyda chyrff rheoleiddio'r sector cyhoeddus – nad yw i'w gwblhau tan y flwyddyn nesaf – eisoes wedi arwain at gynnydd mewn mwy o arferion cynaliadwy yn y Comisiwn Archwilio ac yn Ofsted.

Mae heriau lu a difrifol o'n blaenau. Ond mae ein gwaith gyda'r pedair llywodraeth ledled y Deyrnas Unedig yn dangos bod yna barodrwydd cynyddol i wneud y penderfyniadau a fydd o fudd i boblogaethau yfory yn ogystal â rhai heddiw. Edrychwn ymlaen at adeiladu ar y cynnydd hwn yn y flwyddyn sydd i ddod.

Andrew Lee

Prif Weithredwr, y Comisiwn Datblygu Cynaliadwy

Introduction to the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC)

The SDC is the government's independent advisor on sustainable development, reporting to the Prime Minister, the First Ministers of Scotland and Wales and the First Minister and Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland. Through advocacy, advice and appraisal, we help put sustainable development at the heart of government policy.

The SDC's roles are threefold:

- **advisory:** providing informed, evidence-based advice to government on sustainability
- **capability building:** developing the attitudes, skills and knowledge in government to deliver on sustainable development
- **scrutiny:** holding government to account on progress towards sustainable development and on its operational commitments.

Who we are

The SDC is led by 18 Commissioners from a mix of academic, scientific, business and NGO backgrounds, chaired by Jonathon Porritt. Appointments to the Commission are made by the Prime Minister in agreement with the First Ministers of Wales and Scotland and First and Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland.

Since 1 February 2009, when the SDC changed its status to become an executive non-departmental public body (NDPB), it has been registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee. The company is wholly owned by the UK, Welsh, Scottish and Northern Ireland governments, and governed by a Board

The Commission is supported by 50 full-time staff who implement the Commission's decisions. The Secretariat is led by its director, Andrew Lee, and is staffed by

people appointed by open competition and by secondments from various sectors. The Commission works out of four offices in London, Cardiff, Belfast and Edinburgh.

How we work

The SDC is able to act independently and can investigate any topic within its remit. The work programme is decided taking into account knowledge gaps in government, new policy initiatives, contentious issues and technological innovations.

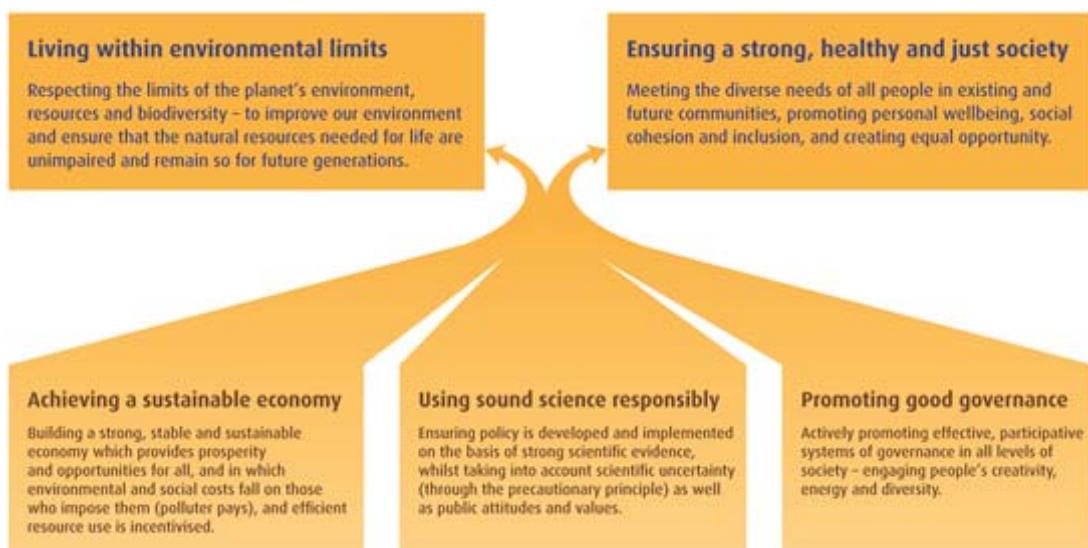
The work carried out reflects our three roles. This work includes, but is not restricted to:

- producing evidence-based reports on contentious environmental, social and economic issues of the day
- responding openly to government policy initiatives
- convening key stakeholders to encourage and facilitate debate on contentious issues
- working in partnership with departments to promote and support the mainstreaming of sustainable development throughout their organisation
- undertaking appraisals examining departments' operational performance and conducting in-depth thematic reviews into particular areas of government work.

Our Principles

The SDC bases its work on the five principles of sustainable development published by the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations in the 2005 report *One Future, Different Paths*, (shown below).

The principles guide the work of the SDC and establish a basis against which it reviews government progress towards sustainable development.



Current Membership

Chairman

Jonathon Porritt is co-founder and Programme Director of Forum for the Future, Co-Director of The Prince of Wales' Business and Environment Programme, and an eminent writer, broadcaster and commentator on sustainable development.

Commissioners (in alphabetical order)

Jan Bebbington (Vice-Chair, Scotland) holds the Chair in Accounting and Sustainable Development in the University of St. Andrews. Jan's research interests focus around the dual themes of corporate reporting on sustainable development and full cost accounting.

Bernie Bulkin, formerly chief scientist at BP, is now non-Executive Director of AEA Technology plc, serves on numerous charitable boards, and has written extensively on the areas of energy and transport.

Lindsey Colbourne is internationally recognised for her pioneering engagement work. She established the NGO Vision 21 in 1993 and is now also coordinator of InterAct, an alliance committed to using engagement techniques to promote sustainable development.

Anna Coote is Head of Public Sector Policy at the new economics foundation. She was Deputy Director of the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) from 1993-1997, where she led the Institute's groundbreaking work on health and social policy.

Peter Davies (Vice-Chair, Wales) is co-coordinator of the Prince's Charities in Wales, former Deputy Chief Executive of Business in the Community, and has an established international reputation for his work in corporate social responsibility.

Stewart Davies has worked for 20 years in industry, as Managing Director at Rugby Cement amongst others, where he has implemented changes for businesses to meet demands in health & safety, Climate Change Levy and EU Emissions Trading Scheme. Stewart is currently Managing Director, Serco Integrated Services.

Ann Finlayson is an independent advisor on social change for sustainable development and is the former Head of the Social change at WWF, responsible for strategy development for the 'Learning for Sustainability' programme in the education, local government and business sectors.

Tess Gill is a leading barrister specialising in employment discrimination, industrial law and human rights. She is also a trained mediator and has held posts in a range of voluntary organisations.

Tim Jackson is Professor of Sustainable Development at the University of Surrey. He has pioneered the development of an alternative measure of progress for the UK - 'green GDP'. His current interests are consumer behaviour, ecological economics, sustainable energy systems and environmental philosophy.

Alan Knight is an independent advisor to the Virgin Group, SAB Miller and Wyeville Garden Centres on sustainability through the product chain. He is also a board member of the Forest Stewardship Council, fellow of WWF UK and co-chaired the UK government's Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption.

Tim Lang is Professor of Food Policy at City University specialising in how public and private policy shapes the food supply chain. A farmer for seven years after obtaining his doctorate, he is co-founder of Sustain, a major NGO alliance, and an award-winning author of several books.

Tim O'Riordan (retired September 2008) is former Professor of Environmental Sciences at the University of East Anglia and a Fellow of the British Academy. He has written extensively on interdisciplinary research for sustainable development and the implications of the transition to sustainability.

Alice Owen's background is a business manager and strategic planner. An engineer by training, working in industry in the earliest part of her career, Alice has been working in the field of sustainable development since 1991. She leads Arup's environmental and sustainability consulting work from Leeds.

Anne Power is Professor of Social Policy at London School of Economics and Deputy Director of the Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion. Since 1965 she has been involved in European and American housing and urban problems.

Hugh Raven is Director of the Soil Association Scotland and is special advisor to the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation on the environment. He also helps run Ardtornish, his family's estate in north Argyll and is active in the Slow Food movement.

Waheed Saleem is Locality Director with responsibility for Practice Based Commissioning and Children's Commissioning at Birmingham Eastern and North Primary Care Trust. His interests are in social policy, especially health, social exclusion, crime and youth.

Rebecca Willis (Vice-Chair, Whitehall) is an independent researcher focusing on environmental politics at regional and local levels. Her freelance portfolio includes work with the Carbon Trust, Greenpeace, English Nature and the NorthWest Regional Assembly.

The SDC Work Programme

The SDC's work programme structure is based on our three-year strategy *A Catalyst for Change*, which sets out the broad direction of travel to 2010. With relevant versions for the UK Government, Scottish Government, Welsh Assembly Government and Northern Ireland Executive, the work programme *Making Change Happen* defines both intentions and practical actions.

This Annual Review examines the objectives of the SDC's work programme, which are:

- **Building organisational capability** – Government will have built the organisational capability to put sustainable development into practice through its programmes and policies
- **Achieving policy breakthroughs** – Government will have achieved breakthrough in the areas of policy which will have the greatest immediate impact on sustainability
- **Holding Government to account** – Government will have been held to account for its progress in delivering sustainable development strategy, and mainstreaming this scrutiny function within monitoring and audit bodies
- **Developing the SDC's capacity** – The SDC will have developed its internal operations to fully support and deliver the work programme.

Building organisational capacity within Government

The SDC's capability building role is to assist government departments to apply sustainable development principles in a practical way to the problems they face, and to help build departmental capability to embed sustainability into working practices

and policies, and to bring about long-term organisational change. Our research-base combined with our overview of government activity and our stakeholder networks allows us to facilitate inter-departmental discussion on key operational and policy issues, develop our understanding of major blocks and enablers of progress, and raise ambition levels across government.

Health

Since 2005, the SDC's partnership with the Department of Health (DH) has resulted in a range of practical, evidence-based contributions to health policy and the health service across England, including research demonstrating the importance of sustainable development to health outcomes, carbon reduction and efficiency.

This year, the SDC has continued to support the NHS in becoming more sustainable, led by Commissioner Anna Coote. Given the size of its estates, staffing levels and procurement budget, the NHS has a huge role to play in the sustainable development of the UK.

Funded by the Department of Health, the SDC's Good Corporate Citizenship assessment model www.corporatetitizen.nhs.uk was launched in 2006. The model provides a self-assessment test to help organisations mark and monitor their performance in sustainable development. It also provides practical resources to help health professionals improve the integration of sustainable development into their organisation's operations and management. The SDC continues to manage and update the website and its resources and provides advice and support to the model's users, currently 606 users. A comprehensive review of the model is planned for 2009.

The SDC has increased the level of direct support provided to DH, by contributing to the Sustainable Development Strategy, published September 2008; and then

working embedded within the Department to translate this strategy into a Sustainable Development Action Plan. The outcome is far broader in scope and establishes a much stronger emphasis on policy. A National Health Service Sustainable Development Unit (NHS SDU) was established in April 2008, with hands on advice and a staff secondment provided by the SDC. The SDC's work on the NHS carbon footprint provided the evidence base for the NHS SDU's Carbon Reduction Strategy, launched in January 2009.

The SDC is contributing to the Independent Review of Health Inequalities (Marmot Review) through a task group on sustainable development, setting out evidence on how climate change, a sustainable economy, food, transport and green space can influence health inequalities.

Education

This year saw our partnership with the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) expand to include a focus on young people policy, allowing SDC to provide active support across all major policy areas of the Department. SDC staff, embedded in the department, have delivered input into the Children's Plan, which is DCSF's strategy for improving the lives of children, young people and families in England over the next decade; the Play Strategy, which addresses the need for higher quality place spaces and child-friendly communities to improve the experience of childhood; and the Child Health Strategy, which recognises the links between the physical environment and child health. The SDC's research report, *Every Child's Future Matters* was reprinted in 2008.

Following the carbon foot printing exercise for schools in 2006, the SDC continued its analysis in this area by developing scenarios for carbon reduction to 2020 and 2050, and identifying policy options to deliver them. A number of case studies from local authorities across England were prepared to

demonstrate the breadth of approaches being taken to secure carbon savings in schools, including invest-to-save funding for retrofit measures, and projects to engage pupils through energy monitoring and renewable energy.

Innovation and Skills

In January 2009 the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) asked the SDC to advise it on how it could improve its strategy from a sustainable development perspective. We conducted a short research programme, which included interviews with senior officials.

In parallel, the SDC was involved in a Low Carbon Skills Summit at Windsor Castle, and a high level policy forum on Low Carbon Resource Efficient skills. We also organised, in conjunction with the Learning and Skills Council and the Trades Union Congress, a round table discussion of the skills which will be needed for a sustainable economy.

The SDC presented its findings to the DIUS Sustainable Development Steering Group and Board, and prepared a submission to the Minister responsible for sustainable development and skills. Our recommendations on improving the strategy, which were accepted in principle, took the form of recommendations for 12 projects designed to help DIUS play a more active role in the shift to a low carbon economy.

Cross Government Sustainable Development Network

The Cross Government Sustainable Development Network, launched in January 2008, provides a regular informal space for colleagues who work in sustainable development to encourage collaboration and exchange best practice between Departments, non-departmental public bodies, environmental agencies and the public sector. The network, for which the

SDC acts as secretariat, is unique as it operates not only across government, but also the wider public sector, allowing colleagues to meet in an open environment to discuss the issues which affect them. The network helps to promote sustainable development through this shared learning, and enabling members to help their organisations to commit collectively to the goals of sustainable development.

In November 2008, the SDC held an event entitled *Making the Business case for Sustainable Development*, in partnership with the Corporate Responsibility Group (CRG). This event shared learning across the public and private sector, and explored the barriers and opportunities in making the business case for sustainable development within organisations.

Her Majesty's Treasury (HMT)

The SDC Capability Building team, led by Commissioner Ann Finlayson, worked with Her Majesty's Treasury staff in a half day workshop in June 2008. We helped launch their internal Treasury Environmental Network (TEN) as well as facilitating an interactive session to help HMT colleagues critique and analyse approaches to sustainable development. During the session we used four breakout groups focusing on fuel poverty; carbon capture and storage; zero carbon homes; and transport and the environment.

An important outcome of working closely with departments is the ongoing relationship we build with departments, which allows the SDC to provide support, advice, and scrutiny to help integrate sustainable development thinking in both policy and practice.

Policy Advice

One of the SDC's objectives is to provide policy advice which enables the Government to achieve breakthroughs towards making

the UK a sustainable society. This year, our policy advice has focused on five key areas:- food, transport, energy and climate change, and the economy.

Food

A sustainable food system is a cornerstone of a sustainable society, as it influences many of the other issues on the sustainability agenda. These include land use and climate change; employment and business; and health and well-being.

The SDC has worked with Government to look at moving towards a sustainable diet and greater food security, and in Scotland, the SDC has been central to the Food and Drinks Leadership Forum which aims to set out the framework for future policy. This work, led by Commissioner Tim Lang, has also included on-going engagement with some of the major retailers and other key stakeholders over the recommendations in our 2008 report *Green, healthy and fair*. As a result of the SDC's advocacy work, Defra's food security assessment framework is expected to include global resource sustainability.

Sustainable Economy

In 2003, the SDC published *Redefining Prosperity*, which challenged Government 'to rethink the dominance of economic growth as the driving force in the modern political economy'.¹ To 'open out political space' to discuss such issues, the SDC launched a new programme of work investigating the relationship between prosperity and economic growth in 2007.

The programme involved a series of workshops in 2007-08, which invited eminent thinkers to contribute 'think pieces' on different aspects of prosperity. The essays and workshops were organised around four related themes: visions of prosperity; the feasibility of 'decoupling' economic progress from environmental

impact, and the impediments to a 'steady state economy'. Together with a number of background reports prepared by SDC staff, and the growing body of literature on growth and sustainability, the essays contributed to these workshops formed the evidence base for the SDC's landmark report, *Prosperity Without Growth?*, published on 31 March 2009.

Authored by the SDC's economics Commissioner Tim Jackson, the report advocates forging a new economic system equipped to avoid the shocks and negative impacts associated with reliance on growth. It offers clear recommendations to policy-makers struggling to take concrete steps towards a sustainable economy. Meetings and events aimed at engaging both Government Ministers and officials and the business community are planned throughout 2009.

Sustainable Travel: Engaging the Public Sector

Sustainable Travel: Engaging the Public Sector (STEPS) is an SDC-led project which aims to engage with and encourage Government to develop a clear vision and high level of ambition for sustainable public sector travel. The SDC will examine those factors which affect, or are affected by, Government's travel activities, with the aim of assisting Government to begin to make public sector travel more sustainable and save on carbon emissions resulting from travel. Working in liaison with the OGC, and engaging with DfT, DECC and Defra, the SDC have commissioned consultants to produce a report to inform the work programme of the OGC (CESP), other government departments and relevant stakeholders.

The SDC hopes this report will contribute to identifying key areas for future in-depth study, and inform the development a government-wide operational and travel policy and delivery programme based on its recommendations.

Big Energy Shift

The Big Energy Shift is a Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) project which aims to explore ideas, solutions and policies which can deliver a step change in the way we heat and power our homes, businesses and public buildings. The SDC was commissioned by DECC to undertake stakeholder research for the project, with support from the OGC and input from Defra. The project comprised three main areas of stakeholder research: the public sector (where research was led by the SDC); small and medium enterprise (led by Business in the Community); and householders (led by Ipsos Mori).

The SDC sought to identify the perceived blocks and levers to adopting more sustainable energy technologies across the public sector. Interviews were conducted with a wide range of stakeholders and a major stakeholder engagement event was held with Parliamentary under-Secretary of State for DECC Joan Ruddock MP providing an introduction.

Publication of the research findings is planned for in April 2009, after which SDC will continue to engage with Government at the highest levels to help ensure that the public sector leads the way in implementing measures to reduce emissions rapidly and effectively.

Sustainable Places - Built Environment

The SDC provided input to the development of Government's thinking on new-build homes, giving evidence to the Environmental Audit Committee's inquiry into greener homes and submitting a response to DECC's consultation on defining zero carbon homes.

A key focus has been our work on existing buildings, which has seen a fruitful partnership with the UK Green Building Council on input to the consultation by the OCC (and now DECC) on energy savings from

existing buildings. The Commission also provided input to the Audit Commission's report on emissions from domestic stock. We were represented on the *Zero Carbon Schools Taskforce*, and we have begun to engage with a number of agencies to develop a project on community infrastructure and the development of low carbon neighbourhoods.

Sustainable Places - Local Government

The SDC's *Capability for Local Sustainability* project brought together stakeholders from key Government departments and agencies as well as local and regional bodies. This project led to the publication of *Local decision-making and sustainable development* in November, which investigated the steps that need to be taken to make sustainable development a more integral part of local decision-making, with particular reference to local strategic partnerships (LSPs).

This work built on the SDC's previous work in developing a set of sustainable development indicators for use at a local level, the local SD lens, which we continued to advocate this year. The local lens was published on the SDC website in November and the ideas within it are being taken forward by the IDeA.

Another key partnership has been with the Audit Commission, for whom the SDC provided strategic input into the development of the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) and helped to develop a generic sustainable development training programme for auditors.

Sustainable Places - Sub-National Governance

Throughout 2008-09, the SDC engaged actively with CLG and BERR on the subject of the Sub-National Review (SNR). In June, we ran a successful workshop for Regional Development Agencies. We built on this to

develop our advice to Government on Single Regional Strategies, which was designed to ensure that sustainable development concerns were embedded within these strategy proposals.

The SDC convened a number of meetings of the Regional Champion Bodies (RCBs) for England, with a great deal of the discussion focussing on the place of RCBs within the new structures for regional government emerging in the wake of the SNR.

Sustainable Places - Planning Policy

The SDC's engagement with Government on the Planning Bill and the formation of the new National Policy Statements (NPSs) on water, energy and transport progressed throughout this year.

Following Royal Assent for the Planning Bill 2008, we continued to engage with departments in the framing of the National Policy Statements and towards the establishment of the Infrastructure Planning Commission.

Sustainable Places - Habitats

Having secured funding from DECC in early 2009, the SDC embarked on a new project to explore the potential for novel types of habitat compensation that might be used in the case of proposed schemes for tidal power generation on the Severn Estuary. This work followed from recommendations made in the SDC's 2007 report, *Turning the Tide*, which stated that the compensation requirements of the EU Habitats Directive must be satisfied for any such scheme to proceed.

Supplier Obligation

During 2008, the SDC used public and stakeholder engagement to inform Defra's consultation on *The Household Energy Supplier Obligation from 2011*. The aim of

the supplier obligation focus was to transform the market for the supply of domestic energy by giving suppliers and consumers a shared incentive to reduce carbon emissions from homes.

Our research suggested that a transformation of the energy market was needed to achieve Government objectives. Existing measures-based policy would not be sufficient to deliver this transformation, and a more radical approach would be required to achieve the 80% emissions reduction target legislated for by the Climate Change Bill. The SDC's findings have had a significant influence on the package of measures announced in the Low Carbon Transition Strategy and wider thinking in Government about the role of the market in household energy saving.

Transport - Mobility 2020

During 2008, the Sustainable Development Commission took over the work of the UK Government's Business Taskforce on Sustainable Consumption and Production, researching the changes needed to encourage a shift towards low carbon personal transport.

This project, entitled Mobility 2020, is led by Commissioner Stewart Davies. In January 2009, an IT professional seconded to the SDC conducted further research into the potential uses of Information Communications Technology (ICT) in promoting more sustainable models of travel and transport use. This work resulted in a seminar on ICT and Sustainable Mobility in February 2009, and provides the basis for a report due to be published in 2009/10.

Transport – Aviation

The SDC, along with the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR), embarked on a year-long engagement process on decision making and aviation, which included businesses and industry; academics; NGOs;

citizens' groups and Government Departments. The process, led by Commissioner Hugh Raven, uncovered significant levels of disagreement between these groups, not only in terms of their overall positions, but in their views on the evidence on which decisions about the future of air travel are being based.

In May 2008, the SDC and IPPR published the findings of the engagement process in *Breaking the holding pattern: a new approach to aviation policymaking in the UK*. The report concludes that the current evidence base is inadequate for reliable decision making on the future of UK air travel.

The SDC and IPPR recommended that the Government should convene a special commission to compile an updated evidence base, to be incorporated into the Air Transport White Paper. It also recommended widespread consultation with the public and stakeholders on the future of air travel in the UK given the considerable disagreement between the consultative groups. The report recommended that the proposed expansion at Heathrow should be put on hold until the Air Transport White Paper has been reviewed.

Following media and public interest, the SDC published a second report in September 2008, exploring in more depth the specific areas of disagreement. *Contested Evidence: The case for an independent review of aviation policy* took the optimistic position that, despite a view in some quarters that opposing groups will never agree and that the Government must simply press ahead with decisions, a greater degree of consensus is far from unattainable. Despite the decision in favour of Heathrow expansion in January 2009, the SDC's position remains that the necessity of producing a National Policy Statement on Airports should be the occasion to undertake a proper review of the Air Transport White Paper.

Watchdog and Scrutiny Role

A vital part of the SDC's work is holding Government to account for both its policy work and the sustainability of its own procurement and operations. The watchdog role, led by the SDC's Vice Chair for Whitehall Rebecca Willis, involves the SDC monitoring cross-governmental and departmental progress towards sustainable development, using the following methods:

- **Sustainable Development in Government Assessments** – the SDC reports annually on how well the Government is performing against its own targets for its operations and procurement practices
- **Sustainable Development Action Plans (SDAPs)** – the SDC tracks all Government Departments and their Executive Agencies on the content of their SDAPs, and reviews progress made against their objectives
- **Thematic Reviews** – the SDC conducts in-depth reviews of public services, such as regulatory services.

Sustainable Development in Government

When the UK Government published its sustainable development strategy *Securing the Future* in 2005, the SDC was tasked with assessing the Government's own progress against targets for its own estate,ⁱⁱ giving the SDC its watchdog role.

"Sustainable operations are wholly consistent with good value for money and efficiency, and are part of building a modern and resource efficient public sector." – Defra¹

Our *Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) 2007* report provided core evidence at the Environmental Audit Committee's session on Greening

Government; the SDC also provided verbal evidence.

In December 2008 the SDC published the collated 2007-08 SDiG data from Government Departments, thus giving them the opportunity to incorporate findings into their planning for the forthcoming year. The SDiG 2008 report, using the data as the basis for a forward-looking assessment of sustainability issues and challenges for the Government estate, is planned for publication in May 2009.

The greater part of the SDC's watchdog function involves offering support, advice and capability building services. The SDiG process has enabled Departments that once knew little about their environmental and social impacts, to become actively engaged in improvement, and to be on track to meet most targets.

Since last year's report (SDiG 2007), the SDC has worked closely with the UK Government to improve internal governance structures and capabilities for delivery. Responding to recommendations made by the SDC, the Government announced a new Centre of Expertise in Sustainable Procurement (CESP) within the Office of Government Commerce (OGC), and also appointed a Chief Sustainability Officer to lead this agenda in government. Permanent Secretaries of Government Departments also now have sustainable operations targets included within their personal objectives, which has helped raise the priority level of this agenda across Government.

As the Government embarks on the process of developing new targets, taking departments beyond 2011, the SDC will continue to cooperate closely to ensure that they allow Government to lead the way in the transition to a sustainable society.

Sustainable Development Action Plans

The SDC Capability Building Team provided guidance and support to over 34 organisations across Government in drafting

¹ Ibid

their departmental Sustainable Development Action Plans (SDAPs). Each organisation required a different level of input from us, depending on their progress along their SDAP journey in developing and implementing their plans. Reflecting this, our advice and support varied from tailored written guidance through to face-to-face meetings, teleconferences with sustainability teams, workshops with wider staff and presentations to board meetings. Activity also included two cross-Government SDAP workshops in April 2008. We also launched our two new guidance documents, *Driving Change* and *Preparing your SDAP progress report*.

The actions and strategic objectives organisations commit to within the SDAP will, over time, become more challenging and stretching, leading to more sustainable operations and policy making across Government.

Review of the Public Service Regulators

Through our in-depth reviews, the SDC looks in detail at particular parts of government policy or areas of work from the perspective of sustainable development, making proposals to increase effectiveness in delivery.

The SDC has led a review of public service regulators which aims to encourage the public sector to be leaders in the field of sustainable development. Since the review began in July 2007, the SDC has worked to help build the capacity of regulators in three sectors – Ofsted, the Audit Commission and the Healthcare Commission (which will become the Care Quality Commission (CQC) on 1 April 2009) to identify ways to integrate sustainable development into assessment frameworks and to build capacity amongst their staff. This work was jointly led by Commissioners Tess Gill and Anna Coote.

The final stage of the review has begun, and will continue into 2009. Sector reports will be shared with the regulators, giving them

the opportunity to comment and work through issues raised in feedback, before the SDC produces its recommendations in a final report.

The final report *Review of Public Service Regulators* is due to be published in September 2009.

Developing Organisational Capacity within the SDC

Status Change

On 1 February 2009, the SDC changed its status to become an executive non-departmental public body (NDPB). It is now registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee, wholly owned by the UK, Welsh, Scottish and Northern Ireland governments. This change was to reinforce SDC's independent remit as the UK Government's sustainable development watchdog, and strengthens its relationship with the Devolved Administrations. The move also gives the SDC greater freedom to make decisions over its staffing and finances.

The SDC Scotland Annual Review 2008/09

SDC Vice-Chair (Scotland) Jan Bebbington's Message

This last year has been hugely challenging one for individuals, organisations and governments as economic turmoil has led to us to question the nature and outcomes of our economic choices. It has been a difficult year for a government whose single purpose is to make Scotland flourish *through sustainable economic growth.*

The intention to pursue economic policies that are rooted in sustainable development is welcome but not at all straightforward. There has always been a tension between economic growth and maintaining the integrity of the environment, as well as delivering social objectives. In a growth based economy and a materially closed system, sooner or later limits will be reached either in terms of the availability (and price) of resources, the ability of the eco-system to absorb pollution and/or the disruption of ecosystem services that arise from human induced pressures.

We aim to support Government and provide advice and scrutiny to ensure that economic activity can be accurately branded as being "sustainable".

In the current economic climate Government must adopt a new agenda: How Scotland as a small nation with big ambitions can lead the way in climate change and social justice. There is certainly an appetite for this in Government, and our work is welcomed and appreciated in many policy areas.

This is reflected in the rapid growth of the SDC Scotland team. Three new posts were created in 2008-09, as we took on responsibility for running the Scottish Sustainable Development Forum and the Climate Challenge Fund Supporting Alliance, and to strengthening our work on health and education.

As I write this, our 3rd Assessment of Government is well underway. Good work has laid the ground for Scotland's new Climate Challenge Act, but much more work is now needed to turn the rhetoric into reality.

We look forward to following the SNP Government towards the end of its first term as an independent scrutineer of government performance against its own targets and aspirations. The First Minister has praised SDC Scotland for the way we provide advice and scrutiny, and the importance of having such an independent body in Scotland. We take this role seriously and will continue to challenge and support in equal measure.

Professor Jan Bebbington

Vice-Chair Sustainable Development Commission, Scotland

The Annual Assessment of progress by the Scottish Government

Our 2nd Annual Assessment of progress made by the Scottish Government on sustainable development was published in November 2008. With the SNP changing Government structure to one without departments, organised around a national performance framework with five strategic objectives; Wealthier and Fairer, Smarter, Healthier, Safer and Stronger and Greener, the annual assessment had to be a thorough review of the new structure.

Policies and initiatives in all the strategic areas were assessed using desk-based research, supplemented by consultation and discussion with the Government and guided by an Expert Advisory Group of external stakeholders. The emerging conclusions were also discussed with a broader range of bodies. We also undertook a survey of members of the Scottish Sustainable Development Forum, the SDC's Panel and other stakeholders to inform the work more widely.

Our conclusion is that the new Government structure *can* support work on sustainable development, but the report set out five clear challenges for Government:

Clearly articulate how Scotland's approach to sustainable economic growth - both for the overall direction of Government and for headline policy initiatives and decisions – will achieve a sustainable Scotland and how the National Performance Framework can support delivery of a sustainable Scotland

Deliver a Climate Change Bill and associated delivery framework that moves Scotland to a low carbon economy and sets a clear timetable for implementation

Recognise the scale of the problem of fuel poverty and renew its efforts to tackle fuel poverty. The Scottish Government's introduction of an Energy Assistance Package is very welcome, but when one third of Scottish households are now in fuel poverty,

more information is needed about whether the additional funding provided by Government will be sufficient to remove fuel poverty by 2016

Build the right infrastructure to foster sustainable development actions and choices. In particular, major decisions on transport infrastructure need to contribute to delivery of a sustainable Scotland

Government needs to demonstrate leadership by shifting to sustainable procurement models and using the enormous power of public sector spending to deliver more sustainable outcomes.

Scottish Climate Change Bill

SDC Scotland was active in creating the framework for the Bill through supporting and challenging Government in the early stages of the development of the initial consultation, as the Bill progressed through Parliament, and as work began on the Climate Change Delivery Plan.

To help inform Members of the Scottish Parliament's discussion on the Climate Change Bill, as it was debated in Parliament, the SDC hosted a series of seminars in late 2008. These drew together members of the Parliament's Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee with Scottish Government staff and other experts. The objective was to explore both the technical issues around the Bill, and the challenges faced in all the main policy fields.

The Climate Change Act was passed and is among the most ambitious climate change policies in the world with a commitment to cut Scottish emissions by 42% by 2020 and 80% by 2050.

National Planning Framework 2

SDC Scotland has worked closely with the Scottish Government on the development of the National Planning Framework 2 (NPF2)

to achieve this. Alongside our scrutiny of the NPF2 in our Annual Assessment, a central part of our work on the NPF2 was to give evidence to the Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change (TICC) Committee. In this evidence we highlighted the positive alignment of the framework with sustainable development objectives. We also welcomed the commitment to long term planning (to 2030), as a long term perspective is essential in helping align development to the aims of sustainable development.

In general the Framework highlighted many of the social and economic challenges facing Scotland. However many of the proposed projects, in particular with regard to transport, would significantly increase emissions at a time when Government is working to achieve dramatic reductions.

Transport is an area where we have much work to do before policy is aligned with sustainability, but we are pleased that our engagement with Government over the NPF2 has resulted in the scrapping of planned increases in airport capacity. Working with a range of other organisations we used our strong evidence based aviation policy to inform the debate around these issues.

Towards a sustainable Scotland?

Our work this year has proved that we are an important partner to the Scottish Government: we are central in setting the agenda in key policy areas. Vice Chair for SDC Scotland Professor Jan Bebbington has sat on the Government's Zero Waste Think Tank and the Food and Drink Leadership Forum. Both will report in 2009, establishing

sustainable development thinking in future policy development.

Work has also started on developing tools for a more sustainable NHS in Scotland, and we are carrying on our work on the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. Both will be crucial tools to build the Scottish public sector's organisational ability to implement sustainable development principles.

The SDC Wales Annual Review 2008/09

SDC Vice-Chair (Wales) Peter Davies' Message

As Wales marks ten years of devolution, the Welsh Assembly Government has been putting sustainable development at the heart of decision making. The SDC has supported the formation of 'One Wales: One Planet', the ambitious new scheme which will make sustainable development the 'Central Organising Principle' of government in Wales. Our National Assembly was set up with a statutory duty to SD, but this is the strongest commitment yet to putting it into practise.

Delivering on this vision is the key challenge for the Welsh Assembly Government, a 'One Wales' coalition of Labour and Plaid Cymru. The SDC has a vital role here as the administration's independent advisor on sustainable development. We have already helped to establish a 'Zero Carbon Hub' to take forward energy-efficient buildings. We are also developing comprehensive advice on carbon reduction in each part of Wales through our 'Low Carbon Regions' project.

Wales is often praised for its progress on Sustainable Development, but there is much more still to do. The country still has large pockets of poverty and poor health, with a concentration of carbon-intensive industry. Solving these problems requires smart use of our limited finances, joined-up thinking instead of 'creative silos' and building partnerships with our business community to make a successful transition to a low carbon economy, harnessing our strengths of highly-skilled workers, untapped renewable energy, strong communities and our innovative universities.

The Welsh Assembly Government is beginning to tap into these strengths. The Heads of the Valleys Low Carbon Zone targets both poverty and resource use. Sustainable Travel Towns should mean lower

emissions and healthier citizens. We need to build on these pockets of innovation which will be crucial in rebuilding our economy, to create sustainable jobs in a world of climate change and depleted natural resources.

Government must also lead by example. Our growing role in scrutinising the Welsh Assembly Government will help ensure that sustainable development goes to the very heart of the government estate. This will be especially important in the tough financial conditions we face.

The political landscape here is changing. The First Minister Rhodri Morgan has signalled that he will retire in the autumn. The Welsh Assembly Government is also committed to a referendum on law-making powers for the Assembly. Whatever the future shape of Welsh democracy, the SDC will remain committed to using its unique position as an independent advisor, supporting government on delivering a prosperous, sustainable country for all.

Peter Davies

Vice-Chair Sustainable Development Commission (Wales)

Policy Advice

The Welsh Assembly Government's programme of government *One Wales* mandates the Sustainable Development Commission to be a member of and work in partnership with the Climate Change Commission for Wales. The Climate Change Commission for Wales, established in 2007, provides advice and guidance to the Welsh Assembly Government on its aim of reducing CO₂e emissions by 3% per annum from 2011.

The Sustainable Development Commission has provided evidence and analysis to inform the formulation of the Wales climate change strategy; developed proposals on how the Climate Change Commission might best engage stakeholders; and has worked closely with partners including the CBI Cymru and Federation of Small Business Wales to establish a sub-group of the Climate Change Commission focused on reducing emissions from the private sector.

The SDC is also a member of, and provides secretariat support to, the Land Use & Climate Change Group, an expert group established to advise the Minister for Rural Affairs and the Climate Change Commission for Wales on mitigation and adaptation options within the rural land use sector.

The SDC began its Low Carbon Regions project, with the aims of defining a low carbon region and setting out how this could be achieved by each Wales Spatial Plan Area Group. A full-time researcher was appointed in November 2008 to work full-time on the project. The work will lead to a final report which will enable the public, private and voluntary sectors to make substantial reductions in CO₂ emissions by working together at a regional level.

SDC Wales has also contributed to the development of renewable energy in Wales, contributing to the SDC tidal stream booklet; giving evidence to the National Assembly Sustainability Committee, and providing a

consultation response to the Renewable Energy Route Map for Wales.

The SDC responded to the public consultation on NHS Wales structural reform. Our recommendation that sustainable development be incorporated into the constitution of the new bodies was accepted by the Health Minister.

The SDC was closely involved in the work leading up to the new Welsh Assembly Government Sustainable Development Scheme 'One Wales: One Planet.' We continued to develop our work on a sustainable economy, including preparation for the Welsh launch of *Prosperity Without Growth?* and *A Sustainable New Deal*. The SDC also provided a detailed response to the Green Jobs Strategy Consultation.

Advocacy and Capacity Building

The SDC has continued to undertake advocacy and capability building work with senior officials across the Welsh Assembly Government to improve Departments' understanding of, and internal capacity to deliver, sustainable development as the central organising principle of government.

The SDC led a process in partnership with the Design Commission for Wales to look at the built environment's contribution to climate change, with a focus on the Welsh Assembly Government's aspiration for all new buildings being zero carbon from 2011. Over fifty organisations signed the resulting Green Building Charter. We have helped to establish a new organisation – the Zero Carbon Hub – to take this work forward.

The SDC has engaged with the Department Of Health and Social Services at director level throughout the year. We encouraged and supported the re-establishment of the NHS Wales Sustainable Development Steering Group, and continue to take an active role, working with the group secretariat as well as being a group member.

The SDC maintained excellent links with other key organisations, including the Welsh Audit Office. A memorandum of understanding and joint working arrangements were developed with Cynnal Cymru – Sustain Wales, and formally signed in November 2008. The SDC was invited to join the Wales Reference Group of the Community Development Foundation and continues to contribute to the debate on the future of Community Development organisations in Wales.

We were also represented on an International Business Wales delegation which went to China to promote Wales' ambitions and progress on renewable energy at the Green Jobs Wales event.

a greater acceptance by local government of the targets within the strategy.

The SDC supported the assessment of the sustainable development policy statements and action plans of each NHS body, provided to the Welsh Assembly Government as required in its 'Healthy Sustainable Wales' toolkit.

SDC Wales undertook Phase 1 of the UK-wide Regulators Review in Wales. We interviewed the three regulators (Wales Audit Office, Estyn and Healthcare Inspectorate Wales) and relevant Welsh Assembly Government officials and subsequently produced an adaptation of the Phase 1 report specifically related to regulation in Wales.

Reviewing Progress

The Welsh Assembly Government's new sustainable development scheme *One Wales One Planet* instructs the SDC to provide an independent commentary within its annual sustainable development report, which was published in January 2009. The new scheme also mandates the SDC to assess the performance of the Welsh Assembly Government administrative estate operations against its Green Dragon targets.

The preparation for the new Wales Waste Strategy formed an important part of the SDC's work over the year. In conjunction with the Welsh Assembly Government, we project-managed and commissioned a Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment of the draft Strategy. We also submitted comments on the Health Impact Assessment of the Strategy and were represented on the steering group.

In conjunction with the Welsh Assembly Government and Welsh Local Government Association, we commissioned a peer review of the Eunomia report on municipal waste management in Wales. This helped to secure

Adolygiad Blynnyddol Comisiwn Datblygu Cynaliadwy Cymru 2008/09

Neges gan Is-Gadeirydd CDC (Cymru) Peter Davies

Wrth i Gymru gyrraedd deng mlynedd o ddatganoli, mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru wedi bod yn rhoi datblygu cynaliadwy wrth wraidd y broses o wneud penderfyniadau. Mae'r Comisiwn Datblygu Cynaliadwy wedi cefnogi llunio 'Cymru'n Un: Cenedl Un Blaned', sef cynllun newydd uchelgeisiol a fydd yn gwneud datblygu cynaliadwy yn 'Brif Egwyddor Drefniadol' i'r Llywodraeth yng Nghymru. Sefydlwyd ein Cynulliad Cenedlaethol i fod â dyletswydd statudol i ddatblygu cynaliadwy, ond dyma'r ymrwymiad cryfaf eto roi hyn ar waith.

Cyflawni'r weledigaeth hon yw'r her allweddol i Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, clymbaid 'Cymru'n Un' Llafur a Phlaid Cymru. Mae gan y Comisiwn Datblygu Cynaliadwy rôl hanfodol yma fel ymgynghorydd annibynnol y Llywodraeth ar ddatblygu cynaliadwy. Rydym eisoes wedi helpu i sefydlu 'Grŵp Cymru Ddgarbon' i fwrw ymlaen â chael adeiladau sy'n ynni-effeithlon. Rydym hefyd yn datblygu cyngor cynhwysfawr ar leihau carbon ym mhob rhan o Gymru trwy ein prosiect 'Rhanbarthau Carbon Isel'.

Caiff Cymru ei chanmol yn aml am ei chynnydd ar ddatblygu cynaliadwy, ond mae llawer mwy i'w wneud eto. Mae gan y wlad yn dal boedi mawr o dlodi ac afiechyd, gyda chrynodiad o ddiwydiant carbon ddwys. Mae datrys y problemau hyn yn gofyn am wneud defnydd craff o'n cyllid prin, meddwl yn gydgysylltiedig yn hytrach nag mewn 'seilos creadigol' ac adeiladu partneriaethau gyda'r gymuned fusnes er mwyn symud yn llwyddiannus i economi carbon isel, gan fanteisio ar ein cryfderau o weithwyr medrus iawn, yr ynni adnewyddadwy sydd heb ei gyffwrdd, ein cymunedau cryf a'n prifysgolion blaengar.

Mae Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn dechrau manteisio ar y cryfderau hyn. Targedir tlodi a defnydd o adnoddau gan

Raglen Carbon Isel Blaenau'r Cymoedd. Dylai Trefi Teithio Cynaliadwy olygu llai o allyriadau a dinasyddion iachach. Mae angen i ni adeiladu ar y pocedi hyn o arloesi a fydd yn hollbwysig i ailgodi ein heconomi, a chreu swyddi cynaliadwy mewn byd o newid yn yr hinsawdd a llai o adnoddau naturiol.

Mae'n rhaid i'r Llywodraeth hefyd arwain trwy esiampl. Bydd ein rôl gynyddol yn craffu ar Lywodraeth y Cynulliad yn helpu i sicrhau bod datblygu cynaliadwy yn mynd at wraidd ystad y Llywodraeth. Bydd hyn yn arbennig o bwysig o ystyried yr amodau ariannol llym sydd o'n blaenau.

Mae'r tirlun gwleidyddol yma yn newid. Nododd y Prif Weinidog Rhodri Morgan y byddai'n ymddeol yn yr hydref. Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi ymrwymo hefyd i refferendwm ar bwerau deddfu i'r Cynulliad. Beth bynnag fydd ffurf democratiaeth Cymru yn y dyfodol, bydd y Comisiwn Datblygu Cynaliadwy yn parhau'n ymrwymedig i ddefnyddio ei sefyllfa unigryw fel ymgynghorydd annibynnol, gan gefnogi'r Llywodraeth i sicrhau gwlad ffyniannus, gan fanteisio ar ein cryfderau o weithwyr medrus iawn, yr ynni adnewyddadwy sydd heb ei gyffwrdd, ein cymunedau cryf a'n prifysgolion blaengar.

Peter Davies

Is-Gadeirydd y Comisiwn Datblygu Cynaliadwy (Cymru)

Cyngor ar Bolisi

Mae rhaglen Llywodraeth y Cynulliad o lywodraeth Cymru Un yn mandadur' Comisiwn Datblygu Cynaliadwy i fod yn aelod o Gomisiwn Cymru ar y Newid yn yr Hinsawdd ac i weithio mewn partneriaeth ag ef. Mae Comisiwn Cymru ar y Newid yn yr Hinsawdd, a sefydlwyd yn 2007, yn rhoi cyngor a chyfarwyddyd i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad ar ei nod o leihau allyriadau CO₂e o 3% y flwyddyn o 2011 ymlaen.

Mae'r Comisiwn Datblygu Cynaliadwy wedi darparu tystiolaeth a dadansoddiadau er mwyn rhoi gwybodaeth ar gyfer llunio strategaeth Cymru ar newid yn yr hinsawdd; mae hefyd wedi datblygu cynigion ar sut y byddai orau i'r Comisiwn ar Newid yn yr Hinsawdd ennyn diddordeb ac ymgysylltu â rhanddeiliaid. Mae'r Comisiwn Datblygu Cynaliadwy yn cydweithio'n agos yn ogystal gyda phartneriaid gan gynnwys CBI Cymru a Ffederasiwn Busnesau Bach Cymru i sefydlu is-grŵp o'r Comisiwn ar Newid yn yr Hinsawdd sy'n canolbwytio ar leihau allyriadau o'r sector preifat.

Mae'r CDC hefyd yn aelod o'r Grŵp Defnydd Tir a Newid Hinsawdd, gan ddarparu cefnogaeth ysgrifenyddol i'r grŵp arbenigol hwn a sefydlwyd i gynghori'r Gweinidog dros Faterion Gwledig a Chomisiwn Cymru ar Newid yn yr Hinsawdd ynghylch yr opsiynau lliniaru ac addasu o fewn y sector defnydd tir gwledig.

Mae'r Comisiwn Datblygu Cynaliadwy wedi dechrau ar ei broiect Rhanbarthau Carbon Isel, a'r bwriad yw diffinio beth yw rhanbarth carbon isel ac egluro sut y gellid cyflawni hyn gan bob Grŵp Ardal o Gynllun Gofodol Cymru. Penodwyd ymchwilydd ym mis Tachwedd 2008 i weithio'n llawn-amser ar y proiect. Bydd y gwaith yn arwain at adroddiad terfynol a fydd yn galluogi'r sectorau cyhoeddus, preifat a gwirfoddol i wneud gostyngiadau sylweddol mewn allyriadau CO₂ trwy gydweithio ar lefel ranbarthol.

Mae CDC Cymru hefyd wedi cyfrannu at ddatblygu ynni adnewyddadwy yng Nghymru, gan gyfrannu at lyfryn ffrwd llanw y Comisiwn; rhoi tystiolaeth i Bwyllgor Cynaliadwyedd y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, ac ymateb i'r ymgynghoriaid ar Drywydd Ynni Adnewyddadwy Cymru.

Ymatebodd y Comisiwn Datblygu Cynaliadwy i'r ymgynghoriaid cyhoeddus ar ddiwygio strwythurol ar GlG Cymru. Derbyniodd y Gweinidog Iechyd ein hargymhelliaid y dylai datblygu cynaliadwy gael ei ymgorffori i gyfansoddiad y cyrff newydd.

Roedd y Comisiwn Datblygu Cynaliadwy wedi ymwneud llawer iawn â'r gwaith oedd yn arwain at gynllun datblygu cynaliadwy newydd Llywodraeth y Cynulliad sef 'Cymru'n Un: Cenedl Un Blaned.' Rydym yn parhau i ddatblygu ein gwaith ar economi gynaliadwy, gan gynnwys paratoi ar gyfer lansio Ffyniant Heb Dwf? ac Adfer yn Wyrrd / Sustainable New Deal yng Nghymru. Cyflwynodd y CDC ymateb manwl hefyd i'r ymgynghori ar Strategaeth Swyddi Gwyrrd.

Gwaith Eiriolaeth a Meithrin Gallu

Mae'r Comisiwn Datblygu Cynaliadwy wedi parhau i wneud gwaith eiriolaeth a meithrin gallu gydag uwch swyddogion ar draws Llywodraeth y Cynulliad er mwyn gwella dealltwriaeth Adrannau o ddatblygu cynaliadwy fel prif egwyddor drefniadol y llywodraeth, ac yn ei sgil i wella'r gallu mewnol i gyflawni hyn.

Arweiniodd y Comisiwn Datblygu Cynaliadwy broses mewn partneriaeth â Chomisiwn Dylunio Cymru i edrych ar gyfraniad yr amgylchedd adeiledig i newid yn yr hinsawdd, gan roi ffocws ar ddyhead Llywodraeth y Cynulliad i bob adeilad newydd fod yn ddi-garbon o 2011 ymlaen. Llofnododd mwy na hanner cant o sefydliadau y Siarter Adeiladu Gwyrrd a ddeilliodd o hynny. Rydym wedi helpu i sefydlu corff newydd - Grŵp Cymru Ddigarbon - i fynd â'r gwaith hwn yn ei flaen.

Ymgysylltodd y Comisiwn Datblygu Cynaliadwy â'r Adran Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol ar lefel y cyfarwyddwr drwy gydol y flwyddyn. Rydym wedi annog a chefnogi ailsefydlu Grŵp Llywio Datblygu Cynaliadwy GIG Cymru, ac yn parhau i gymryd rhan weithredol yn hyn o beth, gan weithio gydag ysgrifenyddiaeth y grŵp yn ogystal â bod yn aelod o'r grŵp.

Mae'r CDC wedi meithrin cysylltiadau rhagorol â sefydliadau allweddol eraill, gan gynnwys Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru. Datblygwyd memorandwm cyd-dealltwriaeth a threfniadau gweithio ar y cyd gyda Chynnal Cymru – Sustain Wales, a'i lofnodi yn ffurfiol ym mis Tachwedd 2008. Gwahoddwyd y Comisiwn Datblygu Cynaliadwy i ymuno â Grŵp Cyfeirio Cymru y Sefydliad Datblygu Cymunedol ac mae'n parhau i gyfrannu at y ddadl ar ddyfodol sefydliadau Datblygu Cymunedol yng Nghymru.

Cawsom ein cynrychioli hefyd yn nifprwyaeth Busnes Rhyngwladol Cymru a aeth i Tsieina i hyrwyddo dyheadau a chynnydd Cymru o ran ynni adnewyddadwy yn y digwyddiad Swyddi Gwyrdd i Gymru.

ddrafft. Bu inni hefyd gyflwyno sylwadau ar Asesiad Effaith ar Iechyd y Strategaeth ac roedd gennym gynrychiolaeth ar y grŵp llywio.

Ar y cyd â Llywodraeth y Cynulliad a Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru, comisiynom adolygiad gan arbenigwyr ar adroddiad Eunomia ar reoli gwastraff trefol yng Nghymru. Cynorthwyodd hyn i sicrhau bod llywodraethau lleol yn fwy parod i dderbyn y targedau yn y strategaeth.

Cefnogodd y Comisiwn Datblygu Cynaliadwy yr asesiad ar ddatganiadau polisi a chynlluniau gweithredu yn ymwneud â datblygu cynaliadwy pob corff y GIG – caiff yr asesiad hwn ei gyflwyno i Lywodraeth y Cynulliad fel sy'n ofynnol yn ei arweinlyfr 'Cymru lach a Chynaliadwy.'

Cynhaliodd CDC Cymru gam 1 o Adolygiad Rheoleiddwyr y DU yng Nghymru. Bu inni gyfweld y tri chorff rheoleiddio (Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru, Estyn ac Arolygiaeth Gofal Iechyd Cymru) yn ogystal â swyddogion perthnasol yn Llywodraeth y Cynulliad Cymru, gan wedyn lunio addasiad o adroddiad Cam 1 er mwyn iddo ymwneud yn benodol â rheoleiddio yng Nghymru.

Adolygu Cynnydd

Mae cynllun datblygu cynaliadwy newydd Un Cymru Un Blaned gan Lywodraeth y Cynulliad yn cyfarwyddo'r Comisiwn Datblygu i gyflwyno sylwebaeth annibynnol yn ei adroddiad blynnyddol ar ddatblygiad cynaliadwy, ac fe'i cyhoeddwyd ym mis Ionawr 2009. Mae'r cynllun newydd hefyd yn gorchymyn y Comisiwn Datblygu Cynaliadwy i asesu perfformiad ystad weinyddol Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn erbyn ei thargedau Draig Werdd.

Roedd paratoi ar gyfer Strategaeth newydd Gwastraff Cymru yn rhan bwysig o waith y Comisiwn Datblygu Cynaliadwy yn ystod y flwyddyn. Ar y cyd â Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, bu inni reoli a chomisiynu prosiect Gwerthusiad Cynaladwyedd ac Asesiad Amgylcheddol Strategol y Strategaeth

The SDC Northern Ireland Annual Review 2008/9

Foreword from the Head of SDC (Northern Ireland)

Over the past year the Sustainable Development Commission in Northern Ireland has grown and developed its role as Government's independent advisor on sustainable development. The first year of devolved government after a number of years of direct rule has proved to be a steep learning curve for many of our local politicians, interest groups and indeed, throughout civil society. As the experience of local governance grows, so does the expectation that it can deliver real benefits for communities across the region. That is not only a challenge for Government, but a challenge for the SDC.

The Northern Ireland Executive published its Programme for Government for the period 2008-2011 in late 2007. In the document the Executive highlighted sustainability as one of two key cross cutting themes which underpin all priorities for action. While this is a welcome and worthy commitment, it stands alongside the Executive's number one priority over the term of the Programme of Government:

'Growing the economy is our top priority. This is vital if we are to provide the wealth and resources required to build the peaceful, prosperous, fair and healthy society we all want to see.'

For many, sustainable development and economic growth are mutually exclusive ideas. Reconciling this tension as much as possible is a major challenge. The SDC in Northern Ireland wants to ensure that the Executive pursues policies that will help to build a sustainable economy here. An economy that is both efficient and resilient. One which works within defined environmental limits, and one which delivers the strong, healthy and just society which everyone in Northern Ireland wants to see.

The SDC in Northern Ireland continues to build positive relationships with Ministers and officials from each of the government departments in Northern Ireland. Our position as a trusted, independent advisor is recognised and valued. We have increasingly tried to position ourselves as 'honest brokers' for a sustainable future between what traditionally have been seen as conflicting interest groups. Business, Government and civic society increasingly see the space provided by the Sustainable Development Commission as a crucial area in which to engage, debate, and foster a common purpose leading to positive solutions. The work of the Northern Ireland Green New Deal Group is a case in point in this respect.

The next year will see many challenges for the SDC in Northern Ireland. However, we also believe that the current economic and political circumstances provide a real opportunity to mainstream sustainable thinking across all levels of government in Northern Ireland. Making sustainable development the norm, not the exception, continues to be our goal.

Jim Kitchen

Head of the Sustainable Development Commission Northern Ireland

SDC Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland the Sustainable Development Commission continues to work closely with the Executive and the wider public sector, providing advice and building capability across a number of areas.

The ongoing delay around a new Sustainable Development Strategy for Northern Ireland and the appointment of a new Vice-Chair has caused some operational difficulties and restricted our effectiveness. However, with increased interest and recognition of our work, both inside and outside of Government here, we hope that the outstanding issues around our status in Northern Ireland can be resolved.

Engagement

The SDC played a central role as in the pilot phase of the Northern Ireland Civil Service training programmes, to introduce sustainable development into the ranks of the civil service. SDC Northern Ireland staff delivered components of the training programme on two different courses: for junior and more senior staff.

The SDC continues to play a key role as a mentor to the British Council Climate Change programme, which gives opportunities to young people (aged 18-35) from Ireland to join their counterparts from across the EU to seek climate change solutions. The Programme provides a key resource in fresh and innovative thinking into both increasing awareness of and providing solutions to tackling global climate change.

The Head of the SDC in Northern Ireland continues to sit on a number of key advisory forums. The Northern Ireland Climate Change Impacts Partnership brings together governmental and non-governmental actors under an independent chair to discuss the key issues around Northern Ireland's response and commitments to tackling climate change. The Northern Ireland Green New Deal Group comprises key figures from

government, business, and the community and voluntary sectors to promote a platform for sustainable economic recovery in Northern Ireland.

The SDC in Northern Ireland has developed and distributed a bi-monthly e-news bulletin which is distributed to an ever growing pool of subscribers. The bulletin aims to keep interested parties both inside and outside of government in Northern Ireland informed of the SDC's current work and future plans and is now a key feature of our communications and engagement strategy.

Government

Sustainable Transport

In February the SDC was asked to help the Assembly Regional Development Committee scope out the parameters for an inquiry into sustainable transport in Northern Ireland. As a result the Committee is now undertaking a full inquiry into the subject. The SDC will be playing a full role in the consultation process and will provide advice and support to a coalition of groups aiming to input into the inquiry. We were also invited to join the Ministerial Review Group for the Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland.

Renewable Energy

The SDC has also been working closely with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development over the past few months. We are members of the Ministerial Stakeholders Group on Renewables, helping the Minister formulate and drive forward policies within our large rural and farming communities in Northern Ireland. We also advise the Department on building more sustainable, cohesive, and healthy communities that have a real future through economic diversification and social stability.

Climate Change

The SDC was invited to give evidence to the Assembly Environment Committee's ongoing inquiry into climate change. The SDC had been involved with this inquiry since its outset and was one of a small number of organisations to directly engage with the Committee after submissions to the inquiry were received. The SDC recognises the global nature of the challenge represented by climate change that necessitates we move towards a low carbon society. This will involve fundamental changes in the operation of government and business and in all our lives as citizens and consumers.

Events

The SDC's staff continue to engage strongly with government and groups from civic society. The Head of the SDC was a member of the Sustainable Architecture Awards panel in Northern Ireland and also addressed events ranging from the Northern Ireland Environment Link annual conference, to the Lafarge development seminar. Both the SDC and its Commissioners remain in high demand to attend speaking engagements in Northern Ireland. Tim Lang presented the inaugural SDC Northern Ireland lecture, and Alan Knight conducted a seminar with procurement professionals at the Department of Finance and Personnel, and addressed a conference on the subject of sustainable horticulture. Anna Coote also led a talk on health and climate change, a follow up to an earlier Belfast Healthy Cities event at which the SDC presented.

ⁱ *Redefining Prosperity* (SDC 2003) is available on the SDC website: www.sd-commission.org.uk.

ⁱⁱ Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate targets (SOGE) 2005

List of publications in 2008/09

20 May 2008, [Breaking the holding pattern: A new approach to aviation policymaking in the UK](#)

15 July 2008, [Carbon Emissions in Schools: Where they arise and how to reduce them](#)

16 July 2008, [On Stream: Creating energy from tidal currents](#)

16 September 2008, [Contested Evidence: The case for an independent review of aviation policy](#)

11 November 2008, [Local decision-making and sustainable development](#)

12 Nov 2008, [Wales Green Buildings Charter](#)

26 November 2008, [Sustainable Development in Scotland 2008: A review of progress by the Scottish Government](#),

12 December 2008, [Sustainable Development in Government 2008: Headline commentary](#)

30 March 2009, [Prosperity without Growth?: The transition to a sustainable economy](#)

For the complete list of our publications, please visit our publications website at: <http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/publications.php>

List of Acronyms

BERR – Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform
CESP – Centre of Expertise on Sustainable Procurement
DA – Devolved Administration
DCSF – Department for Children, Schools and Families
DCLG – Department of Communities and Local Government
DECC – Department of Energy and Climate Change
Defra – Department for Environment, Food and Regional Affairs
DfT – Department for Transport
DH – Department for Health
HMT – Her Majesty's Treasury
IPPR – Institute for Public Policy Research
NDPB – Non Departmental Public Bodies
NGO – Non Governmental Organisation
NHS – National Health Service
OGC – Office of Government Commerce
SDiG – Sustainable Development in Government
SDAP – Sustainable Development Action Plan
SDC – Sustainable Development Commission



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