



12.6 Housing conditions overall are improving, with progressive falls in the number of homes suffering from condensation and dampness, but 73% of local authority housing, 64% of housing association housing and 70% of private sector housing currently fall short of the new Scottish Housing Quality Standard.

12.7 Although newly-built homes account for only about 1% of Scotland's housing stock – 25,100 completions during 2004 compared with an estimated 2,366,000 dwellings at the start of the year – they provide significant opportunities to further sustainable development, energy and resource efficiency and design excellence.

12.8 The SUST project, based at Glasgow's Lighthouse and funded by the Executive, promotes excellence in sustainable building design in both the private and social sectors as an integral part of our policy on architecture. Sustainability extends beyond our walls, to encompass the context, connectivity and identity of well designed places, as set out in the Executive's Planning Advice Note 67 on housing quality.





ACTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

- Public investment of £1.2 billion in affordable housing over the period 2005-06 to 2007-08, together with an estimated £500 million in private finance, will provide over 16,500 social rented homes and nearly 5,000 low cost homes for those who need them most.
- To improve the condition of Scotland's housing stock, a wide range of approaches has been adopted including primary legislation to drive up quality in private sector housing. All councils and registered social landlords are expected to ensure that their housing stock meets the Scottish Housing Quality Standard by 2015, helping to ensure that houses are fit for the 21st century.
- SUST is to provide training on sustainable development to housing association committee members and staff during 2006.
- The Executive will continue to fund the installation of micro-renewables in homes across Scotland through its Scottish Community and Household Renewables Initiative (SCHRI), and will monitor the DTI's progress towards implementing a Low Carbon Buildings programme (expected during 2006).
- The Energy Performance of Buildings Directive will be implemented from January 2006, with energy performance certificates required for public buildings and, by 2009, for every building when it is build, sold or rented.
- Early in 2006, the SBSA will issue a public consultation on changes to the standards on structure, environment, accessibility and energy, due to come into effect in May 2007. In spring 2006, it will complete the picture of how sustainable development is being furthered through the building standards system with a report on other aspects of buildings that can be controlled through the building regulations.
- In developing the new standards, the SBSA is considering how to deliver reductions in emissions of carbon dioxide and developing guidance on the installation of a range of low and zero carbon technologies.
- Through its policy on architecture, the Executive will promote sustainable, liveable housing in well planned developments.
- The Executive will monitor progress in delivering a built environment for a sustainable future as part of the reporting arrangements for this strategy.





13 LEARNING TO MAKE
SCOTLAND SUSTAINABLE



WE ARE FACING MAJOR AND UNPRECEDENTED CHALLENGES TO MODERATE OUR PREVIOUSLY UNSUSTAINABLE PATTERNS OF DEVELOPMENT. CLIMATE CHANGE IS THE MOST URGENT AND PRESSING EXAMPLE OF THIS. SCOTLAND WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MEET THESE CHALLENGES UNLESS PEOPLE – WHATEVER THEIR AGE, STATUS, OCCUPATION AND LIFESTYLE – HAVE THE NECESSARY KNOWLEDGE, AWARENESS, UNDERSTANDING AND SKILLS TO PLAY THEIR PART

INTRODUCTION

- 13.1** We are facing major and unprecedented challenges to moderate our previously unsustainable patterns of development. Climate change is the most urgent and pressing example of this. Scotland will not be able to meet these challenges unless people – whatever their age, status, occupation and lifestyle – have the necessary knowledge, awareness, understanding and skills to play their part.
- 13.2** The international community agreed at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 that the central importance of learning should be taken forward through a Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. The Decade was launched in March 2005 and runs until 2015, presenting a valuable opportunity to pull together programmes and education and learning in support of this new strategy.
- 13.3** The initial focus in Scotland will be on schools based education and the Minister for Education and Young People announced what would happen in this area in June 2005²⁴.



WE WANT TO SEE A SCOTLAND WHERE:

- LEARNING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IS A CORE FUNCTION OF THE FORMAL EDUCATION SYSTEM
- THERE ARE LIFELONG OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN
- THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT MESSAGE IS CLEAR AND EASILY UNDERSTOOD

KEY OUTCOMES

13.4 We want to see a Scotland where:

- Learning for sustainable development is a core function of the formal education system.
- There are lifelong opportunities to learn.
- The sustainable development message is clear and easily understood.

A CORE FUNCTION OF THE FORMAL EDUCATION SYSTEM

13.5 Scotland has the highest percentage of schools in Europe which are involved in the Eco Schools Programme, a whole school approach involving teaching and non-teaching staff, parents and the wider community as well as pupils in learning about sustainable development issues. At present over 70% of schools are registered Eco Schools. The target is to have 80% of all schools registered on the Eco Schools Programme by January 2008.

13.6 Investment in the school estate – over £2.3 billion by the end of this decade – means that school children in Scotland will be learning in buildings that embody sustainable design principles. There is a key learning point here: children up and down the country are getting involved in the designs for their new classrooms, putting sustainable development education into immediate practice.

13.7 The review of the curriculum presents a major opportunity to embed education for sustainable development into Scotland's schools. The aim of the review is for young people in Scotland to be successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors, and responsible citizens, who can develop knowledge and understanding of the world and Scotland's place in it. **The Executive will ensure that the new Curriculum for Excellence integrates education for sustainable development across subject areas.**

13.8 Scotland's universities and colleges have a vital contribution to make to the UN Decade. In their estate developments they can act as exemplars to others. The Funding Council will provide best practice advice and assist – where possible through funding mechanisms – the development of an estate which is based on sound principles of resource procurement, energy efficiency, and waste management.



13.9 Universities and colleges also have a role to play in spreading knowledge to their students and the wider community, supporting research that leads to more sustainable technologies and introduce education for sustainable development into their curricula wherever relevant, particularly for qualifications relating to the use of natural resources. **The Executive will work with the Funding Council to develop guidance and examples of best practice in all these areas.**

LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

13.10 Education for sustainable development is for everyone, at whatever stage of life they find themselves. This is a key priority if we are to learn to:

- understand the consequences of our actions in terms of sustainable development
- identify what we can do to achieve better outcomes
- know how these changes can be made.

13.11 The wider contribution to the UN Decade will cover education in its broadest sense including school education, higher and further education, informal education and lifelong learning. **The Executive will publish its plan for action in these areas by March 2006. Monitoring of that plan, including progress on commitments and achievement of outcomes, will be included within the reporting arrangements for this strategy.**





CASE STUDY

St John Bosco Primary School Erskine, Renfrewshire

St John Bosco Primary School is a large suburban primary school in Erskine. The school has focused on litter, energy and the school environment for their Eco Schools work and gained a first Green Flag Award in October 2004. They are also working on the Health Promoting Schools initiative, having held a health focus day, which looked at diet, mental well-being and exercise, and are involved in Walk to School Week twice a year.

The school has also done much work on energy with primary 7 pupils studying renewable and non-renewable energy sources. This led pupils to look into the possibility of the school having its own renewable energy device installed and

in 2005 they eventually managed to get a 2.5kW wind turbine erected on the hill behind the playground. It supplies the school with electricity and provides an interactive learning resource for pupils in the area. This turbine is expected to reduce electricity costs at the school by around 14% and is the first of its kind in Renfrewshire. It is an excellent example of 'thinking globally, acting locally' and will allow pupils to see the benefits of renewable energy at first hand.

13.12 There are many examples of programmes in Scotland that are supporting individuals and communities to learn by doing, linking training and development packages with practical conservation and environmental improvement programmes. **We want to build on the success of this type of initiative, extend the coverage (but with a particular focus on deprived neighbourhoods) and identify critical success factors for any future programmes. The Executive will provide funding of £100,000 for the next three years to develop, support and evaluate this initiative.**

13.13 It will be important that training in sustainable practices is embedded into all types of professional and business education, so that there is the widest understanding of how to achieve greater sustainability in all fields of commercial practice. As technology advances against a background of rapid change, global competition and rising expectations of choice, the skills of our people and their continuing development are ever more important. We are keen to work with the relevant bodies to develop the existing skills base and support the development of necessary new skills. The *green jobs strategy* sets out a range of support actions in this area.

THE MESSAGE IS CLEAR AND EASILY UNDERSTOOD

13.14 Communicating the sustainable development message in a clear and compelling way represents a major challenge. We will continue to explore the most effective mechanisms for communication and engagement by learning from international experience, research and evaluation into what works, and market research.

13.15 **Central government is not always the most powerful and effective communicator in this area. Our communications approach in Scotland will be based on a partnership with key stakeholders including Scottish NGOs, local authorities, Defra, the Sustainable Development Commission, SEPA and SNH. These partners will be challenged to explore, identify and implement the most effective communication techniques.**



13.16 The communication plan for the strategy will also need to consider the relationship with other key messages including action on climate change, recycling, energy efficiency, travel choices and biodiversity. The plan will be developed on a partnership basis and put in place by the spring of 2006.

13.17 To make the strategy work the sustainable development message must also be clear and easily understood by policy makers and practitioners, both within the Scottish Executive and across the wider public sector. That will be a key objective of the communications plan.

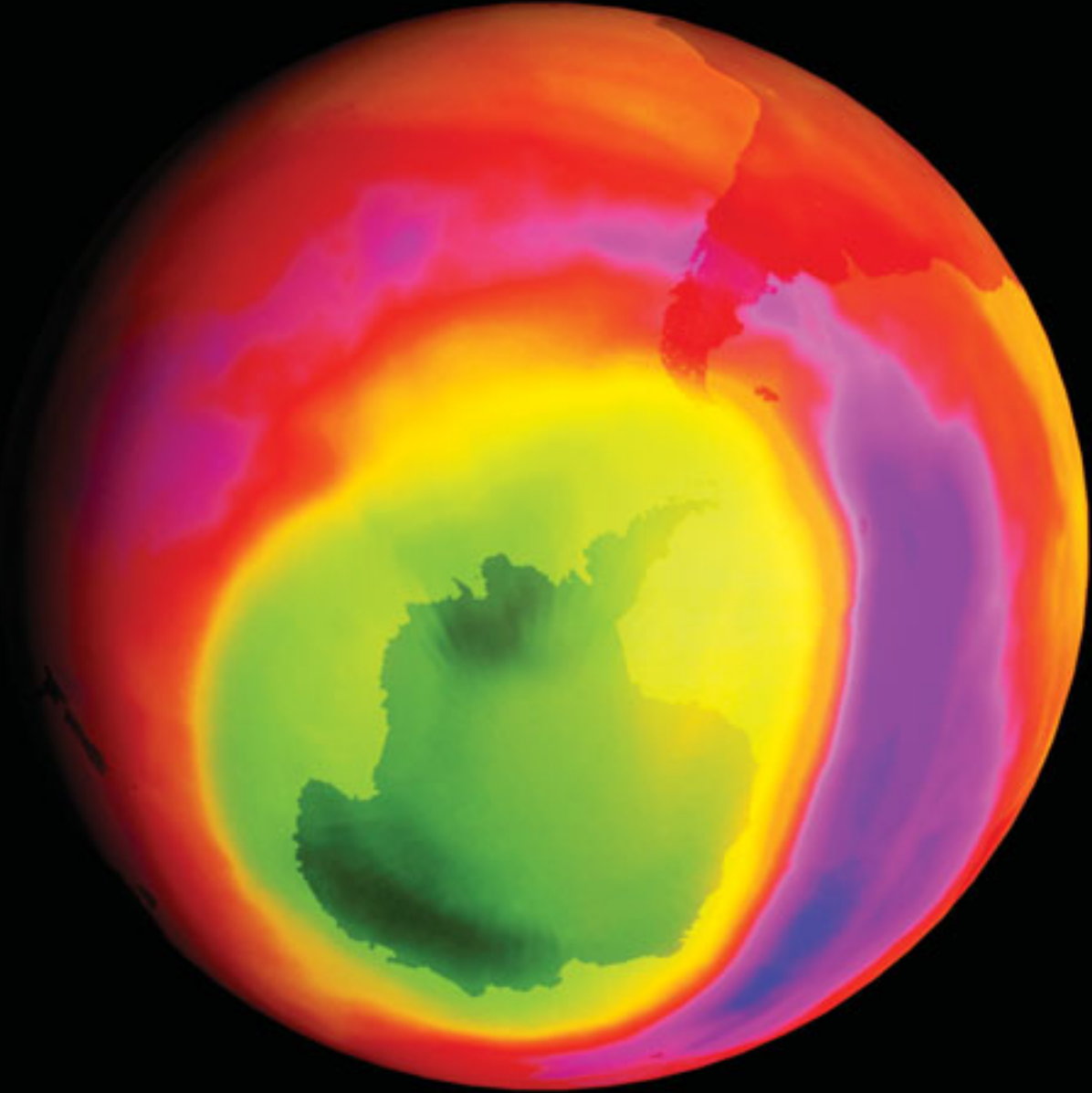
13.18 This needs to be supported by training and awareness raising to ensure that policy makers have the skills, knowledge and understanding to promote sustainable development. This includes learning how to overcome institutional and cultural barriers to more joined-up working, with a focus on the outcomes we are collectively trying to achieve rather than the delivery of individual programmes.

13.19 This is an important learning agenda for the Executive too and a new programme will be introduced to promote skills for sustainable development within the organisation.

This will include a one day programme for senior managers, training and support for a network of environmental guardians, awareness raising seminars and the integration of sustainable development issues within Better Policy Making as well as generic programmes to support more joined-up working.



14 MAKING IT HAPPEN





WE ARE COMMITTED TO PURSUING THE GOAL OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AN INTEGRATED WAY. DELIVERING ON THAT COMMITMENT REQUIRES US TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE PROCESSES OF GOVERNMENT, MAINSTREAMING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INTO THE CORE FUNCTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

- 14.1** This section sets out the changes we need to make in Scotland to ensure that:
- sustainable development is mainstreamed into the processes of government
 - progress is measured against a broad set of indicators
 - accountability is strengthened.

MAINSTREAMING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- 14.2** We are committed to pursuing the goal of sustainable development in an integrated way. Delivering on that commitment requires us to make changes to the processes of government, mainstreaming sustainable development into the core functions of the Executive.
- 14.3** Spending Reviews take place every two to three years, setting high level budgets and key targets for each portfolio. The Executive has built sustainable development considerations into the last two Spending Reviews and reported the outcome within its high level spending plans²⁵. **Building on this experience, the Executive will embed sustainable development objectives into spending decisions and set out how its spending plans contribute to sustainable development objectives.** The way in which this is done will vary from Review to Review, depending on the general approach Ministers decide to adopt, other policy priorities, improvements identified from reviews of practice or international experience. The Cabinet Sub-Committee on Sustainable Scotland will discuss and recommend how sustainable development should be incorporated into Spending Reviews.



WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT:

- SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IS MAINSTREAMED INTO THE PROCESSES OF GOVERNMENT
- PROGRESS IS MEASURED AGAINST A BROAD SET OF INDICATORS
- ACCOUNTABILITY IS STRENGTHENED

14.4 Unprecedented levels of resources are being invested in Scotland's infrastructure. There is a huge opportunity here to ensure that this investment takes full account of sustainable development. Detailed guidance on how to do this is in place but there is some evidence to suggest that its take-up and implementation is variable. As one of the improvements identified in the Infrastructure Investment Plan, **the Executive will require each significant capital investment to illustrate in a business case that it has considered sustainable design incorporating green procurement strategies, resource efficiency and waste minimisation.**

14.5 The Executive has introduced a new tool to evaluate expenditure decisions including the likely economic, social and environmental impacts. **These Pre-Expenditure Assessments or PEAs will support a more joined-up approach to policy and expenditure decisions including sustainable development outcomes.**

14.6 Executive bills submitted to Parliament include a summary of the likely implications for sustainable development. These are published on the Parliament's website²⁶ as part of the policy memoranda. To improve transparency and enhance the quality of these statements, **the sustainable development assessments accompanying Executive bills will also be published together on the Executive's website²⁷.**

14.7 Development Plans are the key documents that set out the vision for an area's growth and development, bringing together the planning authority's policies and plans for, among other things, transport, housing, industry and commerce, retail, open space and leisure. By influencing how land is used and setting the framework for decisions on development applications, development planning provides a powerful tool for ensuring that places are designed to support more sustainable ways of living. **The Executive will shortly introduce a bill to modernise the planning system.**

14.8 All departments of the Executive have a positive contribution to make towards delivering sustainable development in Scotland. This includes securing specific high level commitments in this strategy,



testing policies and programmes against the sustainable development principles, and embedding the approach within operations and management. **Departmental contributions will be set out in published annual business plans from 2006-07.**

14.9 The Executive will build sustainable development into its approach to policy making. **The revised policy makers toolkit will explain how to consider sustainable development as part of the better policy making approach.** The guidance will be supported by learning and training opportunities for Executive staff (see chapter 13).

14.10 This is an integrated strategy reflecting the contributions of all Ministerial portfolios. This integrated approach will be backed up by internal arrangements to support delivery and monitor progress.

14.11 The Minister for Environment and Rural Development is responsible for driving the programme of work that will deliver this strategy. He is supported by the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Sustainable Scotland, chaired by the First Minister and bringing together Ministers responsible for key portfolios and independent experts to provide political direction and guidance and to monitor and drive progress.

14.12 An implementation plan will be developed in conjunction with partner organisations and key stakeholders. This will be put in place by spring 2006 and updated regularly thereafter.

14.13 The Cabinet Sub-Committee will monitor delivery, supported by quarterly reports in relation to the strategy's actions and indicators. The Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) will be invited to contribute on an annual basis to this monitoring process. All these reports will be published on the Executive's website²⁸.

14.14 These monitoring arrangements will cover both the actions set out in this strategy and its eight main delivery programmes, which are:

- new climate change programme, to be introduced early in 2006
- national transport strategy, to be introduced by mid 2006
- support for renewable technologies, to deliver the 2020 renewables target
- new national energy efficiency strategy, to be introduced early 2006
- green jobs strategy
- National Waste Plan
- marine and coastal strategy
- Scottish biodiversity strategy.



MEASURING PROGRESS

- 14.15** Progress will be measured against a broad set of indicators that capture the different dimensions of sustainable development. This will include growth in *per capita* GDP as the most widely recognised indicator of economic progress. GDP is not the only measure of success however, and we are committed to measuring progress against a wide set of indicators that reflect our social and environmental as well as economic goals.
- 14.16** The Executive has been reporting against a balanced set of indicators in Scotland for the last three years²⁹. Building on these and the new set of UK-wide indicators introduced as part of the UK Framework earlier this year³⁰, **a revised set of Scottish indicators is being prepared and will be finalised by March 2006, following discussion with key partners and stakeholders. A new system of continuous reporting against these indicators on the Scottish Executive website will be introduced.**

- 14.17** We recognise the need to develop new ways of measuring what we mean by progress in the widest sense. This acknowledges the fact that the focus of conventional income measures such as GDP is such that they do not aim to reflect a broad view of progress, the importance of capturing well-being and quality of life issues, and the need to account for environmental issues.
- 14.18** There are as yet no internationally recognised measures of progress in this broad sense. Although there is interest in the potential contribution of aggregate measures of sustainability to capture a wider range of issues there are measurement problems with aggregation. Changes in individual components and their relationship with other indicators need to be clear if overall messages about the direction of travel are to be fully understood, which means that a basket of indicators may be the more effective way of measuring progress. These are important issues that deserve further consideration and debate. **The Executive will review the evidence on the options for additional and improved ways of measuring progress, and report by the end of 2006.**



14.19 This is the first sustainable development strategy for Scotland. It will be necessary to assess high-level progress in advance of the next strategy (to be published in 2010). **The Executive will invite the SDC to produce a strategic assessment of performance and progress in 2008 and report publicly on its findings.**

This report should also benchmark governance arrangements against OECD or other internationally agreed best practice, and make recommendations for improvements.

14.20 We need to assess not just performance against objectives but also real world outcomes including Scotland's global ecological impact. **The Executive will therefore commission an independent study of Scotland's footprint in 2008.**

STRENGTHENING ACCOUNTABILITY

14.21 Good governance is one of the five underpinning principles of the UK Framework. This will be achieved by promoting effective, participative systems of governance in all levels of society. We are well placed to develop this participative approach to sustainable development. Devolution has transformed the way that decisions are made in Scotland. We are renewing local democracy, acting to improve democratic participation and widening the range of people who become involved in local government. There is a strong tradition of civic participation and engagement in all aspects of sustainable development. This section sets out how we will build on these strengths, promoting good governance and strengthening accountability to the people of Scotland.

14.22 The Partnership Agreement stresses the importance of robust Parliamentary arrangements to hold the Executive to account. Just as sustainable development challenges the Executive to change its way of working, so it presents challenges and opportunities for the Parliament: to encourage public access and participation in the issues and hold the Executive to account. **The Executive will work with the Parliament to explore new and effective ways of achieving these aims.**



14.23 Public reporting of performance is a key dimension of good governance, increasing transparency and accountability and making external scrutiny easier and more effective. Arrangements for public reporting of progress are set out above.

14.24 Independent audit and scrutiny strengthens this process further. Audit Scotland has a key role to play in auditing and reporting on performance, in particular the contributions which public sector bodies, including Executive departments, are making towards sustainable development under the duty of Best Value. **The Executive will work with Audit Scotland and the SDC to strengthen capacity in this area, set alongside new advice and guidance on implementation of the Best Value duty.**

14.25 The SDC is the independent advisory body to government across the UK. It is charged with providing advice to the Executive on progress in delivering sustainable development and implementing the new UK Framework. It will do this by identifying unsustainable trends which will not be reversed on basis of planned action, and recommending action to reverse the trends.

14.26 We need to ensure that the SDC in Scotland is well placed to advise government by:

- producing a strategic assessment of performance ahead of the next strategy
- reporting on an annual basis on progress in delivering the strategy
- providing access to authoritative advice that is based on clear evidence
- highlighting best practice in sustainable development in other countries, and building on current links in the EU, the OECD and other international organisations.

14.27 The SDC also has an important role to play in promoting sustainable development in Scotland: encouraging a climate of opinion, promoting wider public debate and shared learning, and developing partnerships with key organisations and sectors.



14.28 The Executive will strengthen existing arrangements to deliver these aims by providing additional funding to increase the size of the SDC's secretariat in Scotland, giving early notice of areas where advice and expertise is required, encouraging departments and Ministers to draw on their expertise, and supporting stronger partnership arrangements with key organisations including the Scottish Sustainable Development Forum.

14.29 Developing capacity within civic society can help us achieve good governance. The Executive is committed to this approach in Scotland and will encourage participation and engagement in policy development and implementation. The focus in this strategy on action at local level, involving local authorities, the voluntary and community sectors should help to make this a reality.

14.30 The Executive will also support the new **Sus It Out** programme with core funding for the next three years. The Future Scotland partnership has been working since 2001 to promote awareness of sustainable development amongst civic society organisations and to encourage the Executive to take a participatory approach to the development of sustainable development policy.

14.31 The partnership has developed **Sus It Out** to support these objectives. The programme will include a tailor-made awareness raising tool, training and development for organisations across Scotland and annual pledges of activity in support of sustainable development.





15 WHAT THE
PUBLIC SECTOR WILL DO

WE WANT TO SEE A SCOTLAND WHERE:

- MECHANISMS ARE IN PLACE TO SUPPORT DELIVERY
- PUBLIC PROCUREMENT IS USED TO MAXIMUM EFFECT
- THE PUBLIC SECTOR HAS REDUCED ITS GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT



LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND THEIR COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERS CAN LEAD THE WAY IN DELIVERING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT LOCALLY. ACROSS THE PUBLIC SECTOR THERE IS A HUGE AMOUNT THAT CAN BE DONE TO REDUCE THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF ITS ESTATES AND OPERATIONS, AND TO USE ITS PURCHASING POWER IN SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

15.1 The public sector has a vital role to play in delivering this strategy. It is responsible for implementing some key programmes – for example local authorities have a lead role in implementing the National Waste Plan. Local authorities and their Community Planning partners can lead the way in delivering sustainable development locally. Across the public sector there is a huge amount that can be done to reduce the global environmental impact of its estates and operations, and to use its purchasing power in support of sustainable development objectives. The Executive needs to show leadership, demonstrating practical commitment from policy making to procurement.

15.2 We want to see a Scotland where:

- Mechanisms are in place to support delivery.
- Public procurement is used to maximum effect.
- The public sector has reduced its global environmental impact.



CASE STUDY

Passed to the Future

Passed to the Future is Historic Scotland's policy for the sustainable management of the historic environment. It sets out what is involved in managing the historic environment in a sustainable way, managing the impact of both natural processes and human activity in such a way that our environment retains its historic character. It highlights broad principles fundamental for the sustainable management of the historic environment, which include recognising value, good stewardship and partnership working. It also stresses the value of retaining and, where it is possible and right to do so, re-using existing structures and materials, as well as explaining the continued relevance of traditional building materials and local craft skills.

www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

Image left: Historic Scotland

SUPPORTING DELIVERY

- 15.3** Local authorities in Scotland have a great deal of experience and expertise in the delivery of sustainable development, built up from action to deliver *Local Agenda 21*, and programmes that are now taken forward under the duty of Best Value³¹. The Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 established sustainable development as one of three cross-cutting themes, sitting alongside equal opportunities and joint working, with Audit Scotland auditing performance against this duty. **Practical new guidance will be introduced in 2006 to improve local authorities' understanding of the sustainable development element of the duty.** This guidance is being developed by the Sustainable Scotland Network in consultation with the Executive, Audit Scotland and others.
- 15.4** This guidance is part of the broader agenda to deliver Best Value in public services in Scotland: organisations that secure Best Value will be able to demonstrate a contribution to the achievement of sustainable development. Further work is required to ensure that we are collectively making the most of the sustainable development element of the Best Value duty in Scotland. This will include improved guidance, training and support for responsible authorities and discussions with Audit Scotland on how it may develop its evaluation and reporting frameworks on performance.
- The Scottish Executive is currently consulting on refreshed Best Value arrangements for the wider public sector. The intention is to produce new guidance, training and support materials by April 2006.**
- 15.5** The Sustainable Scotland Network³² provides support to local authorities working on sustainable development. **The Executive will provide additional resources to the Network over the next three years to develop new programmes on climate change, sustainable procurement, Best Value and more general work on training and capacity building across local government.**
- 15.6** Community Planning is the key over-arching approach that supports partnership working for sustainable development at the local level. It has the unique potential to overcome shared challenges that are not the sole responsibility of a single agency. Many Community Planning Partnerships have identified sustainability issues as a priority and have partnership structures in place to support action.

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

15.7 The public sector across the UK buys £125 billion worth of goods and services each year. There is growing international interest in governments making better use of their purchasing power to help deliver policy goals. That ranges from stimulating demand for 'green' products, including products made from recycled material, to improving resource efficiency in operations.

15.8 **The UK Government has established a business-led Sustainable Procurement Task Force to develop a national action plan for Sustainable Procurement across the public sector by April 2006. The Scottish Executive will work with and contribute to the work of this Task Force, and learn from its findings. It will introduce a Scottish Sustainable Procurement Action Plan by the end of 2006 building on the progress that has already been made in Scotland, taking into account the work of the UK task force. The Action Plan will also identify Key Performance Indicators and benchmarking opportunities to deliver on the Executive's ambition to be a leader in this field.**

15.9 Local authorities and other public bodies are responsible for much public procurement in Scotland. The Executive's Procurement Directorate promotes best practice across the public sector, and provides advice and support. **New guidance will be issued to local authorities and other public sector bodies on how to incorporate sustainable development into procurement. The Sustainable Scotland Network will also introduce a new programme to encourage best practice in sustainable procurement by local authorities in Scotland.**

REDUCING GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

15.10 We want the public sector in Scotland to act as exemplars, leading the way in improving the resource efficiency of its operations. This will make a significant contribution to efficient government as well as sustainable development objectives.

15.11 The Executive is working with public bodies in Scotland to improve the environmental management of their estate and operations. At the end of 2004 the Executive launched

an initiative to improve the environmental performance of their agencies and sponsored public bodies. Agencies and public bodies have been requested to complete a gap analysis of their existing policies to enable them to put in place by March 2006 environmental policies, procedures and realistic targets for reducing their environmental impact.

15.12 The Scottish Executive has consulted on the possibility of setting targets for public bodies on the specification of recycled material³³. Funding support has also been made available to local authorities to audit their own waste and draw up waste prevention plans.

15.13 NHSScotland can make a significant contribution to the sustainability agenda as a major consumer of a wide range of goods and a powerful influence on communities. Since 1985-86, NHSScotland has reduced energy consumption by 36%, bringing significant environmental and financial benefits, and has achieved a 38% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions since the 1989-90 base reporting year. **To achieve further improvements, a baseline report on NHSScotland's wider sustainable development performance will be commissioned by the end of 2005, reporting by early 2006.**

15.14 The Executive has delivered major improvements of the energy efficiency of its estate, resulting in a 49% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions due to energy use since 1991. The organisation is now delivering a recycling level of around 80% of total waste arising. This total has however been steadily increasing over the last five years and the focus of activity in this area will now turn to waste reduction. The immediate challenge for the period ahead is to achieve more sustainable business travel. The Executive will consider the scope for requiring, where practicable, accommodation for travel on official business to be accredited under the Green Tourism Business Scheme or to an equivalent standard. **The Executive will also offset the carbon dioxide emissions of its business travel by paying for new projects which would reduce carbon dioxide by a similar amount and will reduce emissions from its business travel by 5% between 2005-06 and 2010-11.**

16 WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE





SCOTLAND'S GREATEST RESOURCE IS ITS PEOPLE. IT IS PEOPLE WHO WILL MAKE THIS STRATEGY WORK, BRING IT TO LIFE, SPOT NEW IDEAS AND OPPORTUNITIES, AND TURN THE PRINCIPLES INTO ACTION

16.1 Scotland's greatest resource is its people. It is people who will make this strategy work, bring it to life, spot new ideas and opportunities, and turn the principles into action. Elsewhere in this document we set out what people can do to contribute towards sustainable development, whether that is as individuals and households, businesses, or community and voluntary sector organisations. This section sets out how we will encourage people to get involved by:

- supporting partnership working
- providing practical support and celebrating success.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

16.2 Delivering sustainable development challenges us to work creatively and co-operatively with each other across sectors, responsibilities and policy interests. Many of the case studies we have highlighted in this document are based upon strong, creative partnerships. Of course, partnership working can be difficult, frustrating and time-consuming as well as creative and rewarding; developing the skills to work more effectively together must be just as much a priority for the learning agenda as raising awareness of the issues.

16.3 Public bodies and agencies have a key part to play in delivering sustainable development, in particular SEPA, SNH, Scottish Enterprise, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Communities Scotland. The SENCE group brings these partners and the Scottish Executive together to identify areas of concern and opportunity, and to develop proposals for joint action. This partnership grouping will play a valuable role in supporting implementation of the strategy.



WE WILL ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO GET INVOLVED BY:

- SUPPORTING PARTNERSHIP WORKING
- PROVIDING PRACTICAL SUPPORT AND CELEBRATING SUCCESS

16.4 The Executive will also continue to work closely with environmental and other NGOs in taking forward this strategy and to take forward identified projects in partnership with them.

16.5 There is a broad network of individuals, groups and organisations in Scotland who are actively involved in the sustainable development agenda. The Executive will continue to support the Scottish Sustainable Development Forum to facilitate debate, encourage participation, raise awareness and understanding, promote good practice and recommend action in the pursuit of a more sustainable Scotland. The Executive will encourage the establishment of closer links between the Forum, the Sustainable Development Commission in Scotland and others to support delivery of the strategy.

PRACTICAL SUPPORT AND CELEBRATING SUCCESS

16.6 There is a clear need in many sectors to back up high level messages about sustainable development principles and priorities with examples of what this means in practice, case studies of sustainable development in action, and guidance and practical toolkits to support delivery on the ground. This will be a priority for the first year of the implementation plan. **The Executive will provide support (including funding) for guidance and toolkits, drawing expertise and advice from the range of partner bodies including the Sustainable Development Commission.**



16.7 The Executive will work closely with the Sustainable Scotland Network, Scottish Sustainable Development Forum, Sustainable Development Commission, Forward Scotland and other key stakeholders to improve collective management of experience and case studies through better websites and improved knowledge management. This will make it easier for us to record and celebrate success.

16.8 There is clearly a huge amount of valuable activity already underway in Scotland that is taking us towards sustainable development. Too often however we fail to stop and celebrate the achievements that individuals, groups, businesses and organisations have made. Scotland already runs a number of high profile awards ceremonies from school education to tourism to local authority performance: the aim will be to build a sustainable development category into each of these. The Executive in partnership with key stakeholders will review the major annual awards programmes with a view to including a sustainable category in each of them by 2007.





CASE STUDY

Cashel Forest: Ethnic Environmental Conservation Programme

Refugees and asylum seekers from disadvantaged areas of Glasgow have been actively engaged in improving the Scottish landscape by planting trees near Loch Lomond. Cashel Forest is one of many Millennium Forest for Scotland projects, with the ambitious collective aim to restore something of the unique ecology of the Caledonian Forest. It is also the setting for an exciting partnership project, involving BEN, the Scottish Refugee Council and BTCV, which aims to give excluded people a chance to use their skills, as volunteers, to contribute to the conservation and sustainable development of the environment in Scotland, and thereby to aid social integration.

The Scottish Refugee Council and Asylum Seeker Environmental Conservation Programme involved a series of monthly outings to Cashel Forest and a successful tree-planting initiative which has led to a new forested area on the site in excess of 200 trees at the last count.

Participants have included refugees and asylum seekers from Colombia, Sudan, Albania, Kosovo, Asia and the Middle East. Many dedicated their tree to people or places they had lost or had to leave behind, but many more made forward-looking dedications to their new found country or the global environment.

MAKING THE LINKS: WHAT INDIVIDUALS/HOUSEHOLDS IN SCOTLAND CAN DO

16.9 Individuals, families and households can make a positive contribution to sustainable development in very practical ways by taking steps to reduce the size of their environmental footprint. Individuals can also use their power as consumers, investors and electors to demand more sustainable goods and services. They can get involved in action to improve their local environment or make their community a healthier, more vibrant place to live.

Individuals and households can:

- take practical steps personally, and by influencing others, to reduce the size of their environmental footprint by:
 - reducing, reusing and recycling waste
 - reducing energy use, for example by using energy efficient products
 - buying renewable energy
 - making different travel choices – walking and cycling more, reducing carbon emissions by flying less or using public transport instead of the car

- use their power as consumers, investors and electors to demand more sustainable goods and services
- take part in and support improvements to their local area
- make their voice heard: debating the issues, helping to raise awareness, supporting the demand for change.

Supported in Scotland by:

- investment in the infrastructure that will make these choices easier:
 - more recycling facilities
 - better public transport
 - safe paths to walk and cycle
 - more energy efficient buildings and products
- better consumer information
- opportunities to learn how to live more sustainable lives
- focus on action at community level
- opportunities to get involved through a network of partner organisations across Scotland.



MAKING THE LINKS: WHAT BUSINESSES IN SCOTLAND CAN DO

16.10 Business has a crucial role in helping Scotland make the successful transition to a low-carbon economy. Considerable reductions in emissions can be achieved through better energy efficiency and increased use of renewable sources of heat and power. In responding to the imperative of climate change many businesses are finding that not only have they reduced their impact on the environment but they have made considerable financial savings into the bargain. For many businesses there are additional gains to be made by responding to market opportunities from changing patterns of demand.

Businesses can:

- improve productivity and competitiveness by using resources more efficiently
- develop a clear environmental policy for the company which is well understood by all employees
- explore market opportunities for new, greener products and technologies

- work to identify and reduce their impact on the external environment and, where appropriate adopt good neighbour agreements with their local communities
- help employees to reduce their environmental impact – providing cycling facilities or having their own travel-to-work strategy
- routinely monitor resource use and environmental impact, report publicly on them and invite feedback from stakeholders
- consider how they might work more closely with other local businesses to share experience and reduce collective impact
- introduce training programmes to raise awareness and develop skills.

Supported in Scotland by:

- implementation of the *green jobs strategy*
- improvements to the way in which resource efficiency support is delivered
- the work of organisations such as WRAP, the Energy Saving Trust, Envirowise, SISP and others
- information, guidance and best practice on corporate social responsibility from partner organisations (SCDI, Scottish Business in the Community, the Business Council for Sustainable Development, CBI, FSB and others).



MAKING THE LINKS: WHAT THE COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTORS CAN DO

16.11 Voluntary and community organisations have an important part to play in delivering a more sustainable Scotland. They have a track record in Scotland of joint action that delivers multiple objectives – combining community or environmental impact, economic benefits, building skills and capacity, and improving personal and social well-being. They provide a mechanism for individuals to act and learn together – making people feel more confident and powerful, more likely to deliver and demand change.

The voluntary and community sector can:

- take advantage of the economic opportunities presented by sustainable development: social enterprises may be particularly well placed here, leading to wider benefits in terms of community skills and needs and delivering results for the local economy
- develop local solutions, building stronger communities and contributing towards global sustainable development objectives
- provide volunteering opportunities that are an alternative to consumption based leisure pursuits. Involvement in community and voluntary activities can also address social exclusion and contribute to personal well-being
- contribute towards policy making. The sector is likely to be well-placed to develop more integrated and joined-up solutions to issues and problems
- reduce their environmental impact and use their purchasing power to support more sustainable goods and services.



Supported in Scotland by:

- a range of funding streams and grant programmes that support action by the community and voluntary sectors
- the work of organisations like Forward Scotland
- Community Webnet: a one-stop shop for Scottish community groups carrying out projects that improve the quality of life for local communities
- simplifying funding streams that deliver regeneration, environment and development objectives
- building capacity in civic society through the new Sus It Out project
- working with the sector to identify practical ways to support their work and build on their skills and experience including:
 - ways of identifying and evaluating impact in delivering sustainable development objectives
 - training needs analysis and support
 - guidance and toolkits
- sustainable development award for voluntary organisations.

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