

Our future – different paths: the UK’s shared framework for sustainable development

A list of promises and actions from *Our future – different paths* as identified by the Sustainable Development Commission.

1	We commit our Governments to the purpose and principles set out here, agree to support each other in delivering sustainable development in the UK, and be held accountable for that delivery (p2)	P
2	The strategic framework will be supported by separate strategies for each administration. These will build on existing work and translate this framework’s aims into action, based on our different responsibilities, needs and views. These strategies will include further priorities, and be supported by additional measures and indicators (p3)	P
3	The New Framework Goal for Sustainable Development A new purpose [has been adopted] to show how government will integrate these [sustainable development] aims and evolve sustainable development policy (pp6-7)*†	P
4	Guiding Principles As the UK Government, Scottish Executive, Welsh Assembly Government and the Northern Ireland Administration, we have agreed upon the following set of shared UK principles that will help us to achieve our sustainable development purpose. They bring together and build on the various previously existing UK principles to set out and overarching approach, which our four separate strategies can share: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • living within environmental limits • ensuring a strong, healthy and just society • achieving a sustainable economy • promoting good governance • using sound science responsibly <p>These principles will form the basis for policy in the UK. For a policy to be sustainable it must respect all five of the principles ... We want to achieve our goals of living within environmental limits and a just society and we will do it by means of a sustainable economy, good governance and sound science (p8)*</p>	P
5	Shared Priorities for UK Action The priority areas for immediate action, shared across the UK are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sustainable consumption and production • climate change and energy • natural resource protection and environmental enhancement • sustainable communities* <p>These priorities for action within the UK will also help shape the way that our administrations work internationally. The UK government and the devolved administrations will identify issues where it would make sense to act jointly rather than separately to deliver the shared priorities. This is likely to include areas such as public awareness campaigns (p9)</p>	P
6	International Action We must take domestic action now, to get the UK’s own house in order, and address the international impacts of our domestic policies. Our strategic objective for international sustainable development is to support multilateral and national institutions that can ensure effective integration of social, environmental and economic objectives to deliver sustainable development, especially for the poorest members of society. We will work with developed and developing countries, and through international institutions, to spread good practice and maintain political pressure (p10)	P
7	In Europe, our aim will be to drive actions to deliver sustainable development and to forge links between the economic, social and environmental agendas (p10)	P

8	Indicators We are introducing a new set of high-level indicators – the ‘UK Framework Indicators’ – to give an overview of sustainable development and the priority areas in the UK (p11)	A
9	In addition to the shared UK Framework Indicators, we will each have a mix of indicators, targets and performance measures in our own strategies. These will underpin our shared framework priorities while reflecting our respective priorities (p11)	P
10	We will assess and report annually on progress against the Framework Indicators and use this assessment, together with other evidence from monitoring and evaluation, to determine whether we are succeeding in our goals or whether we need to develop different policies and act accordingly (p11)	P
11	When reporting on the Framework Indicators we will ... also provide information on international trends, and will be considering how we might assess the UK’s global impact (p12)	P
12	We are also committed to investigating well being, how it might be integrated into our policies, and how we might monitor whether we are genuinely making a difference to people’s lives (p12)	P
13	Reporting on Progress Each of the UK Government and Devolved Administrations is responsible for progress on its own strategy. But we collectively recognise the need for some periodic assessment of how the UK is doing overall. We will publish assessments of the UK framework indicators each year (p13)	A
14	The Scottish Executive will report annually against the indicators in the Scottish strategy, as it does now with the current set of Indicators of Sustainable Development (p13)	A
15	The Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) will continue to report annually (as the Government of Wales Act requires) on progress in implementing the Assembly’s Sustainable Development Scheme and its Action Plan. Reports will include progress against the UK Framework indicators and the Assembly’s own set (p13)	P
16	We [WAG] will invite the Sustainable Development Commission to contribute to our annual reports (p13)	P
17	We [WAG] are required to report on effectiveness of the Scheme every 4 years. The next report is due in 2007, and the Commission will be invited to contribute to this too (p13)	P
18	The Northern Ireland Administration recognises the importance of monitoring and reporting on progress and we are committed to looking at how best to incorporate this vital role within the development of the Northern Ireland strategy (p13)	P
19	Progress on delivering the UK Government Strategy will be reported on using all the UK framework indicators and some additional indicators related to the priority areas identified in the strategy (p13)	P
20	The Sustainable Development Commission already operates on a UK basis and will continue to work with us all to ensure that we are both individually and collectively making an effective contribution towards the achievement of sustainable development (p13)	P

* This promise, action or challenge is also contained within *Securing the future: delivering the UK sustainable development strategy*.

P: Promise

A: specific Action