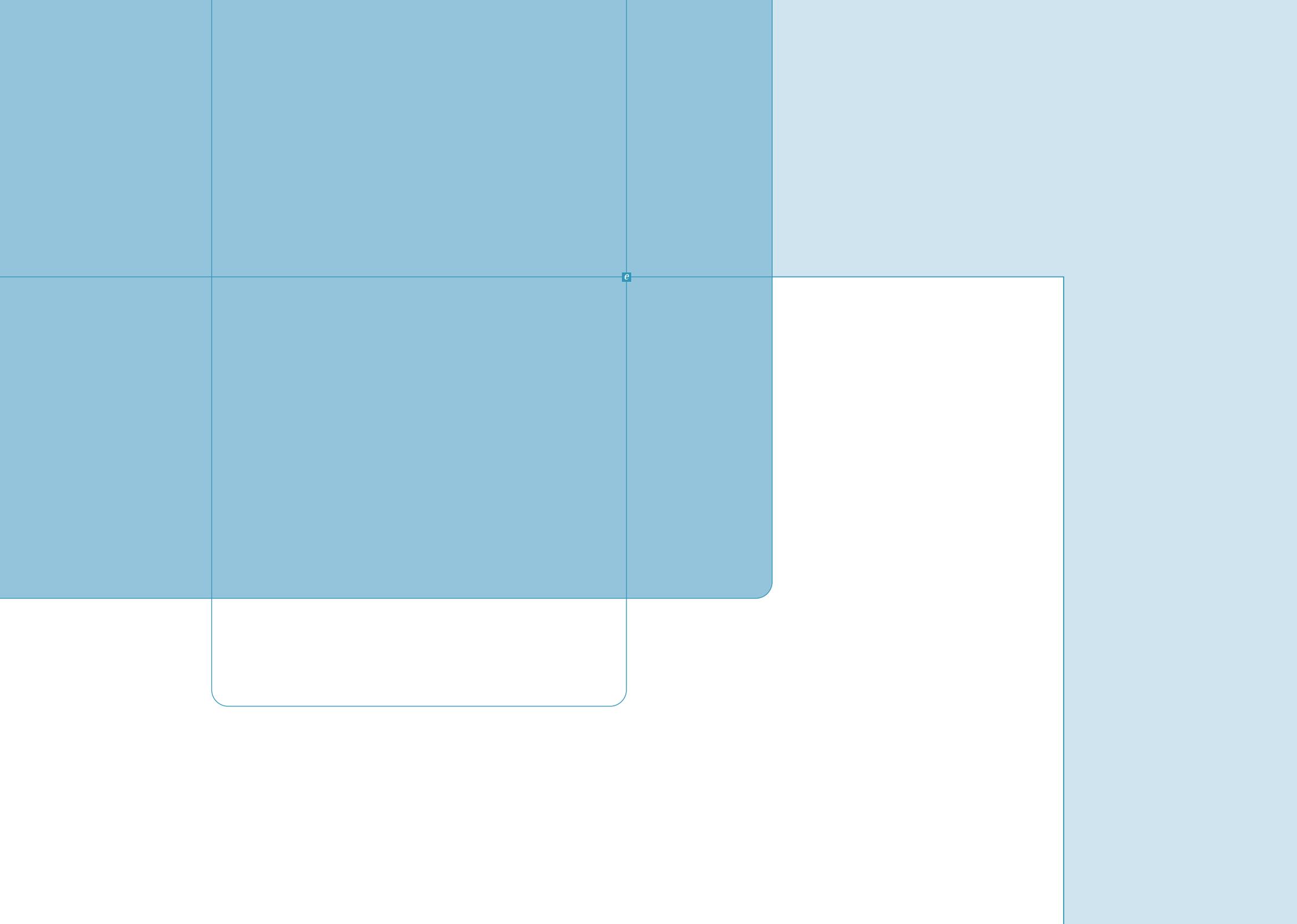


Cheshire's Environmental Action Plan

2
2005
2
0



c

Foreword

We have come a long way in the ten years since the Rio Earth Summit back in 1992, but probably not far enough. Among the many political commitments that were made at its successor, the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg this year, one thing was made very clear – the full implementation of Agenda 21 is not just desirable but is an essential requirement for the sustainable future of human life on this planet. Here in Cheshire we may have made a good start at our contribution to this global and local agenda for the 21st century, but we've really only just begun.

Cheshire's Environmental Action Plan 2005 – 2020 shows how we are going to go forward with positive action, community participation and importantly, "joined up" implementation. This document should not only provide us with the catalyst we need to create the synergy in our partnerships for more action but also save us valuable resources through the avoidance of duplication where appropriate – savings that can then be ploughed back into achieving our goals.

This is an action document and we need to learn how to use it. It contains the action plans and programmes that we need to focus on and the secret of how to make cross-cutting themes work together effectively. Somehow we must keep these priorities at the top of our agendas so don't put this on the shelf with all the others – keep it handy, take it to meetings and refer to the actions that involve you. Make it work! If enough of us do then we really can make a difference.



Chris Mahon
*Director,
Cheshire Wildlife Trust
Chairman,
Sustainable Cheshire Forum
Vice-Chairman,
Cheshire Strategic Partnership*

Membership of the Sustainable Cheshire Forum

Organisations that contribute to the Sustainable Cheshire Forum include:

AEP UK Generation Ltd	Chester College of Higher Education	Manchester Airport
Astra Zeneca Plc	Chester Development Education Centre	Manchester Metropolitan University
Bahai Faith	Chester Diocese	Mersey Basin Campaign
British Waterways	Churches Together in Cheshire	Mersey Forest
Bunbury Green Watch	Congleton Borough Council	National Farmers Union
Campaign to Protect Rural England	Council for Voluntary Services	National Tenants Resource Centre
Cheshire & Warrington Health Authority & PCT's	Countryside Agency	North England Zoological Society
Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils	Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council	North West Regional Assembly
Cheshire Biodiversity Partnership	Crewe & Nantwich Sustainability Alliance	North West Development Agency
Cheshire Community Council	Crossville Bus Depot	Peak Park Authority
Cheshire Constabulary	DEFRA	Reaseheath College
Cheshire County Council	Ellesmere Port & Neston Borough Council	rECOrd
Cheshire Federation of Women's Institutes	ENCAMS (Tidy Britain Group)	Scottish Power
Cheshire Fire Brigade	English Nature	United Utilities
Cheshire Landscape Trust	Environment Agency	University of Salford
Cheshire Partnership	Friends of the Earth	Vale Royal Borough Council
Cheshire Recycling Ltd	Government Office North West	Vale Royal Environment Network
Cheshire Wildlife Trust	Groundwork Macclesfield & Vale Royal	Warrington Borough Council
Chester City Council	Macclesfield Borough Council	Waste Recycling Environmental Waste Recycling Group
		Waste Watch
		Weaverham LA21



Contents

Foreword			
Membership of the Sustainable Cheshire Forum			
1. Introduction	6		
1.1 Executive Summary	6		
1.2 Local Agenda 21	7		
1.3 The Sustainable Cheshire Forum	7		
1.4 The Task Groups	8		
1.5 The Action Plans	8		
1.6 Development and Policy Context	8		
1.6.1 Local Policy	9		
1.6.1.1 Cheshire's Community Strategy	9		
1.6.1.2 Cheshire Structure Plan (Cheshire 2011)	12		
1.6.1.3 District Community Plans	13		
1.6.1.4 Other Plans	14		
1.6.2 North West Regional Policy	14		
1.6.2.1 Action for Sustainability	14		
1.6.2.2 Regional Economic Strategy	15		
1.6.3 National Policy	16		
1.6.4 Priorities for Cheshire's Environment	16		
2. Profile of Cheshire's Environment	17		
2.1 Introduction	17		
2.2 Land Use	17		
2.2.1 Agriculture & Farming	17		
2.2.2 Cheshire's Local Distinctiveness	18		
2.3 Water	19		
2.4 Wildlife & Biodiversity	19		
2.5 Natural Resources & Waste	20		
2.6 Energy & Climate Change	20		
2.7 Air Quality	21		
2.8 Transport	21		
2.9 Business and the Environment	22		
3. Issues for Cheshire's Environment	23		
3.1 Introduction	23		
3.2 Strengths	23		
3.3 Weaknesses	24		
3.4 Opportunities	25		
3.5 Threats	26		
4. Cheshire's Environmental Action Plans	28		
4.1 Introduction	28		
4.2 Air Quality	28		
4.3 Biodiversity	31		
4.4 Eco Audit	34		
4.5 Energy & Climate	36		
4.6 Food and Farming	40		
4.7 Land Use	43		
4.8 Local Heritage and Distinctiveness	47		
4.9 Waste	50		
4.10 Water	53		
5. Monitoring and Review	59		
5.1 Introduction	59		
5.2 The Task Groups	59		
5.3 The Sustainable Cheshire Forum	59		
5.4 The Cheshire Partnership	59		
5.5 Other Partnerships	60		
Further Information	61		

1. Introduction

1.1 Executive Summary

Cheshire's Environmental Action Plan 2005-2020 updates Cheshire's Agenda 21 Strategy produced in 1997. It represents the work of the Sustainable Cheshire Forum (SCF) and its Task Groups.

The SCF and Task Groups were created in 1996 to formulate Cheshire's Local Agenda 21 programme. In 2000, the Local Government Act introduced a statutory requirement on all local authorities to develop a community plan which progresses social,

economic and environmental issues. It has also required all authorities to create Local Strategic Partnerships, or LSP's, from a range of local groups, to create this plan.

In Cheshire, much of the work of the SCF was built upon to create the Cheshire Partnership (Cheshire's LSP) in 2001. Cheshire's Community Strategy was subsequently produced in February 2002. The SCF and Task Groups will remain to champion a sustainable environment for Cheshire

underneath the umbrella of the Community Strategy. The Task Groups will continue to develop delivery mechanisms for their action plans through partnership working and the SCF will act to monitor progress against these plans and report this back to the Cheshire Partnership. This document provides a

more detailed plan of activity for environmental issues relating to Cheshire and is complementary to Cheshire's Community Strategy, in particular, its chapter on a sustainable environment, which summarises the work within these plans.

This document contains background information on the processes that have created these action plans, from Local Agenda 21, the Sustainable Cheshire Forum and the Community Strategy. Information collected through Cheshire's State of the Environment summary is used to create a profile of Cheshire's environment, in terms of its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities for and threats to progress. This sets the background context to the priority actions identified in the action plans.

The action plans are presented according to environmental theme, e.g. waste, biodiversity, energy & climate etc, and contain short, medium and long targets to take action on these issues. Lead and partner organisations with responsibility for taking forward these actions are identified. The plans have footnotes to explain any unusual words or acronyms and each theme refers to other relevant plans and sources of further information. The document concludes with information on how these action plans will be monitored and summarises a list of further contacts for more information on environmental issues locally, regionally and nationally.



1.2 Local Agenda 21

In 1992, world leaders met at a United Nations Summit in Rio de Janeiro to agree measures to reduce world poverty and environmental degradation. The UK was one of around 160 nations represented which signed an agreement called "Agenda 21". This was so called because it is an agenda for the 21st Century. This document contained 40 chapters, outlining what each sector of society could do to contribute toward these goals.

In response to the Agenda 21 Declaration, the UK Government requested that all local authorities should develop a Local Agenda 21 to tackle these issues locally and to encourage their community to "think globally, act locally". In other words, encouraging people to think about reducing the impact that their everyday actions and decisions might have on the world we live in. It asked local authorities to work with others in their area to improve the quality of life for all.

Cheshire's Agenda 21 process has been underway since 1994. Each of the six District Councils in Cheshire has also developed a Local Agenda 21 Plan for their specific area. For more information, refer to the contacts pages at the back of this document.

1.3 The Sustainable Cheshire Forum

The Sustainable Cheshire Forum (SCF) was created to develop Cheshire's Local Agenda 21 programme. The SCF is an informal partnership between public, private, voluntary and charitable organisations in Cheshire. The SCF is chaired by an individual from an organisation independent of the County Council. The current membership is over 150 individuals. The range of organisations involved in the Forum is indicated at the front of this document.

The Forum was first initiated in 1995 through discussion between Cheshire County Council and the District Councils. In 1996 around forty countywide organisations were invited to attend the first SCF meeting. Task Groups were developed within the SCF to focus on particular issues. The Task Groups developed action plans containing short, medium and long term targets for each of their topics. The work of the SCF and the Task Groups was first published as Cheshire's Agenda 21 Strategy and Action Plan in 1997.

Each year since this time the SCF meets to monitor and review progress against the action plans as well as progress made across Cheshire against the background of activity in the UK. The results of this monitoring have been reported annually to the public in "Cheshire's Check Up" which highlights the progress and setbacks of Cheshire's environmental trends. As of 2002, the SCF will continue to monitor their action plans which contribute to the Community Strategy and advise the Cheshire Partnership on sustainable environment issues.



1.4 The Task Groups

Central to the Sustainable Cheshire Forum (SCF) are the Task Groups. These were created to provide a focus for specific issues, such as water quality or waste management.

There are currently 7 Task Groups that exist to focus on the issues of:

- Air Quality
- Energy & Climate
- Land Use (a group that also encompasses Local Heritage and Distinctiveness and Food and Farming)
- Water
- Waste
- Biodiversity
- Eco Audit (encompassing business and the environment)

Each group is made up of a number of individuals from relevant organisations in Cheshire and is chaired by an independent organisation. Each group meets several times a year to measure progress made against the action plans targets and share information.

The independent chair of each group is known as a Task Group Leader. The Task Group Leaders also meet quarterly as a steering group to the SCF. They monitor the progress of the groups and the SCF, share information on environmental issues and take decisions about matters which affect the SCF and advise the Cheshire Partnership of any relevant issues. All Task Group Leaders sit on the Cheshire Partnership and some on the Cheshire Partnership Steering Group, ensuring that the views of the SCF are represented and relevant information is fed back to the Task Group Leaders.

1.5 The Action Plans

The Action Plans in this document are the work of the Task Groups and represent a framework for action to achieve progress toward the issues they have identified within them. Against each issue within the plan there is an aim, objective and actions set against it. It has long been appreciated that the nature of environmental problems will require long-term solutions as well as more immediate action. Hence, each Action Plan identifies short (2005), medium (2010) and long term (2020) actions against each issue.

The Task Groups have established the Action Plan framework since 1997. In addition to the monitoring and review at the annual SCF meeting, each group monitors their plan over the course of the year through their meetings. The Action Plans are therefore not static documents and are subject to change. Each plan identifies action which can be progressed by the group itself, through partnership working or through other organisations.

1.6 Development and Policy Context

The work of the Task Groups and the SCF sits alongside that of a number of other complimentary partnerships, strategies and policies which are listed below. How the work of the Task Groups relates to the Community Strategy is also important and is given in detail on the next page.



1.6.1 Local Policy

1.6.1.1 Cheshire's Community Strategy

The action plans contained in this document focus upon the issues that the Task Groups of the SCF feel are a priority. Cheshire's Community Strategy has also identified a number of priority issues represented under seven themes within the document.

The work of the SCF and the Task Groups will be an important component of delivering Cheshire's Community Strategy. Below is a table summarising how the actions in this document contribute to the achievement of the Community Strategy's aims. Further detail is listed over the page identifying which action from this document supports which action from the Community Strategy.

Community Strategy Theme Action Plan	Innovation and new ways of working	Positioning Cheshire in the wider world	Community Well Being	Valuing Diversity	Thriving Rural Communities	Shared Prosperity	Sustainable Environment
Air Quality		✓1	✓2				✓3
Biodiversity			✓4		✓5	✓6	✓7
Eco Audit 21		✓8				✓9	✓10
Energy & Climate		✓11	✓12		✓13		✓14
Food & Farming	✓15	✓16	✓17		✓18	✓19	✓20
Land Use	✓21	✓22	✓23	✓24	✓25	✓26	✓27
Local Heritage		✓28	✓29		✓30	✓31	✓32
Waste					✓33		✓34
Water		✓35	✓36		✓37		✓38

Air Quality

1. Action to encourage reduction of air pollutants.
2. Action to promote understanding of the impact of air quality (including local and indoor air quality) on human health.
3. Action to reduce the degree of climate change.

Biodiversity

4. Action to encourage people, especially young people, to become more involved in volunteer conservation and to identify areas of the population without access to wildlife (i.e. open space).
5. Action to sustain rural Cheshire's inheritance of biodiversity.
6. Action to provide learning opportunities and community capacity building through local biodiversity projects.
7. Action to conserve and enhance Cheshire's biodiversity.

Eco Audit

8. Action to create volunteer opportunities and encourage businesses to introduce sustainable (and healthy) transport modes.
9. Action to increase competitiveness of Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs) through environmental efficiency.
10. Action to encourage organisations to be more environmentally responsible.

Energy & Climate

11. Actions to reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions and pollution from energy generation and increase proportion of energy generated from renewable resources.
12. Action to provide information on the links between energy generation, air quality and human health.
13. Action to encourage diversification of agriculture through non-food production, e.g. biomass crops.
14. Action to reduce consumption of resources and increased potential of renewable energy in Cheshire.

Food & Farming

15. Action to promote the use of rural public buildings as community resources.
16. Action to promote the branding of Cheshire through its landscape and produce.
17. Action to provide information on access to healthy diets through local fresh food.
18. Action to encourage farm diversification including support for non-food crop production and linking local producers to consumers.
19. Action to increase rural employment.
20. Actions to conserve and enhance rural landscape character and biodiversity.

Land Use

21. Action to help develop more creative use of buildings as community resources.
22. Action to develop a spatial strategy from the existing Structure Plan to meet Cheshire's future development needs.
23. Actions to ensure provision of affordable housing, "designing out" crime and the fear of crime in communities and overseeing access to open space.
24. Action to ensure provision of housing and employment land, encourage regeneration and increase access to services.
25. Action to increase the number of Parish Plans or Village Design Statements and monitor outcomes of the Common Agricultural Policy.
26. Action to provide employment, services and housing to towns and safeguard Cheshire's countryside.
27. Action to increase, reclaim and redevelop brownfield, derelict and underused land.

Local Heritage and Distinctiveness

- 28. Action to secure enhancement and promotion of Cheshire's strengths through its local heritage, especially its market towns.
- 29. Action to promote community participation in Village Design Statements and Parish Plans (to safeguard local heritage and encourage regeneration).
- 30. Action to enhance and develop the role of market towns.
- 31. Action to promote role of Cheshire towns and ensure development takes place in sustainable locations.
- 32. Action to promote understanding and appreciation of Cheshire's local heritage, built and historic environments and conserve and enhance Cheshire's landscape.

Waste

- 33. Action to increase community participation in provision of local services (including recycling) and sustaining environmental inheritance.
- 34. Action to reduce the volume of waste arising and encourage reuse and recycling in household, industrial and commercial waste management and action to reduce resource consumption.

Water

- 35. Action to improve rivers and canals water quality.
- 36. Action to reduce the impact of drinking water quality on human health.
- 37. Action to assist rural communities to sustain their environmental inheritance.
- 38. Action to mitigate the impact of flooding and support the regeneration of the Weaver Valley.



1.6.1.2 “Cheshire Structure Plan (Cheshire 2011)”

Action Plan	Air	Biodiversity	Eco Audit	Energy	Food and Farm	Land	Local Heritage	Waste	Water
Structure Plan policy									
Protect and enhance the characteristic habitats, wildlife, open spaces and man made environment in towns and countryside	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
To ensure that new development does not result in any overall net loss of environment value and man-made heritage	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
To protect and improve the quality of air and land resources	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
To enhance economic and social opportunities			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
To foster the prosperity of Cheshire's agriculture, industry, commerce and tourism	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
To secure the regeneration of older urban areas					✓	✓	✓		
To guide development to locations which are accessible by walking, cycling and public transport	✓					✓			

1.6.1.2 “Cheshire Structure Plan (Cheshire 2011)” – continued

Action Plan	Air	Biodiversity	Eco Audit	Energy	Food and Farm	Land	Local Heritage	Waste	Water
Structure Plan policy									
To reduce the rate of consumption of mineral resources and fossil fuels	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	
To reduce the amount and impact of waste disposal and to encourage the recycling and reuse of waste materials	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	

1.6.1.3 District Community Plans

Action Plan	Air	Biodiversity	Eco Audit	Energy	Food and Farm	Land	Local Heritage	Waste	Water
District Community Plan									
Chester	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Congleton	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Crewe & Nantwich	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ellesmere Port & Neston	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Macclesfield	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vale Royal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

1.6.1.4 Other Plans

Plan	Action Plan	Air	Biodiversity	Eco Audit	Energy	Food and Farm	Land	Local Heritage	Waste	Water
Local Transport Plan		✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Waste Local Plan		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rural Recovery Plan		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
Local Biodiversity Action Plans			✓	✓			✓	✓		✓ ✓
Tourism Strategy		✓				✓	✓	✓		
Cultural Strategy		✓				✓	✓	✓		
Cheshire Landscape Strategy (Landscape Character Assessment)		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
Joint Household Waste Strategy			✓			✓				✓

1.6.2 North West Regional Policy

1.6.2.1 Action for Sustainability (2000)

AFS Policy	Action Plan	Air	Biodiversity	Eco Audit	Energy	Food and Farm	Land	Local Heritage	Waste	Water
Live		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Protect		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Save		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grow				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

1.6.2.2 Regional Economic Strategy (2003)

Action Plan	Air	Biodiversity	Eco Audit	Energy	Food and Farm	Land	Local	Waste Heritage	Water
RES Objective									
Business Development			✓			✓			
Regeneration		✓			✓	✓	✓		✓
Skills & Employment			✓			✓			
Infrastructure					✓	✓		✓	
Image		✓			✓	✓	✓		✓

1.6.3 National Policy

A Better Quality of Life – A Strategy for Sustainable Development for the UK (1999).

Action Plan	Air	Biodiversity	Eco Audit	Energy	Food and Farm	Land	Local Heritage	Waste	Water
UK Quality of Life policy									
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Effective protection of the environment	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prudent use of natural resources	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth			✓		✓	✓		✓	

1.6.4 Priorities for Cheshire's Environment

In 2002, the Sustainable Cheshire Forum identified the following priorities for Cheshire's environment:

- Encourage farm diversification
 - Raise awareness and create ownership of our local heritage
 - Engage businesses that are exemplars of environmental management in the community strategy
 - Improve air quality monitoring to cover all areas where standards are at risk of being exceeded
 - Increase reuse and recycling of waste
- Prioritise actions to improve poor and bad watercourses
 - Educate to raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity to ensure community understand importance to everyday lives
 - Increase awareness of potential of renewable energy
 - Raise awareness of the importance of land use in sustainable development

These priorities have been used to help shape the content of the Community Strategy. In addition, each of these priorities is also addressed within the content of the action plans in this document.



2. Profile of Cheshire's Environment

2.1 Introduction

The State of the Environment project was originally conducted between 1990 and 1993. The aim of the project was to collect information on the quality of Cheshire's natural environment and present it in reports and a summary to inform the Cheshire community. Ten years on, to acknowledge the World Summit on Sustainable Development and to identify the state of Cheshire's environment now, the project was recommenced to collect a summary of this information. The text below is taken from this summary. These facts, together with their analysis in the following chapter sets the context to the action plans in this document.

2.2 Land Use

How land is used is fundamental for all of us. It affects not only all other elements (e.g. water, air quality and wildlife) but it has significant social (e.g. health, crime, education), cultural (e.g. landscape, sense of place) and economic (e.g. employment and investment) implications.

The high quality of Cheshire's built and natural environments help to create a strong sense of landscape. Cheshire is characterised by lowland plains, river valleys, woodlands and mires. It is a rural county with a large swathe of greenbelt to the North and East, covering 78,560 hectares. There are few major conurbations and urban areas consist of the numerous small to medium sized towns and villages.

Nevertheless, between 1985 and 1995 over 1,659 hectares of land was converted to urban use, mainly through the development of housing. Of the remaining land in Cheshire, it is estimated that there is approximately 4,409 hectares of derelict, underused and neglected land across Cheshire occupying around 668 sites.

2.2.1 Agriculture & Farming

As a predominantly rural county Cheshire is dependent on its rural economy, environment and heritage. 83% of the total county area is identified as being "rural" and 70% of land in Cheshire remains in agricultural use. Yet today this only represents 3% of the county's total income. Almost 25% of Cheshire's population live in rural areas and 11% of Cheshire's workforce are employed in agriculture (including tourism and the food trade).

Farm size and type has varied significantly in the last ten years. The total number of farms has actually increased in recent years whilst the total area has decreased by around 10,000 hectares in the last ten years. The number of small (<5 hectares) and large (100< hectares) farms have increased whilst the number of medium sized farms decreased. In 2002 the most dominant farm type was mixed and other followed by cattle and sheep and then dairy. One third of Cheshire's agricultural land is classified as Grade 3 (good to moderate) by government, so explains why dairying has historically predominated, representing 45% of farm types and 50% of total agricultural earnings in Cheshire.



2.2.2 Cheshire's Local Distinctiveness

Cheshire is composed of market towns, villages and hamlets. The historic city of Chester represents the administrative centre and is one of the counties largest conurbation's as well as an international tourist destination. Cheshire is well known for it's black and white buildings, it's red sandstone and it's gritstone which help to create a landscape that evokes a sense of locality and distinctiveness.

The soils of Cheshire are directly related to the underlying rocks and sediments. Most of the county is underlain by red Triassic sandstone and this gives rise to a sandy soil as on the Sandstone Trail. However, in places the glacial sediments above these sandstones, have produced different types of soils depending on whether those sediments were a result of ice deposition, or lake accumulations of organic material i.e. peat or wind blown sediments. This leads to a rich diversity of soils in Cheshire creating a fertile base for agriculture, tourism and biodiversity.

The Cheshire region has a distinctive and nationally important geodiversity. Geodiversity is the variety of soils, rocks, fossils and minerals as well as natural processes such as river processes, which are present throughout the whole county. This is obvious in the rich red colour of the rocks, soils, building stone and boundary walls. Geodiversity permeates every aspect of our lives. We use the resources, live on and travel across the land and end our days within it. The character of Cheshire is determined by its geodiversity and we must safeguard it for its intrinsic value, its ecological value, its resource or economic value and for its (geo) heritage value.

In addition to national designations, the most important landscapes in Cheshire have been designated as Areas of Special County Value (ASCV) in order to protect them from development which would adversely affect their character or the features they contain. In Cheshire, there are 15 ASCVs, designated because of their landscape quality.

There are over 5,000 listed buildings in Cheshire, of which over 100 are of exceptional interest, or Grade I. There are around 160 built heritage conservation areas, over 5,000 sites of archaeological interest and 239 Scheduled Monuments across the county.

The County Sites and Monuments Record (CSMR) currently holds over 5,000 records ranging in date from the prehistoric period to the post medieval period. The CSMR includes information on earthworks, standing buildings or structures (including all pre-1700 Listed buildings), isolated finds and sites which are no longer visible. The main purpose of the CSMR is the protection of the County's archaeological resource.





2.3 Water

Water has a special significance in Cheshire. It has been a major factor in the success of the county's traditional industries from the early 20th Century onward. Salt extraction, movement of goods by canal and the Mersey Estuary are all examples.

Cheshire has more bodies of water than any other County. These consist of rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, meres and canals. The quality of these watercourses and availability of clean (non-saline) water is essential to all other forms of life.

The quality of Cheshire's rivers and streams is generally good. In 2001, 93% of Cheshire's rivers were of fair or better quality, an increase from 88% in 2000. However, this leaves 7% still classified as "poor" and unable to support fish life. Actions to be taken include improvements to waste water treatment works, improvements to consented discharges, quantification of point source and diffuse pollution from farms and the development of an action plan to prioritise farm visits.



2.4 Wildlife & Biodiversity

Cheshire has a rich landscape and diverse range of habitats that are valuable to a wide range of wildlife. In particular, our numerous waterbodies create interesting habitats for rare birds, amphibians, insects and mammals. Biodiversity is the term more often used to describe the diversity of plants and animals in our County.

In 2002, there were 62 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and 615 Sites of Biological importance (SBI). There are 3 Special Protection Areas for birds, 2 National and 9 Local Nature Reserves and 29 Wildlife Trust Sites. The area of land protected by designation as a Local Nature Reserve has increased from 36 hectares in 1992 to 306 hectares in 2002.

There is currently over 8,500 hectares of woodland, accounting for around 4% of the total area of Cheshire. The national average for woodland cover is 7.5% and government wants to see this doubled. In Cheshire woodland cover is being increased, with around 40 hectares per annum being added by the Forestry Commission Woodland Grant Scheme and additional Mersey Forest area planting.

2.5 Natural Resources & Waste

Cheshire contains a rich variety of minerals, some of which are nationally important. Salt contributes to the local chemical industry in the form of brine, whilst rock salt from Cheshire is used in de-icing the majority of the UK's roads. Cheshire also holds reserves of silica sand, which is found in only a few places in the UK, being used to supply glass making and foundry industries. In addition, there are deposits of construction sand and gravel, sandstone, gritstone and peat which are worked at around thirty sites across the County.

The consumption of natural resources leads to the production of waste. The amount of waste produced by Cheshire households in 2000-01 was over 423,000 tonnes. This figure does not include waste collected from household waste recycling centres, commercial or industrial waste.

Currently, 85% of household waste is sent to landfill. There are 6 major landfill sites in Cheshire (Gow, Danes Moss, Maw Green, Whirley, Minshull Vernon and Lea Forge), as well as a small number of other landfill sites. Only 15% of household waste is currently recycled. There are currently 12 household waste recycling centres (HWRC) in Cheshire, which recycle glass, paper, clothing, cans and green waste.

On average, household waste is composed of one third green waste (garden and kitchen waste) and one third paper and card. Both of these fractions are biodegradable and so could be composted at home.

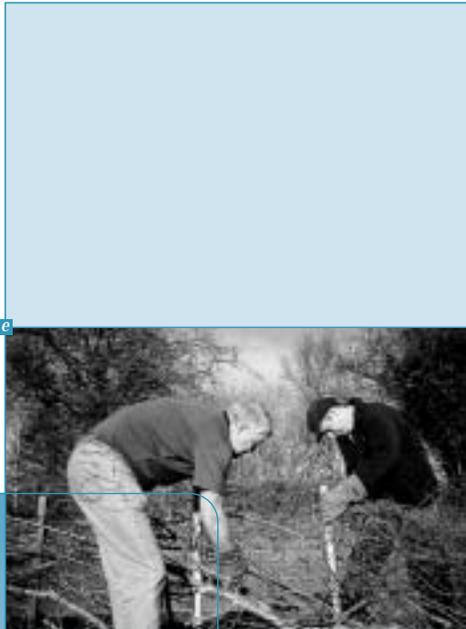
2.6 Energy & Climate Change

The majority of energy we use is obtained through the combustion of fossil fuels. This combustion process has been found to be affecting the atmosphere around our planet and causing rapid changes in its natural processes. These changes are referred to as the greenhouse gas effect, global warming or climate change.

Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) is produced whenever a fossil fuel is burned. CO₂ is the most significant of greenhouse gases, due to its extent and ability to trap warmth. Targets for the reduction of CO₂ emissions have been established internationally, nationally, and locally. Methane (CH₄) is another greenhouse gas, and is mainly emitted from livestock and as a result of the decomposition of waste in landfill sites. CH₄ emissions from landfill sites across the North West are estimated to be around 313,000 tonnes per annum.

Cheshire has a number of large power stations within, and at the edge, of its boundaries. Fiddlers Ferry, Deeside and Rocksavage Power stations contribute over 2000 Mega-Watts of energy to the national grid. Recently, Winnington Combined Heat and Power Station has been constructed and Ince Power station closed and demolished in 1997.

The need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions has also increased demand for improved energy efficiency and low carbon technologies such as renewable energy generation. Renewable energy from wind, solar or tidal power does not create any harmful emissions to the environment. The Energy Savings Trust has been established by government to encourage greater energy efficiency in the community.



2.7 Air Quality

The quality of the air is closely linked to many other subjects such as energy, transport, land use, water quality and, of course, health. Potential sources of air pollution in Cheshire include energy production, industry, transport, as well as natural sources such as wetland and agriculture. The air quality in Cheshire is good, with very low levels of most common pollutants. The review of air quality carried out in Cheshire during 2000 has revealed no breach of national health standards for air pollutants. Consequently none of the District Councils need to declare Air Quality Management areas to control pollution levels. These are areas designated as requiring action against poor standards of air quality.

As indicated, transport is closely linked to air quality. When schools are on holiday traffic movements during the peak hours fall and congestion is reduced. The consequence of this is that pollution levels are reduced. Emissions of pollutants from industrial sources are continuing to fall as processes become more efficient. Traffic emissions are also beginning to fall although not so dramatically.

Indoor air quality has not been addressed to the same extent as outdoor air quality and yet we generally spend more time indoors than outside. There are therefore potential impacts on our health as a result of elevated concentrations of pollutants, such as cigarette smoke and carbon monoxide, which can become trapped inside our modern homes.

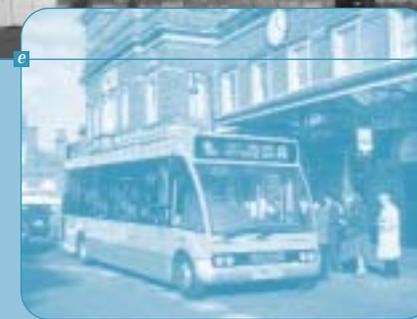
2.8 Transport

Transport is a diverse issue that has a fundamental impact on so many other environmental, economic and social issues that it is one that can significantly contribute to sustainable development through careful management. Providing integrated, sustainable modes of transport is one of the greatest challenges facing the UK.

Walking accounts for 25% of all journeys and 80% of all journeys less than one mile. Yet, even over such short distances, journeys are increasingly being made by car. This is not only bad for the environment but may also lead to people exercising less, with adverse effects on the population's health. Cycling, like walking, is an energy efficient, pollution free and healthy form of transport and it is an ideal alternative to the car, especially for shorter trips.

Buses have a major role to play to help reduce traffic congestion. In order to make buses more acceptable and to attract new passengers, their frequency and reliability need to improve. Improved passenger comfort, stable fares and readily available travel information are also needed.

In a county such as Cheshire, there are the additional complexities of providing access to services and facilities in rural areas. Since the Rural Bus Grant was introduced in 1998, 29 new rural bus services have been established. Programmes such as the Rural Transport Scheme, Dial A Ride and Rural Bus Challenge are providing ways of dealing with some of these issues.

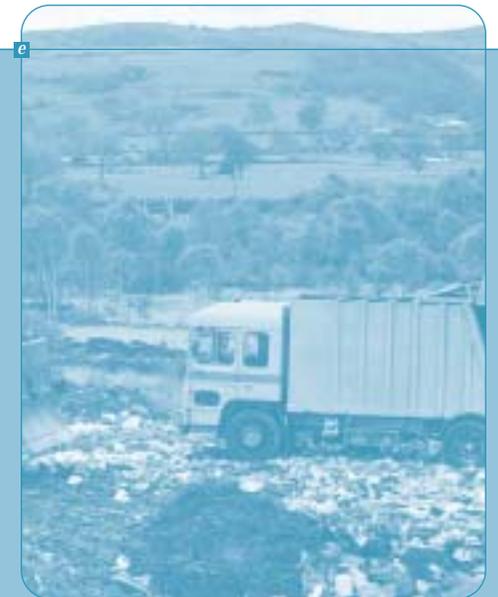


2.9 Business and the Environment

Business has a major part to play in contributing toward sustainable development, as a sector of society that has the potential to create significant positive or negative impacts on our environment. In Cheshire in 2001, there were 20,481 VAT registered businesses. 97% of these are small to medium sized enterprises (SME's) that have less than 250 employees and 99% of these have less than 20 employees, so make up the vast majority of business. The most significant concentration of employment in Cheshire lies within refined petroleum products, manufacture of chemicals & chemical products and motor vehicle manufacture.

Businesses use a large quantity of natural resources and potentially emit harmful wastes to land, water and air. Major processes in Cheshire fall under regulation by the Environment Agency or the District Councils in respect of these emissions. Many businesses have begun to take action to prevent damage through environmental management. The number of businesses taking up environmental improvement measures has been increasing since the early 1990's. More recently, larger organisations have started publicly reporting on their impact on the environment and society.

There are also many other schemes and projects to encourage businesses, especially smaller businesses, to take the environment into account and improve their efficiency. A project initiated by the Sustainable Cheshire Forum to do just this is the Eco Audit scheme. Initiated in 1996 to provide a first step in improving business environmental performance, the scheme offers free and confidential environmental reviews to any organisation in Cheshire. The aim of the project is to raise environmental awareness and highlight how effective environmental management can lead to cost savings. To date, over 500 visits have been completed at a wide range of different sites.



3. Issues for Cheshire's Environment

3.1 Introduction

The previous chapter presented information on the profile of Cheshire's environment. This chapter analyses this information and identifies issues in terms of areas of strength, weakness, as well as opportunities and threats to the environment. These issues set the context to priorities identified in the Action Plans in the next chapter.

3.2 Strengths

Cheshire is a county with a wealth of natural resources thanks to its rich geology and soils. As a largely rural County with few major conurbations, there are large areas of open landscape. The large swathe of greenbelt land to the North and East of Cheshire protects much of the County from development from surrounding conurbations. Other assets, such as our great length of hedgerows or significant number of waterbodies, all add to the amount of "natural capital" Cheshire possesses.

These natural features provide valuable habitats for a diverse range of plants and animals, some of which are nationally scarce. The quality of Cheshire's rivers and streams has much improved and is now generally very good. This is reflected in the re-appearance of certain species such as salmon, which have been sighted in some of our major rivers once more. The number and area of sites afforded additional protection by special designation such as SSSI or SBI have increased and therefore, an increasing amount of Cheshire's special landscape and biodiversity is safeguarded.

The historic city of Chester is of international importance for tourism. Whilst the surrounding countryside across the County is less well known by visitors, it contains a number of important historic buildings and has an attractive and distinctive landscape enjoyed by many through Cheshire's Public Rights of Way. Increasing protection has been given to sites of historical or archaeological importance over the last ten years, which have also grown in number.

The air quality in Cheshire is generally good, with very low levels of most common pollutants. The fact that Cheshire has no designated Air Quality Management Zones confirms this. Emissions of methane from landfill sites in Cheshire are considerably lower than the national average, due to the high levels of methane recovery being operated.



3.3 Weaknesses

Despite the high natural capital that Cheshire possesses, the quality of some of our assets is in decline and there are still unresolved problems. It is estimated that there is approximately 4,409 hectares of derelict, underused and neglected land across Cheshire occupying around 668 sites. This represents a significant area of unfulfilled potential that may be difficult to bring back into use, for example, due to contamination.

Cheshire's position in the UK creates positive and negative effects. Its proximity to Manchester and Liverpool, as well as Merseyside and Deeside creates pressure within from outside its boundaries. Increased demand for transport systems, land for industry and housing, as well as waste disposal sites and maintaining good air quality are all issues which are affected by our proximity to these large cities and industrial areas.

Cheshire's industrial legacy from salt extraction continues to have an effect on the quality of Cheshire's environment. For example, brine extraction for the chemical industry has left large areas of land unstable and vulnerable to collapse. This has potentially great significance in urban areas such as Northwich.



In 2000, approximately 12% of our rivers and streams were still classified as "poor" or "bad" by the Environment Agency. These are areas of water that have had long term pollution legacies that may prove intractable. The river Weaver and its navigation, for example, has significant stretches that are currently classified as poor quality and long term remedial work will be required to tackle the historical legacy of industrial discharges. Studies of the Manchester Ship Canal are required to understand how action can be taken to resolve some of the currently intractable problems of pollution along this watercourse.

Despite Cheshire's generally good air quality, there are still specific areas for concern along particular traffic corridors. Heavily trafficked and congested roads were identified as being responsible for the highest levels of pollution in the County and monitoring is being centred on these areas to quantify the problem.



3.4 Opportunities

A wide range of projects and initiatives are being taken forward to maximise some of the opportunities that exist for improving Cheshire's environment.

In a County that contains little of its original ancient woodland, tree cover is being increased, by around 40 hectares per annum through the Forestry Commission Woodland Grant Scheme, Countryside Stewardship Scheme and additional Mersey Forest area planting. The Life EConet project is a four year demonstration project that explores with local people the best ways for creating networks connecting areas for wildlife and integrating them in land use planning and management.

The Cheshire Renewable Energy Initiative (CREI) has been established to help promote and co-ordinate small scale renewable energy. The greatest potential in Cheshire may lie in biofuels. This is the growth of crops for use as fuel to create energy. There is great scope for expanding the existing boundaries of the Mersey Forest through the use of willow coppicing and other energy crops.

Forestry is also being used as a potential end use for some of Cheshire's derelict, underused and neglected land. The Forestry Commission and North West Development Agency are embarking on a programme of environmental regeneration in the North West where this land will be reclaimed to improve its environmental quality and recreational value.



Building regulations have considerably increased the minimum standards for insulation and energy efficiency in new buildings. The wider availability of grant aid and energy efficiency schemes has had a beneficial impact on homes and small businesses in the County. Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) run through the District Council schemes have also played a considerable role in improving energy performance in Cheshire. However, there is still much greater potential to work with developers to create buildings that are designed with the environment in mind.

The Mersey Basin Campaign's long term objective is to see the return of salmon to the watercourses of the North West. Local partnerships will work with the Environment Agency and United Utilities to support these aims and carry out any physical works which may be necessary to enable the migration of these fish.

Cheshire County Council, in partnership with the six District Councils, has been working together to produce the Joint Household Waste Management Strategy. This strategy sets the framework for future action to reduce, reuse and recycle Cheshire's waste. A number of actions are proposed, including the provision of kerbside recycling schemes to households; home and community composting; waste awareness campaigns and improved facilities at our household waste recycling centres. Household waste is composed of around one third green waste (garden and kitchen waste) and one third paper and card. Both of these fractions are biodegradable and there is greater potential for them to be composted at home.

There still remain further opportunities for trade and industry to do more to minimise their waste. Schemes such as Eco Audit have provided a valuable advice service to highlight the importance of good environmental management in business. However, the vast majority of organisations have yet to make the savings from environmental efficiency.

Slowly, markets for recycled aggregates are being established, which reduces the quantity of new aggregates being extracted from the ground and reduces the amount of waste generated. The after use or restoration of mineral workings within Cheshire provides a variety of opportunities for habitat creation, agriculture, forestry and recreation. There is further opportunity for developers to work widely with local communities and organisations in this process.

Opportunities to maximise the potential of Cheshire's rural areas is being focused upon through Cheshire's Rural Recovery Programme, as well as a number of other agricultural schemes such as those linking local food producers directly with consumers and other agri-environment schemes. A number of initiatives are also being developed to support and promote Cheshire's market towns and their surrounding rural areas.

3.5 Threats

In Cheshire, there are currently over 70 species and habitats identified as being under threat through the Biodiversity Action Plan programme. These include the Otter, Watervole, Bluebell, Black Poplar, Song Thrush, Adder and Silver Studded Blue Butterfly. Unless the quality, connectivity and management of Cheshire natural environments is improved then species will continue to be lost.

Our increasing consumption of natural resources is leading to more and more waste being produced. As a region, the North West produces more waste than any other. In Cheshire, 85% of household waste is still sent to landfill. The amount of time left for landfill space in Cheshire is down to approximately 5 to 6 years and alternatives need to be found. To complicate matters, the amount of waste we produce is increasing by 5% every year, equivalent to 21,150 tonnes. In Cheshire, we need to achieve government targets of 22% recycling and composting rates by 2003/04 and 33% by 2005/06.

Between 1985 and 1995 over 1,659 hectares of land was converted to urban use, mainly through it's development for housing. The pressure for housing in Cheshire, a county with large areas of greenbelt but also high demand from it's surrounding conurbation's is significant and could have impacts on the level of development across the county in the future.

Cheshire emits 10% more CO₂ than average in the North West. Cheshire is responsible for around 1.1% of the UK's total emissions of CO₂. The potentially enormous effects of climate change on Cheshire, or indeed the UK, are still not completely understood. However, it is agreed that changes to the climate will lead to hotter summers and wetter winters alongside more frequent unpredictable weather events. This will mean an increase in drought and flooding. This has wide implications for Cheshire's landscape, biodiversity, health, housing, business and tourism.

The value of some of our natural assets makes Cheshire the focus for development that other areas do not experience, for example, Cheshire's reserves of silica sand. Cheshire holds reserves of this sand, which is found in only a few places in the UK, being used to supply glass-making and foundry industries. Increasingly, pressure is being placed to end the planning permissions of mineral operations that are currently dormant but could, if re-commenced, have a significant environmental impact. Established mineral operations that operate under old planning permissions are being reviewed in an attempt to reduce their future environmental impacts.

Almost 25% of Cheshire's population live in rural areas and 11% of Cheshire's workforce are employed in agriculture (including food and tourism industries). A rural County by definition may have high natural capital, but is also vulnerable. Incidences of BSE, Foot & Mouth Disease as well as the restructuring of agriculture have highlighted the importance and at the same time the fragility of Cheshire's rural areas and their dependency on agriculture and tourism.



4. Cheshire's Environmental Action Plans

4.1 Introduction

The following pages contain the information from each of the current Task Groups Action Plans. Each plan identifies the relevant issues, aims and objectives for the topic and then goes on to identify short (2005), medium (2010) and long-term (2020) targets for action. Organisations involved in the

delivery of these actions are identified in the end column as lead (L) or partner (P) depending upon their role. Explanation of unusual terms or acronyms are provided in the footnotes. There is also a section providing links to other relevant plans and contacts for further information.

4.2 Air Quality

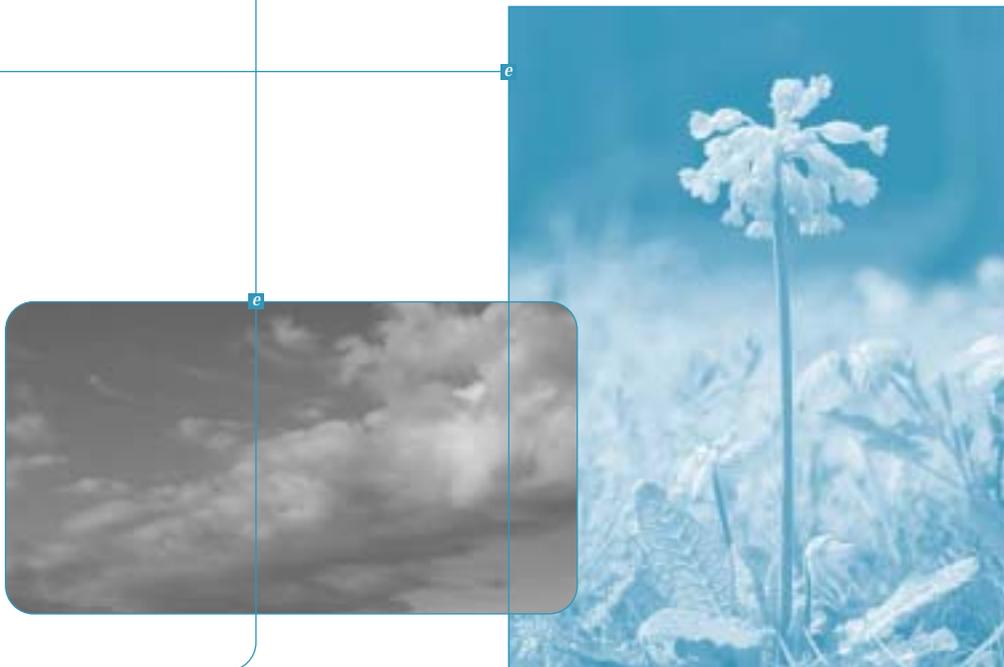
Issues	Aims	Objectives	Action by 2005 Short Term	Action by 2010 Medium Term	Action by 2020 Long Term	Lead (L) & Partner (P) Organisations
Inadequate air quality monitoring.	To monitor air quality in all areas deemed to be "at risk" ⁽¹⁾	Improve monitoring of air quality in areas determined to be "at risk" ⁽¹⁾ of exceeding standards.	100% of "at risk" ⁽¹⁾ areas to be monitored.	Review monitoring of air quality coverage and modify if necessary.	Adequate air quality monitoring achieved.	District Councils (L) Cheshire County Council (L)
Impact of air pollution, including odour, on health in the internal and external environment.	To monitor impact of air pollution on health internally and externally.	To achieve compliance with all DoH health related standards for air pollutants ⁽²⁾ internally and externally.	Gather data to determine if there is any impact of air pollution on health in Cheshire.	Monitor impact of changing indoor and outdoor air pollution and any impact on health.	Compliance with DoE health standards achieved.	Cheshire County Council (L) Cheshire Health Authorities (L)
	To create links with Health Authorities to allow exchange of data.	To link the pollution and health agendas.	Relationship between health authority and air group established.			Cheshire County Council (L) Cheshire Health Authorities (L)

4.2 Air Quality – continued

Issues	Aims	Objectives	Action by 2005 Short Term	Action by 2010 Medium Term	Action by 2020 Long Term	Lead (L) & Partner (P) Organisations
Atmospheric pollution due to emissions from road vehicles, heavy industry, power stations and domestic sources.	To minimise emissions of pollutants.	To maximise the quality of the air in Cheshire.	Establish proportion of pollutants emitted by the different categories (vehicle/ industrial/power station /domestic).	Concentrate on minimising emissions from the highest categories.	Promote use of new technologies to reduce polluting emissions across all categories.	Environment Agency (P) Cheshire Local Authorities (P)
	To minimise adverse impacts of air pollutants on Cheshire's environment.	To establish the impact of air pollutants on Cheshire's environment.	Continue monitoring adverse impact of air pollution on Cheshire's environment through local projects e.g. school acid rain project	Use information to minimise adverse impacts of air pollution through joint working.		Cheshire Local Authorities (L) Environment Agency (P)
Public perception and understanding that air pollution is damaging to health and the environment.	To develop a pollutant inventory for Cheshire.	To achieve better communication between the public and other agencies on air pollution issues.	First pollution inventory developed.	Pollution inventory updated and available to the public.		Cheshire Local Authorities(L) Environment Agency (P)
	To regularly inform the community of trends in air pollutants and where to find information.		Develop a communication plan and regularly update information available through the web.		Change public perception and understanding by the production of regular factual information.	District Councils (L) Cheshire County Council (P) Environment Agency (P)
	To identify biological indicator species for Cheshire (eg lichens, blackspot, etc) ⁽³⁾ .		Continue monitoring biological indicator species to compare with 1997 and 2000 information.	Trends in biological indicators reviewed and publicised.		Cheshire Region Biodiversity Partnership (L) Cheshire Local Authorities (P)

Footnotes

1. Areas that are “at risk” of exceeding levels of pollutants such as Nitrogen Dioxides (NOx), Sulphur Dioxides (SOx), Carbon Monoxide (CO), or Particulates (PM10) as set by national government guidance.
2. The Department of Health (DoH) sets standards for the acceptable levels of indoor and outdoor pollutants that will not cause any harm to human health.
3. Biological indicators are species that are sensitive to changes in their local environmental conditions. For example, the presence of different mosses and lichens are good indicators of local air quality.



Links to Other Plans

Cheshire County Council (2002), Cheshire's Community Strategy
Web: www.thecheshirepartnership.org.uk

Cheshire County Council (1999), Cheshire Local Transport Plan
Web: www.cheshire.gov.uk/ltp/home.htm

DEFRA (2000), UK Air Quality Strategy Working Together for Clean Air
Web: www.defra.gov.uk/environment/airquality/strategy

Environment Agency (2001) Making It Happen
Web: www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Further Information

National Air Quality Archive
Tel: 0800 556677
Web: www.airquality.co.uk

National Society for Clean Air and Environmental Protection
Tel: 0161 911 4492
Web: www.nasca.org.uk

Environment Agency (NW)
Appleton House, Warrington, Cheshire WA3 7WD
Tel: 01925 840000
Web: www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR
Tel: 020 7238 6000
Web: www.defra.gov.uk/environment/airquality/index.htm

The Department of Health
Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS
Tel: 0207 210 4850
Web: www.doh.gov.uk

4.3 Biodiversity

Issues	Aims	Objectives	Action by 2005 Short Term	Action by 2010 Medium Term	Action by 2020 Long Term	Lead (L) & Partner (P) Organisations
The increasing separation between people and wildlife.	To encourage and monitor opportunities for experiencing local wildlife.	Increasing the opportunity for understanding the links between people and wildlife.	Identify areas of population lacking access to local wildlife.	Identify further opportunities to promote and support the links between people and wildlife through local and regional initiatives, e.g. regional parks ⁽¹⁾ .		Cheshire Local Authorities (P) English Nature (P)
			Summarise and promote the range of opportunities for links to local wildlife through the development of published material.	All Cheshire public will have access to information about enjoying their local wildlife.		rECOrd (P) Cheshire Wildlife Trust (P)
			Establish information on the wider social and economic benefits of the connection between people and wildlife.	Demonstrate through implementation the wider social and economic benefits of the connection between people and wildlife.		Cheshire Region Biodiversity Partnership (L) NWDA (P)
			Encourage local involvement in monitoring wildlife by recruiting and training a total of 200 volunteers.			rECOrd (P) Cheshire Wildlife Trust (P)
			Support Chester Zoo Regional Biodiversity Park development ⁽²⁾ .			

4.3 Biodiversity – continued

Issues	Aims	Objectives	Action by 2005 Short Term	Action by 2010 Medium Term	Action by 2020 Long Term	Lead (L) & Partner (P) Organisations
The impact of land use change and climate change on local biodiversity.	Implement local, regional national and international initiatives for individual habitat and species action plans within Cheshire including measures to cope with climate change.	To halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity in Cheshire.	Report progress on the implementation of targets within the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (“Countdown” programme) ⁽³⁾ .	Publish success and achievements of the Countdown programme.	Develop a reporting mechanism to continue providing biodiversity action plan information beyond the lifespan of the Countdown programme.	Cheshire Region Biodiversity Partnership (L)
		To monitor and react to the impact of climate change on biodiversity in Cheshire.	Identify the potential impact of climate change on biodiversity in Cheshire.	Identify projects which demonstrate best practice in increasing biodiversity and promote to others.		Cheshire Region Biodiversity Partnership (L) NW Climate Group (P)
The reduction and fragmentation of wildlife habitats.	Connecting habitats for wildlife.	To restore and maintain ecological processes whilst accommodating appropriate economic and agricultural development.	Establish baseline information on the number, area and condition of wildlife sites.	Monitor changes to and increase the number, area and improvement to the condition of wildlife sites.	Maintain the number, area and connectivity of established wildlife sites.	English Nature (P) Cheshire Wildlife Trust (P) Cheshire Local Authorities (P)
			Develop partnerships to promote habitat creation.			Cheshire Local Authorities (P) DEFRA (P) Forestry Commission (P) Mersey Forest (P)
			Implementation of the first phase of an ecological network through the outcomes from the Life EConet project ⁽⁴⁾ .	Continue implementation of an ecological network.	Realisation of an ecological network in Cheshire in which a sustainable network of habitats and species created in partnership with land owners.	Cheshire Local Authorities (L) Cheshire Region Biodiversity Partnership (P)

4.3 Biodiversity – continued

Issues	Aims	Objectives	Action by 2005 Short Term	Action by 2010 Medium Term	Action by 2020 Long Term	Lead (L) & Partner (P) Organisations
Lack of understanding around the significant changes in species populations in Cheshire.	Recording, monitoring and reporting sustainable populations.	Understanding and maintaining maintainable populations of species.	Identify indicator species for Cheshire.	Identify and demonstrate trends in species in Cheshire against baseline data.	Contribute to national monitoring programmes.	English Nature (L)
			Achieve 2 million species records at rECOrd ⁽⁵⁾			rECOrd (L)

Footnotes

1. A Regional Park is a sub-regional area that is especially designated to focus inward investment into it to improve the image and upgrade the environment of an area by promoting it as a place to live, work and visit. A Weaver Valley Regional Park is currently under consideration in Cheshire.
2. Chester Zoo is considering the development of some of its land adjacent to the current zoo into an additional recreational and educational area.
3. The “Countdown” programme is the name given to Cheshire’s Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) programme. These are plans to conserve and enhance threatened wildlife and habitats. There are currently over 70 species and habitats with a LBAP in Cheshire.
4. The Life EConet project is a four year demonstration project that explores with local people the best ways for creating networks

to connect areas for wildlife and integrating them in land use planning and management.

5. rECOrd is the Local Biological Records Centre serving Cheshire, Halton, Warrington and Wirral.

Links to other plans

Cheshire County Council (2002), Cheshire’s Community Strategy
Web: www.thecheshirepartnership.org.uk

Cheshire Region Biodiversity Partnership (2003), Cheshire Local Biodiversity Action Plans (see Countdown)

DEFRA (2003), England Biodiversity Strategy, Working with the Grain of Nature
Web: www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/ewd/biostrat

Environment Agency (2001) Making It Happen
Web: www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Further Information

Life EConet project Tel: 01244 603205
Web: www.lifeeconet.com

rECOrd Tel: 01244 383749
Web: www.consult-eco.ndirect.co.uk/lrc/index.htm

British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV)
Trafford Watermill, Warrington Road
Mickle Trafford, Chester CH2 4EB
Tel: 01244 300230
Web: www.btcv.org

Chester Zoo
Tel: 01244 380280
Web: www.chesterzoo.org.uk

Cheshire Wildlife Trust
Grebe House, Reaseheath, Nantwich
Cheshire CW5 6DG
Tel: 01270 610180
Web: www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/cheshire

Countdown
See above
Web: www.cheshire-biodiversity.org.uk

4.4 Eco Audit

Issues	Aims	Objectives	Action by 2005 Short Term	Action by 2010 Medium Term	Action by 2020 Long Term	Lead (L) & Partner (P) Organisations
Lack of locally accessible, cost effective, advice which promotes a holistic approach to environmental management.	Sustain 70 Eco Audits ⁽¹⁾ per annum in Cheshire.	To develop and promote the Eco Audit ⁽¹⁾ model to encourage environmental best practice in Cheshire private and public sector organisations.	Record the growing development of environmental initiatives offering advice to organisations.	Assess the feasibility of developing the Eco Audit ⁽¹⁾ model to encompass sustainable development (i.e. social and economic) issues.	Assess the role of the Eco Audit ⁽¹⁾ project within the changing business world and develop the project in response to it as necessary e.g. new legislation.	Eco Audit Task Group (L) Groundwork (P)
	Measure environmental advice available to Cheshire organisations.	To monitor and promote opportunities of environmental advice for business.	Develop communication mechanisms for audited sites to talk to each other e.g. a web-based email group.			Eco Audit Task Group (L)
Lack of public involvement in or awareness of local environmental issues.	Ensure 4 training events per annum are conducted to more than 50 members of the public ⁽²⁾ .	Ensure that a range of volunteers remain involved in the project and gain valuable skills through involvement in Eco Auditing.	Run training courses on particular subjects to develop volunteer skills.	Highlight partnership programmes which increase community participation in environmental issues.		Eco Audit Task Group (L)
			Develop e-newsletter for auditors.			Eco Audit Task Group (L)
Lack of awareness or appreciation of the role of the Eco Audit project ⁽¹⁾ in Cheshire.	To highlight the contribution of Eco Audit ⁽¹⁾ within the Community Strategy process through communication with the Cheshire Partnership.	To communicate the relevance of the activities of the Eco Audit ⁽¹⁾ project to the public and other organisations.	Report progress of the Eco Audit ⁽¹⁾ Topic Groups to the Cheshire Partnership.			Eco Audit Task Group (L)

4.4 Eco Audit – continued

Issues	Aims	Objectives	Action by 2005 Short Term	Action by 2010 Medium Term	Action by 2020 Long Term	Lead (L) & Partner (P) Organisations
			Develop the Eco Audit ⁽¹⁾ website as a public resource for environmental best practice and annual reporting.	Review the breadth of the Eco Audit ⁽¹⁾ model to reflect the issues identified within the Community Strategy.	Eco Audit ⁽¹⁾ project familiar to organisations and value of project understood.	Eco Audit Task Group (L) Cheshire County Council (P)
Maintaining the long-term viability of the Eco Audit project.	Maintain funding sources for the Eco Audit project.	To ensure the continuation of the Eco Audit project.	Ensure long-term funding is obtained beyond 2004 from a variety of sources.	Ensure that project has established a regular and sustainable source of income.		Eco Audit Task Group (L) Cheshire County Council (P)

Footnotes

1. Eco Audit 21 is scheme designed to offer free environmental advice to any organisation in Cheshire. For further information, see adjacent contact details.
2. Training sessions are run to instruct people in the use of the Eco Audit model, after which they may attend audits alongside more experienced individuals.

Links to Other Plans

Cheshire County Council (2002),
Cheshire's Community Strategy
Web: www.thecheshirepartnership.org.uk

Environment Agency (2001) Making It Happen
Web: www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Further Information

Sustainable Development Commission
Web: www.sustainable-development.gov.uk

Envirowise
Tel: 0800 585794
Web: www.envirowise.gov.uk

Eco Audit
Cheshire County Council
Backford Hall
Backford
Chester CH1 6PZ
Tel: 01244 603125
Web: www.cheshire.gov.uk/ecoaudit

ENCAMS
Elizabeth House
The Pier
Wigan WN3 4EX
Tel: 01942 612639
Web: www.encams.org

Groundwork Macclesfield & Vale Royal
Yarwoods Arm
Navigation Road
Northwich
Cheshire CW8 1BE
Tel: 01606 723160
Web: www.groundwork.org.uk/macclesfield

4.5 Energy & Climate

Issues	Aims	Objectives	Action by 2005 Short Term	Action by 2010 Medium Term	Action by 2020 Long Term	Lead (L) & Partner (P) Organisations
Climate change arising from increasing consumption of fossil fuels.	Monitor Cheshire's contribution towards national and regional targets supporting the Kyoto Protocol ⁽¹⁾ .	To reduce the amount of CO ₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions from energy use in Cheshire.	Monitor and report CO ₂ emissions in Cheshire.	Measure changes in CO ₂ database.	Demonstrate Cheshire's contribution to the Kyoto Protocol and related international agreements.	Cheshire County Council (L) NW Climate Impact Group (P)
			Monitor the environmental benefits arising from the Climate Change Levy ⁽²⁾ and Carbon Trust ⁽³⁾ .	Monitor benefits arising from the HECA ⁽⁴⁾ and EST ⁽⁵⁾ programmes in Cheshire.	Increases in CO ₂ emissions halted and reversed.	Carbon Trust (L) Energy Task Group (P)
Low levels of energy generated from renewable sources.	To increase renewable energy produced and consumed in Cheshire.	To increase investment in and the uptake of renewable energy.	Identify ways of developing the potential for renewable energy in Cheshire.	Review progress toward the implementation of renewable energy sources.	20% of energy produced in Cheshire from renewable sources.	Renewables North West (L) Cheshire Renewable Energy Initiative (P)
			Establish ways of measuring levels of renewable energy production and consumption in Cheshire.	Continue to measure levels of renewable energy production and consumption and work to increase levels.	10% of energy users to be purchasing renewable energy.	Renewables North West (L) Cheshire Renewable Energy Initiative (P)

4.5 Energy & Climate – continued

Issues	Aims	Objectives	Action by 2005 Short Term	Action by 2010 Medium Term	Action by 2020 Long Term	Lead (L) & Partner (P) Organisations
			Establish ways of measuring levels of renewable energy production and consumption in Cheshire.	Continue to measure levels of renewable energy production and consumption and work to increase levels.	10% of energy users to be purchasing renewable energy.	Renewables North West (L) Cheshire Renewable Energy Initiative (L) Energy Companies (P)
Rate of energy consumption continues to increase.	Promote the reduced consumption and increased efficiency in domestic and industrial energy use.	To promote increased energy conservation and efficiency in transport, manufacturing, buildings and products in Cheshire.	Review progress toward 2010 SAP targets ⁽⁶⁾ to identify areas for improvement.	Increase the proportion of the existing housing stock with an energy rating above NHER 6 ⁽⁷⁾ (SAP 60) to 50% by 2010.	Review revised SAP ratings for new buildings under new building regulations.	Housing Associations/ Local Authorities (L)
			Highlight and encourage best environmental practice in new and refurbished buildings.	10% of domestic and industrial energy sources provided through installed renewable technology built into design.	Encourage challenging energy targets for developers in Cheshire.	Cheshire Local Authorities (L) Building Research Establishment (P) CHEEAC (P)
			Review the implications of the Warm Homes Bill ⁽⁸⁾ .			Cheshire Local Authorities (L) Energy Task Group (P)
			Establish baseline data for energy consumption figures in industry.	Reduced energy consumption in industry by 10% by 2010.	Reduced energy consumption in industry by 20% by 2020.	Energy Companies (L) Transco/National Grid (P) Carbon Trust (P)

4.5 Energy & Climate – continued

Issues	Aims	Objectives	Action by 2005 Short Term	Action by 2010 Medium Term	Action by 2020 Long Term	Lead (L) & Partner (P) Organisations
Local pollution arising from exploitation of current energy sources.	To reduce the emissions arising from the exploitation of energy in Cheshire.	Monitor the efficiency of energy generation in Cheshire and halt and reverse resulting environmental pollution.	Review local pollution arising from energy sources.	Monitor and report change in local pollution from energy generation.	Energy exploited from a range of sustainable sources so that local pollution halted and reversed.	Employment Agency (L)
			Continue to monitor and report the pH of rain ⁽⁹⁾ .			Cheshire County Council (L)
Lack of awareness of the environmental consequences of current energy use.	Provide up to date and accurate information on the environmental impact of energy use.	To engage with all sectors of the community to encourage a shift towards sustainable energy use.	Monitor progress in the commercial/industrial sector.	Promote the changes in energy consumption through websites and publications.	Energy efficiency of design as standard. Technologies used as basis for improved energy efficiency.	CHEEAC (L) Sustainability North west (P) Energy Action (P)
			All Cheshire public have access to information on the environmental impact of energy use.		Environmental consequences of energy use understood.	CHEEAC (L) Cheshire Local Authorities (P)
			Continue to support energy awareness campaigns and programmes.	Develop new partnerships to raise awareness of energy issues.	Environmental consequences of energy use understood.	CHEEAC (L) Cheshire Local Authorities (P)

Footnotes

1. At Kyoto, Japan, in 1997, countries agreed to a legally binding commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The UK has also set itself an additional objective that goes beyond the Kyoto target, to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide by 20% on 1990 levels by 2010.
2. The Climate Change Levy forms a key part of the Government's overall Climate Change Programme. It is a tax introduced in April 2001 on the use of energy in industry, commerce and the public sector, with offsetting cuts in employers' National Insurance Contributions and additional support for energy efficiency schemes and renewable sources of energy.
3. The Carbon Trust is an independent not for profit company set up by the Government to support UK businesses in reducing carbon emissions through funding, supporting technological innovation and by encouraging more efficient working practices.
4. The Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) 1995 requires each Local Authority in the UK to draw up strategies that will lead to significant improvements in energy efficiency in its housing stock. In Cheshire the District Councils are responsible for this.
5. The Energy Savings Trust (EST) was set up by government after the 1992 Rio Earth Summit to deliver advice and practical help to improve the energy efficiency of households, small firms and the road transport sector.
6. District Councils have to report on the average SAP (Standard Assessment Procedure, a measure of a buildings energy efficiency) for their housing stock against national targets set by government which requires an annual increase.
7. National Home Energy Ratings (NHER) are another way of measuring buildings energy efficiency.
8. There is currently the proposal for a Warm Homes Bill that is designed to alleviate fuel poverty by providing domestic insulation and other energy efficiency measures to households in need.
9. The Acid Rain project was developed in 1999 to work with 4 schools to measure the pH of the rain that fell in their grounds. Other schools are now encouraged to continue the project in their own schools.

Links to other plans

Cheshire County Council, (2002)

Cheshire's Community Strategy

Web: www.thecheshirepartnership.org.uk

Hulme, M., Turnpenny, J., Jenkins, G., (2002),
Climate Change Scenarios for the United Kingdom

Sustainability North West, (1998)

Everybody has an Impact – Climate Change impacts in the North West of England

Web: www.snw.org.uk

DTI (2003), Our energy future – Creating a low carbon economy. Energy White Paper

Web: www.dti.gov.uk/energy/whitepaper

Further Information

Carbon Trust

9th Floor, 3 Clement's Inn

London WC2A 2AZ

Tel: 020 7170 7000

Web: www.thecarbontrust.co.uk

Energy Savings Trust

Tel: 020 7222 0101

Web: www.est.org.uk

Energy Efficiency Advice Centre

Tel: 0800 512012

Web: www.saveenergy.co.uk

UK Climate Change Impact Programme

Tel: 01865 432076

Web: www.ukcip.org.uk

Acid Rain Project

Web: www.salt.cheshire.org.uk/acidtest

4.6 Food and Farming

Issues	Aims	Objectives	Action by 2005 Short Term	Action by 2010 Medium Term	Action by 2020 Long Term	Lead (L) & Partner (P) Organisations
The reduced profitability of farm business.	Encourage farm diversification through economic, educational, planning facilitation and support. To help farmers adapt to changing demands and trends and diversify where appropriate.	Improve business structure and performance and secure employment and to help farmers to adapt and diversify.	NWDA planning facilitation advice service ⁽¹⁾ extended to Cheshire to provide business advice on planning in relation to diversification proposals.	Monitor support mechanisms and programme developed to extended beyond Cheshire's Rural Recovery Plan timescale.	Programme of monitoring support mechanisms will have helped to create more adaptable and sustainable farm practices.	NWDA (L)
			Establish one stop facilitation service through the Rural Recovery Programme ⁽²⁾ .			Cheshire Rural Recovery Programme (L) Cheshire County Council (P)
The reduced economic viability of agricultural supply industries.	Maintain the level and where possible expand rural employment opportunities.	Help to support businesses that already exist in rural areas or which relate to the local community.	Implement "Rural Workspace" initiative ⁽³⁾ .	Continue to monitor and develop new initiatives and partnership opportunities through the Rural Recovery Programme.	Implement or help facilitate where available national and regional support mechanisms for rural businesses.	NWDA (L)
			Support diversification through NWDA initiatives and the England Rural Development Programme ⁽⁴⁾ .	Introduce quality assurance accreditation scheme to agricultural support industry.		NWDA (L)

4.6 Food and Farming – continued

Issues	Aims	Objectives	Action by 2005 Short Term	Action by 2010 Medium Term	Action by 2020 Long Term	Lead (L) & Partner (P) Organisations
The potential for non-food crop production to support Cheshire's agricultural base.	Undertake research and feasibility studies. Establish end user markets (e.g. schools, hospitals and industry). Encourage land users to commit to a medium term investment programme.	Encourage farmers to consider growing crops for biomass fuel ⁽⁵⁾ . Monitor and publicise benefits arising out of non-food crop production in Cheshire.	Identify potential crop production sites and markets for end use of biomass fuel ⁽⁵⁾ .	Investigate opportunities for alternative crop production alongside use of alternative fuels.	Alternative fuel should have promoted a move away from fossil fuels, as well as establishing broader options for crop production.	England Rural Development Programme (L) Cheshire Renewable Energy Initiative (L) Cheshire Rural Recovery Programme (L) Mersey Forest (P)
Poor linkage between local producers, retailers and consumers.	Improve communication between producers, retailers and consumers. Improve training and quality control available for local food producers. Encourage the consumer to choose locally produced over imported food.	Encouragement of local markets for local produce.	Continue to support Farmers Markets ⁽⁶⁾ and other initiatives which aim production to local markets e.g. North West Fine Foods, Local Food Directories and "Made in Cheshire" ⁽⁷⁾ .	Support local food co-operatives. Improve training available to local food producers.	Continue to support innovative schemes and projects so that sustainable local markets are achieved.	Cheshire Local Authorities (L) England Rural Development Programme (P) Cheshire Rural Recovery Programme (P)
			Monitor changes resulting from promotion of local produce.	Develop farm checks and implement national food standards for local produce.	Cheshire Local Authorities (L) England Rural Development Programme (P) Cheshire Rural Recovery Programme (P)	

Footnotes

1. Under the North West Rural Recovery Plan a Planning Facilitation Service provides information and assistance to individuals wishing to diversify their land, in part to better understand the local planning process.
2. Cheshire's Rural Recovery Programme (CRRP) is funded through the North West Development Agency to deliver grants to regenerate rural areas of Cheshire. The aim is to fund projects to revive agriculture and tourism after Foot and Mouth and the restructuring of agriculture. For further information see adjacent contact details.
3. The Rural Workspace programme aims to develop and support local employment opportunities. It will do this by making available grant assistance towards home-working, the provision of new workspace, or enhancing redundant buildings.
4. The England Rural Development Programme (ERDP) underpins government's new direction for agriculture by helping farmers and foresters to respond better to consumer requirements and become more competitive, diverse, flexible and environmentally responsible. £1.6bn will be available to farmers over the next seven years for environmental protection and improvement and rural development.
5. Biomass crops can be any biologically derived material that can be used as a fuel, e.g. willow coppice or miscanthus grass.
6. A Farmers' Market is one in which farmers, growers or producers sell their own produce direct to the public. There are currently 4 sites in Cheshire running farmers markets. For more information, see contacts.
7. North West Fine Foods is part of a national network of regional and county food groups charged with the development of small and medium sized speciality & regional food and drink producers and processors throughout the UK. Cheshire County Council has produced a Cheshire Produce Directory, in addition, several of the District Councils have also produced local food guides. "Made in Cheshire" is a branding aiming to promote produce originating in Cheshire.

Links to other plans

Cheshire County Council (2002),
Cheshire's Community Strategy
Web: www.thecheshirepartnership.org.uk

Cheshire County Council (2002),
Cheshire Rural Recovery Action Plan
Web: www.cheshire.gov.uk/Ruralrecovery/rural_recovery.htm

DEFRA (2002), Strategy for Sustainable Farming and Food – Facing the Future
Web: www.defra.gov.uk/farm/sustain/newstrategy

NWDA (2002), Rural Renaissance,
Web: www.englandsnorthwest.com/ruralrenaissance

Further Information

North West Fine Foods
Agriculture House
1 Moss Lane View
Skelmersdale
Lancashire WN8 9TL
Tel: 01695 554918
Web: www.nw-fine-foods.co.uk

Cheshire's Rural Recovery Programme
Cheshire County Council
County Hall
Chester CH1 2SF
Tel: 01244 602885
Web: www.cheshire.gov.uk/Ruralrecovery/home.htm

■ England Rural Development Programme (NW)
Rural Development Service
Electra Way
Crewe CW1 6GJ
Tel: 01270 754000
Web: www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/erdphome.htm

North West Development Agency
Tel: 01925 400100
Web: www.nwda.co.uk

Cheshire Farmers Markets/
Local Produce Directory
Tel: 01244 602624
Web: www.cheshire.gov.uk/edubus/rural.htm

4.7 Land Use

Issues	Aims	Objectives	Action by 2005 Short Term	Action by 2010 Medium Term	Action by 2020 Long Term	Lead (L) & Partner (P) Organisations
Meeting the needs of Cheshire through appropriate development and prevention of urban sprawl.	Encourage emerging Local Plans to allocate new development sites on previously developed land and ensure that wherever possible new housing developments use existing buildings and increase the densities in line with the revised PPG3 ⁽¹⁾ .	To minimise the use of greenfield land for development purposes and make the best use of brownfield sites for new development ⁽²⁾ .	Cheshire's Structure Plan ⁽³⁾ reviewed and updated.	Monitor Local Plan policies and allocations and review effectiveness.	Structure Plan replaced by new stage in development planning e.g. regional spatial strategies ⁽⁴⁾ .	Cheshire County Council (L)
			12 Parish Plans, relevant to development plans, produced.			Cheshire Community Council (L)
			Respond to white paper on Regional Planning Guidance ⁽⁴⁾ .	Continue to monitor brownfield/greenfield development.		Cheshire Local Authorities (L)
			All local plans in place with policy statement on greenfield development.	Previously un-developable land used for appropriate development throughout Cheshire.	Integrated development achieved whereby demands are balanced with other uses.	District Councils (L)
The continued erosion of green spaces in urban areas.	To ensure that urban green space is retained and enhanced for multiple uses.	To identify, retain and increase "greenspace" in urban areas.	Measure changes in the amount of urban green space.	Promote links between urban green space and other strategies and plans e.g. Biodiversity Action Plans, Tourism Strategies.	Reverse decline in amount and quality of green space.	District Councils (L)

4.7 Land Use – continued

Issues	Aims	Objectives	Action by 2005 Short Term	Action by 2010 Medium Term	Action by 2020 Long Term	Lead (L) & Partner (P) Organisations
			Promote info on green space and encourage public use of local green space.		Appreciation of potential uses of green space in urban areas.	Cheshire Local Authorities (L)
The lack of consideration of the additional benefit within major development proposals.	To ensure that all major developments give consideration to wider benefits of development.	To ensure consideration is given to the potential for integrated use in major development proposals.	Continue with “greening” of major development sites.			Cheshire Local Authorities (L) Development Companies (L) Groundwork (P)
			Raise awareness of the impacts of hard end use development and benefits of soft end use ⁽⁵⁾ .	Promote benefit of integrated development uses in major development proposals.	Major development proposals include integrated land uses.	House Builders Federation Development Companies
			Monitor outcomes of introduction of SEA ⁽⁶⁾ .			Cheshire Local Authorities (L)
Shopping, leisure and entertainment and other key town centre uses still being located out-of-town.	Encourage the production of comprehensive strategies for town centres in order to maintain and improve their vitality and viability. Encourage policies to limit further out of town development.	To ensure that wherever possible these uses are located within existing town centres and limit additional out of town shopping, leisure and entertainment development.	Identify potential town centre sites and maximise their potential for regeneration or remediation.	Monitor effectiveness and success of policies and site selection in town centre regeneration and renewal and reduction in out of town development.	Town centre strategies implemented to create vibrant town centres.	Cheshire Local Authorities (L) North West Development Agency (P)
			Monitor number of out of town developments.			Cheshire Local Authorities (L)

4.7 Land Use – continued

Issues	Aims	Objectives	Action by 2005 Short Term	Action by 2010 Medium Term	Action by 2020 Long Term	Lead (L) & Partner (P) Organisations
Maintain and increase woodland whilst ensuring that it has social, economic and environmental benefits.	Maintain and increase new planting schemes with support from Mersey Forest ⁽⁷⁾ together with other partners cross Cheshire.	To retain and increase the area of woodland and length of hedgerow in Cheshire.	Promote and monitor uptake of agri-environment schemes (e.g. Farm Woodland Grant Scheme, Countryside Stewardship Scheme) ⁽⁸⁾ .	Develop markets for renewable biomass crops ⁽⁹⁾ .		DEFRA (L) FWAG (P) Cheshire Renewable Energy Initiative (P)
			Support development of an ecological network (ECONet) ⁽¹¹⁾ .	Monitor number of buildings using small scale Combined Heat and Power (CHP) ⁽¹⁰⁾ .		Cheshire County Council (L) Cheshire Regional Biodiversity Partnership (P)
			Record any changes to agriculture, planning and landscape in Cheshire as a result of changes to Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) ⁽¹²⁾ .			DEFRA (L) GONW (P)

Footnotes

1. Policy Planning Guidance Note 3 (PPG3) sets out the Government's policies and provides guidance on a range of issues relating to the provision of housing
2. Greenfield sites are areas of land which have not previously been built on, and which might well be put to agricultural or

amenity use. Sites which have been previously built on and which have been, or can be cleared for redevelopment are referred to as brownfield sites.

3. Cheshire's Structure Plan sets the framework for land use in Cheshire. The plan is currently undergoing review, for further information, see over the page.

4. The Government's Green Paper Planning: Delivering a Fundamental Change, published in December 2001 proposes major reforms to the planning systems in England and Wales. The paper proposes that planning decisions be made on a regional basis, through a Regional Spatial Strategy, rather than at a County or District level, which is currently delivered through Structure and Local Plans.

5. "Hard" and "soft" end use refer to the final use of land in development terms. A soft end use might be recreation, forestry or agriculture. A hard end use would be a built development such as retail, housing or industry.
6. The European Union introduced the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive in 2001. This will require an assessment of the effects of local authority development plans on the environment.
7. Mersey Forest is the largest of twelve community woodlands in the UK, covering 110,000 ha of land, across Merseyside and North Cheshire. For further information, see contacts.
8. The Woodland Grant Scheme (WGS) run by the Forestry Commission provides grants to create new woodlands and to encourage the good management and regeneration of existing woodlands. The Countryside Stewardship Scheme is the Government's main scheme that makes payments to farmers and other land managers to improve the countryside, enhance landscapes, their wildlife habitats and historical features, and to improve opportunities for public access.
9. Biomass crops can be any biologically derived material that can be used as a fuel, e.g. willow coppice or miscanthus grass.
10. Combined Heat and Power is an installation where there is simultaneous generation of usable heat and power (usually electricity)

in a single process. CHP typically achieves a 35 per cent reduction in primary energy usage compared with power stations and heat only boilers.

11. The Life EConet project is a four year demonstration project that explores with local people the best way for creating networks to connect areas for wildlife and integrate the concept into land use planning and management.
12. The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) was introduced in 1962 to ensure food security in Europe. However, radical reforms have been necessary to control spiralling expenditure against declining farm incomes and damage to the environment caused by intensive farming methods. The latest set of reforms will come from a review of the 2000 agreement, in 2002-03. For further information, see contacts.

Links to other plans

Cheshire County Council (2002),
Cheshire's Community Strategy
Web: www.thecheshirepartnership.org.uk

Cheshire County Council (1999),
Cheshire Structure Plan 2011
Web: www.cheshire.gov.uk/cheshplan/splan.htm

NWDA (2002), Land Reclamation Strategy,
Web: www.nwda.co.uk

Environment Agency (2001), Making It Happen
Web: www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Further Information

Department for Environment
Farming & Rural Affairs
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR
Tel: 020 7238 6000
Web: www.defra.gov.uk

Office for the Deputy Prime Minister
(Formerly DTLR)
26 Whitehall
London SW1A 2WH
Tel: 020 7944 4400
Web: www.odpm.gov.uk/planning

Forestry Commission
231 Corstorphine Road
Edinburgh
Scotland EH12 7AT
Tel: 0131 334 0303
Web: www.forestry.gov.uk

The Mersey Forest
Risley Moss
Ordnance Avenue
Birchwood
Warrington WA3 6QX
Tel: 01925 816217
Web: www.merseyforest.org.uk

Common Agricultural Policy
Web: europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/index_en.htm

4.8 Local Heritage and Distinctiveness

Issues	Aims	Objectives	Action by 2005 Short Term	Action by 2010 Medium Term	Action by 2020 Long Term	Lead (L) & Partner (P) Organisations
Lack of understanding of the importance of local heritage & distinctiveness and how it relates to community aspirations.	To improve understanding of importance of local heritage and distinctiveness.	To bring the relevant organisations together into a support group to promote understanding of local heritage and it's relationship to community aspirations.	Establish a forum to promote best practice.	Review work of the Forum.	Review work and achievements of the Forum and extend as necessary.	Cheshire County Council (L) North West Development Agency (P)
			Ensure that local heritage and distinctiveness feature in Parish Plans ⁽¹⁾ , Village Design Statements ⁽²⁾ and Parish Landscape Statements ⁽³⁾ and promote 5 of each per annum.	Continue to promote and increase the number of VDS, PP and PLS to 10 per annum ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾ .	Continue to promote and increase the number of Parish Plans, Village Design Statements and Parish Landscape Statements and other schemes to promote local heritage ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾ .	Cheshire Community Council (L) Cheshire Landscape Trust (L) Groundwork (P)
			5 LHI ⁽⁴⁾ projects initiated per annum.	10 LHI projects initiated per annum. Lobby to ensure that the LHI continues to operate beyond 2009.		Cheshire Local Authorities (L) Cheshire Landscape Trust (P) Groundwork (P) Local Community Groups (P)
A need for a sense of place to localities in Cheshire.	Establish local registers, for example, Buildings at Risk ⁽⁵⁾ on a Cheshire-wide basis to protect local identity.	To encourage and support the notion of local Cheshire identity.	Establish local registers in at least 3 districts by developing partnerships with district authorities and others interested parties.	Review work of 3 districts and extend to all 6 Cheshire districts.	Monitor and review process and coverage.	District Councils (L) English Heritage (P)

4.8 Local Heritage and Distinctiveness – continued

Issues	Aims	Objectives	Action by 2005 Short Term	Action by 2010 Medium Term	Action by 2020 Long Term	Lead (L) & Partner (P) Organisations
			Establish links with Local Biodiversity Action Plans Link to VDS and PLS processes.	Ensure Countywide co-ordination.	Develop further mechanisms by which local identity is preserved and enhanced.	Cheshire Region Biodiversity Partnership (L)
Tendency for new developments to produce a sameness.	Establish a checklist to guide development.	To ensure the development is appropriate to the local needs and setting.	Produce a flexible Design Guide for Cheshire through a Forum structure.	Monitor and review the use and effectiveness of the Guide and update as required.	Monitor and review progress and coverage.	Cheshire Local Authorities (L)
Lack of understanding and consequent lack of maintenance of Cheshire's cultural landscape ⁽⁶⁾ .	To maintain and enhance Cheshire's cultural landscape ⁽⁶⁾ .	To understand and celebrate Cheshire's cultural landscape ⁽⁶⁾ .	Develop a Landscape Character Map of Cheshire.	Review and refine the maps. Monitor landscape character change in light of land use change.	The term 'cultural landscape' is meaningful and it's importance understood by everyone.	Cheshire County Council (L)
			Produce 3 linked District maps with increased level of detail.	Produce 6 linked District maps.	Continue monitoring landscape character maps.	District Councils (L)
			Produce 3 linked Parish Landscape Statements/	Produce a further 6 linked Parish Landscape Statements.		Cheshire Landscape Trust (L)
Lack of understanding of the importance of geodiversity ⁽⁷⁾ .	To produce a Cheshire Local Geodiversity Action Plan (LGAP) ⁽⁸⁾ .	To audit, conserve, promote and educate on the importance of Cheshire geodiversity.	Audit of existing geodiversity information completed.	Geodiversity database available to the public.	Geodiversity is meaningful term understood by all Geodiversity recognised as part of planning process.	English Nature (L) Chester College (P)

Footnotes

The Countryside Agency has introduced three programmes for local communities:

1. Parish Plans. This is a vision of how local people wish their town or village to be, and can act as the first step in making further bids for local transport or community services.
2. Village Design Statements set out clear and simple guidance for the design of all development in a village, based on its character. Produced by the village community, it is intended to be able to act as supplementary planning guidance, so that new development is in harmony with its setting and makes a positive contribution to the immediate environment.
3. Parish Landscape Statements are a very local level of detail about what is special and significant about the areas landscape, which fit into District and County Landscape Character Maps and Plans.
4. The Local Heritage Initiative (LHI) helps communities care for the special features that make each locality unique. It provides communities funds, advice and support to do this. At the same time, it is collecting records and stories from the projects to create a national archive of England's local heritage.
5. The Buildings at Risk Register is currently held nationally by English Heritage. It brings together information on all the Grade

I and II listed buildings, and scheduled ancient monuments, known to English Heritage to be 'at risk' through neglect and decay, or vulnerable to becoming so.

6. Cultural landscape is a term that refers to the relationship between humans and their surrounding landscape. Over hundred's of years, mans activities have created a landscape that we now consider natural e.g. sheep grazing on fell land. Parts of the landscape have a significant role in humans history and identity, for example, mountains were once feared but are now revered.
7. Geodiversity is the variety of rocks, fossils, soils processes and landscape features that underpin and support our own lifestyles as well as the variety of wildlife and habitats that make Cheshire unique.
8. A Local Geodiversity Action Plan is the equivalent of a Local Biodiversity Action Plan for geology, soils and related processes in Cheshire.

Links to other plans

Cheshire County Council (2002),
Cheshire's Community Strategy
Web: www.thecheshirepartnership.org.uk

The Countryside Agency (2001),
Towards tomorrow's countryside
Web: www.countryside.gov.uk

English Nature (2003), Cheshire's Local
Geodiversity Action Plan.

Further Information

Cheshire Landscape Trust
Fountains Building
Upper Northgate Street
Chester CH1 4EF
Tel: 01244 376333

The Countryside Agency (NW)
7th floor, Bridgewater House, Whitworth Street
Manchester M1 6LT
Tel: 0161 237 1061
Web: www.countryside.gov.uk/index.htm

English Heritage
Customer Services Department
PO Box 569, Swindon, SN2 2YP
Tel: 0870 333 1181
Web: www.english-heritage.org.uk

Local Heritage Initiative
Tel: 01242 521381
Web: www.lhi.org.uk

UK RIGS
National Stone Centre, Porter Lane
Middleton by Wirksworth
Derbyshire, DE4 4LS
Tel: 01629 824833
Web: www.ukrigs.org.uk

English Nature
Northminster House
Peterborough PE1 1UA
Tel: 01733 455000
Web: www.english-nature.org.uk

4.9 Waste

Issues	Aims	Objectives	Action by 2005 Short Term	Action by 2010 Medium Term	Action by 2020 Long Term	Lead (L) & Partner (P) Organisations
The fragmented approach to waste management of waste in Cheshire.	Hold four topic meetings per annum with appropriate representation from organisations in Cheshire. Progress made toward the formation of a single waste authority ⁽¹⁾ .	To provide an information channel between industry, local authorities, agencies and community organisations in respect of waste management practices in Cheshire.	Advise of potential links between local, regional and national campaigns.	Review progress made towards the formation a single waste authority and effect on approach to waste management. ⁽¹⁾		Waste Task Group (L)
			Summarise the activities of waste related groups in Cheshire to better inform the Community Strategy and Cheshire public.			Waste Task Group (L) Cheshire County Council (P)
Continued growth in household waste and current relatively low levels of recycling and recovery.	Provide an annual review of waste growth, recycling and composting rates from households in Cheshire.	To advise the Cheshire community of sustainable waste management issues and it's importance through links to other issues e.g. air quality, health and employment.	Provide feedback on the development of Cheshire's Joint Household Waste Strategy and its implementation ⁽²⁾ .	Provide feedback on the implementation of the Cheshire's Joint Household Waste Strategy ⁽²⁾ .	Review changes in developing waste management practices in Cheshire and progress toward local and national recycling and recovery targets ⁽³⁾ .	Waste Task Group (L)
			Promote initiatives which increase recycling and recovery rates.	Monitor changes in recycling and recovery rates to reach national and local targets ⁽³⁾ .		Cheshire Local Authorities (L) Waste Watch (P) Environment Agency (P) Groundwork (P) Eco Audit Task Group (P)

4.9 Waste – continued

Issues	Aims	Objectives	Action by 2005 Short Term	Action by 2010 Medium Term	Action by 2020 Long Term	Lead (L) & Partner (P) Organisations
Lack of public/ business awareness of waste issues and individuals responsibility for waste.	To raise awareness of individuals contribution to waste issues through provision of information and maintaining high profile for sustainable waste management in other strategies.	To monitor and raise awareness of waste issues.	Update and develop the Sustainable Cheshire Forum website as a public resource.	Monitor changing public awareness of waste issues.	Public awareness of waste issues and individuals responsibilities achieved.	Waste Task Group (L) Cheshire County Council (P)
			Produce other awareness raising materials and resources.	Maintain high profile for waste issues within Cheshire Community Strategy.		Cheshire Local Authorities (P) Waste Watch (P) Environment Agency (P) Groundwork (P) Eco Audit Task Group (P)
Continued high dependency on landfill for waste disposal in Cheshire.	Highlight innovative schemes which could contribute to a reduction in landfill. addressed and seek solutions.	To identify elements of sustainable waste management not being effectively further.	Identify and promote projects/areas of activity that deserve to be developed the year 2010.	Review progress towards the targets set under the EU Landfill Directive for the year 2020 ⁽⁴⁾ .	Review progress towards the targets set under the EU Landfill Directive for the year 2020	WREN (L) Cheshire Local Authorities (P)
			Monitor the use of Landfill Tax in Cheshire ⁽⁵⁾ .			WREN (L) ENTRUST (P)
			Identify examples of best practice from other sources which could potentially benefit Cheshire.	Continue to monitor and promote best practice in Sustainable Waste Management.		WREN (L) Cheshire Local Authorities (P) Waste Watch (P) Environment Agency (P)

Footnotes

1. Waste collection is currently the responsibility of the District Councils, whilst waste disposal and the operation of the Household Waste Recycling Centres is the responsibility of the County Council. The authorities work closely together at the present time, although in the future a single public body may be formed to take responsibility for both these elements of waste management.
2. The Cheshire Household Waste Management Strategy has been produced by the County and District Councils. This was developed from a technical report that examined current and possible future waste management practices and recommended a “best practicable environmental option” for household waste management in Cheshire.
3. Government targets for recycling and composting have been set for all local authorities. Cheshire as a whole has to achieve 33% recycling and composting by 2005/06. In addition, further Government targets require a percentage of the value of waste to be recovered, which includes recycling and composting. Targets are set at 40% by 2005, 45% by 2010 and 67% by 2015.
4. Under the EU Landfill Directive the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill in the UK must be reduced. By 2010 the amount must be reduced to 75%, by 2013 to 50% and by 2020 to 35% of that produced in 1995.
5. The Landfill Tax Credit Scheme (LTCS) is designed to help mitigate the effects of landfill upon local communities and support moves to more sustainable waste management practices. Part of the tax charged to waste disposal authorities per tonne is then made available to the community through registered environmental bodies that distribute the money according to criteria set by ENTRUST. In Cheshire, the main environmental body is WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental). The Government has recently announced the reform of the LTCS for sustainable waste projects. For further information, see contacts.



Links to other plans

Cheshire County Council (2002),
Cheshire's Community Strategy
Web: www.thecheshirepartnership.org.uk

Cheshire Joint Officer Waste Group (2002),
Cheshire Household Waste Management
Strategy
Web: www.cheshire.gov.uk/waste/home

DEFRA (2000). UK Waste Strategy,
Web: www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste

Environment Agency (2001) Making It Happen
Web: www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Further Information

ENTRUST
(Central Office)
Acre House
2 Town Square, Sale
Cheshire M33 7WZ
Tel: 0161 973 1177
Web: www.entrust.org.uk

Waste Recycling Environmental (WREN)
WREN House, Manor Farm
Bridgham, Norwich
Norfolk NR16 2RX
Tel: 01953 717165
Web: www.wren.org.uk

4.10 Water

Issues	Aims	Objectives	Action by 2005 Short Term	Action by 2010 Medium Term	Action by 2020 Long Term	Lead (L) & Partner (P) Organisations
The need to ensure sustainable water resource 10% management, taking into account the impact of climate change on demand and supply.	By 2010, reduce leakage in Cheshire by compared with levels in 2000. Maintain standards thereafter. Review targets achieved in relation to those set by OFWAT ⁽¹⁾ .	To promote increased efficiency in the use of water.	Water companies continued investment in mains replacement.	Review the achievement of leakage targets and establish what targets are set beyond 2010.	Action against new leakage targets as necessary.	Water Companies (L)
		To encourage consumption without environmental damage.	Water companies to continue public education and information campaign.			Water Companies (L) Environment Agency (L)
	Water companies to review policy on metering.		Liase with House Builders' Federation on metering.		Water Companies (L)	
	Liase with retailers to promote water saving domestic appliances.		Liase with retailing manufacturers regarding grey water appliances ⁽²⁾ .		Water Companies (L)	
	By 2010, reduce the rate of non-domestic consumption compared with levels in 2000, then maintain those levels.		Liase with DEFRA regarding water storage.			DEFRA (L) Environment Agency (L)
			Waste minimisation with agricultural and industrial organisations.			FWAG (L) Groundwork (P) Eco Audit (P)

4.10 Water – continued

Issues	Aims	Objectives	Action by 2005 Short Term	Action by 2010 Medium Term	Action by 2020 Long Term	Lead (L) & Partner (P) Organisations
	Prepare Emergency Plans ⁽³⁾ for all areas of Cheshire subject to potential flooding.	To support relevant organisations to take adequate measures to prevent flood damage and disruption.	Environment Agency (EA) to report progress against "Making It Happen" ⁽⁴⁾ programme and revise strategy.			Environment Agency (L)
			Local Authorities to work with the EA to ensure emergency plans are regularly tested and effective.	Improve planning procedures and Environment Agency involvement.		Cheshire County Council (L) Environment Agency (P)
			Encourage implementation of Sustainable Drainage Schemes (SUDS) ⁽⁵⁾ .	Engineering Service to review design and maintenance requirements.		Cheshire Local Authorities (L) Environment Agency (P) United Utilities (P)
			Borough Councils to draw up contingency flood plans.	Support Mersey Basin Campaigns ⁽⁶⁾ work with farmers.		District Councils (L)
The quality of drinking water.	By 2010, water companies to reduce the incidence of lead failure by 50% compared with levels in 2000 and achieve zero incidence of other pollutants such as nitrates, faecal coliforms and cryptosporidium by 2010 ⁽⁷⁾ .	To ensure relevant organisations achieve and maintain drinking water standards suitable for human consumption.	Establish partnerships with Cheshire Health Authorities to promote awareness and take up of grants for pipe replacement.	Identify nitrate vulnerable zones ⁽⁸⁾ in Cheshire and assess extent of ammonia related issues.		District Councils (L) Cheshire Health Authorities (P)

4.10 Water – continued

Issues	Aims	Objectives	Action by 2005 Short Term	Action by 2010 Medium Term	Action by 2020 Long Term	Lead (L) & Partner (P) Organisations
			Promote monitoring of sewers/storm overflows.			Environment Agency (L) Water Companies (L) Mersey Basin Campaign (P)
The quality and use of watercourses and water bodies.	Maintain existing high standards (those classified as A and B) for watercourses and achieve at least class C for the remainder by 2010 ⁽⁹⁾ .	To achieve river and water body standards and management which allow environmental enhancement, promote improved biodiversity and make provision for human enjoyment.	Review targets and actions against the requirements of the European Water Framework Directive ⁽¹⁰⁾ .	Promote ENSUS ⁽¹¹⁾ .	Identify, record and promote the benefits of the implementation of AMP4 and the Water Quality Framework Directive ⁽¹²⁾ .	Environment Agency (L) Mersey Basin Campaign (P)
			Water companies to continue programme of investment in improving water quality.	Promote adoption of farm waste management plans.		Water Companies (L) Cheshire County Council(P)
			Encourage organisations to address problems of the Manchester Ship Canal ⁽¹³⁾ .	Maintain lower levels of pollution load.		Mersey Basin Campaign (L) Environment Agency (P)

4.10 Water – continued

Issues	Aims	Objectives	Action by 2005 Short Term	Action by 2010 Medium Term	Action by 2020 Long Term	Lead (L) & Partner (P) Organisations
			Support local action to clean up watercourses.	Review progress toward targets set as a result of the Water Framework Directive ⁽¹⁰⁾ requirements.		River Valley Initiatives (L) ENCAMS (P)
	Reduce pollution incidents in watercourses/water bodies.		Support Environment Agency initiatives with industry and agriculture.			Environment Agency (L)
			Work with organisations to take action on contaminated land threats to water quality, identified under the Dunland Survey ⁽¹⁴⁾ .	Promote continued action on land identified under the Dunland Survey ⁽¹⁴⁾ support NWDA initiatives, Newlands ⁽¹⁵⁾ project and Mersey Basin Campaign ⁽⁶⁾ waterside regeneration.		Cheshire County Council (L) NWDA (P)
	Increase salmon population in Cheshire river catchments.		Establish links between the Environment Agency and the Eco Net project ⁽¹⁶⁾ .			Mersey Basin Campaign (L) Environment Agency (L)
	Improve quality of groundwater.		Monitor groundwater quality.			Environment Agency (L)
	Promote the safe recreational use of ponds, canals and other appropriate water areas.	To promote awareness of water safety.	Support the "Ponds for People" project ⁽¹⁷⁾ .			Environment Agency (P) British Waterways(P)
			Develop a strategy for safe water usage.			National Safety Association (L)

Footnotes

1. OFWAT (the Office of Water Services) are the economic regulator of the water industry in England and Wales. This means they are responsible for making sure that the water and sewerage companies in England and Wales give you a good-quality water, efficient service at a fair price.
2. Grey water appliances reuse rainwater for their operation. A simple form of grey water use is to collect rainwater to wash the car, water plants or to top up a toilet cistern.
3. District Councils must produce Emergency Plans for areas subject to flooding to identify courses of action in case of a flooding incident.
4. The Environment Agency's "Making It Happen" is their 5 year action plan detailing what the organisation will contribute to the areas of nature conservation, water quality, reducing flood risk, working in partnership, reducing consumption of resources etc. For further information, see over the page.
5. Every developer must make provision for surface water runoff to be drained from the site. Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) rely on gravity to drain the surface water runoff from hard standing areas into the drainage system. The systems can reduce the risk of flooding and reduce pollutant load in the surface water runoff.
6. The Mersey Basin Campaign is a government sponsored 25 year campaign to improve, promote and regenerate the rivers, streams, canals and coasts of Northwest England. It was launched in 1985. It is a partnership that brings together central government, government agencies, local authorities, businesses, voluntary and community interests, education and research within a common mission. For further information, see over the page.
7. Lead can be leached from lead pipes into drinking water, although this only applies to pipework pre-dating the 1970's. The new regulations set a standard of 25 micrograms of lead per litre with a final standard of 10 micrograms per litre by 2013.

Cryptosporidium is a parasite that causes cryptosporidiosis. Cryptosporidiosis is relatively uncommon. Pollution of watercourses with the parasite can occur where there is poor control over the disposal of slurries from infected farm animals, or when sewage effluents are discharged to rivers used for drinking water. Animal sources are the most significant in the North West. Water companies are required by Government to reduce any risk of infection from water supplies.

Nitrates from plant decay or nitrate-based fertilisers can sometimes find their way into natural water supplies. The drinking water regulations call for a maximum of 50 milligrams per litre of nitrate in drinking water supplies and higher levels than this are now rare.
8. Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) have been designated in England and Wales since December 1998 to reduce the risk of agricultural nitrate pollution. Farming within an NVZ must follow rules that restrict the rate and timing of fertiliser and manure applications.
9. River stretches are classified according to its ability to support life within it. Annual targets are set for stretches of river water quality by the Environment Agency who regularly measure river water quality. Category A and B are of good quality, C and D fair quality and E and F poor quality.
10. The Water Framework Directive (WFD) is the most substantial piece of EC water legislation to date. The Directive came into force on 22 December 2000 and the UK has three years from that date to transpose it into national law. Its objective is to establish a framework to protect inland surface waters, transitional water and groundwater, including the protection of aquatic ecosystems, the promotion of sustainable water use, the reduction of discharges and contributes to reducing the effects of floods and droughts. For further information, see over the page.

11. ENSUS is a project to promote information on reducing the environmental impact of marine vehicles.
12. The Asset Management Plan round four (AMP 4) is the process by which the Office of Water Services (Ofwat), determines the programme of funding between 2005-2010 and the water price rises that will be allowed to fund this. Potential projects are identified by the Environment Agency and statutory conservation agencies in the National Environment Programme.
13. The Manchester Ship Canal (MSC) is a 56 kilometre long port from Eastham on Merseyside to Salford in Greater Manchester. In the past, the Salford Quays (branching off the MSC) were contaminated and fish could not survive. Last year, the Environment Agency funded a £4 million clean up scheme of the Quays in time for the Commonwealth Games. However, there still remain long term water quality issues along other stretches of the canal.
14. A survey of Cheshire's Derelict, Underused and Neglected Land (DUNLAND) has been conducted. The Forestry Commission and Northwest Development Agency are embarking on a programme of environmental regeneration in the North West and this land will be reclaimed to improve it's environmental quality.

15. The New Environments via Woodland (NEWland) programme is being led by the Forestry Commission in conjunction with the North West Development Agency to reclaim land for use as woodland. For further information, see contacts.
16. The Life EConet project is a four year demonstration project that explores with local people the best way for creating networks to connect areas for wildlife and integrate the concept into land use planning and management.
17. Ponds for People is a pond creation and restoration project that aims to introduce conservation to people who have never had the opportunity to restore and manage their local environment before. At least 1000 ponds will be created or restored over five years in a rolling programme that moves from region to region within the UK.

Links to other plans

- Cheshire County Council (2002),
Cheshire's Community Strategy
Web: www.thecheshirepartnership.org.uk
- DEFRA (2002). Directing the Flow – priorities for future water policy
Web: www.defra.gov.uk/environment/water
- Metropolitan Borough of Wirral (1999),
Mersey Strategy
Web: www.hope.ac.uk/ebs/merseystrategy

Metropolitan Borough of Wirral (1992),
Dee Estuary Strategy
Web: www.deeestuary.org.uk

Environment Agency (2001) Making It Happen
Web: www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Further information

Environment Agency (NW)
Appleton House, Warrington
Cheshire WA3 7WD
Tel: 01925 840000
Web: www.environment-agency.gov.uk

North West Development Agency
Tel: 01925 400100
Web: www.nwda.co.uk

Office of Water Services
Centre City Tower, 7 Hill Street
Birmingham B5 4UA
Tel: 0121 625 1300
Web: www.ofwat.gov.uk

Mersey Basin Campaign
28th Floor, Sunley Tower
Picadilly Plaza, Manchester M1 4BT
Tel: 0161 242 8200
Web: www.merseybasin.org.uk

Ponds for People
Hugh Roberts
Rivers House, 21 Park Square South
Leeds LS1 2QG
Tel: 0113 231 2356
Web: www.brookes.ac.uk/other/pondaction/

5. Monitoring and Review

5.1 Introduction

This chapter outlines how the Action Plans in this document will be monitored and reviewed and how the role of the different groups and partnerships have a role in progressing the actions within these plans. The timescale of this document is long term, but the plans will be regularly reviewed to keep them up to date.

5.2 The Task Groups

The Task Groups will continue to monitor the progress made across Cheshire toward achieving the actions in their targets. The actions in the plans will be reviewed continuously by the groups, as policy, legislation or activity require. The plans will be wholeheartedly reviewed in 2005 when the short term timescale is reached.

Indicators for monitoring changes in Cheshire's environment have been agreed on by each of the Task Groups. The progress made against each indicator is measured by the Task Groups and reported to the SCF and published annually in Cheshire's Check Up.



5.3 The Sustainable Cheshire Forum

In addition to the continuous monitoring of the plans by the Task Groups, the wider membership of the Sustainable Cheshire Forum will continue to meet annually and review progress made toward the Action Plans, and make changes as required to reflect local circumstance or changes to partner documents such as the Community Strategy.

The indicators chosen by the Task Groups are agreed by the wider Forum, who also have an input on keeping indicators relevant and up to date. The Sustainable Cheshire Forum also has a role to play in helping to define those which are used to measure the environmental elements of the Community Strategy and informing the Cheshire Partnership of progress against them.

5.4 The Cheshire Partnership

The role of the Sustainable Cheshire Forum within the Community Strategy process has been described in the introduction. The actions contained within the Task Groups action plans will influence and be influenced by changes to the Community Strategy, which will be reviewed periodically. Progress against the action plans will be reported annually by the SCF to the Cheshire Partnership to help inform them of progress within the Community Strategy and, in part, progress against the Community Strategy indicators.



5.5 Other Partnerships

In addition to the SCF and Cheshire Partnership, a number of other partnerships exist in Cheshire to focus on particular issues. Many of these have a relevance to Cheshire's environment. The actions arising out of other relevant partnerships or projects which have an effect on progressing actions are referred to in the Action Plans in this document.

Examples of other partnerships, plans and projects of relevance include the Cheshire Region Biodiversity Partnership, Cheshire's Joint Officer Waste Group, Cheshire's Renewable Energy Initiative and Cheshire's Rural Recovery Programme. Linkages with these groups is maintained through membership of the Task Groups, or if this is not possible, through presentations and information sharing on a regular basis.

Information from these other bodies will assist the Task groups in the monitoring of progress against the action plans, in turn which will be reported to the SCF and Cheshire Partnership.



Further Information

Sustainable Cheshire Forum

Environmental Co-ordinator
Cheshire County Council
Backford Hall
Backford
Chester CH1 6PZ
Tel: 01244 603125
Web: www.sustainablecheshire.org.uk

The Cheshire Partnership

Strategic Partnership Unit
Policy & Performance
Cheshire County Council
County Hall
Castle Drive
Chester CH1 1SF
Tel: 01244 603334
Web: www.thecheshirepartnership.org.uk

Cheshire County Council

Air Quality
Geoff Corker
Tel: 01244 603149

Biodiversity
Martin Schofield
Tel: 01244 603119

Eco Audit
Emma Robson
Tel: 01244 603125

Energy & Climate
Conal Kearney
Tel: 01244 602907

Food & Farming
Fil Prevc
Tel: 01244 603344

Land Use
Anne Mosquera
Tel: 01244 603134

Local Heritage & Distinctiveness
Steven Jardine
Tel: 01244 603161

Waste
Harold Collin
Tel: 01244 603052

Water
Ian Whittaker
Tel: 01244 603166

District Councils

Chester City Council
The Forum, Chester CH1 2HS
Tel: 01244 324324
Web: www.chestercc.gov.uk

Congleton Borough Council
Westfields, Middlewich Road
Sandbach, Cheshire CW11 1HZ
Tel: 01270 763231
Web: www.congleton.gov.uk

Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council
Municipal Buildings
Earle Street
Crewe, Cheshire CW1 2BJ
Tel: 01270 537777
Web: www.crewe-nantwich.gov.uk

Ellesmere Port & Neston Borough Council
4 Civic Way
Ellesmere Port, Cheshire CH65 0BE
Tel: 0151 356 6789
Web: www.ellesmereport-neston.gov.uk

Macclesfield Borough Council
Town Hall
Macclesfield, Cheshire SK10 1DP
Tel: 01625 500500
Web: www.macclesfield.gov.uk

Vale Royal Borough Council
The Drummer
Winsford, Cheshire CW7 1AH
Tel: 01606 862862
Web: www.valeroyal.gov.uk

Regional Organisations

Government Office North West
Sunley Tower, Piccadilly Plaza
Manchester M1 4BE
Tel: 0161 952 4000
Web: www.go-nw.gov.uk

Sustainability North West
Giants Basin, Castlefield
Manchester M3 4NB
Tel: 0161 8348834
Web: www.snw.org.uk

Mersey Basin Campaign
28th Floor, Sunley Tower
Picadilly Plaza
Manchester M1 4BT
Tel: 0161 242 8200
Web: www.merseybasin.org.uk

North West Regional Assembly
North West Assembly House
Coops Building, Dorning Street
Wigan WN1 1HJ
Tel: 01942 737916
Web: www.nwra.gov.uk

North West Development Agency
Tel: 01925 400100
Web: www.nwda.co.uk

The Mersey Forest
Risley Moss, Ordnance Avenue
Birchwood
Warrington WA3 6QX
Tel: 01925 816217
Web: www.merseyforest.org.uk

National Organisations

Environment Agency (NW)
Appleton House, Warrington
Cheshire WA3 7WD
Tel: 01925 840000
Web: www.environment-agency.gov.uk

English Nature
Northminster House
Peterborough PE1 1UA
Tel: 01733 455000
Web: www.english-nature.org.uk

English Heritage
Customer Services Department
PO Box 569
Swindon SN2 2YP
Tel: 0870 333 1181
Web: www.english-heritage.org.uk

The Countryside Agency (NW)
7th floor, Bridgewater House
Whitworth Street
Manchester M1 6LT
Tel: 0161 237 1061
Web: www.countryside.gov.uk

Carbon Trust
9th Floor, 3 Clement's Inn
London WC2A 2AZ
Tel: 020 7170 7000
Web: www.thecarbontrust.co.uk

Energy Savings Trust
Tel: 020 7222 0101
Web: www.est.org.uk

ENCAMS
Elizabeth House, The Pier
Wigan WN3 4EX
Tel: 01942 612639
Web: www.encams.org

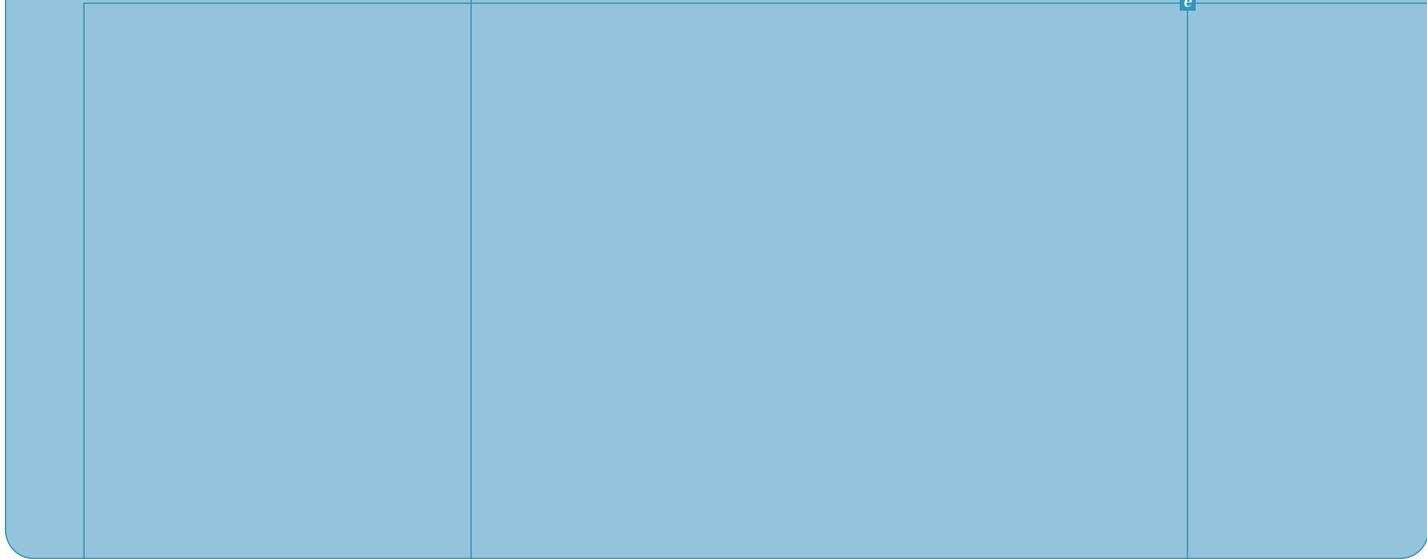
Envirowise
Tel: 0800 585794
Web: www.envirowise.gov.uk

Central Government Departments

Department for Environment,
Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR
Tel: 020 7238 6000
Web: www.defra.gov.uk

Sustainable Development Commission
Web: www.sustainable-development.gov.uk
Office for the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM)
26 Whitehall
London SW1A 2WH
Tel: 020 7944 4400
Web: www.odpm.gov.uk

The Department of Health (DoH)
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London SW1A 2NS
Tel: 0207 210 4850
Web: www.doh.gov.uk



e

