

The Third Annual Assessment of Government Sustainable Development Performance

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**Sustainable Development Commission
Scotland**

Who We Are

- The independent advisory body on sustainable development
- Working with a Commission of 19 and a secretariat of 50+
- Staff team of 8 based in Edinburgh supporting two Scottish Commissioners and managing work for Scottish Government
- Report directly to the First Minister
- Provide scrutiny, advisory and capacity building role

Summary of Second Assessment

- Purpose compatible with SD in principle
- SDC supportive of National Performance Framework and new Governance structures but some changes suggested
- Five areas where Government should focus:
Sustainable Economic Growth; effective Climate Change legislation and machinery; fuel poverty; sustainable infrastructure; procurement
- Indicator evidence - policy areas of greatest challenge – Transport and Health
- Also appraised sustainability of estate management

Governance

- National Performance Framework now at the heart of what Government does – outcomes focussed
- Purpose targets do address economic, social and environmental concerns but potential tensions between GDP and others – how will this be reconciled?
- Gaps in the 45 indicators/targets – participation, fuel poverty, built environment, employment, water quality
- Not all indicators SMART/illustrative of main SD outcome
- SD indicators still updated but unclear what their role in Government is

Plan for the Third Assessment

- Second Assessment a 'benchmark'
- Third Assessment a smaller report
- Concentrate on progress against 5 key challenges
- Review of significant new strategy and policy
- Also look at wider public sector
- Intended to engage with relevant parts of Government throughout process of report preparation
- Leads towards Fourth Assessment (late 2010) which will review progress across this term of Government