

The UK Government's Business Taskforce on Sustainable Consumption and Production

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“Strategic and practical” taskforce to tackle challenge of sustainable consumption and production

A new business-led taskforce to tackle the challenge of sustainable consumption and production is announced today.

The UK Business Taskforce on Sustainable Consumption and Production has been convened by Defra and DTi following the commitment made by the UK Government in its Sustainable Development Strategy – ‘Securing the Future.’

The Taskforce will:

- Provide policy guidance to Government, so that Government in turn can shape the context in which there is a move to more sustainable consumption and production;
- Foster debate and learning on the most effective ways that business can move in the direction of more sustainable consumption and production;
- Identify tools and skills to enable business to implement sustainable consumption and production initiatives.

The Chairman of the Taskforce Steering Group, Neil Carson, Chief Executive of Johnson Matthey Plc, said: “Sustainable Consumption and Production is a significant challenge, but also a huge opportunity for UK business and consumers alike. We need to make changes to our economy that will enable us to continue to enjoy growth and to compete even more effectively globally, whilst making more efficient use of the resources that underlie our prosperity and success. The Taskforce will address these challenges both strategically, and in a way that translates into practical action for business.”

The Taskforce has been convened on behalf of Defra and DTi by four business networks - Business in the Community, the Business Council for Sustainable Development-United Kingdom, the University of Cambridge Programme for Industry and its Business & the Environment Programme – and with guidance from the Small Business Consortium and the Sustainable Development Commission. The members of the Steering Group are:

Neil Carson, Chief Executive of Johnson Matthey Plc – Chairman;
Stewart Davies, Business Commissioner, Sustainable Development Commission;
Tristan Hillgarth, Group Business Development Director, Jupiter International Group Plc;
Peter Jones, Director - Development & External Relations, Biffa Waste Services Ltd;
Trudy Norris-Grey, Managing Director UK and Ireland, Sun Microsystems;
Gordon Shields, Chairman, Shields Environmental Plc and Chairman, Fonebak Plc.

The Taskforce will have a dedicated Secretariat and will work predominantly through and with the business networks on which it is based.

Speaking on behalf of the four partner networks Mike Peirce, Deputy Director of the University of Cambridge Programme for Industry said: “Because this Taskforce has been created around these existing business networks, it is uniquely equipped to deliver timely, relevant and practical messages to Government about the steps to be taken to achieve more sustainable consumption and production. And with this network approach, a very diverse and wide range of businesses will have the opportunity to play a part in shaping this important agenda.”

Taskforce Network Partners



THE PRINCE OF WALES'S

BUSINESS & THE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
DEVELOPED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE PROGRAMME FOR INDUSTRY

SCP Taskforce Secretariat

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Notes to Editors

1. The Taskforce was proposed by Government in its Sustainable Development strategy and is a joint initiative of Defra and the DTi.
2. Neil Carson is Chief Executive, Johnson Matthey. He joined Johnson Matthey in 1980 and was appointed Division Director Catalytic Systems in 1997 after having held senior management positions in the Precious Metals Division as well as Catalytic Systems in both the UK and the US. Neil was appointed to the board as Managing Director, Catalysts & Chemicals in August 1999 and additionally assumed board level responsibility for Precious Metals Division in August 2002. He was then appointed Chief Executive in July 2004. Previously he has been a non-executive director of Avon Rubber plc.
3. The Taskforce will comprise the Steering Group, a full-time Secretariat, based at the University of Cambridge Programme for Industry, an Advisory Group, including representatives of the partner networks, Defra and DTi; it is expected to create working groups and to work with and through the networks on which it is based.
4. The Taskforce has begun work and will have a two-year lifespan. The first formal meeting of the Steering Group will take place in March following which more details about its work programme will be announced.
5. **Business in the Community (BITC)** is a unique movement in the UK of over 750 member companies. Its purpose is to inspire, engage, support and challenge business in continually improving its impact in the community, environment, marketplace and workplace. **The Business Council for Sustainable Development-United Kingdom (BCSD-UK)** is an organisation which brings together business and professional leaders from a diverse group of companies and organisations to learn from the practical application of sustainable development values. **The University of Cambridge Programme for Industry (CPI)** provides leadership and development programmes in the field of sustainability for senior individuals and major organisations around the world; its **Business & the Environment Programme (BEP)** is widely recognised as the pre-eminent international forum for senior leaders to explore and debate the business case for sustainable development, and to exchange ideas and best practice on sustainability.
6. The Government has made sustainable consumption and production one of its four priorities for sustainable development. There is recognition in the UK and worldwide that current patterns of consumption and production are not sustainable and if they were replicated in the rest of the world, there would not be sufficient resources to cope.

Contacts

Further details about the Taskforce are available at:
<http://www.cpi.cam.ac.uk/scptaskforce>
and about the UK Government's strategy at:
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/sustainable/index.htm>

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