



SUSTAINABLE
CONSTRUCTION STRATEGY
2006 SUMMARY

DRAFT JANUARY 2006

Consultation for a Strategy for Sustainable Construction

The future of our planet depends on our willingness now to ensure that the actions we take and developments we pursue, as a nation and internationally, improve the quality of life today without compromising that of future generations.

The UK Government is committed to the principles of sustainable development. As one of the UK's leading industries, responsible for 8% of GDP and employing 1.5 million people, construction can lead the way in considering sustainable development in all of its activities.

In 2000, the Government published its first Strategy for Sustainable Construction Building A Better Quality of Life which presented a way forward for Government and industry. This current document considers what has been achieved over the past five years and summarises progress made on specific initiatives identified in the original Strategy. It aims to provide an effective framework to guide future government policies where they are relevant to construction and outlines where the Government wishes to see the industry going in its future development. It also indicates where businesses believe their efforts should be concentrated and aims to encourage industry to respond positively to some of the big questions it faces.

This document will form the basis of a revised Strategy for Sustainable Construction and is intended as part of the consultation process. We welcome input from all stakeholders, and will consider all feedback in finalising the Strategy.

These proposals for the Strategy are based upon the principles of sustainable development which the Government as a whole is committed to support. These are outlined in the UK Strategy for Sustainable Development published in March 2005, (www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/publications/uk-strategy/uk-strategy-2005.htm), which sets the agenda to deliver a better quality of life using long-term solutions that will benefit everyone.

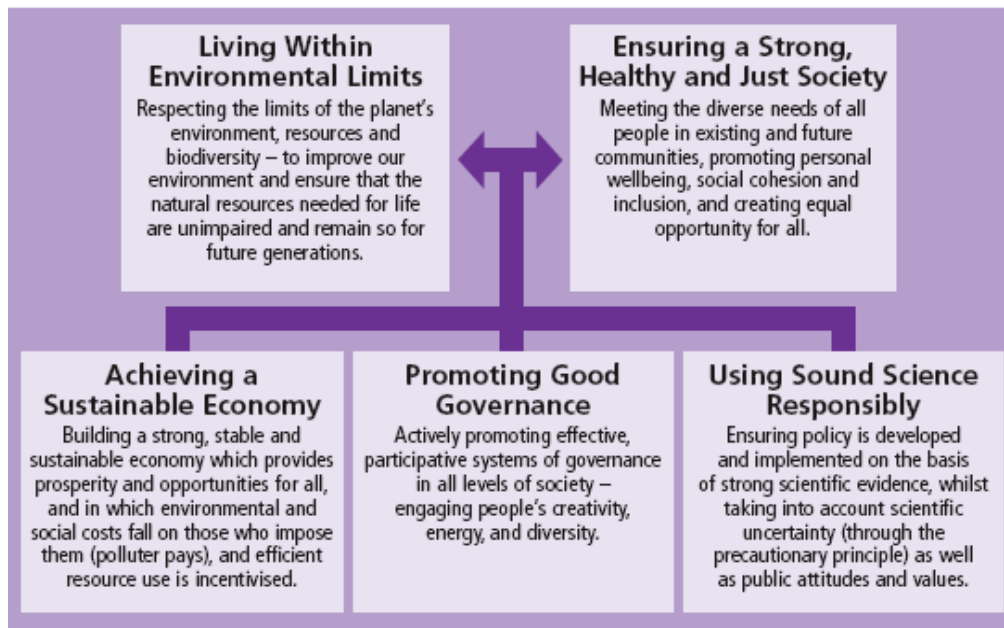


Figure 1 The five guiding principles of sustainable development

The strategy identifies four shared priorities across the UK that have strong resonance within the sustainable construction agenda. They are: Sustainable Consumption and Production; Climate Change and Energy; Natural Resource Protection and Environmental Enhancement; and Sustainable Communities. It is these priorities that have shaped the development of this proposed Strategy for Sustainable Construction.

Progress since 2000

There has been much progress since the original Strategy Building A Better Quality of Life, including:

- UK Climate Change Programme;
- Aggregates Levy and Landfill Tax;
- Formation of Sector Skills Councils: Construction Skills, Asset Skills and Summit Skills;
- Health and Safety: the incidence rates for fatal major and over-three-day injuries for 2003/04 were the lowest since current records began;
- Launch of Respect for People Code of Good Working Health and Safety Practices – 350 organisations have signed up so far;
- Formation of Constructing Excellence;
- Energy White Paper 2003;
- Energy Efficiency Action Plan 2004;
- Revision to Part L of the Building Regulations;
- Code for Sustainable Homes;
- Site Waste Management Plans 2004;
- Planning Policy developments;
- The Sustainable and Secure Buildings Act;
- Design for Manufacture.

Fuller details of these successes and other initiatives are in the main body of the review.

The Future

The Sustainability Forum has developed a vision for the future. This vision highlights key issues across the spectrum of sustainability, and challenges Government and industry with specific objectives. These are listed below, together with relevant government targets. The Government continues to work with industry to obviate the need for further regulation by application, where appropriate, of voluntary mechanisms.

Table: Targets and Visions for Sustainable Construction to 2015 and Beyond

Issue	Industry's vision	Metric	Government targets	Industry's vision of interim progress date	Final achievement date	Primary responsibility	Mechanism	Second-ary responsibility
Climate change/energy	Zero CO ₂ emissions (in m ² /yr)	CO ₂ emissions /m ² /yr, predicted and measured	Publicly funded houses to be CSH level 3 as of April 06 CO ₂ emissions 20% below 1990 levels by 2010. 1990 level was 165mt so target is 132mt.	20% of new build by 2010; existing by 2015	100% of new build by 2020: existing by 2030	ODPM (publicly-funded housing); DEFRA (overall climate change); planners; designers	Building regulations; planning; taxation; incentives; enforcement; CSR; awareness	Developers; clients; designers; contractors
Waste	Zero waste	Tonnes to landfill. UKSD framework indicator (all industries) 1998/99 100,170mt to landfill. 2002/03 96,302mt to landfill.	Publicly funded houses to be CSH level 3 as of April 06. Total waste arisings for 2001 were 93. 91mt of which 40mt is currently recycled; the target being greater recycling up to 100% in a viable economic climate.	2006; annual review	2020	Government; developers; clients; manufacturers	Legislation; regulations; enforcement; demolition protocol; taxes; incentives; CSR; awareness	Local authorities; designers; contractors
Materials	Use of sustainable materials/reduced materials consumption. Use of recovered materials.	'A' rated materials used/% reduction/LCA declaration for products.	Publicly funded houses to be CSH level 3 as of April 06	50% reduction by 2015; annual review Currently 13mt of construction materials annually delivered to	90% by 2025	ODPM; manufacturers; developers; contractors	Regulation; codes; green guide; supply chain monitoring	Local authorities; planners; companies; specifiers

				site remain unused				
Costs	Change to whole-life costing of (public) assets	% deployment (new build selected on basis of WLC); Construction Inflation Index	Treasury already defines value for money as the optimum combination of whole-life cost and quality to meet the user requirement	2010	2020	OGC; city institutions and funders; clients	Changed policy – new public finance paradigm/voluntary (market mechanisms)	PFI bidders; designers
Water	Reduced consumption (especially potable)	Litres/person/day 1992 – 140 l p/d 2003 – 154 l p/d	Publicly funded houses to be CSH level 3 as of April 06	30% reduction by 2010	50% by 2015	ODPM; OFWAT; local authorities; planners	Building regulations; planning; enforcement; billing and metering; water trading; awareness	Developers; companies; public demand
Quality; aesthetics	Quality and aesthetics standards c.f. Sweden/ publicly accessible buildings	CABE-provided exemplar buildings/ DQI	To be confirmed. DCMS is in the process of reinvigorating the ministerial Design Champion role which promotes quality design throughout Government. All publicly funded houses to be CSH level 3 as of April 06	Strategic Forum for Construction target: by end of 2007, 60% of all publicly funded/PFI projects (£1m+) to use DQIs and 20% of those projects >£1m in value	2008/2010	ODPM; CABE; professional institutions; BRE	Measurement against exemplars; increased legislation	Finance institutions; developers; construction industry
Skills	Zero skill shortage (trades and professions; existing workforce and trainees)	Capacity building; number of skilled shortfall; % trained annually; quality of life measurement Number of skill-shortage vacancies in construction 2004 = 13,650. % of which are skill-shortage related in 2004 = 43%. (Source Respect for People KPIs 2005)	Developing Sector Skills Councils that are valued, appropriately focused, and have viable strategies that are implemented effectively, and which contribute to improved business performance in the industry	25% of existing workforce trained; and 100% of new trainees	Annual review	Government; CITB-Construction Skills; professional organisations	Conscription; mandatory courses; CSR; awareness	Training organisations; clients; designers; contractors; CPD
Safety	Zero RIDOR (reported accidents)	Accident frequency rate	The Revitalising Health and	2006; annual review	2020	Clients; HSE	Process actions; training	Designers; contractors

			<p>Safety strategy statement, (June 2000), set national targets for improving health and safety performance by 2010:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to reduce the incidence rate of fatalities and major injuries by 10%; • to reduce the incidence rate of cases of work-related ill health by 20%; • to reduce the number of working days lost per worker from work-related injury and ill health by 30%; and to achieve half the improvement under each target by 2004. 				<p>Formal mechanisms: Codes and standards</p> <p>Informal mechanisms: Best practice guides</p>	
Equity/ Respect for People	Fair trade & Respect 4 People commitment	<p>Number of commitments ; DQI assessment</p> <p>Currently 15% of direct construction industry employees covered by liP recognition (source: Respect for People KPIs 2005).</p>	Respect for People adopted by the industry as a core business value	--	2010	Government lead; CAGE; H&S	Participatory processes: DQI	ODPM; planners; peer pressure

Of particular note, after the successful bid, is the 2012 Olympics which will put London and the UK at the very front of the world stage. Constructing the Olympic infrastructure and facilities, and securing its long term legacy, offers a unique opportunity to raise the profile and strengthen the case for sustainable development in the construction industry in the UK and worldwide. As well as the lasting environmental, physical and economic legacy of a sustainably regenerated Lower Lee Valley, the Games will also provide exciting opportunities to enhance the

lives of people throughout the UK. The industry should embrace the opportunities offered by the high profile Olympic development programme to showcase excellence in construction and ensure that sustainable development best practice is better understood and widely adopted throughout all the UK's nations and regions.

These targets form an effective framework – one that will guide the sector toward an improved use of Sustainable Construction.