

Third Sector Strategy

One Year On
- a progress report: detailed annex

November 2009



Defra Third Sector Strategy One Year On detailed progress report

Theme	Strategy Chapter	Action	Timing	Actions	Progress report	Next actions
Achieving Together	Advocacy, Voice and Campaigning	1.1	Immediate	Set up a strategic forum on environmental behaviour change involving third sector organisations as well as public and private sector organisations.	No forum has been established but Defra will continue to involve third sector organisations in the work on behaviour change.	-
Achieving Together	Advocacy, Voice and Campaigning	1.2	Immediate	As part of our stakeholder engagement, we will work with third sector representatives through a stakeholder group and other means, to help decide how best to implement the provisions in the Climate Change Bill for producing a national risk assessment related to climate impacts, a national climate change adaptation programme and in requiring bodies to report how they are adapting to climate change.	We have consulted a number of organisations within the third sector on the proposals for implementing the adaptation reporting power. The RSPB have been closely involved in the core Steering group of the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment, contributing to a scoping study published in Spring 2009, and working with us closely on the main assessment getting under way.	We will continue to engage the third sector as appropriate in our plans for taking the strategy for using the power forward.
Achieving Together	Advocacy, Voice and Campaigning	1.3	Immediate	The Adapting to Climate Change (ACC) Programme will establish a Partnership Board which will bring together key stakeholders, including those from the third sector. This group will both advise on the development of the cross-Government Programme, and be active participants in it.	The ACC Programme has established the Partnership Board which has met twice. The RSPB and National Trust are active members of the Board and contributed to discussion with Dan Norris, Defra's Adaptation minister, at the last meeting in July.	The next meeting of the ACC Partnership Board is scheduled for 2 November and Hilary Benn is due to attend. The agenda is in the process of being worked up, but one issue that the Board is likely to be asked to consider is the ACC Programme's communications and stakeholder engagement strategy.
Achieving Together	Advocacy, Voice and Campaigning	1.4	Immediate	Set up a Partnership Board for our Strong Rural Communities Programme involving third sector stakeholders, including representation from the Regional Rural Affairs Forums.	Partnership Group was set up in late 2008. It met twice in successive quarters but we concluded that it was not really working and disbanded the group.	We have assimilated some members of the Partnership Group into our more strategic and influential Programme Board.
Achieving Together	Advocacy, Voice and Campaigning	1.5	Immediate	Following the publication of Defra's discussion document, 'Ensuring the UK's Food Security in a Changing World', we will continue to engage third sector organisations through two planned workshops, regular meetings with consumer organisations and regional meetings to inform the Government's announcement in December about its initial conclusions on food security.	Continued engagement with third sector organisations as part of the Food Security consultation process. Two stakeholder workshops held in September and November 2008 to seek input on food security indicators, and broader issues to do with food prices and food security. Based on the outcome of the consultation, a paper: <i>UK Food Security: Our Approach</i> was published 10 th August 2009.	We will continue to engage with third sector organisations for example by giving regular up-dates to the Consumer Group about new work on Food Poverty as part of our Food Security work. We are also hosting a workshop involving third sector organisations, NGOs, OGD's and retailers to consult them on Food Poverty and Social Exclusion.

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Achieving Together	Advocacy, Voice and Campaigning	1.6	Immediate	Establish an 'Advocacy and Voice' partnership group of the new Defra third sector Advisory Board, to consider ways of using existing networks to improve engagement with smaller and harder to reach groups on Defra affairs.	A sub-group of the Advisory Board looking at 'Diversity' has been established. We have also contributed the launch of the Capacity Global's manifesto '21 Years On: Environment and Diversity'.	This sub-group will provide progress reports to Defra's third sector Advisory Board and actions will be agreed on an on-going basis. We will facilitate discussions between the relevant teams within Defra on Capacity Global's manifesto '21 Years On: Environment and Diversity'.
Achieving Together	Advocacy, Voice and Campaigning	1.7	Immediate	Involve third sector organisations in a new National Ecosystem Assessment to be undertaken between 2008 and 2010, to share insights and evidence about the current and future state of our natural ecosystems.	The Assessment, covering the whole of the UK will run until early 2011. Third sector organisations were asked for their views on the scope of the assessment before it was finalised and are represented amongst the authorship of the first report as well as on the User Group of the Assessment, where they will be able to steer the outputs of the Assessment to ensure it is relevant to a broad spectrum of stakeholders. The independent scientific secretariat based at UNEP WCMC has developed a stakeholder engagement strategy that will run throughout the Assessment and includes dialogue with several third sector organisations.	-
Achieving Together	Advocacy, Voice and Campaigning	1.8	Immediate	As part of updated guidance on consultation, develop a code of practice which gives a more consistent approach towards meeting the expenses or overheads of third sector organisations participating in Defra advisory or stakeholder groups.	No progress reported.	-

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Achieving Together	Advocacy, Voice and Campaigning	1.9	Longer Term	Help enable the National Flood Forum to work with and through third sector organisations to provide advocacy and voice on the issue of flood risk. Work closely with the Forum to encourage property owners to take action which improves their resilience to flooding.	We have entered into a contract with the National Flood Forum in order to help us make better use of their knowledge and experience in our policy making. We have worked closely with the NFF in developing the draft Flood and Water Management Bill, and NFF has also taken part in workshops with local authorities to discuss Defra's property level grant scheme which aims to improve households' resilience to flooding.	This action is on-going.
Achieving Together	Advocacy, Voice and Campaigning	1.10	Longer Term	Work with a wide range of organisations, including those from the third sector, to take forward the Government's Future Water Strategy. By 2030 this will improve the quality of our water environment, mitigate flood risks, ensure the sustainable use of water resources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt the water industry to climate change.	We have continued to work with third sector organisations such as Waterwise, RSPB, churches, Scouts and other community groups etc.	Continue to work with third sector organisations in the future.
Achieving Together	Advocacy, Voice and Campaigning	1.11	Longer Term	Continue to involve third sector organisations in the Waste Stakeholder Group to advise the Government on the delivery of the Waste Strategy for England and developing future policy.	Third sector organisations continue to play an important role within the Waste Stakeholder Group.	Next Stakeholder Group is scheduled for February 2010.
Achieving Together	Advocacy, Voice and Campaigning	1.12	Longer Term	Involve representatives from the third sector in the informal consultation process being carried out in the run-up to Defra's strategic review of packaging policy. This engagement in workshops and other events will continue as the strategy gets implemented after October 2008.	Completed. Third sector organisations took part in a stakeholder event in October 2008; officials presented at meetings they organised.	We will be keeping them involved in consultations on how we implement the Packaging Strategy, published in June 2009. We are also seeking to recruit a consumer representative to our Advisory Committee on Packaging. They are likely to come from a third sector organisation.

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Achieving Together	Advocacy, Voice and Campaigning	1.13	Longer Term	Continue to develop our revisions to the Waste Carrier Registration System in full consultation with the third sector to ensure that any necessary changes are effectively managed and communicated.	Revisions to the waste carrier registration system have been delayed and will not be implemented until the second half of 2010. The delay has meant limited discussions with the third sector have been necessary this year.	Policy development in this area is likely to restart during 2010 at which point we will re-engage with third sector representations such as the association of charity shops, whose members might be affected by any changes proposed to the current system.
Achieving Together	Advocacy, Voice and Campaigning	1.14	Longer Term	Continue to support ENCAMS (now Keep Britain Tidy), one of Defra's third sector delivery partners, to advise Government and campaign independently to improve and protect the quality of the local environment.	Grant to Keep Britain Tidy for 2010/11 confirmed at £4.75m.	
Achieving Together	Advocacy, Voice and Campaigning	1.15	Longer Term	Involve third sector organisations in shaping the successor to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) target to significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010: both by informing the UK Government's view, and by contributing to discussions at and leading up to the CBD's Conference of the Parties in 2010, at which a successor target is expected to be agreed.	Wildlife Link and members of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan Standing Committee have been involved in contributing thoughts towards the developing UK Government position. UK hosted a workshop organised by WCMC where the third sector contributed to the development of indicators and possible new successor targets.	Further third sector involvement is expected in the context of preparations for the UK hosted international workshop in January 2010 on developing a successor to the 2010 biodiversity target. In addition, in the run up to key meetings, including the 2010 Conference of the Parties and relevant EU and international meetings, the third sector will be consulted on their views.
Achieving Together	Advocacy, Voice and Campaigning	1.16	Longer Term	Involve third sector organisations in the new delivery framework for the England Biodiversity Strategy, to be launched with Ministers and Natural England in November 2008. This will lead to a more integrated approach towards enhancing sites, habitats and species, and the ecosystem services on which we depend.	NGOs are fully involved as partners in the England Biodiversity Group and in the Biodiversity Integration Groups led by Natural England. In addition, there are regular meetings between Defra, Natural England and Wildlife and Countryside Link.	Continued engagement with NGOs in the next steps of the England Biodiversity Strategy implementation.

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Achieving Together	Advocacy, Voice and Campaigning	1.17	Longer Term	Work with our third sector partners to finalise, publish and implement "Farming For A Changing Future" - a public statement about how Government will continue to work in partnership with the agricultural sector to deliver a shared long term vision for farming in England. This will form the basis for future partnership working for a thriving farming and food sector which improves its net environmental impact.	This action has been superseded by the publication of "Farming For Our Future" launched at the Royal Show, which sets out a partnership relationship between Defra and stakeholders towards the future of farming.	No further action.
Achieving Together	Advocacy, Voice and Campaigning	1.18	Longer Term	Continue to involve the third sector stakeholders in gathering and evaluating evidence on the environmental impact of losing set-aside land, in developing mitigation and implementation options and in formulating policy and delivery measures on environmental management systems for farming.	Following 12-week consultation, Ministers took decision in July to pursue industry-led voluntary approach to set-aside known as Campaign for the Farmed Environment. Several third sector stakeholders (e.g. RSPB, LEAF, GWCT) are partners to the Campaign, along with industry bodies, Defra and agencies - all have now signed a Memorandum of Understanding and work is underway by all partners on setting up the campaign.	Defra will support the campaign through funding and activities, working closely alongside third sector stakeholders involved in the campaign. Formal launch of the campaign, attended by Hilary Benn and all campaign partners expected on 5 Nov 2009.
Achieving Together	Advocacy, Voice and Campaigning	1.19	Longer Term	Continue to engage third sector organisations through the Rural Climate Change Forum, the Government's high level advisory group on agriculture, forestry, land management and climate change issues to enable the agricultural sector to fulfil its potential to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation.	We are engaging with the industry led Climate Change Task Force (CCTF) through the RCCF as it looks to develop a Voluntary Action Plan for the sector to deliver the Government's aim to reduce yearly emissions from English farming by 3 Mt CO ₂ e in the period 2018-22, as set out in the UK Low-Carbon Transition Plan. We are also working with the Forum to organise a workshop on the UK Low-Carbon Agriculture, Forestry and Land Management sector in 2030 and its adaptation to climate change at the end of the year.	Progress of the CCTF in producing an outline action plan to be submitted to Defra by the end of November – will be discussed at the next RCCF meeting on 2 Nov 2009. A detailed action plan is due to be submitted to Defra by March 2010 to be fed into Defra's Carbon Reduction Delivery Plan in spring 2010. The outputs of the future Low-Carbon AFLM and its adaptation to climate change to be fed into Defra's Adaptation Strategy in Spring 2010.

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Achieving Together	Advocacy, Voice and Campaigning	1.20	Longer Term	Support the "Farming Futures" project, in partnership with relevant third sector stakeholders, to raise awareness of climate change among farmers and land managers, and disseminate specific advice to them about what they can do to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support mitigation efforts, and adapt to the impacts of climate change.	Phase 3 of the project funded by Defra (£150k until Mar 2010) is well on the way, and the project partners are developing a long term strategy to be submitted to Defra by the end of September 2009.	Hold discussions with the project managers on the details of the long term strategy in advance of their submission at the end of September 2009.
Achieving Together	Advocacy, Voice and Campaigning	1.21	Longer Term	Involve third sector organisations in developing a Vision for a Sustainable Food System as part of Defra's Food Chain Programme. The Vision will provide clarity and sharper prioritisation on addressing the challenges within the system for food sector businesses, NGOs, the third sector and others. It will be developed through a deliberative programme of engagement (workshops, consultations etc) with internal and external stakeholders and consumers, including third sector organisations, in order to capture all angles of the food chain. The first phase of workshops will be in November 2008 followed by a more extensive, wider phase of engagement in Spring next year.	Early this year the Food Policy Unit held stakeholder workshops to discuss what a sustainable food system should look like by 2030. Participants included third sector organisations, NGOs, retailers and producers. In August we launched an online discussion on the key themes and priorities for a sustainable food system and have invited third sector organisations to feed in their comments.	We will continue to involve third sector organisations in defining our goal for a sustainable food system in 2030. We will particularly welcome their comments and involvement in developing an action plan about how to reach our goal and their roles and responsibilities as well as other actors across the food system. Together these will form our future food strategy which we expect to publish early in 2010.
Achieving Together	Advocacy, Voice and Campaigning	1.22	Longer Term	We will continue to work with third sector organisations on developing, delivering and monitoring environmental objectives through current agri-environment schemes and the RDPE (Rural Development Programme for England) stakeholder groups.	No progress reported.	-
Achieving Together	Advocacy, Voice and Campaigning	1.23	Longer Term	Involve third sector organisations in work to explore the future reforms of Pillar 2 of the Common Agriculture Policy for introduction in 2013, in order to inform the Government's position for negotiating with the EU.	Ongoing.	Third sector organisations will be involved in the plans as they develop.

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Achieving Together	Advocacy, Voice and Campaigning	1.24	Longer Term	Continue to support the Regional Rural Affairs Forums which include third sector organisations, to advocate the voice of rural people and link these more closely with the Commission for Rural Communities (CRC) and Action for Communities in Rural England (ACRE).	Defra continues to sponsor the RRAF and to organise regular meetings between the RRAF chairs, the Rural Affairs minister, the CRC (which we also fund) and other organisations to promote discussion and facilitate good working relationships at national level.	On-going.
Achieving Together	Advocacy, Voice and Campaigning	1.25	Longer Term	Encourage the Commission for Rural Communities to continue involving third sector organisations in its rural advocacy work.	Rural Advocate visits and meetings supported by the RAFs and RCC: Rural Fuel Advisory Group, Rural Coalition, Planning group on housing and planning. Joint action plan on digital inclusion is being developed.	We continue to support CRC and its goal of reducing rural deprivation. Encourage the CRC to continue involving third sector organisations in its rural advocacy work.
Achieving Together	Advocacy, Voice and Campaigning	1.26	Longer Term	Continue to support and facilitate the national Rural Community Halls Network in order to help inform relevant policies or programmes across Government and with those who fund community buildings.	Rural Community Building Network met in November 2008 and April 2009. Issues considered by the group include Fuel Poverty. A recent RCBN achievement is the reform of the Licensing Act.	Next meeting scheduled for November 2009. CLG and Cabinet Office have agreed to give presentations on Rural Community Anchors and Asset Management /Community shares. ACRE manages RCBF loan fund which supports social enterprise. After a re-launch and reduced interest rates this loan fund is now fully allocated.
Achieving Together	Advocacy, Voice and Campaigning	1.27	Longer Term	Involve third sector organisations through consultation, a project board and other means, to deliver the Department's approach to streamlining environmental permitting systems, delivering our Fairer and Better Environmental Enforcement Project which will reform the architecture of environmental enforcement, and to inform the way the Department implements the EU's Environmental Liability Directive which requires polluters to put right any environmental damage.	The delivery of each of these policy areas has included extensive public consultation which has involved third sector organisations.	

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Achieving Together	Advocacy, Voice and Campaigning	1.28	Longer Term	Enable third sector organisations, or other interested parties, to use a new “right to request action” as part of the Environmental Liability Directive, whereby interested bodies could draw the attention of regulators to instances of environmental damage or risk of damage and request that the regulator acts.	The Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) Regulations 2009 include a provision that allows for interested parties, including third sector, to notify the regulator of cases of environmental damage (either threatened or caused). There is also an obligation on the regulator to inform parties requesting action of the action they are going to take; and there are opportunities for interested parties to influence the development of remediation proposals.	Action Complete.
Achieving Together	Advocacy, Voice and Campaigning	1.29	Longer Term	Involve third sector organisations such as animal welfare charities, in the development of regulations and codes of practice covering dangerous dogs, circus animals, greyhound racing and the welfare of dogs, cats, equines and primates, as part of implementing the Animal Health Act.	Ongoing.	Will continue to keep our stakeholders engagement strategy under review to ensure we involve a representative cross-section of stakeholders, including third sector, interests and to ensure the methods of communications used are best suited to their needs. Key animal welfare organisations such as World Horse Welfare, Compassion in World Farming and the RSPCA have been engaged for the review of the Welfare in transport Regulation.
Achieving Together	Advocacy, Voice and Campaigning	1.30	Longer Term	Continue to work with and through third sector organisations to help engage harder to reach groups, such as those advocating the needs of the Gypsy and Traveller communities, over issues that may affect them under the Animal Health Act and animal welfare during transport.	Ongoing.	EU proposals to amend of welfare in transport Regulation 1/2005 are awaited. Will use established links through DLGR to consult Gypsy and Traveller community.

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Achieving Together	Advocacy, Voice and Campaigning	1.31	Longer Term	Involve third sector organisations through the Marine and Fisheries Stakeholders Forum and a new Ministerial Task Force, to help decide the Government's priorities for the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy by 2012.	Secretary of State launched UK discussion on CFP reform at stakeholder breakfast event on 16 September. Views will be sought from wide range of stakeholders across the UK to formulate UK's formal response to European Commission's Green Paper on CFP Reform.	To help promote the discussion paper and as part of the process for gathering stakeholder views, a series of roadshows across England and Wales have been organised. Scotland and Northern Ireland will arrange similar events. All stakeholder events have been very well attended and attracted a wide-range of interests and a strong commitment for continuing involvement with the debate.
Achieving Together	Advocacy, Voice and Campaigning	1.32	Longer Term	Involve third sector stakeholders in the development and implementation of the Marine Bill, Marine Policy Statement and Marine Strategy Framework Directive, with workshops to help inform the UK's position on what 'good environmental status' means for our marine environment.	Third sector stakeholders, amongst others, have been closely engaged with the development of the Marine and Coastal Access Bill and this has continued during its legislative progress through Parliament. There have been regular meetings at Ministerial and official level with a wide range of stakeholders, Ministerial stakeholder breakfast events, regular newsletters and the website has all the latest information on the Bill's progress. A number of stakeholder workshops have been held during 2009 and results from these workshops will help towards the development of the Marine Policy Statement and will help to inform the UK's position on what good environmental status means for our marine environment, amongst other things.	Will continue to involve third sector stakeholders in the implementation of the Marine and Coastal Access Act, Marine Policy Statement and Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

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Achieving Together	Advocacy, Voice and Campaigning	1.33	Longer Term	Involve third sector organisations in identifying Marine Conservation Zones, a consultative forum to devise policies for whale conservation, and in short-term projects to help promote marine stewardship funded through the Fisheries Challenge Fund.	In 2009 the Consultative Forum met in May and September. It continues to provide a useful forum for discussion on the numerous issues concerning whale conservation. As in previous years, two members of the Forum also attended the annual International Whaling Commission meeting as part of the UK delegation. All stakeholders with marine interests have been asked to help select marine conservation zones. We have asked Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee to set up four regional projects around the English coast. In each region, fishermen and other sea users will be able to apply to represent their sector on a stakeholder group. A regional project team will gather data on the marine environment and the areas of sea which are important to fishermen and other users to help the stakeholder group to identify sites and propose conservation objectives for each site.	Finding Sanctuary is the first regional project designing a network of marine protected areas in the seas around south-west England. The other three projects, covering the Irish Sea, Eastern Channel and the North Sea will establish their stakeholder groups later this year. They will have until mid-2011 to gather data and develop their recommendations to be made to Defra in autumn 2011.
Achieving Together	Advocacy, Voice and Campaigning	1.34	Longer Term	Continue to involve third sector organisations in the Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership, its working groups and workshops, to highlight the impact of climate change in the marine environment to key decision makers.	The Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership published its special topics report card in April 2009. Work is underway on the next report card to be published summer 2010.	Will continue to involve third sector organisations in the Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership.
Achieving Together	Advocacy, Voice and Campaigning	1.35	Longer Term	Continue to involve participation from voluntary groups of commoners (i.e. those entitled to graze animals on common land) in plans to implement the Commons Act 2006. This includes inviting selected commoners' associations to attend focus groups (discussing emerging policy thinking) and providing funding to ensure that those most remote from London are not excluded because of the costs of travel.	Defra Commons Team met the Federation of Cumbria Commoners, a voluntary group, in July to discuss policy on Part 2 of the Commons Act 2006.	Further discussions with the Federation on Part 2 of the Commons Act 2006.

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Achieving Together	Sustainable living, communities and places	2.1	Immediate	Following a recent initiative by Fiona Reynolds from the National Trust and Ian Cheshire from B&Q, on how Government, business and the third sector can work together more effectively to inspire individual action on climate change and the environment, we will support a national partnership of third sector and business organisations in co-ordinating and preparing a campaign to mobilise individuals on key greener living actions such as energy efficiency and food.	In progress - Defra funded the Reynolds Cheshire Initiative, 'We Will If You Will', to develop and implement a food campaign focussing changing behaviour around the areas of growing your own and eating seasonal food.	We are currently evaluating the programme of work.
Achieving Together	Sustainable living, communities and places	2.2	Immediate	Launch Defra's new third sector fund for greener living to work through a range of third sector delivery partners which can enable individuals who are most ready and willing to act, to choose greener behaviours.	Launched at the same time as Defra's third sector Strategy in November 2008, the Greener Living Fund aims to help individuals and communities in England to live more sustainably, reducing their carbon footprint and reducing pressure on natural resources. The delivery phase of work was initiated in June 2009, and eight projects are currently underway lead by third sector organisations.	Ongoing – eight projects funded from June 2009 and March 2011.

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Achieving Together	Sustainable living, communities and places	2.3	Immediate	Under Defra's Food Chain Programme and the Influencing Consumer Behaviour project, we will develop advice and information for consumers on what they can do to reduce the impacts of the food they buy and eat. Mainly working through existing initiatives we aim to promote behaviour change by working with third sector organisations to help disseminate information and advice to consumers.	Defra's Food Policy Unit was involved in the development of the latest Greener Living Fund winning projects by providing advice on current evidence on sustainable food behaviours. As part of the Influencing Consumer Food Behaviour work the Food Policy Unit has presented information and advice to NGOs and third sector organisations at Defra's consumer representatives meetings throughout the year. These discussions have helped us develop and shape the evidence based consumer friendly advice we add to existing channels, e.g. DirectGov. Defra is supporting "Eat Seasonably" campaign co-ordinated by the Climate Group and engaging a coalition of businesses and NGOs.	Defra's Sustainable Behaviours Unit, the Food Policy Unit and Communications Directorate commissioned a review of existing research carried out by Defra, OGDs and third parties to identify where gaps in our evidence base exist. As well as highlighting areas for further research the results will suggest ways we can tailor communications to ensure they resonate with our audiences and the latter we will work with organisations like the third sector to take forward. The Climate Group will be producing a short report on the "Eat Seasonably" campaign and a more substantial external evaluation is underway, reporting in October / November.
Achieving Together	Sustainable living, communities and places	2.4	Immediate	Work with the Energy Saving Trust to implement their Communities Strategy which will work with third sector organisations to help households reduce carbon emissions through offering practical advice and support on waste, water, travel and energy in the home.	Responsibility for sponsorship of EST transferred to DECC with the creation of that department. This commitment is being discharged through the implementation by EST of the "Green Community Programme" which is funded by DECC.	To be taken forward by DECC.
Achieving Together	Sustainable living, communities and places	2.5	Immediate	Support and evaluate a programme of action-based research, involving some third sector organisations, about innovative ways of encouraging individuals to choose greener behaviours.	Ongoing – three action based research projects are underway.	The programme of action-based research aims to test innovative approaches for encouraging pro-environmental behaviours and sustainable patterns of consumption. The programme builds on existing evidence base and involves testing approaches where evidence suggests there are opportunities to achieve lasting behaviour change. This is a small-scale highly innovative research programme coordinated by Defra in partnership with research and other organisations. Work is ongoing and further projects are expected in 09/10.

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Achieving Together	Sustainable living, communities and places	2.6	Immediate	Work with ACRE and NALC to prepare information which helps local communities and parish and town councils to prepare and adapt to the local impacts of climate change.	ACRE was commissioned to produce the sector specific content for the adaptation guide for local and community councils. This has been delivered and paid for and includes general guidance for local and community councils on adapting to climate change, 11 case studies highlighting action at a local level and a series of top tips. Defra have added content on the Government's cross cutting Adapting to Climate Change programme and UK Climate Projections.	The content is currently being revised and amended. Once this process is complete the document will be designed and printed. It has been initially proposed that it is launched at the LGA conference in the New Year.
Achieving Together	Sustainable living, communities and places	2.7	Immediate	Working with and through the UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP), we will look at options for involving third sector organisations in the roll-out of the new UKCIP climate impact scenarios to help raise awareness in this sector about the projected changes in the UK's climate.	Held a 'Projections in Practice' dissemination event exclusively for the third sector in July 2009 in conjunction with the Office of the Third Sector and Defra's third sector team. See http://blogs.defra.gov.uk/3rd-sector/2009/07/jay-talbot-on-the-uk-climate-projections-and-community-led-planning/ for more details.	Exploring with Defra's third sector team how we might use the UKCIP tools as a device for community engagement in the adaptation issue. One idea is that we might consider training/supporting key 'catalytic change agents' already embedded in communities in the use of the UKCIP Tools so that they could use them in communities to generate scenarios to engage people in discussion and get them to take action.

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Achieving Together	Sustainable living, communities and places	2.8	Immediate	Work with third sector organisations to understand the carbon impact of food and to develop appropriate messages and actions for consumers.	Defra's Food Policy Unit was involved in the development of the latest Greener Living Fund winning projects by providing advice on current evidence on sustainable food behaviours. As part of the influencing consumer food behaviour work the Food Policy Unit has presented information and advice to NGOs and third sector organisations at Defra's Consumer Representatives meetings throughout the year. These discussions have helped us develop and shape the evidence based consumer friendly advice we add to existing channels, e.g. DirectGov. Defra is supporting the 'Eat Seasonably' campaign co-ordinated by the Climate Group and engaging a coalition of businesses and NGOs.	Defra's Sustainable Behaviours Unit, the Food Policy Unit and Communications Directorate commissioned a review of existing research carried out by Defra, OGDs and third parties to identify where gaps in our evidence base exist. As well as highlighting areas for further research the results will suggest ways we can tailor communications to ensure they resonate with our audiences and the latter we will work with organisations like the third sector to take forward. The Climate Group will be producing a short report on the 'Eat Seasonably' campaign and a more substantial external evaluation is underway, reporting in October /November.
Achieving Together	Sustainable living, communities and places	2.9	Immediate	Explore with ACRE and NALC a rural community empowerment project which will help rural areas to contribute to the objectives set out in the Government's 'Communities in Control' white paper.	Defra has agreed and approved a funding package with NALC and ACRE of £100,000 per annum for the 3 years to 2010/11, aimed at supporting the Government's agenda for community empowerment.	To ensure the work results in increased capacity building in rural communities.
Achieving Together	Sustainable living, communities and places	2.10	Immediate	Work with CLG, agencies and the third sector to explore the scope for better co-ordinated support for community groups managing local greenspaces – including advice, help with accessing funding and assistance in establishing and running community volunteer programmes – and the opportunities for a one-stop-shop.	Keep Britain Tidy lead the consortium that won the CLG contract to run Green Flag Park Awards.	-

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Achieving Together	Sustainable living, communities and places	2.11	Immediate	Develop an environmental volunteering campaign to enhance biodiversity by working with a range of NGO's (BTCV, RSPB, Marine Conservation Society, the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts and the National Trust) and delivery bodies such as the Forestry Commission and Natural England, under the umbrella of the Department of Health's 'Change 4 Life' initiative for healthy active lifestyles. We will explore links with the local performance indicator on volunteering (NI 6).	We ran an integrated communications campaign over the summer using the appeal that Muck In4Life is a great way to entertain children during the holidays. All activity raised awareness of the campaign website, which is available at www.direct.gov.uk/muckinlife We now have nearly 30 partners, including a range of NGOs (for example BTCV, RSPB, Marine Conservation Society, the Wildlife Trusts and the National Trust), delivery bodies and also local organisations. By the end of September 2009 the website had received over 36,000 unique visitors. We also ran a regional events programme over the summer, engaging with nearly 30,000 people to provide more information about Muck In4Life.	The overall objective of the campaign is to contribute to an increase in the number of people involved in conservation volunteering by 10% by 2011. This will be measured using the data provided annually by volunteering organisations for Defra's volunteering indicator.
Achieving Together	Sustainable living, communities and places	2.12	Immediate	As part of Defra's Wellbeing and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Strategy, use Defra's intranet and annual volunteering fair, to encourage staff as individuals and teams, to participate in environmental and community volunteering opportunities, and provide information to staff about existing national volunteering schemes and databases which hold these opportunities.	A volunteering fair is held annually in November to attract interest and stimulate involvement in volunteering. The 2008 fair attracted 135 attendees and 14 charity stands. The first annual volunteering survey was launched in 2008 which indicated that 2% more staff volunteered in 2008 compared to 2007 (up to 65%). Dedicated volunteering intranet pages are available which include staff case studies, charity case studies plus information about health and safety concerns.	-
Achieving Together	Sustainable living, communities and places	2.13	Immediate	Promote green volunteering more generally through a new direct.gov search facility linked to do-it.org the national volunteering database, and explore ways of linking this to Defra NDPBs and delivery partners.	The decision was taken not to take a syndicated link to the do-it.org website as it was difficult to quantify the return on the investment (£5000 p.a) in terms of greater volunteering as a result of supporting the website.	

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Theme	Strategy Chapter	Action	Timing	Actions	Progress report	Next actions
Achieving Together	Sustainable living, communities and places	2.14	Immediate	Follow-up the launch, in October 2008, of 6 zero waste places, including cities, towns and rural communities, to become exemplars of good environmental practice on all waste - including exemplary partnership working between local authorities and the third sector on waste.	All projects were considered successful and all have continued in some form after the funding had ended. We have now announced another 6 places, which will receive Towards Zero Waste Funding. Once again these places will act as pathfinders for sustainable waste management. We have also launched a new Zero Waste Standard which seeks to provide recognition of and stimulation to the work of communities for their efforts at driving waste out and maximising the use of resources in their localities. Places which are seen to demonstrate a significant attack on waste, including going beyond targets placed in the Waste Strategy 2007 will be accredited as 'zero waste places'.	We will now begin to promote the standard to local authorities and encourage as many as possible to sign up and become officially accredited. We are also planning a series of events to disseminate the lessons learned from the first ZWP scheme to ensure other local authorities can benefit from the original places experiences.
Achieving Together	Sustainable living, communities and places	2.15	Immediate	Set up a Places partnership group of Defra's new third sector Advisory Board, to explore ways of aligning the delivery of Defra-related local authority performance indicators with the efforts of local third sector organisations and their contribution to other relevant local performance indicators.	A communities sub-group of the advisory board has been established and is developing its work programme.	-
Achieving Together	Sustainable living, communities and places	2.16	Immediate	Hold a workshop to explore existing good practice and the potential for new ways of joining up third sector organisations with the efforts of Natural England, the Environment Agency, RDAs, Government Offices and local authorities, to secure environmental and rural outcomes at local and regional levels.	No progress reported.	-

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Theme	Strategy Chapter	Action	Timing	Actions	Progress report	Next actions
Achieving Together	Sustainable living, communities and places	2.17	Immediate	Work with relevant national umbrella bodies for community anchor organisation to support a locality based action-learning project, which finds effective ways of joining-up the efforts of local third sector organisations with those of regional environmental agencies, Government Offices and wider Local Strategic Partnership members, to achieve environmental targets in Local Area Agreements.	No progress reported.	Review the feasibility of implementing this work in the coming year.
Achieving Together	Sustainable living, communities and places	2.18	Immediate	Continue to support the nine independent Regional Climate Change Partnerships (RCCPs) which exist in each English region, and are made up of local stakeholders, ranging from the Regional Development Agencies through to small local charities.	Each of the RCCPs has been allocated £45,000 of funding from Defra for the 2009-2010 financial year. Bids for funding are yet to be confirmed for some projects but it is expected that they will be by the end of September. Funding is allocated against 8 themes including economic development, innovation, biodiversity, cross boundary working, the development and implementation of regional adaptation strategies, regional climate impacts and sector specific support. We have recently revised the financial and progress update reporting process for the each of the RCCP's. We now requesting a monthly profile of anticipated and confirmed spend and quarterly updates on each of the projects funded.	To confirm all outstanding bids for funding for 2009-2010 and ensure that the revised monitoring process is adhered to. In the longer term there is a need work with each of the partnerships to help ensure that they are sustainable following the end of the Defra funding in 2011.
Achieving Together	Sustainable living, communities and places	2.19	Longer Term	Explore with the DECC and the Climate Change Best Practice Programme Advisory Panel, the potential for a thematic project about how best local authorities and third sector organisations can work in partnership and join up activity to achieve local outcomes for adapting to climate change and protecting the environment and also the links with the third sector related local performance indicators (NI 6 and 7).	Ongoing.	Explore the possibility of running a pilot capacity building programme to train community development workers in the use of the UK Climate Projections with Adaptation to Climate Change Directorate within Defra.

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Theme	Strategy Chapter	Action	Timing	Actions	Progress report	Next actions
Achieving Together	Sustainable living, communities and places	2.20	Longer Term	Work with DIUS and third sector stakeholders to embed sustainable development and environmental materials into future activities which promote adult informal learning.	No progress to report.	Review the feasibility of implementing this work in the coming year.
Achieving Together	Sustainable living, communities and places	2.21	Longer Term	As part of Defra's Wellbeing and CSR Strategy, explore mechanisms which enable Defra's third sector partners to promote, broker and fill their environmental and community volunteering opportunities with Defra staff.	In December 2008 Defra committed to working with Time & Talents for Westminster to act as a broker for small local charities. Defra has advertised a range of team challenges via Office Notices as a result of this partnership and was instrumental in establishing the Time & Talents Government networking group.	
Achieving Together	Sustainable living, communities and places	2.22	Longer Term	Continue to support ENCAMS (now Keep Britain Tidy), a third sector delivery partner, to engage neighbourhoods in local environmental quality activities such as the current Big Tidy Up initiative, and schools through the Eco-Schools programme.	Big Tidy Up re-launched September 2009.	
Achieving Together	Sustainable living, communities and places	2.23	Longer Term	We will work with a wide range of organisations, including those from the third sector, in taking forward 'Fisheries 2027 - a long term vision for sustainable fisheries' which will incorporate the contribution of fishing activity to coastal communities.	Set up the Sustainable Access to Inshore Fisheries Project to take a fresh look at the way the English inshore fleet operates and to be innovative in our approach to looking at the future. Aim to develop a long term strategy for sustainability in fleet, not only from economic perspective, but also from a social and environmental one. Alongside this, an advisory group has been set up to support the project. The group, which held its first meeting on 16 June, has a broad membership encompassing a wide range of expertise including fishermen, NGOs, retailers, and other industries.	Will continue to work with a wide range of stakeholders in taking forward 'Fisheries 2027'.

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Achieving Together	Sustainable living, communities and places	2.24	Longer Term	Continue to help third sector organisations improve the quality of life in communities affected by aggregate extraction through projects supported by the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund.	ACRE, Local Authorities, Natural England and English Heritage have continued to support third sector organisations' work through their allocations from the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund.	Defra will evaluate the performance of the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund during 2010.
Achieving Together	Sustainable living, communities and places	2.25	Longer Term	Continue to support the Rural Communities Action Network through our strategic grant of £10 M over three years to undertake a range of influencing activities at the local and regional level which benefit rural areas in tackling climate change, enhancing the countryside and environment, improving access to services, affordable rural housing, employment and skills. This will also support ACRE and the Rural Community Councils to influence local decision-making and community planning through the work of Local Strategic Partnerships and Local Area Agreements.	Defra continues to provide funding to RCAN to develop the network's strategic influencing. We are working closely with ACRE and Capacity builders to ensure full the programme delivers its full potential.	We will be considering Year 1 outcomes during Autumn 2009.
Achieving Together	Sustainable living, communities and places	2.26	Longer Term	Work with Farming and Countryside Education and other third sector stakeholders as part of the Think Food and Farming Education Working Group, to build on the benefits of the "Year of Food and Farming" initiative, and continue to change children's relationship with food and give them direct experience of where food comes from, how to cook it, what life is like in the countryside and the importance of environmental issues.	A final tranche of funding of £40k was provided to FACE towards the end of last year (2008-2009) to help support the legacy of the 'Year of Food and Farming' initiative 'Think Food and Farming'.	Complete. No further action planned.

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Achieving Together	Public Services	3.1	Immediate	Work with Futurebuilders to promote their services, loans and grant investments to those in the environment sector wanting to win contracts to provide environmental services to public sector authorities and those spending public money.	We are in discussions with Futurebuilders and the following possibilities have been raised as possible actions moving forward: that FB would consider 'launching' an 'Environmental Loan Fund' (or similar) for third sector organisations. This would not in fact be a separate fund but just a device to make FB's existing loan funds sound more relevant to environmental third sector organisations (TSOs); that FB would look at their portfolio of loanees and make case studies available that we could distribute through our networks (AB, SESP etc) and publicise on the third sector blog. FB do not want to put too many barriers in the way of loanees. However, it was suggested that FB might proceed as follows: in the short term, FB could ask all loanees to consider and respond to a set of sustainability guidelines during the application process; in the medium term, FB might move to insisting on certain minimum standards that go beyond the basis building standards of the day; in the longer term, loanees might be asked to present a full lifetime energy plan for the building work being financed.	Follow-up on these points with Futurebuilders.
Achieving Together	Public Services	3.2	Immediate	Promote the new Office of the Third Sector guidance on delivering public services through partnerships and consortia.	We have used the third sector Blog to promote this and other relevant issues (e.g. the work on Social Return on Investment - SROI) coming out of OTS. Approximately one third of the blog subscribers are within Defra.	Continue to use this strategy to raise awareness of third sector issues through the blog.

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Achieving Together	Public Services	3.3	Longer Term	Continue to support WRAP and the REalliance Community Interest Company (CIC) in a programme worth £4 M over three years to increase the capacity and effectiveness of third sector organisations providing services in the waste and recycling sector.	Programme commenced Spring 2008 and is now in its second year. First year focus was organisational development through direct intervention with 34 projects commissioned; second year sees focus diversifying into market and network development. Economic slowdown has however slowed progress against some programme targets in line with the rest of the sector, but areas such as job/training creation are doing well.	The programme is looking at how best to capture the social and community benefits which it achieves or contributes towards and will be targeting newer TSOs where there is most capacity for growth in order to counter anticipated reductions in turnover among existing projects. A more rigorous assessment of applications for support is being put in place due to high demand and at times lower than expected returns. Programme seeks to develop proxy indicators for changes in behaviour towards a more entrepreneurial and self-reliant mindset and management practice among these TSOs which is necessary to their long term sustainability. Relevant Defra policy leads will continue to steer the programme, alongside its TSO clients, away from reliance on single funding streams and towards diversified sources of income including grant funding derived via evidence of multiple benefits above and beyond tonnage/carbon turnovers and increased revenue generation as participating TSOs access increased contracting. The same applies to the REalliance (formerly REconomy) programme itself – Defra have emphasised the need for the programme to look at more diverse funding streams, including potentially from OGDs and from charging for their services as the sector becomes more entrepreneurial as a whole.
Achieving Together	Public Services	3.4	Longer Term	Continue to support ENCAMS (now Keep Britain Tidy), a third sector delivery partner, in advising local authorities about ways to improve the delivery of local environmental quality services.	Ongoing.	

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Achieving Together	Public Services	3.5	Longer Term	Through Defra's better regulation and simplification plan, help remove barriers of burdens on service delivery by third sector organisations.	Section 3 of Defra's 2009 annual Simplification Plan covers third sector issues.	Objective is to enhance the contribution of the third sector, as set out in the November 2008 strategy. Progress being reported through the 2009 Simplification Plan, published in December 2009.
Achieving Together	Public Services	3.6	Longer Term	Explore with OTS and stakeholders, sources of funding which could enable the third sector Research Centre to evaluate the evidence base about the contribution which third sector service providers can make to one or more of Defra's strategic objectives.	We have engaged with the third sector Research Centre during its establishment phase. We contributed to the 'Below the Radar' reference group in July. Subsequently, in September, we met with the team heading the new environmental workstream of the TSRC to input into their work programme.	The third sector Team and Defra's Sustainable Behaviours Unit will continue to support the environmental team within the TSRC.
Achieving Together	Public Services	3.7	Longer Term	Defra will liaise with the Farming Help partnership over the work they do to help create opportunities for new entrants to the farming industry for example through provision of increased affordable housing.	No action to report.	Review the feasibility of implementing this work in the coming year.
Achieving Together	Encouraging Social Enterprise and environmental entrepreneurship	4.1	Immediate	Launch Defra's new social enterprise strategic partnership and begin implementing the agreed work plan.	COMPLETE - The Social Enterprise Strategic Partnership MOU was signed on 1/12/08. The partnership includes: Plunkett Foundation; Co-operatives UK; Development Trusts Association; Social Enterprise Coalition; RISE. Activities this year have included: running a 'Social Enterprise and the Environment' event bringing policy makers, academics and social enterprises together; a guest blog post; and a field trip for policy makers of food social enterprises in London.	Continue to support our Social Enterprise Strategic Partnership in their role in promoting social enterprise across Defra.

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Achieving Together	Encouraging Social Enterprise and environmental entrepreneurship	4.2	Immediate	Ensure that knowledge and expertise about the distinctive needs of social enterprises is represented on Defra's new third sector Advisory Board.	COMPLETE - The selection of Advisory Board members was a competitive process. Peter Couchman, CEO of the Plunkett Foundation, was appointed. Peter acts as the link between the Advisory Board and our Social Enterprise Strategic Partnership (SESP). Peter has attended one SESP meeting during the year.	This arrangement will continue.
Achieving Together	Encouraging Social Enterprise and environmental entrepreneurship	4.3	Immediate	Work with OTS, DECC and Defra's Social Enterprise Strategic Partnership to commission research which will identify and expand the contribution which social enterprises can make in environmental markets.	The third sector team facilitated partnership working between selected SESP members, the Food Policy team and Defra's social scientists to develop a bid to OTS's 'Social Enterprise Action Research' programme. This was a competitive process and Defra won £60k of funding to implement our project which will look at the role of social enterprises in all aspects of the food sector in the South West region.	This project will be implemented over the next 18 months.
Achieving Together	Encouraging Social Enterprise and environmental entrepreneurship	4.4	Immediate	Work with OTS and Defra's social enterprise partners, to help social enterprises identify, report and enhance their environmental outcomes by applying a set of environmental measures as part of the project to develop a Social Return on Investment methodology.	Defra's Head of the third sector team has been appointed to the advisory board of OTS's Social Return On Investment (SROI) programme. The key outputs this programme so far have been featured on the blog and paper-based materials have been passed (with discussion) to members of Defra's social science team.	This work is on-going. We have also been supporting with WRAP on a Balanced Scorecard approach to the planning and measurement of social and environmental outcomes. We will share the outcome of this work with OTS.
Achieving Together	Encouraging Social Enterprise and environmental entrepreneurship	4.5	Immediate	Explore the potential to build links between Defra and one or more of the national Social Enterprise Ambassadors, to improve understanding about the distinctive needs and characteristics of social enterprises, and the potential for social enterprises to contribute specifically to Defra's objectives in Defra's delivery landscape.	We have had one-to-one discussions with a number of the Ambassadors with an interest in re-use and recycling: Reed Paget (Belu water, distributed in a bio-degradable plastic bottle); Kresse Wesling (new markets for waste products); and Jean Jarvis (South Shropshire Furniture Scheme).	This liaison will be on-going.

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Achieving Together	Encouraging Social Enterprise and environmental entrepreneurship	4.6	Immediate	Promote the new Office of the third sector guidance on delivering public services through partnerships and consortia.	We have used the third sector Blog to promote this and other relevant issues (e.g. the work on Social Return on Investment - SROI) coming out of OTS. Approximately one third of the blog subscribers are from within Defra.	Continue to use this strategy to raise awareness of third sector issues through the blog.
Achieving Together	Encouraging Social Enterprise and environmental entrepreneurship	4.7	Longer Term	Continue to support the role of the Commission for Rural Communities and Rural Community Councils in disseminating and mainstreaming good practice about social enterprise solutions which meet rural needs.	On-going for the RCCs as part of Defra's funding of the RCAN network to develop strategic influencing.	On-going support. Continue to fund ACRE support (Quarterly reports).
Achieving Together	Creating a framework for greater environmental leadership in the third sector	5.1	Immediate	Establish a joint Defra, Decc and OTS Ministerial task group involving relevant third sector stakeholders, to exchange information about current initiatives and to provide recommendations about the best ways of mainstreaming sustainable development, climate change and the environment into existing third sector support programmes.	The task force has been set up to work collaboratively with the third sector. Two organisations from the sector (Green Alliance and NCVO) provide the secretariat support and have recruited a diverse and high calibre membership.	The Task Force will now report in the Spring and our aspiration is to produce a joint, action-orientated report outlining how the third sector and Government will work together on this issue.
Achieving Together	Creating a framework for greater environmental leadership in the third sector	5.2	Immediate	Defra and the OTS will jointly commission a piece of work to: a) explore and then recommend to the sector, the appropriate measuring, monitoring, accreditation and reporting mechanisms for continuously improving organisational environmental performance; b) explore and then recommend to Government, the appropriate environmental standards / requirements for inclusion in major Government grant agreements or contracts with the third sector.	No progress has been made on this commitment.	Review the value/feasibility of this commitment moving forward.

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Achieving Together	Creating a framework for greater environmental leadership in the third sector	5.3	Immediate	Working with OTS and third sector infrastructure organisations, Defra will jointly commission a study to explore the need for a centre of expertise on sustainable development, environmental sustainability and climate change, which would help mainstream these issues within national third sector support activities.	No progress has been made on this commitment.	Review the value/feasibility of this commitment moving forward.
Achieving Together	Creating a framework for greater environmental leadership in the third sector	5.4	Immediate	Work jointly with the Every Action Counts Consortium to arrange a celebration event and learning event at the end of the three-year Defra funded Every Action Counts initiative.	Complete.	Event held on 6/5/09. Secretary of State, Hilary Benn, gave keynote speech.
Achieving Together	Creating a framework for greater environmental leadership in the third sector	5.5	Immediate	Building on the legacy of Every Action Counts and wider initiatives such as 'Accounting for Sustainability', work with OTS and Capacitybuilders to disseminate tools and materials to third sector organisations which help them embed sustainable development and demonstrate environmental leadership.	Defra has not contributed significantly to this work in the current year but the dissemination tools and materials to third sector organisations is being undertaken by the EAC partners.	-
Achieving Together	Creating a framework for greater environmental leadership in the third sector	5.6	Immediate	Defra and OTS will jointly commission a feasibility study into a peer-led 'environment ambassadors' leadership programme for Chief executives and Directors of third sector organisations, as part of mainstream professional development.	There has been no activity in this area.	Review in the light of the content of the Ministerial Task Force report to be published in the Spring of 2010.
Achieving Together	Creating a framework for greater environmental leadership in the third sector	5.7	Longer Term	Work with DECC, CLG, OTS and Capacitybuilders to further promote the third sector climate change declaration and advice to third sector organisations in implementing it.	Huw Irranca-Davies and Joan Ruddock contributed to an event on 15 June 2009 and re-confirmed their support for the third sector declaration on climate change.	On-going support for the declaration is likely to be a commitment in the Ministerial Task Force report due in the Spring of 2010.

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Renewing the Way We Work	Improving our listening to and communicating with the third sector	6.1	Immediate	Hold an annual third sector forum event chaired by Defra's third sector Minister.	We plan to combine the 2009 event with the launch of the report of the Ministerial Task Force on Climate Change, Sustainable Development and the Environment in the Spring of 2010. See commitment 5.1.	On-going.
Renewing the Way We Work	Improving our listening to and communicating with the third sector	6.2	Immediate	Introduce quantitative and qualitative surveys to get a better understanding about how to improve satisfaction amongst Defra's key third sector stakeholders and to help continuously improve our relationship with the sector.	No action to report, although this will be addressed with the ongoing Defra journey mapping exercise (commitment 7.11).	-
Renewing the Way We Work	Improving our listening to and communicating with the third sector	6.3	Immediate	Explore how electronic consultation could help improve consultation with third sector stakeholders.	Complete and on-going. Pilot, public blog launched on 14/4/09. Instead of taking a newsletter approach we decided to use a blog and embed the use of the blog into our day to day work. Our stakeholders can 'opt-in' and subscribe to the blog using email or RSS. Subscribers receive an alert when new items are posted to the blog. There are added benefits of using this approach and these include: the ability of stakeholders to comment on the items we post and; the blog assists greatly when we are called to report on progress in a particular area.	Continue to develop the blog as a communications/engagement tool. Promote the blog to the sector.
Renewing the Way We Work	Improving our listening to and communicating with the third sector	6.4	Immediate	Within the Advocacy partnership group of the new Defra third sector Advisory Board, explore ways in which existing networks, intermediaries and channels could be used to further advocate the needs or views of smaller or harder to reach groups in Defra affairs.	See commitment 1.6 - Diversity sub-group of the Advisory Board established.	This specific commitment will be dropped and delivered as part of commitment 1.6 - Reported on modus operandi at the meeting of 17/7/09.

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Theme	Strategy Chapter	Action	Timing	Actions	Progress report	Next actions
Renewing the Way We Work	Improving our listening to and communicating with the third sector	6.5	Immediate	Prepare and disseminate within Defra, new guidance to staff about better consultation and engagement with third sector organisations, incorporating new guidance from the Office of the third sector and the new Code of Practice on consultation from BERR.	No progress reported.	Review the value/feasibility of this commitment moving forward.
Renewing the Way We Work	Improving our listening to and communicating with the third sector	6.6	Immediate	Identify a number of staff in each main policy group to act as third sector contact points and publish details, along with Defra's general enquiry helpline number and third sector email mailbox, on Defra's third sector webpage.	We now think that this is better done as part of the recently established 'Customer Champions' network which we are supporting.	On-going support to Defra's internal Customer Champions network. Consider dropping this as a distinct commitment.
Renewing the Way We Work	Improving our listening to and communicating with the third sector	6.7	Immediate	Include more signposting links on Defra's third sector webpages.	Underway and ongoing.	Progress on this has been somewhat disrupted with the overhaul of the Defra website. However, we have been able to compensate for this to some extent through our use of our blog. See commitment 6.8. The blog enables us to attach keywords to the items we publish. For example, all the Advisory Board information is here: http://blogs.defra.gov.uk/3rd-sector/category/better-partnerships/advisory-board .
Renewing the Way We Work	Improving our listening to and communicating with the third sector	6.8	Longer Term	Explore the potential for establishing a regular email bulletin to third sector stakeholders who self-register via the Defra website, with a joint Defra and third sector editorial board.	Complete but ongoing.	Third sector blog established on 14/4/09. This is one of the first blogs run by Civil Servants and there has been external positive commentary on our approach: http://www.futuregovconsultancy.com/index.php/2009/05/15/press-release-vs-blog-post-or-both/ We are developing a checklist for Civil Servant bloggers which may be of use to other parts of Defra who may wish to adopt a blog approach to their communications.

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Theme	Strategy Chapter	Action	Timing	Actions	Progress report	Next actions
Renewing the Way We Work	Understanding the sector better	7.1	Immediate	Establish a network of third sector staff champions across the Department to help improve awareness and engagement with the third sector in their own programmes and policy areas.	We now think that this is better done as part of the Customer Champions work.	This will be dropped as a distinct commitment.
Renewing the Way We Work	Understanding the sector better	7.2	Immediate	Hold a masterclass workshop for Defra staff (involving some third sector stakeholders) which help staff develop an approach which gets the most out of their meetings and engagement with third sector stakeholders. Build staff confidence and skills on this.	A masterclass of this type has not been organised, although an internal event on social enterprises and the environment has been held - see 7.8.	Review this requirement in the planning of the 2010/11 work programme.
Renewing the Way We Work	Understanding the sector better	7.3	Immediate	Review Defra's internal Stakeholder Database to improve the quality of information about third sector stakeholders and thereby improve meaningful dialogue and avoid duplication.	The third sector team has carried out some internal strategic work on this.	Discussion of the findings with Defra Communications Directorate
Renewing the Way We Work	Understanding the sector better	7.4	Immediate	Embed the Compact principles into the new Defra Policy Cycle guidance for Defra staff.	The third sector team is promoting the use of the Compact principles across Defra and operating according to them.	Discussion about how best the Compact principles are disseminated to staff, and dissemination.
Renewing the Way We Work	Understanding the sector better	7.5	Immediate	Complete a mapping and analysis project of rural stakeholders, including third sector stakeholders, and prepare an engagement strategy for key stakeholders.	Defra's third sector advisory board has developed a proposal for a mapping project. We are looking at this in partnership with our Customer and Citizen Insight team.	Third sector team to work with the Advisory Board to take forward the project.
Renewing the Way We Work	Understanding the sector better	7.6	Immediate	Apply the Commission for the Compact's recent report on independence and raise awareness within the Department about ways of protecting campaigning independence whilst supporting third sector organisations in delivery.	A member of the Defra third sector team attended a Baring Foundation conference on these areas and the team has been discussing these issues with policy teams on an <i>ad hoc</i> basis.	Third sector team to consider how best to disseminate the information, options include internal communications, the third sector blog.
Renewing the Way We Work	Understanding the sector better	7.7	Immediate	Appoint a secondee from the third sector to work in Defra's third sector team.	Complete.	Simon Berry seconded from ruralnet uk. Part-time from October 2008, full-time from January. Now on short-term direct contract with Defra until 11/6/10.

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Renewing the Way We Work	Understanding the sector better	7.8	Longer Term	Encourage staff to visit third sector groups or organisations involved in the development or front-line delivery of their policies to gain a better, customer or stakeholder focused understanding.	The Social Enterprise Strategic Partnership has organised a visit to two Social Enterprises for Defra staff, with the core theme of 'food'. Mike Anderson, Defra's Director General of Strategy and Evidence has been making regional visits which have sought to incorporate meetings with third sector organisations. Defra held an internal event for all staff in association with the Economic and Social Research Council. Links to a number of charities that are part of Defra's Compact Group are included on the volunteering intranet and are invited to the volunteering fair. In 2008 British Waterways attended the Volunteering Fair and a number of staff, including the Management Board headed by Helen Ghosh took part in their Tow Path Tidy Up project.	Ongoing.
Renewing the Way We Work	Understanding the sector better	7.9	Longer Term	Encourage secondments and visits to and from third sector organisations.	Simon Berry has been seconded into the Defra third sector Team. Defra supports the Charity Next project sponsored by the Princes Charity which enables Fast Streamers to undertake third sector secondments. A number of staff have undertaken secondments as a result of this projects.	Consider how to encourage further secondments /visits.
Renewing the Way We Work	Understanding the sector better	7.10	Longer Term	Undertake a feasibility study on setting up third sector stakeholder account managers.	No progress reported.	Review the value/feasibility of this commitment moving forward.
Renewing the Way We Work	Understanding the sector better	7.11	Longer Term	Undertake a journey-mapping study to understand the point of view and experience of third sector organisations when accessing Defra grants or contracts and involvement in policy development.	An internal Defra workshop and desk study (based on responses from third sector representatives) has been carried out. Internal validation in progress.	Explore findings with third sector Advisory Board and Defra Communications Directorate - with a view to making them publicly available. Look for opportunities for sharing common messages with OGDs.

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Theme	Strategy Chapter	Action	Timing	Actions	Progress report	Next actions
Renewing the Way We Work	Understanding the sector better	7.12	Longer Term	Undertake a strategic high level mapping and segmentation exercise for Defra's third sector stakeholders, to better understand the diversity of the sector and how third sector stakeholders engage with the department. Develop a clearer understanding about the role of different third sector advocacy organisations and networks, and ensure the voice of smaller third sector organisations are heard in policy development.	This is linked with work that has been carried out to amend Defra's internal financial systems to properly recognise and differentiate third sector organisations.	Once the work to amend Defra's financial systems has been verified, this and the work on journey mapping in commitment 7.11 should address this commitment.
Renewing the Way We Work	Joining-up what we do	8.1	Immediate	Work with a range of third sector stakeholders to develop practical guidance on how Defra policy leads and third sector organisations should assess and value the delivery of multiple outcomes (social, economic and environmental) linking primary outcomes related to Defra's priorities, with secondary or tertiary outcomes related to other Government policy goals.	Defra has been working with REalliance and the Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to support the development of a balanced scorecard that as well as valuing the environmental benefits, focuses on the social and economic outcomes. REalliance CIC is the lead enterprise working in partnership with WRAP for the four major reuse, recycling and waste reduction networks supporting communities and social enterprises.	WRAP and REalliance to roll out use of the balanced scorecard to its partner organisations to measure non-core outcomes.
Renewing the Way We Work	Joining-up what we do	8.2	Immediate	Disseminate information about Defra's initiatives and tools related to our top priorities through all our main third sector networks / groups to increase wider awareness and take-up e.g. promoting action to protect our natural environment through food and farming third sector group.	The Defra third sector blog is being used as a resource containing information and links relating to Defra's policy initiatives. Defra has been working on the broader issue of eConsultation to reach more people when developing policy, Food2030 is the first example of online consultation.	Further work will be done by the third sector team internally in Defra to make sure that the Defra blog contains information on all relevant Defra initiatives.
Renewing the Way We Work	Joining-up what we do	8.3	Longer Term	Work with new Defra third sector Advisory Board to help join-up agendas with other Government Departments, identifying key opportunities, synergies and conflicts from a third sector point of view.	We have been working closely with the Advisory Board in developing its work programme, with a view to addressing this commitment.	The Advisory Board will take this forward, with the support of the third sector team.

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Renewing the Way We Work	Better partnerships, building on existing mechanisms	9.1	Immediate	Establish a new Defra third sector Advisory Board with attendance from Defra's third sector Minister and Management Board representatives, to succeed Defra's Compact Group. The first meeting of the Board would be Spring 2009	Complete.	Members announced on 25/3/09.
Renewing the Way We Work	Better partnerships, building on existing mechanisms	9.2	Immediate	Jointly agree and support an Advisory Board work programme to take forward corporate actions on advocacy, policy development, building Defra's capability and communications, to increase the Board's profile in Defra and the sector.	Work on this commitment is at an early stage. The board is developing its forward work programme and Defra has confirmed funding.	Ongoing.
Renewing the Way We Work	Better partnerships, building on existing mechanisms	9.3	Immediate	Launch Defra's Social Enterprise Strategic Partnership (SESP) and support a strategic work programme to enhance understanding within the department about the contribution which social enterprises can make.	A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Plunkett Foundation, Co-operatives UK, Development Trusts Association, Social Enterprise Coalition and RISE and Defra to formalise the Partnership. The Partnership has met regularly, to develop and take forward a strategic workplan. Key activities during the year have included: an event (Social Enterprise and the Environment); a field trip for the Food Policy Team; the development of a successful bid to OTS to undertake a social enterprise action research project (see commitment 4.3).	Ongoing.

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Renewing the Way We Work	Better partnerships, building on existing mechanisms	9.4	Immediate	As part of Defra's Wellbeing and CSR Strategy, raise the profile and involvement of staff with Payroll Giving, and establish Defra staff as socially responsible employees by: a) Researching and tracking staff charitable donations through payroll giving and other sources i.e., direct debits etc; b) Increasing publicity of the payroll giving scheme with an emphasis on the benefits to the chosen charity i.e. tax efficiencies; c) Seeking to raise the profile of Defra's payroll giving activities through involvement in the CAF Payroll Giving Mark.	The decision has been taken not to actively promote payroll giving to staff in the current economic climate. However, the intranet includes dedicated pages giving information on payroll giving. Bell Fundraising, that represents a number of small charities, attended the 2008 volunteering fair to raise the profile of its payroll giving activities.	
Renewing the Way We Work	Better partnerships, building on existing mechanisms	9.5	Immediate	Highlight the third sector delivery partners and strategic partners which Defra already works with and network these organisations together more in order to share experience.	The third sector team is working with Defra policy leads on an <i>ad hoc</i> basis to put them in contact with relevant third sector organisations.	Review this commitment in the development of next year's work programme.
Renewing the Way We Work	Better partnerships, building on existing mechanisms	9.6	Immediate	Develop practical guidance for Defra policy leads about support for third sector engagement, including a code of practice for paying expenses, to improve consistency across the organisation.	The third sector team is working with Defra policy leads on an <i>ad hoc</i> basis with regard to third sector engagement. No progress has been made to date on the code of practice.	Review this commitment in the development of next year's work programme.
Renewing the Way We Work	Better partnerships, building on existing mechanisms	9.7	Immediate	Establish better referral links with our third sector stakeholders, to capacity building programmes offered by the Office of the Third Sector.	No progress reported.	A Defra third sector team employee is exploring with OTS the possibility of going on secondment to the Office for the third sector to share understanding and build stronger links with OTS strategic programmes.
Renewing the Way We Work	Better partnerships, building on existing mechanisms	9.8	Longer Term	Promote internally the new Office of the third sector guidance on consortia building, and provide opportunities for third sector organisations to take responsibility for developing their own collective arrangements or partnerships for engaging with Defra.	No progress reported.	The secondment in commitment 9.7 will enable this commitment to be addressed.

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Renewing the Way We Work	Enabling our delivery bodies	10.1	Immediate	We will work with our delivery bodies to establish a staff network of senior third sector Champions across the relevant Defra Network organisations who have significant interaction with the third sector.	Networking has started between Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission who have developed and published a joint third sector statement (see commitment 10.2).	We will look to develop this type of collaboration further in the next 12 months.
Renewing the Way We Work	Enabling our delivery bodies	10.2	Immediate	We will work with our Executive Agencies and wider delivery bodies to encourage each organisation with significant third sector interactions to prepare and publish electronically their own tailored third sector policy statement during National Compact week in November 2009, or highlight their existing third sector policy or strategy should this be available. The brief policy statements would be related to each organisation's particular outcomes and delivery objectives. It would and set out the nature of the organisation's interactions and different relationships with third sector organisations, and the main implications the Compact principles have for the way the organisation works.	Third sector team has communicated to the Defra delivery network the need to develop a third sector policy statement, offering support in taking this forward. The Environment Agency is preparing its strategy. They are working collaboratively with the Natural England and the Forestry Commission to aid the development of their strategies.	We will review progress on the production of third sector policy statements at the end of the year and then provide more proactive support to agencies who have not yet fulfilled this commitment.
Renewing the Way We Work	Enabling our delivery bodies	10.3	Immediate	We will arrange a series of practical workshops for the Defra Network on key third sector issues (e.g. good practice in grants and contracts, consultation process etc) to help share good practice and improve practical engagement with the sector.	Natural England met the Advisory Board to discuss consultation, forward work and its work involving the third sector. In collaboration with our Social Enterprise Strategic Partners an internal workshop on working with social enterprises has been run.	-
Renewing the Way We Work	Enabling our delivery bodies	10.4	Immediate	We will include third sector engagement as an item for a future Defra Network Chief Executives conference.	Views of delivery partners being sought on contribution by third sector and ensuring that their views can be incorporated.	Third sector engagement to be considered at CEO Conference on 3 December 2009.

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Renewing the Way We Work	Enabling our delivery bodies	10.5	Immediate	We will consult third sector organisations on the options for the delivery landscape review on low carbon advice services, and develop a checklist which can help assess the impacts on the third sector of future changes in delivery bodies or their responsibilities.	The 2009 Delivery Landscape Review (DLR) of the bodies responsible for delivering the Government's material resource efficiency policies consulted a range of stakeholder organisations, including those operating in the third sector. The purpose of this consultation was to gain an understanding of the interaction between stakeholder organisations and the delivery bodies and how proposals for rationalising the delivery landscape need to reflect and take account of the needs of the stakeholders. In undertaking this work the third sector was treated as both a customer and delivery agent of the delivery bodies being reviewed.	A formal check list to assess the impact on the third sector was not developed as such during the conduct of the DLR as it was assumed by the DLR that the policy context would remain largely unchanged. However as part of the implementation of the DLR we are awaiting from WRAP (under whom existing delivery bodies are being integrated) the blueprint of the design of the new integrated delivery body. This should confirm how existing customers and partners (including the third sector) have been impacted by the implementation of the DLR.
Renewing the Way We Work	Enabling our delivery bodies	10.6	Longer Term	Explore ways of bringing together third sector champions from delivery bodies and key third sector stakeholders, to exchange views and ideas.	No progress reported.	Ideas for taking this forward to be generated at 3 December conference.

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Renewing the Way We Work	Enabling our delivery bodies	10.7	Longer Term	We will encourage RDAs in their delivery of the Rural Development Programme for England, to identify and disseminate good practice in their approach, systems and procedures, for working with third sector stakeholders and beneficiaries / customers - in the context of the principles set out in the national 'Compact' about working with the sector.	To date, RDAs have spend/committed around £15m against RDPE socio-economic measures. (Measure 321,322,323). • Leader (Axis 4 of the RDPE) provides for a bottom-up community-led delivery approach in geographically defined areas, where local priorities are identified through Local Action Groups (LAGs). 65 LAGs are now operating and many are now starting to approve RDPE projects. • Defra sponsors the UK National Rural Network and the RDPE Network, which provide support for local community projects through the exchange of good practice and experience. • Additional resource from the European Economic Recovery Plan (EERP) (about £3.5m) has been made available through the RDPE to support rural community broadband.	Opportunity to build in capacity to monitor RDPE support for the third sector within the RDA's reporting tool (the Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework [CMEF]) is currently being explored.
Renewing the Way We Work	Enabling our delivery bodies	10.8	Longer Term	We will invite the third sector champions from relevant organisations in the Defra Network to join Core Defra's new third sector Advisory Board, to discuss common issues.	This commitment has been completed.	-
Renewing the Way We Work	Enabling our delivery bodies	10.9	Longer Term	We will explore ways of improving and sharing third sector stakeholder intelligence across the Defra Network, within data protection regulations and existing channels, to improve meaningful engagement with the sector and avoid duplication.	The Defra third sector Blog is being actively maintained as a live source of stakeholder intelligence, and a large proportion of the subscriber base is from Defra.	Internal Communications activity to promote the blog further to Defra employees.
Renewing the Way We Work	Better commissioning practices and procedures	11.1	Immediate	Update our financial systems to provide more detailed information about third sector organisations who receive grants or contracts from Defra.	The Defra financial system has been updated to better differentiate the various organisations.	The amendments to the system will be verified by the Advisory Board. We will share lessons learned with OTS.

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Renewing the Way We Work	Better commissioning practices and procedures	11.2	Immediate	As part of Defra's staff training programme on sustainable procurement, highlight the value of third sector delivery and encourage procurers to consider a more diverse supplier base.	No progress reported.	This commitment will be developed when the changes to the financial systems have been verified.
Renewing the Way We Work	Better commissioning practices and procedures	11.3	Immediate	Update procurement guidance to staff and highlight the implications and opportunities for working with third sector suppliers.	No progress reported.	Review the value/feasibility of this commitment moving forward.
Renewing the Way We Work	Better commissioning practices and procedures	11.4	Immediate	Hold a joint Defra / third sector workshop to explore opportunities for third sector involvement and a better understanding of the sector's potential supplier base to Defra. Identify ways in which Defra's standard procurement procedures could ensure they enable third sector organisations to tender for contracts whilst meeting procurement rules.	No progress reported.	Review the value/feasibility of this commitment moving forward.
Renewing the Way We Work	Better commissioning practices and procedures	11.5	Immediate	We will include criteria about diverse supply chains involving the third sector, in our criteria for Defra's annual Supplier Award for Sustainability.	No progress reported.	Review the value/feasibility of this commitment moving forward.
Renewing the Way We Work	Better commissioning practices and procedures	11.6	Immediate	Promote internally the new Office of the third sector guidance on delivering public services through partnerships and consortia.	We have used the third sector Blog to promote this and other relevant issues (e.g. the work on Social Return on Investment - SROI) coming out of OTS. Approximately one third of the blog subscribers are within Defra.	Continue to use this strategy to raise awareness of third sector issues through the blog.
Renewing the Way We Work	Better commissioning practices and procedures	11.7	Longer Term	Hold a workshop with members of Defra's Collaborative Procurement Network to explore the opportunities and implications for the third sector of procurement activity across Defra's delivery bodies.	No progress reported.	Review the value/feasibility of this commitment moving forward.
Renewing the Way We Work	Better commissioning practices and procedures	11.8	Longer Term	We will explore ways of advertising tender opportunities in a way more accessible to potential third sector suppliers, for example using websites or existing government portals.	No progress reported.	Review the value/feasibility of this commitment moving forward.

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Renewing the Way We Work	Better commissioning practices and procedures	11.9	Longer Term	We will explore ways of mapping potential third sector suppliers relevant to the goods and services Defra procures.	No progress reported.	Review the value/feasibility of this commitment moving forward.
Renewing the Way We Work	Better commissioning practices and procedures	11.10	Longer Term	As part of Defra's supplier engagement strategy, continue to work with the suppliers of Defra's biggest contracts to highlight opportunities for diverse supply chains which include third sector organisations.	No progress reported.	Review the value/feasibility of this commitment moving forward.