Chapter 1

Objectives and performance targets

1. Promote sustainable development across government and the country as a whole as measured by achieving positive trends in the Government’s headline indicators of sustainable development.

Objective 1: protect and improve the rural, urban, marine and global environment, and lead integration of these with other policies across government and internationally.

2. Improve the environment and the sustainable use of natural resources, including through the use of energy-saving technologies, to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 12.5% from 1990 levels and moving towards a 20% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2010.

3. Care for our natural heritage, make the countryside attractive and enjoyable for all, and preserve biological diversity by:

   ● reversing the long-term decline in the number of farmland birds by 2020, as measured annually against underlying trends;
   
   ● bringing 95% of all nationally important wildlife sites into favourable condition by 2010; and
   
   ● opening up public access to mountain, moor, heath and down, and registered common land by the end of 2005.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Public Service Agreement

Aim

Sustainable development, which means a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come, including:

- a better environment at home and internationally, and sustainable use of natural resources;
- economic prosperity through sustainable farming, fishing, food, water and other industries that meet consumers’ requirements; and
- thriving economies and communities in rural areas and a countryside for all to enjoy.

Objectives and performance targets
Objective 2: enhance opportunity and tackle social exclusion in rural areas.

4. Reduce the gap in productivity between the least well performing quartile of rural areas and the English median by 2006, and improve the accessibility of services for rural people.

Objective 3: promote a sustainable, competitive and safe food supply chain which meets consumers’ requirements.

Objective 4: promote sustainable, diverse, modern and adaptable farming through domestic and international actions.

5. Deliver more customer-focused, competitive and sustainable food and farming as measured by the increase in agriculture’s gross value added per person excluding support payments; and secure CAP reforms that reduce production-linked support, enabling enhanced EU funding for environmental conservation and rural development.

Objective 5: promote sustainable management and prudent use of natural resources domestically and internationally.

6. Enable 25% of household waste to be recycled or composted by 2005/06.

7. Reduce fuel poverty among vulnerable households by improving the energy efficiency of 600,000 homes between 2001 and 2004.

Objective 6: protect the public’s interest in relation to environmental impacts and health, and ensure high standards of animal health and welfare.

8. Improve air quality by meeting our National Air Quality Strategy objectives for carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, particles, sulphur dioxide, benzene and 1,3-butadiene – a joint target with the Department for Transport.

9. Protect public health and ensure high standards of animal welfare by reducing:

   ● the annual incidence of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) to less than 30 cases by 2006; and
   ● by 5% the time taken to clear up cases of poor welfare in farmed animals by March 2004.

Value for money

10. Achieve a reduction of 10% of the unit cost of administering CAP payments by 2004/05 and an increase to 95% electronic service delivery capability for such payments by 31 March 2005.
Defra organisation

Ministerial team

**Margaret Beckett** Secretary of State – Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

The Secretary for State has overall responsibility for all Departmental issues on the environment, food (including agriculture, horticulture and fisheries) and rural affairs. Mrs Beckett represents the UK at the EU Agriculture and Fisheries Council and at the EU Environment Council. She leads for the UK in international negotiations on sustainable development and climate change.

**Michael Meacher** Minister of State – Environment and Agri-Environment

Climate Change • Horizontal and International Environmental issues • GMOs • Plant Health, Plant Variety Rights and Seeds • Agri-Environment, Non-Food Crops, Organics • Chemicals • Waste (including Radioactive Waste and Incineration issues) • Chair of Green Ministers (ENV(G)) • Business and the Environment • Environment Agency

**Alun Michael** Minister of State – Rural Affairs and Urban Quality of Life

Rural Affairs (Rural Economies and Communities, Rural White Paper Implementation, Chairs Rural Affairs Forum for England) • Hunting with Dogs • Inland Waterways, Countryside Agency and Rural Payments Agency • Landscape, National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty • Access, Rights of Way and Commons, Horse issues • England Rural Development Programme • Urban Liveability issues • Lead Defra Minister on Planning, Regional and Local Government issues • Environmental Liability, Air Quality, Noise • Department Green Minister • Smart Regulation

**Elliot Morley** Parliamentary Secretary (Commons) – Fisheries, Water and Nature

Nature Conservation and Biodiversity (including Marine) • Water (including the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science) • Fisheries • Floods • Forestry • Animal Health and Welfare (including the Veterinary Laboratory Agency and Veterinary Medicines Directorate)

**Larry Whitty** Parliamentary Secretary (Lords) – Farming, Food and Sustainable Energy

Sustainable Farming (including Horticulture) and the Food Industry • Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) • Trade issues • Science issues (including the Central Science Laboratory) • Pesticides policy (including the Pesticides Safety Directorate) • Transport and the Environment • Energy Efficiency and other Energy issues • Kew Gardens, Horticulture Research International and Covent Garden Market Authority
Defra management board

Brian Bender
Permanent Secretary

Mark Addison
Director General
Operations & Service Delivery

Andrew Burchell
Finance Director

Howard Dalton
Chief Scientific Adviser

Lucian Hudson
Communications Director

Andy Lebrecht
Director General
Food, Farming & Fisheries

Donald Macrae
Solicitor and Director General Legal Service

Francesca Okosi
Director of Change Policy and Corporate Strategy Unit

Jim Scudamore
Chief Veterinary Officer and Director General Animal Health

Bill Stow
Director General Environment

Anna Walker
Director General
Land Use & Rural Affairs

Alison Huxtable
Non-executive Director

Elizabeth Ransom
Non-executive Director

Richard Wakeford
Non-executive Director