



Securing the future

delivering UK sustainable development strategy



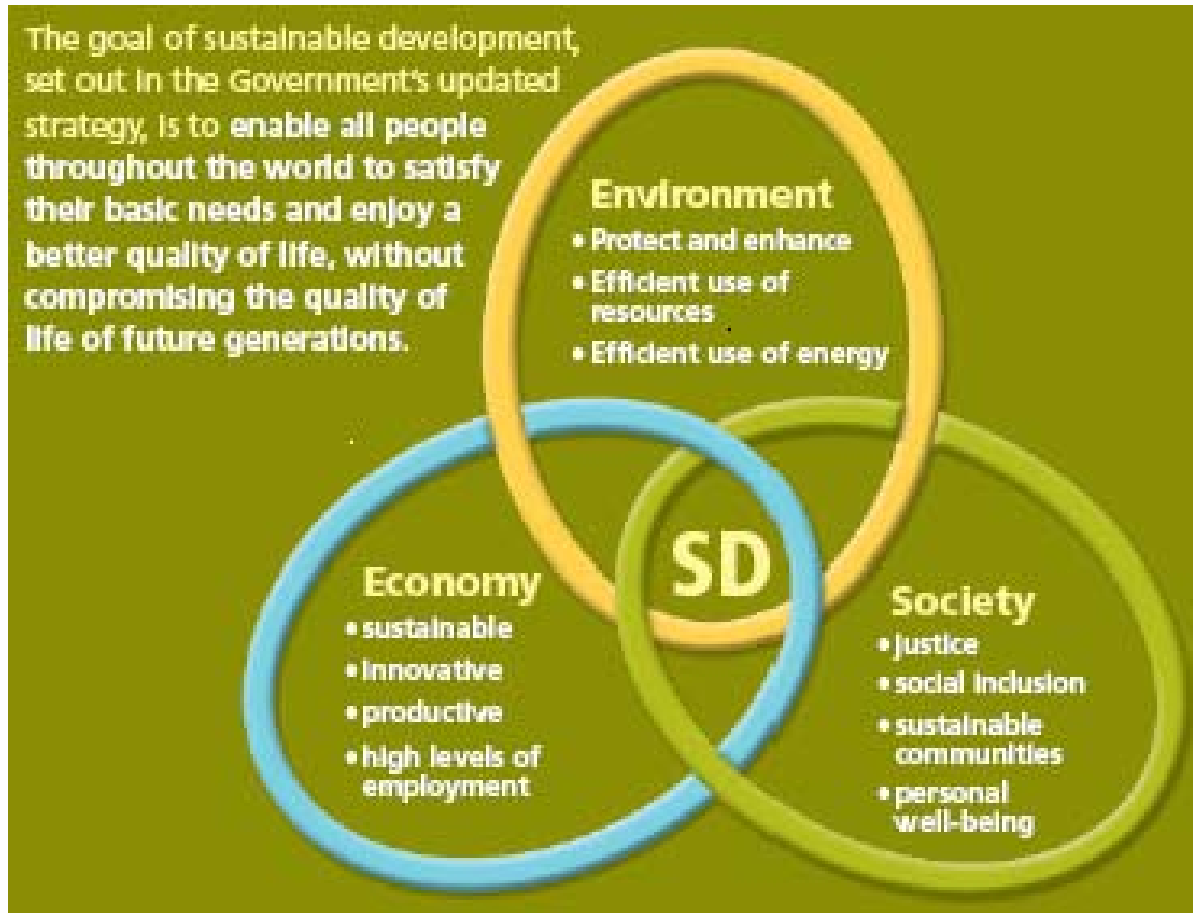
Caroline Season,
Sustainable Development Unit, Defra

The UK Framework and Strategy for SD

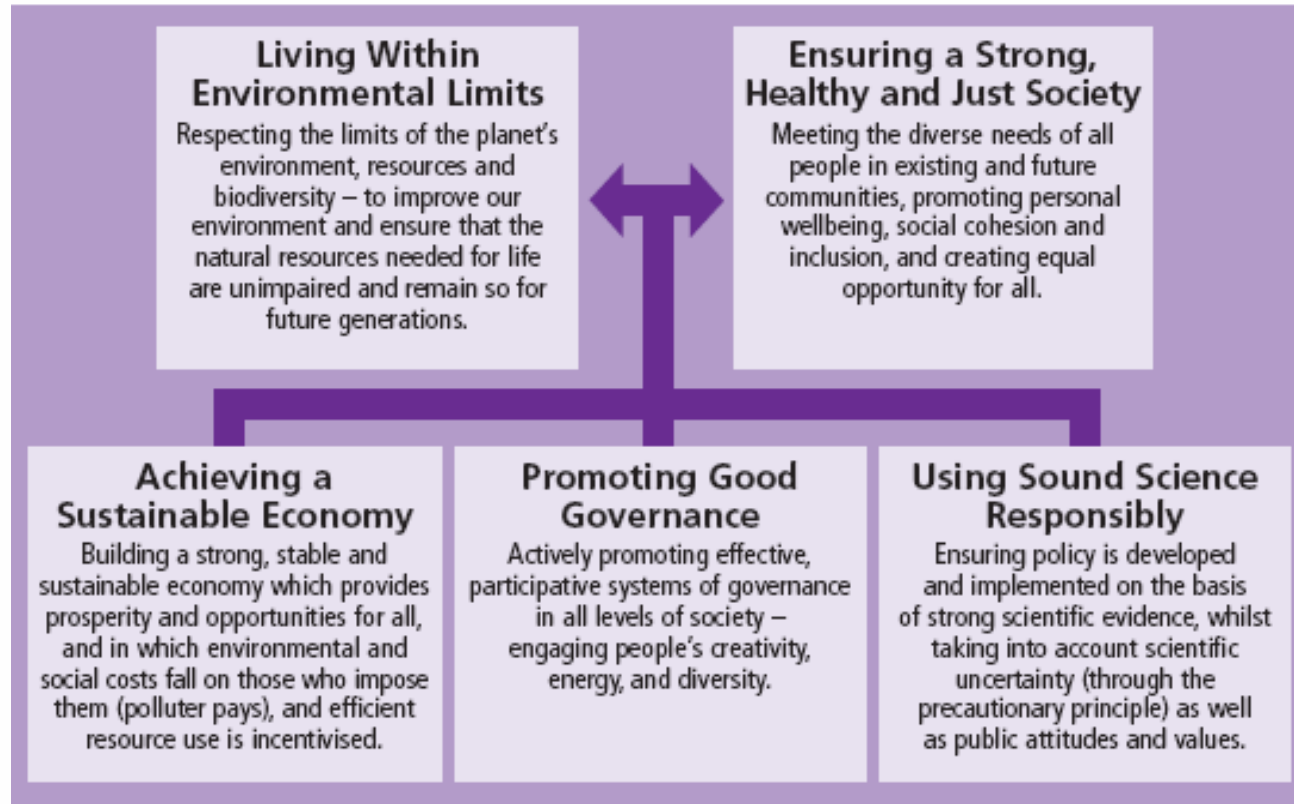


- Overarching UK-wide Framework and detailed UK Government Strategy launched on 7 March 2005
- Shared vision, principles and priorities for sustainable development through to 2020
- Developed across the UK, and with central, regional and local Government

UK sustainable development goal



Five new guiding principles



We want to achieve our goals of living within environmental limits and a just society, and we will do it by means of a sustainable economy, good governance, and sound science.

Four priority areas for action

- **Sustainable consumption and production**
- Climate change and energy
- Protection of natural resources and environmental enhancement
- Creating sustainable communities

And three key themes.....

- *Involving people*
- **Government leading by example**
- *Getting serious about delivery*

New Behaviour Change Model

Approach evolves as attitudes & behaviours change over time

Enable

- Remove barriers
- Give information
- Provide facilities
- Provide viable alternatives
- Educate/ train/ provide skills
- Provide capacity

Catalyse

– is the package enough to break a habit?

Encourage

- Through tax system
- Expenditure - grants
- Reward schemes
- Recognition/ social pressure – league tables
- Penalties/ fines/ enforcement action

Engage

- Community action
- Co-production
- Deliberative forum
- Media campaigns/ opinion formers?
- Use Networks

Exemplify

- Leading by example
- Achieving consistencies in policies

Products and the Environment

- Changes in the way we produce, distribute, use and dispose of products can make big reductions in the major environmental impacts
- Govt's aim is to develop more integrated approaches to tackling product impacts across the lifecycle
- Government's measures include:
 - Promoting greater consumer demand e.g awareness activities, information such as labelling and in some cases, price signals and regulation
 - **Stimulating the supply of better performing products e.g. through Govt procurement**
 - Supporting research and innovation

Sustainable Public Procurement

- UK Govt buys **£13 billion** worth of goods and services p.a. Wider public sector is **£125 billion**
- Benefits of sustainable public procurement:
 - Reduces impacts arising on the govt estate and in the supply chain
 - Reduces costs through lower energy consumption and waste disposal costs
 - Stimulates and rewards market to innovate & produce more sustainable goods and services
 - Sets an example for the public and business, and shows we are serious about SD



So how are we doing?

- From 1 November 2003, all central government departments have been required to apply minimum environmental standards in new contracts which cover aspects such as energy efficiency, recycled content and biodegradability, for certain product types.
- Govt's Sustainable Procurement Group (SPG) identified a number of *quick wins* for departments: copier paper, paper for publications, lighting systems and light-bulbs, paints and varnishes, detergents, thermal screens, tissue paper, domestic boilers, fridges and freezers, dishwashers and washing machines.
- New requirements on Agricultural, forestry and food products

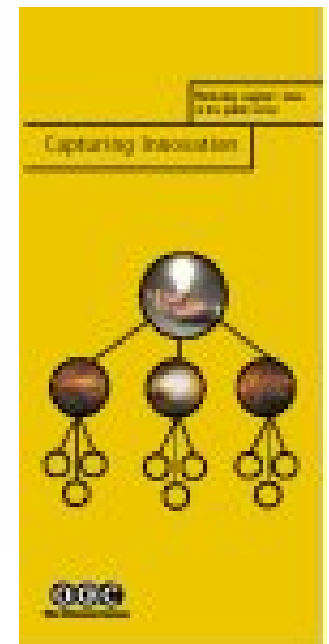
'State of the art' for Sustainable Public Procurement

- Govt's procurement policy is that "all public procurement policy should be based on value for money, having due regard to propriety and regularity"
- Achieving value for money is defined as the "optimum combination of whole life cost and quality (fitness for purpose) to meet the user's requirements"
- It is for Departments to decide what to buy and set the specification in context of their overall objectives

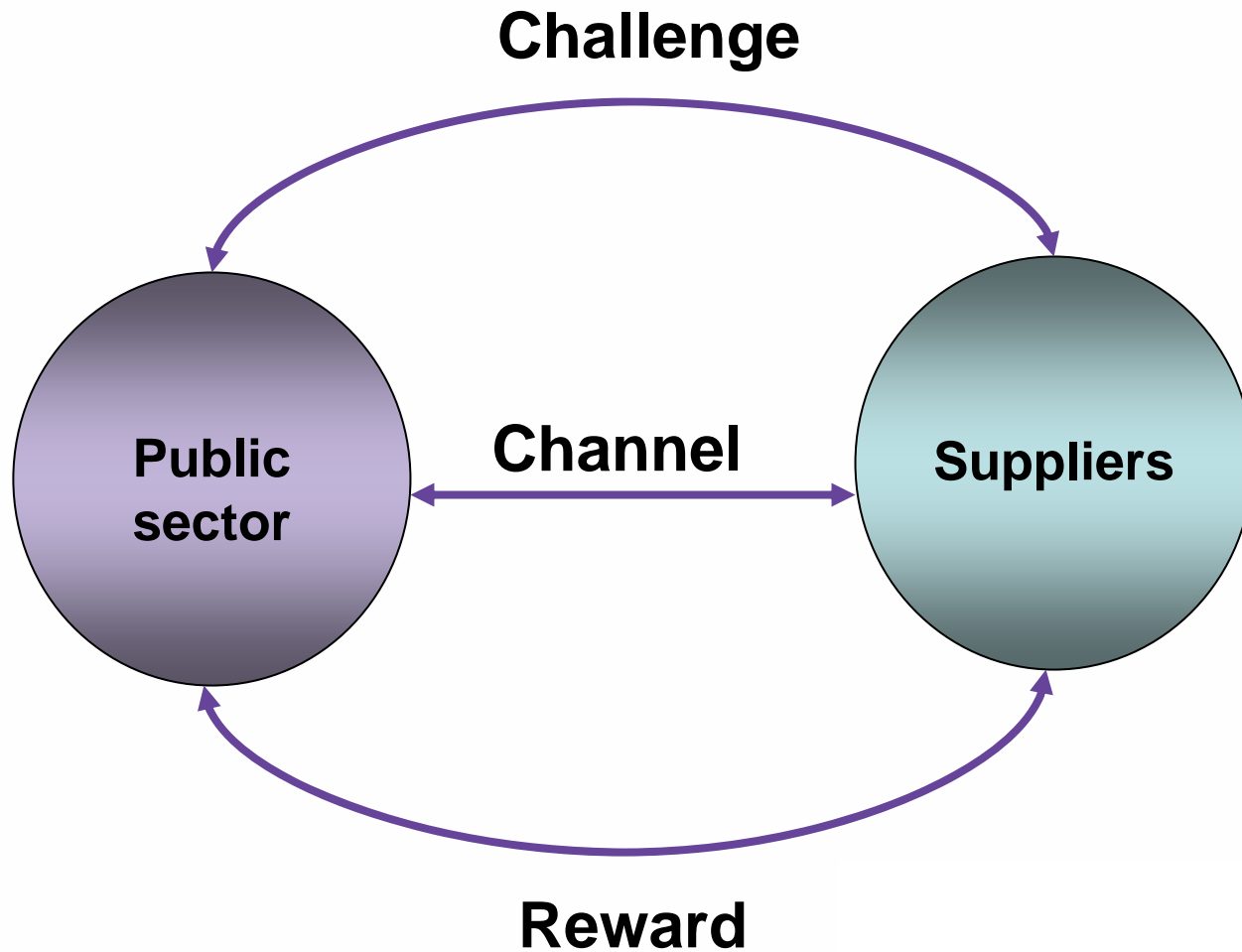


New Guidance

- **Capturing Innovation** – launched April 2004 by DTI and HM Treasury - challenges government procurers to "think innovation"
- The Guidance demonstrates how procurement professionals across the public sector can procure innovative solutions that will both deliver quality of public service and support innovation in business
- Its basic message is **involve potential suppliers early** – but without favouritism!



Capturing Innovation – the basics



What can we specify?

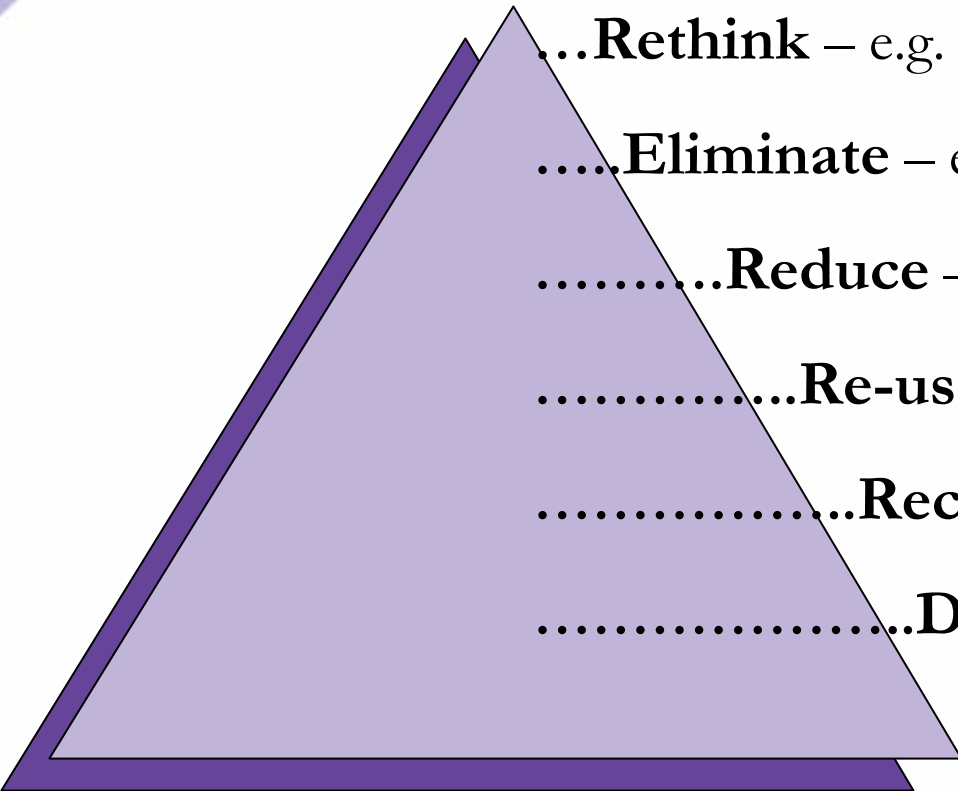
- Primary materials used – e.g. recycled or recyclable
- Performance or functional requirements which can include environmental aspects
- Production process – e.g. organic food, ‘green’ electricity, sustainable timber
- Define additional options with higher env. performance
- Draw on specifications from eco-label criteria; and
- Can ask at the selection stage for evidence relating to environmental management measures when contracting for works or services

And for social issues?

- Scope is more limited than for environmental as less likely to be clearly related to the subject of the contract
- Where specific skills or expertise of a social nature are needed this can be reflected in the specification - e.g. specific language skills to meet the needs of the customer community
- Cannot distort competition or discriminate against other EU States e.g. specify the employment of a certain percentage of people from a region or country



SD Purchasing Hierarchy

- 
- ...**Rethink** – e.g. service instead of product?
 -**Eliminate** – e.g. hazardous material content
 -**Reduce** – e.g. emissions produced
 -**Re-use** – e.g. packaging
 -**Recycle** – e.g. paper, glass, metals
 -**Dispose/end of life management**
minimise quantities and cost

© Barbara Morton, *Environmental Purchasing in Practice*

Specify results/outputs, let potential suppliers innovate!!

Can Govt buy low emission vehicles?

- Yes. Even if more expensive than 'standard'.
- But this must be considered during **specification**. At this stage there is little in terms of procurement policy or EC rules that affect the scope to consider sustainable development issues
- Internal customers and procurement staff – within the Department need to work closely together in the development of the specification



Looking ahead – Procurement Strategies

- By December 2005, all Government Departments will draw up a **Sustainable Procurement Strategy** , to include:-
 - *Environmental Purchasing Policy* – setting the mandate for purchasing managers
 - *Env. Risk Assessments and Contracts* – putting in place processes to assess the environmental risks associated with its procured goods and services
 - *Env. Supply Chain Management Programme* – working with suppliers to improve their env. performance
 - *Govt-wide initiatives and reviews* – Guidance notes, minimum environmental standards, agricultural and forestry products, voluntary agreements

(Lots of!) commitments in new SD Strategy

- Our new goal is to be **‘amongst the leaders in sustainable public procurement across EU member states by 2009**
- To deliver thus the Government will:
 - develop further public sector procurement targets in priority areas
 - extend the ‘quick wins’ list; improve compliance by public sector purchasers and enable suppliers to demonstrate compliance to these standards
 - embed sustainable development into the existing Office of Government Commerce(OGC) and NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency and work with key markets and public sector suppliers

Commitments in the new SD Strategy (II)

- work with the Ch. Institute of Purchasing and Supply, to ensure that SD considerations are embedded in procurement courses and qualifications, and that public sector procurers receive appropriate professional training
- develop the 'OGCbuying.solutions' pilot website on sustainable procurement into a comprehensive central resource for public sector buyers and suppliers by 2006
- develop key performance indicators for sustainable procurement activity through working across the public sector, business and other interested parties

Commitments in the new SD Strategy (III)

- work closely with the European Commission to measure and assess EU environmental public procurement, in particular related to environmental technologies, with the aim of establishing an EU-wide benchmark target
- work with the Environmental Innovations Advisory Group to demonstrate how public sector purchasers can draw environmental innovations into the market by making a forward commitment through the procurement process,
- take action to remove barriers to, and increase the opportunities for, increased sustainable procurement activity.

Sustainable Procurement Taskforce

- To drive this a **Business-led Taskforce** is developing an Action Plan by April 2006 to help achieve our goal of UK amongst the leaders in Europe by 2009
- The Action Plan should set out how to:
 - avoid adverse environmental impacts arising on the govt estate and our supply-chains;
 - make more efficient use of public resources;
 - stimulate the market to innovate and to produce more cost effective and sustainable options for all purchasers; and
 - set an example for business and the public



Other actions

- **Sustainable Design Forum** due for launch in New Year
- **Environment Direct** – new information service for the public on the impacts of goods and services – launch in 2006
- **Round-table on Sustainable Consumption** - led by SDC and NCC – to build a vision of where and how we might aim to move UK consumption patterns, due to report March 2006
- **Deliberative Forum** by Autumn 2006 to explore public views on sustainable consumption and lifestyles



➤ For more information go to: www.sustainable-development.gov.uk or join our SD Research Network at www.sd-research.org.uk