

Sustainable Development Commission

From Rhetoric to Action:

**Steps towards achieving
a sustainable energy future
for the UK**

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Issues to be covered

- ✦ General role & approach of SDC
- ✦ Climate change targets and audit
- ✦ Approach to sustainable energy policy / low carbon future
- ✦ **d**CARB-uk project

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Role and approach of the SDC

To advocate sustainable development across all sectors in the UK, review progress towards it and build consensus for further action using the following principles:

- ✘ Putting sustainable development at the centre
- ✘ Valuing nature
- ✘ Fair shares
- ✘ Polluter pays
- ✘ Good governance
- ✘ Adopting a precautionary approach

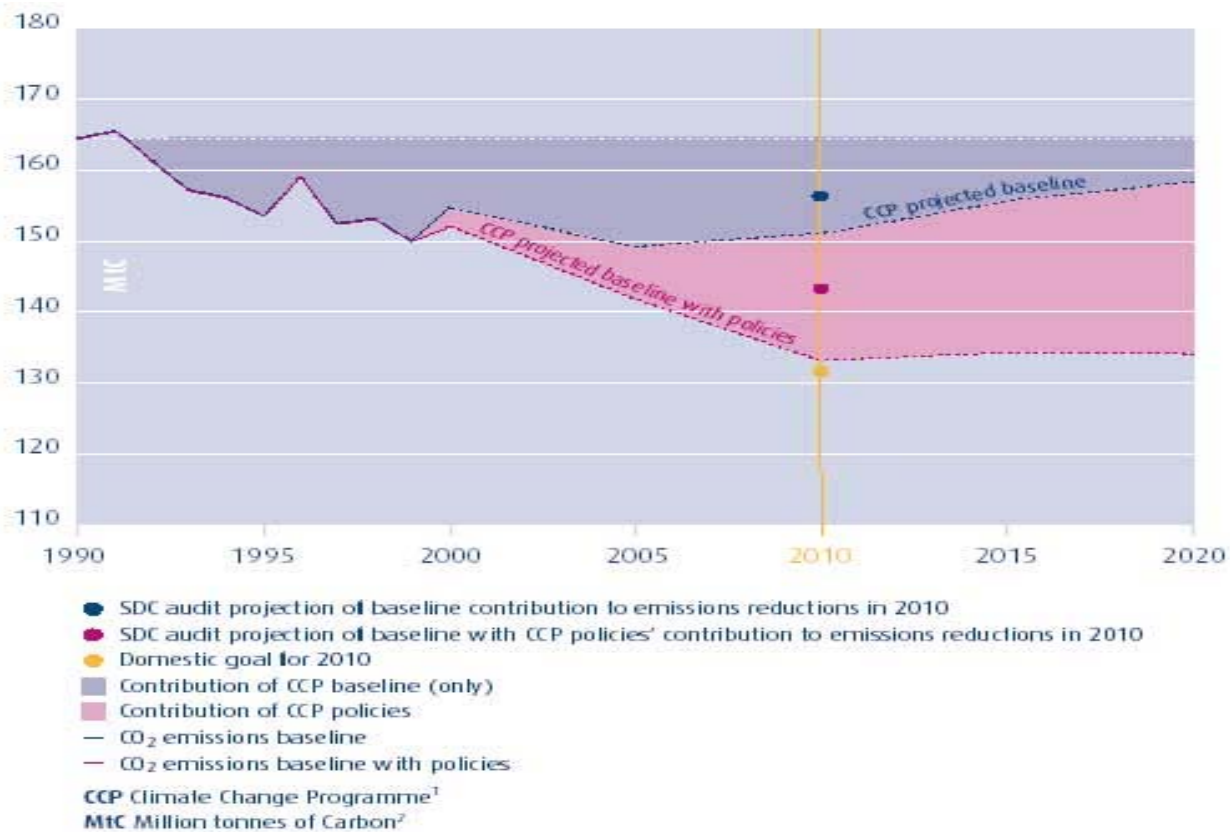
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Climate Change Audit

- ✘ **Without further measures Government will miss its domestic goal of 20% reductions by 2010**
- ✘ **Kyoto target of 12.5% reductions by 2008-2012 will be achieved**
- ✘ **Government's projections beyond 2010 do not show radical shift to low carbon path**
- ✘ **Policies are not in place for more sustainable patterns of energy generation or consumption**

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Climate Change Audit



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Need for Urgent Action

- ✘ **Factors outside CCP have major negative influence especially electricity markets and aviation**
- ✘ **Additional measures are needed to bolster CCP and establish groundwork for low carbon economy**
- ✘ **Political leadership required to initiate process and provide clarity of long term intentions to business**
- ✘ **Energy WP provides a strong lead but will it be successfully implemented?**

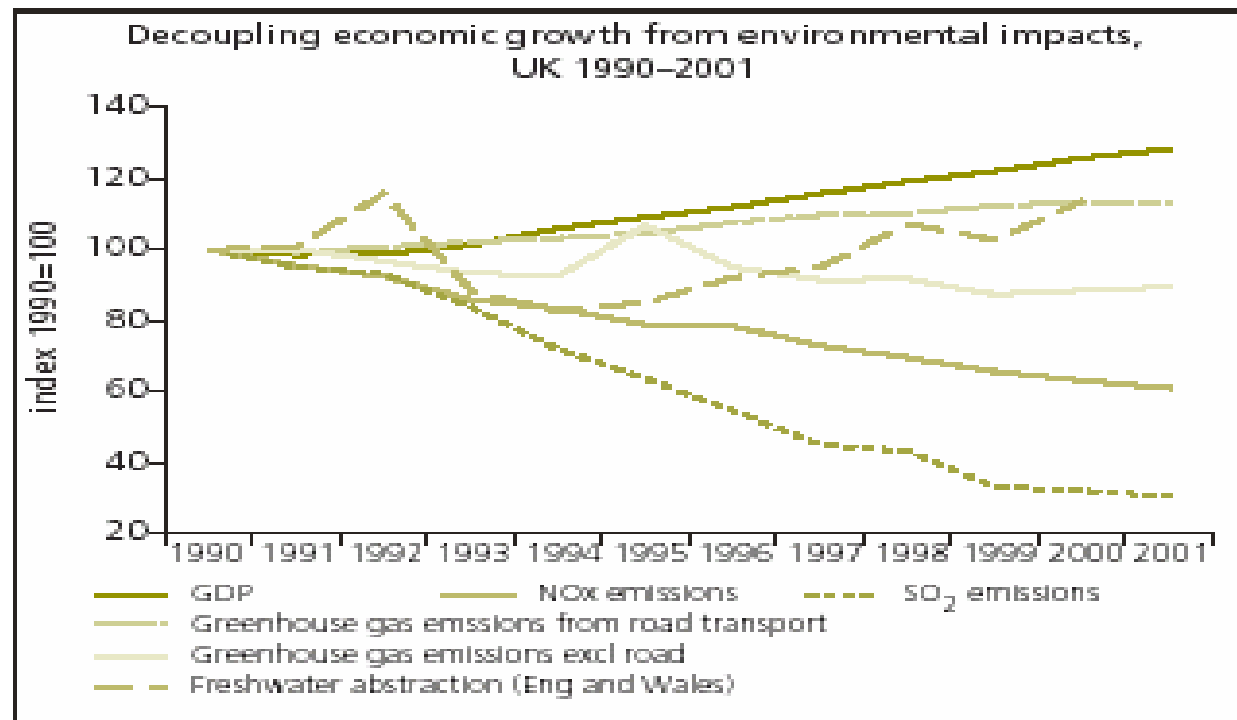
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Aims of Sustainable Energy Policy:

- ❖ **Adopt energy strategy to achieve RCEP target of 60% reduction in CO2 by 2050 with clear milestones**
- ❖ **Target of at least 20% renewables by 2020**
- ❖ **Increased focus on energy efficiency & conservation with challenging targets for all sectors**
- ❖ **Decouple environmental pollution from economic growth through sustainable consumption and production.**

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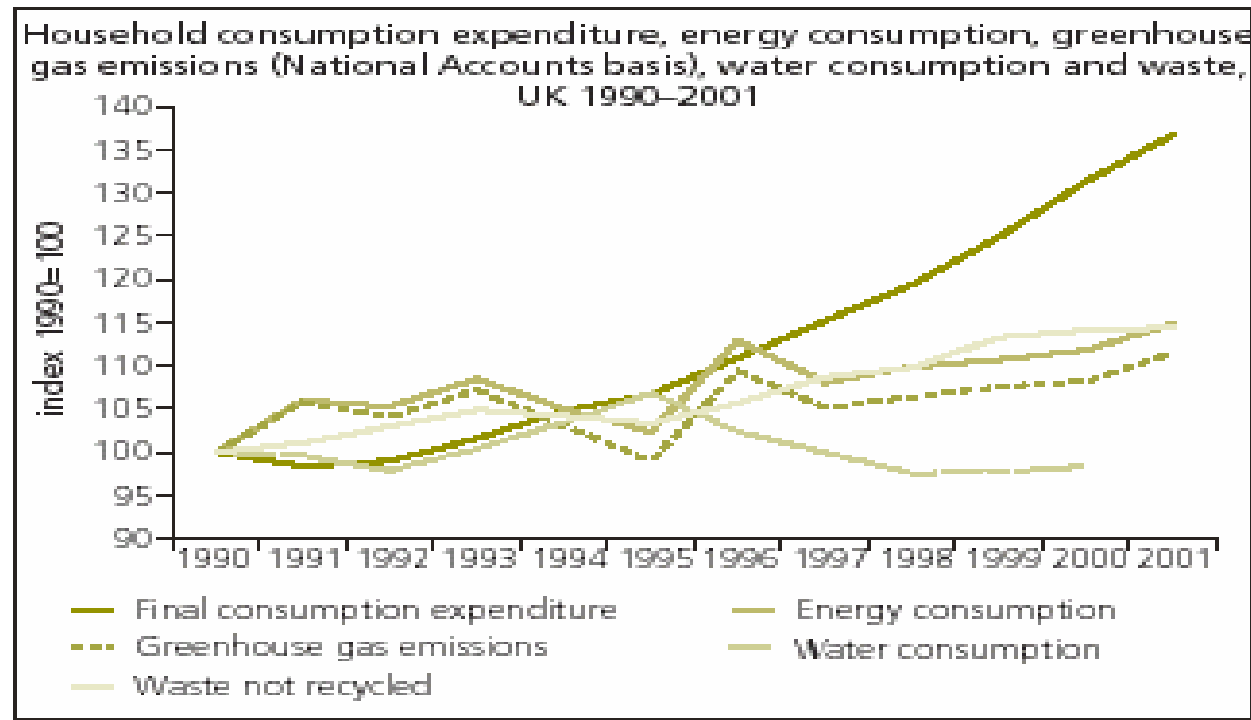
Decoupling Economic Growth



Sources: Office for National Statistics, Defra, Environment Agency

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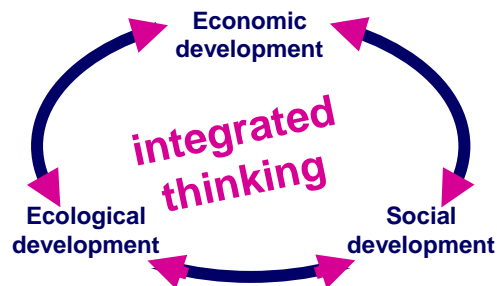
Household Consumption



Sources: Office for National Statistics, Defra, Ofwat

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low carbon thinking



1. Efficiencies

2. Attitudes

3. Lifestyles

technology on its own is not enough

CO₂ reduction:

- a threat?
- a better / smarter way of living?



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Instruments

- ✘ **Overhaul of economic and regulatory instruments to promote sustainable energy and conservation**
- ✘ **Energy industry to move focus towards selling energy services in preference to supplying energy commodities**
- ✘ **Better building regulations and processes could cut energy and construction waste by 60%**
- ✘ **Energy dimension should be integrated into all aspects of transport decision-making**

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Sustainable Transition

- ❖ **Securing a “just transition” for industry and employment**
- ❖ **Government and business to be “first mover” to low carbon economy aimed at improving quality of life and “competitive edge”**
- ❖ **Capacity building for skills and innovation**
- ❖ **Shift to local/distributed generation systems**

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Towards a policy for Sustainable Consumption

- ✘ **Supplement economic instruments with attitude change**
- ✘ **Government can influence individual behaviour by influencing context of choices**
- ✘ **Government should facilitate removal of “lock-in” to unsustainable consumption**
- ✘ **Promote social, cultural and ethical supports to nurture sustainable consumer behaviour**

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dCARB-uk: Overall Objectives

CO₂ emissions reduction

- ✧ promotion of 60% CO₂ reduction goal as national and regional priorities
- ✧ an appreciation of what has been, and is being done towards carbon reduction, including assessing lessons learned
- ✧ a quantified ongoing assessment of the UK's ability to meet the 60% goal
- ✧ through successful projects provide leadership for a wider take up of carbon reduction at all levels of UK society

Social impact

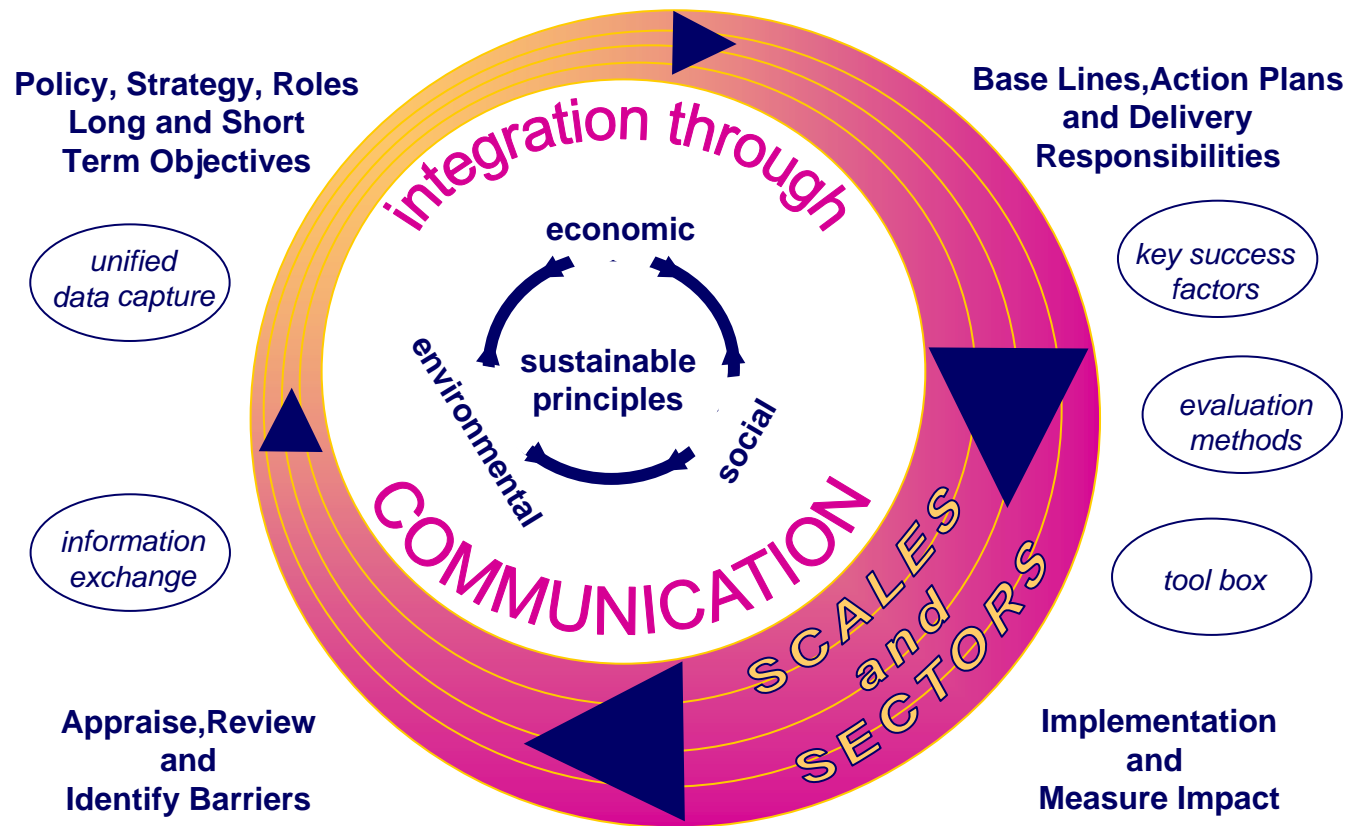
- ✧ identification of social impacts of carbon reduction

Barriers and communication

- ✧ identification of barriers to carbon reduction and ways of overcoming them
- ✧ identify and communicate issues to be addressed by government and society at large

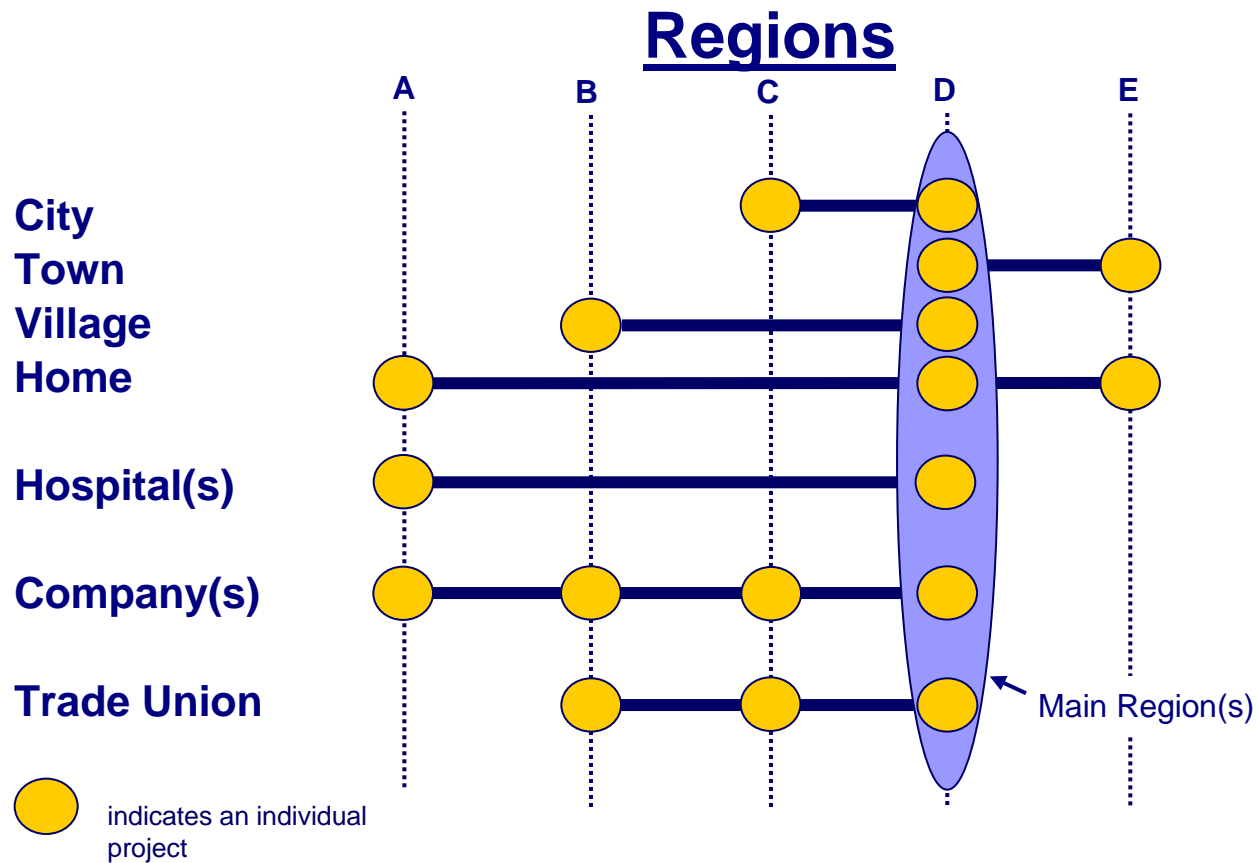
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dCARB-uk : project framework



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dCARB-uk: simplified model



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The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the dCARB-uk website. The page layout includes a navigation sidebar on the left with links such as 'low carbon opportunities', 'project details', 'reports and publications', 'events', 'press', 'project stories', 'FAQs: climate change and carbon emissions', and 'discussion forum'. The main content area features the heading 'A new approach to cutting carbon' and a paragraph describing the project's goal to achieve a 60% reduction in UK carbon emissions by 2050. To the right, there is a section titled 'The following are those who partner and funders' with logos for various organizations including the Sustainable Development Commission, Energy Saving Trust, EPSRC, and others. The window's taskbar at the bottom shows several open applications, including an email client and a web browser.

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Our Energy Future: Creating a Low Carbon Economy

- ❖ **Clear targets and timetables with rigorous monitoring and review**
- ❖ **Holistic approach with coherent policy signals from all government agencies at all spatial levels**
- ❖ **Promoting new sustainable/smarter ways of living and working with “just transition”**
- ❖ **Facilitate through new skills, R&D, infrastructure and toolkits, communication and partnerships**