



4. Taking the Framework Forward

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4.1 Introduction

The production of this Framework has offered the South West an important opportunity to develop partnership working at the regional level. This is an important first step towards an integrated approach to our strategic planning for the future .

The Framework is a starting point for an ongoing dynamic process in the South West that all the regional bodies can help to shape and promote. Its success depends on this ownership and involvement.

4.2 The Process

The principles set out in this Framework will now need to be applied, and the objectives achieved. In order to measure progress there needs to be a regular monitoring and reporting process. The intention is that an Annual Report be produced which can inform the region about progress towards sustainability. At both the European and national level new initiatives come forward regularly. An Annual Report will enable this Framework to be updated.

Indicators

The headline Indicators will be an important element because they will demonstrate trends and, as a set, cover the social, economic and environmental health of the region. In order for the Indicators to be fully effective they need to be reported on over the long-term. There is also the potential in the future development of the Framework for an analysis of the various sets of regional indicators that have been devised for other processes [e.g. RPG] in order to reveal a clearer picture of where the region is in terms of sustainability.

Where the Framework has identified gaps in our regional information base, it will help to focus the work of the Regional Observatory.

Targets

At this stage the Framework has deliberately excluded the use of targets in relation to each objective. This is to allow sufficient time for close liaison with service providers to identify appropriate and achievable targets. In some cases national targets have already

been set and the government will expect the South West to play its part in meeting them. Examples of this are the renewable energy target and CO₂ emissions. In this region a study on the potential for renewable energy generation is still underway, and the results of this will be included in the first annual report on this Framework.

4.3 Promoting the Framework

This Framework will only be worthwhile if it is used widely.

In order for this to happen it needs to be promoted to a wide spectrum of audiences throughout the region and in every sector. A programme of events reaching out to different organisations is intended. The Checklist can also be customised to maximise its usefulness to any particular sector.

4.4 Who's involved ?

The Role of Regional Assembly

The Regional Assembly has the democratic mandate to lead the process of taking the Framework forward and promoting a partnership approach amongst the key regional bodies.

Sustainability South West can support the Assembly by applying its expertise to prepare regular progress reports and reviews.

SWRDA, GOSW, Environment Agency (EA) and other regional organizations can demonstrate their contribution by adopting the principles of the regional Framework and initiating sustainability appraisals of their activities and proposals.

Local authorities, organisations, businesses and service providers can help deliver the objectives of the Framework through adopting relevant approaches in their strategies and activities.