

TERM	DEFINITION
Aarhus Convention	The UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, adopted on 25th June 1998.
Academy for Sustainable Communities	Based in Leeds, and supported by a network of regional centres, this initiative of the ODPM will develop new ideas and thinking on sustainable communities.
Accessibility planning	A framework for tackling barriers faced by disadvantaged people in accessing jobs and essential services.
Active communities	Strong, empowered communities that are capable of doing things for themselves.
Aggregated indices	Statistics calculated for use as environmental indicators.
Aggregates levy	Tax on the commercial exploitation of aggregate.
Air Quality Strategy	Published in 1997, the strategy contains commitments to achieve new air quality objectives throughout the UK by 2005.
Ambient temperature	The temperature of a medium surrounding an object.
Beacon Council	Council recognised for its excellence and innovation.
Best Value Performance Indicators	Measures of performance set by central Government Departments.
Better regulation	Better regulation task force – review of environmental regulations in relation to farming.
Big Lottery Fund	An organisation that hands out half of the money for good causes from the National Lottery.
Biodiversity	The diversity of plant and animal life in a particular habitat.
Bioenergy Infrastructure Scheme	A scheme designed to provide grants for farmers, foresters and businesses to help develop the supply chain required to harvest, store, process and supply energy crops and wood fuel to energy end-users.
Biomass	Organic materials that are converted into electricity or clean-burning fuels

	in an environmentally-friendly and sustainable way.
Black Minority Ethnic (BME)	Individuals or communities of black minority or ethnic background.
Brownfield first	A drive to ensure that planning authorities give preference to the recycling of land that has been used previously, rather than developing greenfield areas.
Brownfield land	A site that has been previously developed.
Business in the Community (BITC)	An organisation of the UK's top companies who are committed to improving their positive impact on society.
Business Resource Efficiency and Waste programme (BREW)	Scheme through which the Government returns some of the landfill tax paid by companies, so as to encourage waste management and resource efficiency.
CABE Space	Part of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, CABE Space aims to bring excellence to the design, management and maintenance of parks and public space in towns and cities.
Capacity-building	Activities, resources and support that strengthen the skills and abilities of people and community groups to take effective action and leading roles in the development of their communities.
Carbon Abatement Technology Strategy	The Government's framework for the future development of low to zero CO ₂ emissions technologies that use fossil fuels.
Carbon impact assessment	Any policy likely to have an impact on emissions requires a carbon impact assessment to assess environmental impacts.
Carbon Management Programme	Through this programme, the Carbon Trust provides councils with technical and change management support and guidance to help them realise carbon emissions savings. The primary focus of the work is to reduce emissions under the control of the local authority such as buildings, vehicle fleets, street lighting and

	landfill sites. Practical support is given in areas such as identifying carbon saving opportunities, developing an emissions reduction implementation plan, provision of analysis software, workshop support for staff and senior management training.
Carbon savings	Reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, reducing our energy wastage, reducing the UK's contribution of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, thus reducing our contribution to climate change.
Carbon Trust	A Government-funded independent company, helps businesses and the public sector to cut carbon emissions and to exploit the potential of low carbon technologies.
Central Local Partnership (CLP)	Set up to strengthen links between Government Departments and local government.
Centre for Management and Policy Studies (CMPS)	Works to ensure that public sector reforms are implemented and to improve the capability of staff in the Civil Service.
Chemicals Regulation (REACH)	The European Commission's proposal to adopt a new European chemicals policy, known as REACH (Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals) to assure that chemicals are produced and used as safely as possible, and imposes a high cost on industry and governments in implementing the system. It will work to support a more sustainable production and use of chemicals.
Cities Alliance	A global alliance of cities and their development partners that aims to improve the living conditions of the urban poor.
Citizen Engagement and Public Service: Why Neighbourhoods Matter	Discussion document offering new opportunities for people to take action in their neighbourhoods to help shape the local services they receive.
Clean Neighbourhoods and Environmental Bill	Gives local authorities additional legislative powers to combat local environmental crime such as fly-tipping and abandoned vehicles.
Cleaner, Safer, Greener	Government initiative to improve the

	quality of planning, design, management and maintenance of public spaces and the built environment.
Climate change	The change in average weather over time and over a region, including changes in temperature, wind patterns and precipitation.
Climate Change Agreements	Agreements between key industrial sectors and the Government: the Government will offer discounts on the climate change levy to sectors who agree challenging targets on energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions.
Climate Change Communications Initiative	Initiative to change public attitudes towards climate change. The initiative will focus strongly on communicating at a local and regional level the effects of climate change and prevention techniques.
Climate Change Levy	Tax on the use of energy in industry, commerce and the public sector.
Climate Change Programme (CCP)	Government initiative launched in 2000 that introduced a series of measures to meet the UK target of cutting CO ₂ levels to 20% below 1990 levels by 2010.
Code for Sustainable Buildings	Government initiative to establish higher standards for energy and water efficiency, as well as waste and use of materials, in building, maintaining and occupying buildings.
Combined Heat and Power (CHP)	Technology enabling the simultaneous generation of usable heat and power (usually electricity) in a single process.
Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)	United Nations body formed in 1992 to ensure effective follow-up of United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).
Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)	Introduced in 1962 with the purpose of providing farmers in each EU country with payments and market support.
Community Cohesion Pathfinder Programme	Programme that aims to test and evaluate new methods of developing social cohesion and community participation in a wide range of different communities across the

	country.
Community empowerment	Supporting communities so that they are capable of doing things for themselves.
Community Forests	A partnership between the Countryside Agency, the Forestry Commission, local authorities and other organisations. The aim is to diversify land-use and revitalise derelict land in 12 areas of England.
Community strategies	Drawn up by local councils to promote and improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of their areas and to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in the UK.
Comprehensive Performance Assessment	Initiative to assess how well councils deliver their local services.
Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention	The UN Framework Convention established an annual Conference of Parties (COP) to oversee the implementation of environmental goals including to stabilise developed world greenhouse gas emissions.
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)	The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, more commonly known as CITES, aims to protect certain plants and animals by regulating and monitoring their international trade to prevent it reaching unsustainable levels.
Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRT AP)	Since 1979 the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution has addressed some of the major environmental problems of the UNECE region through scientific collaboration and policy negotiation.
Core indicators	Indicators laid down by the Government, to be used by Regional Development Agencies.
Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)	Contribution of businesses to sustainable development, through taking into account their economic, social and environmental impacts in the way they operate.
Countryside Agency	Statutory body working to improve rural quality of life and the countryside as a whole.
CSR Academy	Organisation that promotes corporate

	social responsibility (CSR) learning through a dedicated Competency Framework.
Decent homes standard	A set standard that all public housing should meet by 2010.
Decouple	Break the link between economic growth and environmental impact.
Decoupling	See 'decouple'.
Decoupling indicators	Set of indicators laid down by the Government to measure effectiveness of decoupling measures.
Degradation	Damage to the environment.
Deliberative forum	Group of citizens brought together to discuss and consider options for important public issues.
Density Direction	Requires local authorities to consult the Secretary of State before giving planning permission for low density housing on large sites. This applies to areas of high housing demand.
Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)	Central Government Department with responsibility for Culture, Media and Sport.
Department for International Development (DfID)	Central Government Department with responsibility for International Development.
Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)	Central Government Department with responsibility for Trade and Industry.
Devolved Administration (DA)	The administrations of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.
Diversity Review	Research carried out by The Countryside Agency to investigate what can be done to support the participation in outdoor recreation of disabled people, black and minority ethnic people, people who live in inner city areas, and young people.
Doha Development Agenda (DDA)	World Trade Organisation initiative to ensure that developing countries secure a share in the growth of world trade .
Doha Development Round	Trade negotiations in relation to the Doha Development Agenda.
Drug Interventions Programme	Initiative to move drug-misusing offenders towards treatment and away from drug use and crime.
Dwelling density	Measurement of the number of dwellings in a particular area.

Eco-footprinting	An abbreviation of 'ecological footprinting', a method of measuring the amount of space or the environment necessary to produce the goods and services necessary to support a particular lifestyle.
Ecological footprint	A method of measuring the amount of space or the environment necessary to produce the goods and services necessary to support a particular lifestyle.
Economic instruments/fiscal instruments	Monetary measures designed to encourage a change in behaviour.
Ecosystems	An area that contains plants, animals and other organisms interacting with each other and with the environment.
Ecotourism	Tourism involving travel to areas of natural or ecological interest for the purpose of observing wildlife and learning about the environment.
EECCA Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia	Group of countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.
Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)	Scheme under which companies can exceed their emissions allowances by buying extra allowances.
Energy Crops Scheme	The Energy Crops Scheme (ECS) provides establishment grants for two energy crops, short-rotation coppice (SRC) and miscanthus, and aid to help SRC growers set up producer groups.
Energy Efficiency Action Plan	Published on 26 April 2004, the plan sets out how the government aims to cut carbon emissions over 12 million tonnes of carbon per year by 2010 saving households and businesses over £3 billion per year.
Energy Efficiency Certification for School	This Scheme promotes energy management and efficiency for the whole school community - students, governors, staff and local authorities. It encourages schools to make links between the school curriculum and the management of energy efficiency.
Energy efficient	Making the best use of energy resources.
Energy intensive sectors	Sectors of industry using high levels of energy, such as steel manufacturing.

Energy recovering	Re-claiming energy from processes so that it can be re-used.
Energy security	The availability of supplies of gas, electricity and fuel; the adequacy of generating capacity; and the adequacy of the UK's energy infrastructure.
Energy supply sector	The industries that supply energy for domestic and commercial use.
Energy Technology List	The Energy Technology List provides detailed information on products from all technology categories that meet specific low carbon eligibility criteria.
England Rural Development Programme (ERDP)	ERDP contributes to the delivery of the Government's Strategy for Sustainable Farming and Food by helping farmers and foresters respond better to consumer requirements and become more competitive, diverse, flexible and environmentally responsible. It also provides help to rural businesses and communities which need to adapt and develop.
English Regions Network	The umbrella organisation for the Regional Assemblies, its role being to bring members and officials together to discuss matters of mutual interest, and to co-ordinate joint Assemblies activity.
Enhanced Capital Allowances	Scheme to give 100% first-year tax relief to companies who buy energy efficient equipment.
Environment Agency	Government agency that works to safeguard the environment.
Environment and Social Justice	Considering how environmental and social issues relate to each other.
Environment for Europe Fund	Defra initiative to promote environmental protection and sustainable development in Central and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.
Environmental Audit Committee (EAC)	Committee that considers how the policies and programmes of Government Departments and public bodies contribute to environmental protection and sustainable development.
Environmental democracy	A system under which citizens have rights to access environmental

	information held by public authorities, to participate in environmental decision-making and to take violations of environmental law to court.
Environmental equity	The fair distribution of environmental risks
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	A procedure that must be followed for certain types of development before they are given development consent.
Environmental inequalities	The variation in the quality of the environment between different areas and communities.
Environmental Information Regulations (EIR)	Rules enabling people to request environmental information from public bodies.
Environmental Management System (EMS)	A method of assessing environmental impacts in a systematic way (ISO 14001)
Environmental Stewardship	Environmental Stewardship is a agri-environment scheme which provides funding to farmers and other land managers in England who deliver effective environmental management on their land.
Envirowise	A body offering free and independent advice to UK businesses on practical ways to increase profits, minimise waste and reduce environmental impact.
Epnet	A website for Government officials working on environmental issues.
Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI)	An alliance of companies, non-governmental organisations essentially directed at employees to ensure that their working and living conditions are safe and decent.
EU emissions trading schemes (EU ETS)	The EU ETS involves the buying and selling of emissions 'allowances'. At the end of the year, companies report their annual emissions, if their allowances have been exceeded they are liable to financial penalties. However, if a participant reduces their emissions below their allowance they can keep the surplus for future years, or sell them to companies who exceeded their own.
European Union (EU)	A union of 25 independent European

	countries committed to political, social and economic co-operation
European Union (EU) Sustainable Development Strategy	The EU's plan to ensure that social and economic progress take into account the environment and natural resources.
Extended Schools	A school that provides a range of services and activities often beyond the school day to help meet the needs of its pupils, their families and the wider community.
Extended Schools Initiative	To open up schools to provide wider services for pupils, families and the community – services such as adult learning, childcare, parenting support, ICT access and even on-site health and social care.
Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI)	Initiative aimed at improving the transparency and acceptability of payments (such as taxes and royalties) made by companies in the extractive industry to the Government.
Farm Woodland Premium Scheme	The scheme aims to enhance the environment through the planting of farm woodlands, which improves the landscape, provides new habitats and increases biodiversity.
Firm Foundations	The Government framework for community capacity building.
Floor target	Minimum standard.
Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)	Food and Agriculture Organisation helps developing countries and countries in transition modernise and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices and ensure good nutrition for all.
Food and Health Action Plan	National Government plan to help people in England to improve their diets.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)	Central Government Department responsible for Foreign Policy.
Forest law Enforcement and Governance programme	The UK's Forest Law Enforcement and Governance Programme is a three-year programme aimed at facilitating reforms by national, regional and international institutions to address the problem of illegal logging and international trade in illegally harvested timber.

Forum for the Future	A leading UK sustainable development charity.
Fossil fuel	Coal, gas and oil
Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate	A framework gives guidance to government departments on how they can make a contribution to sustainable development by looking at energy, water and waste management, and the goods and services they buy.
Freedom of Information (FOI) Act	Gives individuals the right to request information from public authorities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
Futerra	A company specialising in the communication of sustainable development and corporate social responsibility.
Future of Air Transport White Paper	The paper sets out a strategic framework for the development of airport capacity in the United Kingdom over the next 30 years, against the wider context of the air transport sector.
G7	Group of countries (United Kingdom, United States, France, Canada, Italy, Japan, Germany) who meet regularly to discuss and cooperate on financial issues.
G8	The G8 Summit brings together the leaders of Germany, Canada, the United States, France, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and Russia (in addition to participation by the EU) to discuss in a relatively informal manner a wide range of political and social issues to its workload, especially in the area of sustainable development and global health.
Gender equality	The majority of the world's poor are women: around 70 per cent of the 1.3 billion people who live in extreme poverty, on less than one dollar a day, are women and girls.
Global Alliance on Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI)	The GAVI combines the skills and knowledge of its stakeholders (including the World Health Organisation, governments, the private sector and non-governmental organisations) to broaden the effectiveness of vaccine research,

	production and supply to all parts of the world.
Global Environment Facility (GEF)	The GEF is the leading multilateral entity responding to the global threat to biodiversity. GEF provides money for developing countries and those with economies in transition to meet the extra costs of protecting the environment.
Global Opportunities Fund (GOF)	The GOF was created to fund projects around the world relating to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's strategic international priorities, including climate change and energy.
Global warming	A steady rise in the temperature of the Earth's surface, widely accepted to be a result of the increased amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, due to burning "fossil fuels."
Green Flag Award	The national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales.
Green Ministers	Government Ministers who promote so-called 'green' issues such as raising awareness of sustainable development to energy efficiency within their own department.
Greenfield sites	Land that has not previously been built on or developed.
Greenhouse gas emissions	Many gases, which have the property of absorbing heat, are emitted into the atmosphere by various industrial processes and other human activity.
Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	A measure of the value of goods and services produced in a country's economy in a year, used as an indicator of wealth and economic development.
Gross National Income (GNI)	A measure of a country's income.
Groundwork	A leading environmental regeneration charity.
Headline indicators	The 15 indicators that are used to measure quality of life.
Health and well-being equity audit	A tool for assessing local health and well-being that will enable PCTs and local authorities to plan services and reduce inequalities.
Health inequalities	Differences in individuals' health, access to health care and factors affecting health (such as education

	and housing).
Healthy life expectancy	The number of years in full health that an individual is expected to live.
Home zone	A street or group of streets designed primarily to meet the interests of pedestrians and cyclists rather than motorists, opening up the street for social use.
Illegal Unregulated and Unreported (IUU)	Illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing. IUU fisheries undermines conservation measures and severely complicates efforts to determine future toothfish stock in certain areas with any level of certainty.
Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA)	A body that works to improve the quality of local government so as to foster improvements in local communities.
Index of Multiple Deprivation	Ranking of local areas in terms of six types of deprivation (income; employment; health and disability; education, skills and training; housing; and geographical access to services).
Integrated Agency	An independent statutory public body for protecting and enhancing the natural environment, biodiversity and landscape. It will bring together English Nature, parts of the Countryside Agency and most of the Rural Development Service.
Integrated Pollution, Prevention and Control scheme (IPPC)	An international treaty intended to prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products, and to promote measures for their control
Integrated Regional Strategy	The sustainable development strategy for each region.
International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)	An agency of the United Nations, responsible for international rules governing all areas of civil aviation
International Development Act 2002	Governs when the UK can give development or humanitarian assistance, what forms it can be given in, and on what terms.
International Finance Facility	A scheme proposed by the UK government to increase long-term worldwide aid.
International Financial Institutions (IFI)	Global financiers such as the World Bank group, multilateral development

	banks, export credit agencies, UNEP, GEF and the Montreal Protocol Fund
Inter-regional growth strategies	Plans to foster new ideas for stimulating economic and community prosperity.
JobCentre plus	A part of the Department of Work and Pensions that offers help to individuals seeking work.
Kyoto Protocol	The 1997 meeting between 160 nations in Kyoto Japan to discuss the UNFCCC led to the Kyoto Protocol, in which developed nations set targets for greenhouse gas emissions.
Land recycling	Re-use of land for development.
Land use planning	The framework for land use largely provided by the town and country planning system. It aims to secure most efficient and effective use of land in the public interest. It also helps to make sure that development and growth will not damage the environment.
Landfill Tax	A tax introduced on 1 October 1996, to help reduce the amount of waste landfilled in the UK and to promote the reuse and recycling of waste, and research into waste practices.
Landfill tax escalator	The method by which the landfill tax is increased each year.
Liveability – but should minimise use or delete if possible	The day-to-day issues that affect people's quality of life at a local level.
Living Spaces	Initiative that offers funding and advice to help people to improve open spaces in their neighbourhoods.
Local Agenda 21	A comprehensive action plan for sustainable development at local level for the 21st Century.
Local Area Agreement	Government scheme giving local authorities more control over their finances and more freedom to work in innovative ways to benefit their communities.
Local Development Document	A document containing specific planning policy guidance.
Local Development Framework	A portfolio of Local Development Documents which together represent the planning strategy of an area.
Local Government Association	An organisation representing the local authorities of England and Wales,

	which exists to promote better local government.
Local Government Capacity Building Programme	Part of a three-year Government initiative to support improvement in local government.
Local Quality of Life Indicators	A set of 29 indicators used to measure sustainable development and quality of life in local communities.
Local Strategic Partnership (LSP)	A local partnership of public, private and community and voluntary agencies which decide strategic direction in a local area
local:vision	An initiative intended to generate a shared vision of the future of local government through a process of debate. The aim is for central and local government to work together to deliver better outcomes for people and places.
Low carbon economy	An economy which does not depend on excessive emissions of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.
Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership	An action and advisory group, established in January 2003, to take the lead in the shift to clean low carbon vehicles and fuels in the UK
Low/zero carbon technologies	Systems with low or no carbon emissions such as CHP systems, improved boilers and furnaces.
Marine minerals	Sand, gravel and other minerals from the seabed
Market barriers	Restrictions to market trading. Many Western Countries - notably the USA and the EU have systems to support agriculture in order to protect the industry, encourage production and maintain farmer's incomes. The effects of such protection mean that farmers from developing countries (DCs) find it difficult to sell their products in these markets. The other main issue is medicinal drugs.
Market Renewal Programme	A Government programme to boost local housing markets.
Market Transformation Programme	A Defra initiative that develops policy strategies for improving the resource efficiency of traded goods and services in the UK.

MARPOL	The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973
Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development	Summit which agreed new commitments on access to water, sanitation and energy.
Mortality rates	The ratio of deaths in an area to the population of that area.
Multilateral Environment Agreement	MEA themes lie at the heart of global environment issues, and require that countries develop specific implementation mechanisms and fulfil obligations involving reporting, training, public education, and other activities.
Multilateral organisations	Organisations involving more than two parties or nations eg The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Inter-American Development Bank.
National Audit Office (NAO)	Independent body which scrutinises the accounts of all Central Government Departments and agencies as well as a wide range of other public bodies.
National School of Government	The Government's learning and development organisation, previously known as the Centre for Management and Policy Studies.
National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal	An action plan setting out a range of government initiatives aimed at narrowing the gap between deprived areas and the rest of the country.
Neighbourhood contract	An agreement between a neighbourhood and local service providers about the range and level of services to be offered.
Neighbourhood policing	Policing aimed at tackling the issues affecting a neighbourhood, as identified through consultation with local agencies and members of the public.
Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF)	A fund providing public services and communities in the 88 poorest local authority districts with extra funds to tackle deprivation.
Neighbourhood Road Safety Initiative	Government scheme aimed at improving road safety for those living in deprived communities.
Neighbourhood statistics	Data on a range of subjects, including

	population, crime, health and housing.
New Deal for Communities	Government initiative that aims to alleviate multiple deprivation in the country's most deprived neighbourhoods, by giving them the resources to tackle their problems in a co-ordinated way.
NHS Environmental Assessment Tool (NEAT)	Part of a package of measures to enable the NHS to understand, identify and take action, to reduce and limit negative impacts on the environment.
Nuclear power	Electricity generated by nuclear reactors of various types such as heavy water, light water, and boiling water.
Nuclear waste	Unusable by-products of nuclear power generation, nuclear weapons production, and research, including spent nuclear fuel, high-level radioactive waste.
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM)	Central Government Department with responsibility for sustainable communities, planning, housing and social exclusion.
Operating and Financial Review (OFR)	A way of improving the disclosure of information by companies, all UK quoted companies have to produce an OFR.
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	A grouping of 30 countries (with relationships with 70 countries, non-governmental organisations and civil society), its work covers economic and social issues from macroeconomics, to trade, education, development and science and innovation.
Oslo and Paris Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic (OSPAR)	OSPAR is the basis for national laws governing the discharge of offshore drilling waste.
Parish plans	A pilot scheme resulting from the Rural White paper (2001) set to run until 2005. They aim to develop sustainable local solutions for rural communities.
Partnership for Principle 10	PP10 is an initiative developed as an

	<p>outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. It articulated public access to information, participation in decision-making, and access to justice as key principles of environmental governance. PP10 provides a way for the governments, civil society organisations, donors and other stakeholders to work together to implement practical solutions to provide the public with access to information, participation and justice for environmentally sustainable decisions. PP10 is specifically aimed at improving conditions for good environmental governance at the national level.</p>
Pesticides Voluntary Initiative	<p>The UK initiative makes many recommendations for the safer storage, use and disposal of pesticides and related contaminated materials.</p>
Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRS)	<p>The underlying causes of both poverty and environmental problems are political and institutional that do not take into account the cost of environmental problems such as pollution or uncontrolled deforestation. PRSs offer a unique opportunity to address these underlying causes and achieve both poverty reduction and environmental objectives</p>
Powering Future Vehicle (PFV) Strategy	<p>Strategy put in place to promote the development, introduction and take-up of new vehicle technologies and fuels; and to ensure the full involvement of the UK automotive industry in the new technologies.</p>
Prince of Wales Business and Environment Programme	<p>Set up in recognition of the crucial role business has to play in bringing about sustainable development. The programme brings together an exceptional range of business, academic, political, non-governmental organisations, public service, and institutional leaders from all over the world to drive to influence the debate at corporate, public, and political</p>

	levels.
Public Service Agreement	Agreements that set out what Government Departments should achieve in return for the money allocated to them.
RAMSAR	The Convention on Wetlands, signed in RAMSAR, Iran, in 1971, is an intergovernmental treaty which provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.
Regional Centres of Procurement Excellence	Established as a step in ensuring the success of the National Procurement Strategy by enabling more effective collaboration on value-for-money issues by councils and regional areas.
Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) / Regional Assemblies	RDAs are business-led bodies in each of the English regions. They are lead bodies at the regional level for co-ordinating inward investment, raising people's skills, improving the competitiveness of business, and regeneration activity, all against a backdrop of sustainable development. Regional Chambers, also known as Regional Assemblies, are responsible for monitoring, reporting on progress and outcomes of the work of Regional Development Agencies and agreeing with key players and a wide range of expert groups and stakeholders, regional sustainable development frameworks.
Regional Economic Strategy	Planned collaboration with partners within an area to protect and improve the environment, and increase people's standard of living, through sustainable economic development.
Regional Housing Boards	Established as part of the Sustainable Communities Plan to ensure that housing policies would be better integrated with the regional spatial, transport, economic and sustainable development strategies and to ensure delivery of the policies set out in the Sustainable Communities Plan.
Regional Spatial Strategy	Part of the Government's objective to ensure communities are economically

	prosperous; have decent homes at affordable prices; that the countryside is safeguarded; that people enjoy a well designed, accessible and pleasant living and working environment; and are effectively and fairly governed with a strong sense of community.
Regional Sustainable Development Frameworks (RSDF)	Against a recognition that, at regional level, sustainable development should have a place in all strategic documents, the framework was established to help guide Government policies and to assess progress.
Regional Transport Strategy	Strategy covering the strategic aspects of planning for major roads, railways, ports and airports in the region.
Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA)	A short, structured document published with regulatory proposals and new legislation to assist public debate and ensure regulations are necessary and in proportion to the issue being addressed.
Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEP)	The Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) is a coalition of progressive governments, businesses and organisations committed to accelerating the development of renewable and energy efficiency systems (REES)
Renewable resources	Resources that are capable of being regenerated or replaced by ecological processes on a time scale relevant to their use. These resources, such as biomass or energy from animal traction, are contrasted with non-renewable resources, such as fossil fuels and mined products.
Renewables Obligation	Introduced in April 2002, the Renewables Obligation calls on all licensed electricity suppliers in England & Wales to supply a specified and growing proportion of their electricity sales from a choice of eligible renewable sources.
Rights of Way Improvement Plan	Local highway authorities' plans for improving rights of way in their areas, taking into account the needs of the

	public, including disabled people.
Rio Declaration	The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development of 1992 which comprised 27 principles that qualify work on sustainable development.
Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption	The Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development's forum for examining the relationship between consumption and production patterns and sustainable development.
Rural Development Regulation (RDR)	Published by the European Commission on 15 July 2004. The regulation forms the second pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy. It is proposed that it will provide almost €14 billion per year throughout the European Union for rural development between 2007 and 2013.
Rural Development Service	The single largest organisation working in rural communities in England, with 1,400 staff working from eight regional offices, leading delivery of the England Rural Development Programme.
Safer and Stronger Communities Fund	Combines funding streams from the OPDM and the Home Office, and is intended to address issues of crime, the quality of public spaces, the empowerment of local communities and improvement of the quality of life in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.
School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme	Part of the 5 A DAY programme to increase fruit and vegetable consumption. Under the Scheme, all four to six year old children in LEA-maintained infant, primary and special schools will be entitled to a free piece of fruit or vegetable each school day.
SERA	An organisation which promotes sustainable development policies within the Labour movement and Labour Party.
Shared priorities	An agreed set of shared priorities for local government, which include transforming the local environment and meeting local transport needs more effectively.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	There are over 4,000 SSSIs in England, covering around 7% of the country's land area. Over half of these are internationally important for their wildlife and geological sites.
Social cost of carbon (SCC)	In early 2002 the UK Government Economic Service (GES) paper Estimating the Social Cost of Carbon Emissions presented a review of the available literature on the social cost of carbon. The paper suggested £70/tC (within a range of £35 to £140/tC) as an illustrative estimate for the global damage cost of carbon emissions. It also suggested that these figures should be raised in real terms by £1/tC per year as the costs of climate change are likely to increase over time.
Social Exclusion Unit (SEU)	Part of the OPDM, the Unit works to tackle deprivation and create prosperous, inclusive and sustainable communities and a better quality of life for all.
Statement of Community Involvement	Sets out how a local planning authority intends to achieve continuous community involvement in the preparation of local development documents in their area. The SCI will also cover how people will be engaged in decisions on planning applications for major development that affect the area.
Strategic Environmental Assessment	A process to ensure that significant environmental impacts arising from plans and programmes are identified, assessed, mitigated, communicated to decision-makers, monitored and that opportunities for public involvement are provided.
Strategic Health Authorities	Bodies that oversee the strategic development of health services in each area.
Sustainability appraisal	Under UK legislation, a Sustainability Appraisal must be prepared for regional and local development plans. This includes assessment of environmental, social and economic inputs.
Sustainable communities	Sustainable communities are thriving

	regions, cities, towns, villages and neighbourhoods and are achieved in ways which make good use of natural resources, promote community spirit and care for the environment. Quality of life is underpinned by strong economies, employment opportunities, good access to services, and attractive and safe surroundings.
Sustainable Communities: Homes for All	A five-year government plan intended to make decent and affordable housing available to everyone.
Sustainable Communities: People, Places and Prosperity	Document that sets out action the government will take to revitalise neighbourhoods, strengthen local leadership, and increase regional prosperity to create places in which people want to live and work.
Sustainable consumption and production (SCP)	Actions for sustainable consumption and production as a means for developing long-term improvements.
Sustainable development	The simple idea of ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come. A widely-used international definition is 'development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.'
Sustainable development action plans	Plans prepared by each Green Minister for integrating sustainable development into the work of their department's associate bodies.
Sustainable Development Commission (SDC)	The Government's independent advisory body which reports to the Prime Minister and First Ministers of the devolved administrations.
Sustainable Development Framework for the Government Estate	Government departments are required to develop delivery plans to meet a range of environmental targets on their estates under this framework.
Sustainable Development Programme Board	Its role is to ensure that Departments have the capacity to deliver their commitments arising from the new UK sustainable development strategy.
Sustainable Development Research Network	Defra-funded initiative to facilitate and strengthen the links between

	providers of research and policymakers across government, in order to improve evidence-based policymaking to deliver the UK government's objectives for sustainable development.
Sustainable Development Task Force	Established to help ensure effective follow-up of the UK's World Summit on Sustainable Development commitments, and to help ensure that the review of the 1999 strategy for sustainable development for the UK
Sustainable Farming and Food Strategy (SFFS)	The SFFS sets out how industry, Government and consumers can work together to secure a sustainable future for our farming and food industries, as viable industries contributing to a better environment and healthy and prosperous communities.
Technology transfer	The process by which energy-efficient technologies and processes developed by industrialised nations are made available to the less-industrialised nations.
The Darwin Initiative	The Initiative was announced by the UK Government in 1992. Its aim is to assist those countries which are rich in biodiversity but poor in financial resources to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) through the funding of collaborative projects which draw on UK biodiversity expertise.
Thematic Strategies	The EU Sixth Environment Action Programme provides a number of thematic strategies – essentially strategies designed to deliver the Programme objectives. The strategies include: Clean Air for Europe (CAFÉ), soil protection, sustainable use of pesticides, protect and conserve the marine environment, waste prevention and recycling, sustainable use of natural resources, urban environment
Together We Can	See Community Action 2020
Trading schemes	Limited quantities of rights, permits or allowances to emit pollution, dispose of waste or use resources are

	provided to organisations that can be traded subject to the rules of the scheme.
Transboundary environmental impact assessment (Espoo)	This stipulates the obligations of parties to assess the environmental impact of certain activities at an early stage of planning. It also lays down the general obligation of States to notify and consult each other on all major projects under consideration that are likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact across boundaries.
UK International Energy Strategy	International Energy Strategy sets out how the UK will work across government and with international partners to ensure our long term energy interests. The strategy reveals plans to tackle greenhouse gas emissions, diversify the energy mix in order to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, and help improve the long-term stability of the international energy market. Assisting the energy supplies of third world nations is also covered in the strategy.
UK Sustainable Development Strategy	The UK Government's plan to ensure that social and economic progress take into account the environment and natural resources
UKCIP – UK Climate Impacts Programme	The UK Climate Impacts Programme provides scenarios that show how our climate might change and co-ordinates research on dealing with our future climate.
UN Millennium Development Goals	The millennium goals, agreed at a United Nations summit in 2000, set an agenda for tackling some of the most urgent global problems. Two are undated commitments on improving human rights and strengthening peace and security, others include environmental commitments.
United Nations (UN)	An organisation of independent states formed in 1945 to promote international peace and security.
United Nations Commission on	An organisation formed in 1992 to

Sustainable Development (UNCSD)	ensure effective follow-up of UNCED, through monitoring and reporting on implementation of the Earth Summit agreements at the local, national, regional and international levels.
United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNODC)	Convention covering the prevention of, prosecution of and asset recovery from corruption, through international co-operation.
United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)	A comprehensive regime of law and order in the world's oceans and seas
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)	UNECE strives to foster sustainable economic growth among its 55 member countries.
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	Arm of the UN set up to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change set up in 1992 by the UN to address climate change
Untied aid	Aid to developing countries that is not conditional on contracts for UK companies.
Value Added Tax (VAT)	VAT is a tax that you pay as a consumer when you buy goods and services in the European Union (EU). Each country has its own rate for VAT. In the UK the standard rate is 17.5 per cent.
Vehicle Excise Duty	To encourage the use of smaller, cleaner, more fuel efficient cars. Cars are put into one of four payment bands depending on the CO2 emissions with more efficient cars paying less tax.
Warm Front	A Government-funded scheme managed by Powergen to help people in receipt of certain benefits to improve the insulation and heating in their homes.
Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP)	WRAPs mission is to accelerate resource efficiency by creating stable and efficient markets for recycled materials and products, while removing barriers to waste

	minimisation, re-use and recycling.
Water Action Plan	This Action Plan describes how Government will take forward its commitments in water and sanitation. The aim by 2015, is to reduce by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water measured by the proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source
Water Framework Directive	The Water Framework Directive requires all inland and coastal waters to reach demanding environmental objectives including ecological targets for surface waters by 2015. The Directive sets a framework which should provide substantial benefits for the long term sustainable management of water.
Watershed protection	A watershed is an area of land that catches rain and drains into a marsh, stream, river, lake or groundwater. The protection plan is a guide that shows the community members what steps must be taken to protect the watersheds.
Well-being	The quality of life experienced by individuals.
What's in your Backyard	An on-line source of information from the Environment Agency.
White Certificate Trading	Some companies find it cheaper to reduce their CO2 emissions than others. Those companies would have surplus 'white certificates', for sale on the market to those who find it relatively more expensive to make energy efficiency savings themselves. Companies would be set a target level of energy efficiency improvement to reach, and would be free to meet this either by increasing the efficiency of their energy usage or by buying certificates from other participants who had generated a surplus.
Worklessness	The condition of being unemployed and having little or no prospect of employment.

World Bank	Specialised agency of the United Nations that borrows in the commercial market and lends on commercial terms. The bank is controlled by a board of executives representing national governments, whose votes are proportionate to the amount they have funded the bank.
World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)	The UN's international summit on global sustainable development issues held in Johannesburg 2002.
World Trade Organisation (WTO)	Specialised, rules-based, member-driven agency of the United Nations, world trade monitoring body established in January 1995. The WTO oversees and administers agreements to reduce barriers to trade, such as tariffs, subsidies, quotas, and regulations which discriminate against imported products. Other functions of the WTO include; handling trade disputes, offering a forum for trade negotiations, technical assistance and training for developing countries, and monitoring national trade policies.