



sustainable^{mi}
DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Annual Report

2010-11

Progress at last?

“...achieving the goals of sustainable development will require the input not just of government, but of everyone who lives here...”

Everyone's Involved: Northern Ireland's Sustainable Development Strategy May 2010

2010/11 has seen some significant progress take place within central and local government on sustainable development. A new Sustainable Development Strategy for Northern Ireland was published in May 2010 and has been designed to provide a framework to progress the sustainability agenda. The Strategy was followed by a programme of consultation and activities designed to develop an Implementation Plan to set out how the Strategy will function across and beyond government.

An unforeseen development during the year was the untimely demise of the Sustainable Development Commission meaning that Sustainable Northern Ireland is now the only organisation (in Northern Ireland) with a remit directly related to sustainability. This puts greater onus the organisation to continue to champion the importance of sustainable development across government and society.

As these developments were happening, Sustainable Northern Ireland was reviewing its own impact on helping to promote sustainable development across Northern Ireland. The result of this process has been the development of a business plan setting out our priorities over the next five years. The contents of this business plan builds on the success we have had with the Sustainability Audit Matrix (SAM). Our long-term plan highlights how we intend to use the SAM as a basis for developing a wider programme of support for local government to ensure they have the skills and knowledge, across their whole organisation, to embed the principles of sustainable development into everything that they do.

Communication is a key aspect of promoting sustainable development and for this reason we refreshed the appearance of both our newsletter and our website. Our website in particular has proven to be a vital tool in enabling us to quickly disseminate relevant information on sustainable development to all our stakeholders.

For Sustainable Northern Ireland 2010-11 can definitely be regarded as the year of progress—but there is still a long way to go!

Sustainable Development Milestones

May 2010

Publication of 'Everyone's Involved' Northern Ireland's Sustainable Development Strategy

July 2010

Consultation exercise on Sustainable Development Strategy Implementation Plan

September 2010

Sustainable Northern Ireland publishes a briefing note on what the SD Implementation Plan should contain

February 2011

The Coalition Government (UK) publishes its visions on how it plans to mainstream sustainable development

March 2011

The Sustainable Development Commission in Northern Ireland ceases to exist

Key Activities

Our activities have continued to build on the work and direction established during the past three years. The organisation has enjoyed an incredibly busy year with much of the hard work put in being recognised in the uptake of our flagship programme the Sustainability Audit Matrix (SAM). Progress within government on the launch of a new draft Sustainable Development Strategy and government action on climate change has also influenced our work.

Briefing Notes: Implementation Plan

We produced a briefing note for all our stakeholders, particularly in local government, to help ensure their contribution to sustainable development was reflected in the final version of Northern Ireland's Sustainable Development Implementation Plan.

matched with the objectives listed in the Strategy to automatically generate a chart that can be used to measure the organisations progress. Twelve councils across Northern Ireland are actively engaged in the process.



Guidance for Councils

There has been a notable increase in demand from councils requesting guidance from Sustainable Northern Ireland on various aspects of sustainable development. Over the past year this has included helping to write statements on sustainability that are departmental specific and that can be incorporated into job descriptions to explain the relevance of sustainable development. Much of the additional guidance given to councils has been the direct result of the SAM.

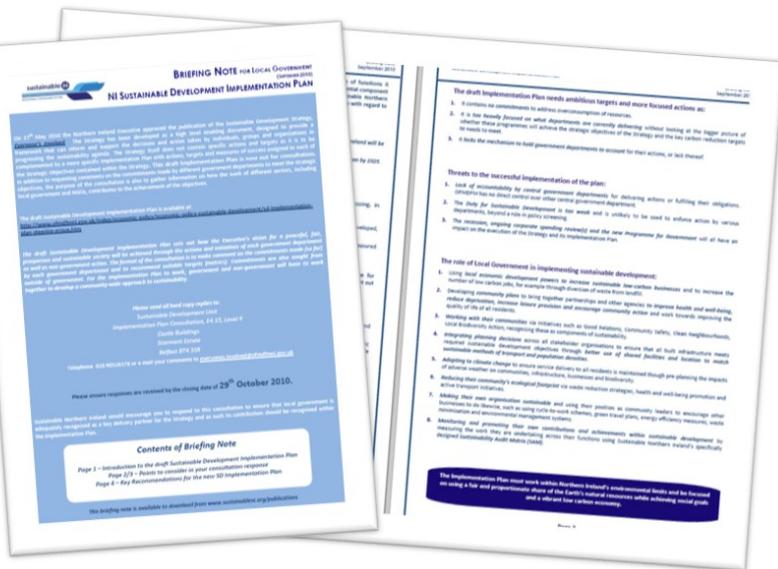
Sustainability Exchange

Our social networking site to facilitate the exchange of information on best practice and sustainable development progress is up and running and can be accessed by logging onto

www.sustainabilityexchange.spruz.com

Consultancy

In addition to Sustainable Northern Ireland's key activities, we also have a commercial side to help generate funds to support our core activities. These activities tend to focus on project evaluation on behalf of a number of clients. All the evaluations we opt to undertake have a sustainability focus.



The SAM

The SAM helps district councils look at their own operations and policies to understand how integrating the principles of sustainable development into how they operate will enable them to make better decisions and co-ordinate activities across all council departments. The SAM continues to evolve and one of the additional features added to it during the year is the ability to use it to help demonstrate how an organisation is helping to achieve the objectives set out in the Northern Ireland Sustainable Development Strategy. All the criteria in the SAM have been

Communicating Sustainability

A New Website

We developed a new website that is being used to help communicate the information within the Sustainable Development Implementation Plan. Due to the size of the original document and the format of the information, the new website was used to show the various commitments made within the plan and how these link with the Strategy's priority areas for action and headline objectives.

The statistics from the website show that the information on it about the Sustainable Development Implementation Plan has been downloaded over 2500 times.



A Refreshed Newsletter

A new look for the website required a review of our quarterly newsletter. Apart from the obvious layout change the main revision of sustainable has been having longer, more in-depth articles.

The second issue was used to highlight the recently published Implementation Plan and draw attention to the commitments that have been made by local government.

Revised Guidance Manuals

The writing of a new Sustainable Development Strategy, the Review of Public Administration and severe budget cuts due to an uncertain economic climate means things have changed a lot since 2007. We have revised our 'implementation' manuals (first published in 2007) to take account of these changes and to reflect our own learning curve over the past three years, in particular the development of our Sustainability Audit Matrix (SAM).

The publication of the manuals was delayed to reflect the new Sustainable Development Strategy and the Implementation Plan. We anticipate having it available for download from late 2011 after we have undertaken a consultation exercise with councils to ensure the content will help them with the task of fulfilling the 100 commitments they have made in the Sustainable Development Implementation Plan.



Governance

Sustainable Northern Ireland's Board of Directors

Chairperson	Samual Knox
Vice Chairperson	Murray Watt
Treasurer	Sue Christie
Directors	Alistair Curran (Until March 2011) Geraint Ellis (Until May 2010) Anne Donaghy Nick Mack (Until November 2010) Gary McFarlane Eileen Campbell Heather Moorhead (Until March 2011) John Barry
Members	Ciaran Coleman Lorraine Crawford
Observer	Tim Irwin
Company Secretary	Patricia Mackey

Sustainable Northern Ireland held four Board meetings and an Annual General Meeting during 2010-2011. Meetings were held on the following dates:

12th May 2010
13th September 2010 (AGM)
29th November 2010
14th March 2011

Funding

Sustainable Northern Ireland would not be able to operate without the funding received from Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Western Group Environmental Health Service, Northern Group Systems Environmental Health, Southern Group Environmental Health Committee and Eastern Group Environmental Health Committee.

Sustainable Northern Ireland is grateful to all our supporters, without whom we would not be able to work to such a high level. Funding has been secured for 2011-12.



Sustainable Northern Ireland's mission is:

"Together with our partners to strive towards making all communities in Northern Ireland sustainable by creating a secure future built on a steadfast sustainable development framework"

Sustainable Northern Ireland's five year business plan has been developed to demonstrate how we will work to achieve a vision of Northern Ireland that includes:



Directors' Statement on the summary financial statement

The Directors present herewith the summary financial statement of Sustainable Northern Ireland Ltd for the year ended 31st March 2011 and confirm the following:

- the summary financial statement is not the statutory financial accounts but is a summary of information relating to both the Statement of Financial Activities and the balance sheet;
- the full financial statements from which the summary is derived have been externally examined by an independent auditor; and he has provided an unqualified report;
- the full annual accounts, the external examiners report and the trustees'/directors' report can be obtained on application to Sustainable Northern Ireland Ltd;
- the annual accounts were approved by the Board on **19th September, 2011**.

This directors' statement was approved by the board of Directors on 19th September, 2011 and signed on its behalf by:

Patricia Mackey
Secretary

Independent auditors' statement to the members of Sustainable Northern Ireland Ltd

I have examined the summary financial statement of Sustainable Northern Ireland Limited.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

The Directors are responsible for preparing the summary financial statement in accordance with applicable law. My responsibility is to report to you my opinion on the consistency of the summary financial statement with the full annual accounts and Directors' Report, and its compliance with the relevant requirements of Section 427 of the Companies Act 2006 and the regulations made thereunder. I also read the other information contained in the summary financial statement and consider the implications for my report if I become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summary financial statement.

Basis of opinion

I conducted our work in accordance with Bulletin 1999/6 "The auditors' statement on the summary financial statement" issued by the Auditing Practices Board for use in the United Kingdom.

Opinion

In my opinion the summary financial statement is consistent with the full annual accounts and directors' report of Sustainable Northern Ireland Ltd for the year ended 31st March 2011 and complies with the applicable requirements of Section 427 of the Companies Act 2006, and the regulations made thereunder.

Nigel V Skillen FCA
Diamond & Skillen
Chartered Accountants and Registered auditor
Sinclair House,
89/101 Royal Avenue,
Belfast, BT1 1FE

19th September 2011

SNI Ltd Extracted Statement of Financial Activities (fund breakdown) for the year ended 31st March 2011

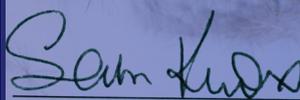
	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Other Projects (restricted) £	2011 Totals £	2010 Totals £
Incoming Resources				
Grants	44,600	-	44,600	42,500
Subscriptions	-	-	0	0
Other income	-	-	0	75
Project income	-	-	0	1,025
Investment income	56	-	56	72
Total incoming resources	44,656	0	44,656	43,672
Resources Expended				
Employee costs	35,518	-	35,518	34,355
Premises costs	2,851	-	2,851	2,882
Advertising costs	-	-	0	0
General administrative costs	3,777	-	3,777	2,819
Legal and professional fees	1,425	-	1,425	945
Programme costs	-	-	0	1,629
Other expenses	0	-	0	0
Total resources expended	43,571	0	43,571	42,630
Net incoming resources	1,085	0	1,085	1,042
Depreciation of fixed assets	-	-	0	0
Transfer between funds	-	-	0	0
Net movement in funds	1,085	0	1,085	1,042
Fund balances b/f at 1-April	39,085	-	39,085	38,043
Fund balances c/f at 31-March	40,170	0	40,170	39,085

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities.
All gains and losses recognised in the year are included above.

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2011

	2011 £	2010 £
Fixed Assets	-	-
Tangible assets	0	0
Current Assets		
Debtors	3,600	3,600
Cash at bank and in hand	67,245	66,110
	70,845	69,710
Creditors: Amount falling due within one year	(30,675)	(30,625)
Net current assets	40,170	39,085
Total assets less current liabilities	40,170	39,085
Accumulated funds		
<i>Unrestricted income funds:</i>		
General funds	40,170	39,085
	40,170	39,085
<i>Restricted income funds:</i>		
No restricted funds	-	-
Total funds	40,170	39,085

The summary financial statement was approved by the Board of Directors on 19th September 2011 and signed on their behalf by:


Mr Samuel Knox
Chairman of Directors


Dr Sue Christie
Treasurer

In 2010-2011 SNI received support



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DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

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*Sustainable Northern Ireland is a Company limited by guarantee No NIO38784
Charity registered with the Inland Revenue No XR28895*