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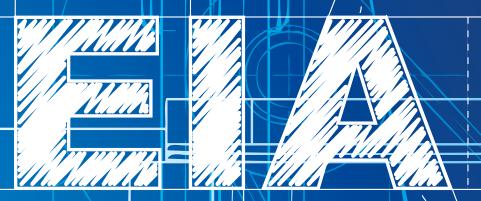
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IEMA

St Nicholas House 70 Newport Lincoln LN1 3DP tel: +44 (0) 1522 540069 fax: +44 (0) 1522 540090 info@iema.net www.iema.net

Editor

Paul Suff paul.suff@lexisnexis.co.uk

Deputy editor

Sarah-Jayne Russell sarah.russell@lexisnexis.co.uk

Managing editor

Louis Wustemann

Senior sub-editor Adella Peyton

Group advertising manager

Sophie Wright tel: +44 (0) 20 8212 1913 sophie.wright@lexisnexis.co.uk

Recruitment advertising

Elaheh Umeh tel: +44 (0) 20 8212 1984 elaheh.umeh@lexisnexis.co.uk

Senior marketing executive

Victoria Newman victoria.newman@lexisnexis.co.uk

Design

Jack Dougherty

jack.dougherty@lexisnexis.co.uk

Advertisement production

John Woffenden

john.woffenden@lexisnexis.co.uk

Director of news and insight Tristan Hilderley

tristan.hilderley@lexisnexis.co.uk

IEMA communications coordinator

Katrina Pierce

k.pierce@iema.net

Advertising, subscription and back-copy enquiries to

Customer services, tel: +44 (0) 845 370 1234

tel: +44 (0) 845 370 1234 The 2012 annual rate is £135.

Printing

Headley Brothers Ltd, Ashford, Kent

Published by

LexisNexis, Quadrant House, The Quadrant, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5AS www.lexisnexis.co.uk

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An inefficient Bill

The draft Energy Bill (p.5) has not provided all the answers many were hoping for; potential investors will have to wait a little longer for the kind of certainty they require before deciding whether to contribute to the £110 billion needed to update and, in part, decarbonise UK electricity generation.

But, while the Bill was short on detail in some areas, one issue was almost completely ignored. There is just one reference to the need for energy efficiency in the 307-page document, and that only refers to the Green Deal and the roll-out of smart meters.

It's not clear, as WWF points out, whether the planned reform of the electricity market will include incentives to improve efficiency, so encouraging people and organisations to reduce demand. Or, as the Chemical Industries Association notes, if energy-efficient technologies, such as combined heat and power generation, will be given financial support alongside nuclear and carbon capture and storage.

Given the absence of energy efficiency from the draft Energy Bill, much is now riding on the government's Green Deal to help reduce electricity demand. That might be a big ask

Given that one-fifth of existing generating capacity is due to close over the next decade, the government needs to create the conditions quickly for a secure and, hopefully, decarbonised electricity supply. But lowering demand should also feature highly in the reform of the market. As the UK Energy Research Centre (UKERC) pointed out in 2009, reducing energy consumption plays a key role in any energy-secure, low-carbon future.

The three main aims for the Bill are security of supply, sufficient investment in low-carbon technologies, and generating maximum benefits from minimal cost. UKERC reported that energy efficiency could reduce the costs of decarbonising the UK's power sector by up to £70 billion by 2050. And most experts would acknowledge that the fastest and cheapest way to bring down carbon emissions is by ramping up energy efficiency.

Given the absence of energy efficiency from the draft Energy Bill, much is now riding on the Green Deal to help reduce electricity demand. That might be a big ask, as there is mounting concern that widespread take-up of the scheme is unlikely to materialise.



Short cuts

PV FIT cuts confirmed

Payments under the feed-in tariff (FIT) scheme for domestic-scale solar photovoltaics (PV) are to be cut every three months from 1 August, but community-size projects and those exporting energy to the grid are to receive higher subsidies. Following DECC's latest consultation on the FIT scheme, the energy department has published the tariffs for the remainder of 2012/13. The smallest installations (less than 4kW) receive the biggest cut in tariff, down to 16p per kilowatt hour (kWh) from 21p/ kWh, while larger installations (more than 50kW) and standalone installations see rates cut by 10%-20%. DECC also confirmed that installations registered from 1 August will receive payments for 20 years, rather than 25 as currently, and that subsidies for buildings that fall below an energy efficiency rating of D will receive the lowest tariff rate of 7.1p/ kWh. Other changes include a higher tariff for projects with more than 25 PV panels (90% of the standard tariff rate, up from 80%), and an increased rate of 4.5p/kWh for electricity exported to the grid.

Biodiversity indicators

Defra has unveiled biodiversity indicators that it says will provide an insight into the health of the natural environment in England (lexisurl. com/iema12799) and other parts of the UK (lexisurl.com/iema12703) up to 2020. The indicators include: the population status of key species; plant diversity; the status of priority species, habitats and ecosystems; protected sites; and expenditure on biodiversity. The original 26 indicators for England, which were published in 2011, have been revised down to 24, while the number UK-wide have increased from 18 to 24. Defra says its review of the initial indicators identified a small number of gaps where there were no indicators for particular targets, or where the existing ones were only indirectly linked to the "Aichi targets" - the UN strategic plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity agreed at Nagoya, Japan, in 2010.

Financial recovery pushes up greenhouse-gas emissions

Emissions Greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions from European member states rose for the first time in five years during 2010, due to the cold winter weather and increased industrial activity.

Figures published by the European Environment Agency (EEA) reveal that total GHG output rose by 2.4% in 2010, the equivalent of an additional 111 million tonnes of CO₂ (tCO₂e). The rise in emissions followed a sharp 7.1% fall during 2009, as the impacts of the financial crisis were felt.

Data from the EU emissions trading scheme (ETS) confirm that emissions from industrial sectors increased by 5.2% in 2010, with output from manufacturing and steelmaking installations rising by more than 53 million tCO₂e year-on-year.

Despite these increases, the EEA's analysis also reveals efficiency gains by ETS participants. The report states that while total GHG emissions increased by more than total gross domestic product across the bloc, ETS emissions increased by less than the total value of goods produced by the scheme's participants.

The colder winter was another key cause behind the rise in emissions in 2010, according to the report, with greater

domestic and commercial heating needs contributing significantly to the bloc's 3.7% increase in total energy demand.

The EEA's executive director, Jacqueline McGlade, said that increasing uptake of renewable energy and the switch from solid fossil fuels to gas had helped to keep the rise in emissions below that of energy use.

Overall, the EEA concludes that member states remain on track to meet their GHG reduction target of 20% by 2020, with both methane and nitrous oxide levels falling in 2010, and preliminary data for 2011 indicating total GHG emissions fell by 2%.

However, the EEA's analysis of 2010 emissions also shows that emissions of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) reached new highs, growing by another 5% and bringing the bloc's annual HFC output to three times that of 1990.

The EEA's figures came as the UK, Italy, France, Germany and Russia joined the United Nations Environment Programme's Climate and Clean Air Coalition, which involves governments pledging to work together to tackle emissions of so-called short-lived climate pollutants, such as HFCs, methane and black carbon (the product of incomplete combustion of fossil fuels and biomass).

HMRC clarifies landfill tax rules

Waste HMRC has been forced to issue a second clarification on landfill tax rates after skip-hire firms and waste-transfer companies blocked Parliament Square protesting about new guidance that had resulted in landfill tax bills soaring overnight by 2,500%.

In a briefing note published in May, HMRC stated that as it is impossible to identify exactly what is in the soil-like residue brought to landfill from waste transfer stations after recycling activities, such waste could not qualify as eligible for the lower tax rate of £2.50 per tonne under the Landfill Tax (Qualifying Material) Order 2011.

The brief stated that "in all such cases" the standard £64 per tonne rate of tax should be applied. Following complaints from the waste sector, HMRC issued a second briefing to counter what it described

as "misinterpretation" by landfill operators that had resulted in the higher tax rate being applied more broadly. The second note, published on 1 June, stated that if the transferring company could prove that the waste materials were listed in the 2011 Order and met the relevant conditions, it was eligible for the lower rate of tax.

An HMRC spokesperson rejected claims that the new clarification was a U-turn. "The rules have been in place since 2009 and have not changed," she said.

However, the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), disagreed. "It was made abundantly clear to us that skip operators were going to have to pay £64 per tonne to dispose of dusty construction waste. It seems they will now continue paying £2.50 per tonne. I suspect most people would call this a U-turn," said Pierre Williams, FSB chief spokesperson.

Energy Bill fails to give the

right answers

Policy Publication of the draft Energy Bill has failed to provide sufficient clarity of the plans for electricity market reform (EMR) first unveiled by the government last year, with full details on some aspects unlikely to materialise until 2014.

Several measures outlined in the 307-page Bill are designed to encourage investment in low-carbon energy generation. These include a new system of long-term contracts – feed-in tariffs with contracts for difference (CfDs) – providing revenue certainty for investors in low-carbon generation; a capacity market, to ensure the security of electricity supply; and an emissions performance standard to limit CO₂ emissions from new fossil fuel power stations.

However, important detail on these policies remains sketchy. CfDs aim to facilitate investment in renewables, carbon capture and storage (CCS), and nuclear power through removing long-term exposure to electricity price volatility. Yet the government does not expect to make a decision on draft tariff levels for the first contracts until late 2013, with the CfD regime starting in mid-2014.

The Bill says CfDs for renewables will last for 15 years, five years less than the Renewables Obligation, which it replaces and which closes for new generation from 1 April 2017. It is less clear on the time frame for either CCS or nuclear. The duration of CfD for projects supported under the government's CCS commercialisation programme is initially set at 10 years, although that is subject to negotiation, says DECC, while the length of the CfD for nuclear and long-term CCS-equipped plants has still to be determined.

And, while the government says that once a project has been awarded a CfD at a particular level it will receive that tariff for the duration of the contract, the entire programme must operate in line with the budgetary constraints imposed on DECC. That means there could be a limit on the number of contracts offered.

"There needs to be visibility in terms of how much is spent across different technologies and when constraints might kick in," said Gaynor Hartnell at the Renewable Energy Association.

The continuing lack of clarity around some aspects of the electricity market



reform is worrying business groups, potentially putting at risk the £110 billion investment needed to fund new generating capacity in the UK.

"We are still some way from having a detailed picture of how the electricity market will look in the future. With major investors waiting in the wings, these details are needed as soon as possible," said CBI deputy director-general Neil Bentley.

Matt Bonass, a corporate finance and climate change lawyer in Bird & Bird's energy and utilities team, is also concerned about the lack of detail. "The draft Bill sets out the broad themes of the EMR. [but] the devil remains in the detail and there is still considerable uncertainty as to the final form of any secondary legislation, for example on CfDs and the capacity market," he said. Ronan O'Regan, director, energy, at PwC, agreed: "There are still question marks around the legal structure and payment model for the CfDs. This is an important issue in the EMR proposals and if it is not resolved it risks delaying the overall timetable."

The renewables industry is concerned that the EMR is favouring nuclear power at the expense of other low-carbon technologies. "The government's persistence with CfDs is playing with fire," said Juliet Davenport, chief executive at Good Energy. "These overly complex instruments risk skewing the market towards nuclear and the Big Six [energy companies] at the expense of renewable energy and smaller suppliers."

Prior to the launch of the Energy Bill, DECC published research claiming that the government's energy policies would help ameliorate the negative impact that spikes in global oil, gas and coal prices have on the UK.

Short cuts

EU to rule on air quality

The Court of Appeal has refused to denounce government air-quality improvement plans as illegal despite Defra admitting the strategy will result in the UK breaching EU legislation. In a case brought by environmental activist group ClientEarth, appeal judges upheld a High Court ruling in December 2011 that it is the European Commission's responsibility, not the domestic courts', to take action against the UK over nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) levels. ClientEarth launched its legal challenge last year after Defra published plans to cut NO₂ levels to bring them in line with the requirements of the EU Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC), which, from 1 January 2010, set limits on the amount of NO2 allowed in the air. Under the Directive. member states can apply for an extension giving them until 2015 to lower pollution levels, but Defra's plans state that air pollution in many of the cities and regions affected is unlikely to meet required levels before 2020.

Connecting mobile phone emissions

O₂ and the Carbon Trust have collaborated on research to determine the carbon footprint of the mobile phone company's voice and data services. It is the first time a mobile network operator has been independently verified by the Carbon Trust. The calculation of greenhousegas (GHG) emissions embedded throughout the entire life cycle of O2's voice and data services revealed that making a one-minute voice call on its network generates 3.6g CO2e, while transferring one megabyte of data amounted to 11g CO₂e. O₂ says that making a five-minute call is the carbon equivalent of boiling enough water to make one cup of tea. The company says that energy consumption and associated GHG emissions from its mobile telecom services make up the majority of its carbon footprint, and that the firm is seeking ways to address this issue through its sustainability strategy.



IN PARLIAMENT

New life from old



Chris Davies is the Liberal Democrat environment spokesperson in the European Parliament

With a mountain of two million old cars taken off UK roads each year, I've always thought the EU end-of-life vehicles Directive (2000/53/EC) a useful piece of legislation. Since 2006, it has required 85% of materials in discarded vehicles to be recycled – rising to 95% in 2015. The target applies across the whole of the EU and so establishes a competitive, level playing field. It promotes producer responsibility and encourages manufacturers to design vehicles with components that can be recycled.

It's a useful Directive, but its application is flawed. Perhaps only one-third of all old vehicles get recycled in line with the target. The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) in the UK has failed to close all the loopholes that allow unauthorised vehicle dismantlers operating cash-in-hand to escape the regulatory requirements. Of the 1,400 authorised dismantlers and authorised treatment facilities (ATFs) with proper depollution facilities, only 466 met the 85% recycling requirement in 2010, yet no sanctions have been applied against those that failed.

Crushed into metal cubes of scrap, old cars end up being transported to one of the 37 shredders around the country. Here, they get torn apart and should end up in neat piles of separated waste ready for recycling, but only 12 of the shredders can meet the 85% requirement and only three are equipped to meet the 95% target.

There is not the slightest sign that the UK government has given any thought as to how the 2015 target will be met, but the actions needed are clear enough. The DVLA must be forced to close the loopholes. Non-compliant ATFs must be prosecuted, forcing them to cease using the shredders that have not invested in the necessary equipment. Oh, and the European Commission must threaten to take the UK to the European Court of Justice. I will press them to do just that.

Water costs must rise to protect supply, say Lords

Water UK and EU policymakers must take urgent action to ensure water security, including increasing the price of water, or risk not having adequate resources in future, members of the House of Lords have warned.

In a new report (lexisurl.com/iema12793), the Lords' subcommittee on agriculture, fisheries and environment in the EU has told the government and the rest of Europe that they must "grasp the nettle" and increase the cost of water in areas facing shortages if they are to effectively communicate that water is a valuable resource.

"Price increases may well be an inevitable part of helping to secure our water supplies in the future," warned the chair of the subcommittee, Lord Carter.

After examining existing EU and UK policy approaches, in particular the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, the peers conclude that politicians must do more to plan for future impacts on water supplies. "Having taken our water resources for granted for so long, we must start looking at ways in

which we can protect the quality and availability of water resources in the face of challenges such as climate change and population growth," said Carter.

The committee recommends that the European Commission encourages each member state to develop national plans to tackle water scarcity and do more to promote the "catchment-level" management of water supplies.

In the UK, it argues that the government's proposals to overhaul the water industry, which were set out in last year's water white paper, need to be implemented as soon as possible if ecosystems services are to be protected. "The government cannot wait 15 years to reform the water abstraction regime when it is clear that over-abstraction is already doing ecological damage to more than one in 10 of our rivers." Carter contended.

The peers' conclusions echo a European Environment Agency report published in April, which found that water resources are already over-exploited in many EU states and that "putting the right price on water" could incentivise greater efficiency.

£18m fund for Scottish marine power

Renewables The Scottish government has followed its counterpart in Whitehall by offering companies developing wave and tidal renewable technologies millions of pounds of support in a bid to speed up commercial-scale deployment.

Renewable energy firms looking to develop large marine energy arrays in Scottish waters have until 1 August to apply for a share of the devolved government's £18 million Marine Renewables Commercialisation Fund (MRCF). The programme, which is being administered by the Carbon Trust, aims to ensure the development of at least two marine energy projects, and is offering up to £9 million of support for individual projects over the next three years.

As with the UK government's Marine Energy Array Demonstrator scheme, which closed on 1 June, firms applying for the funding must have already completed a full-scale prototype demonstration. Preference is to be given to developers with lease agreements already in place

with the Crown Estate and with grid connections agreed.

The MRCF forms part of £35 million of support the Scottish government has pledged for the wave and tidal sector over the next three years, and is in addition to its £103 million Renewable Energy Investment Fund, a portion of which will also be spent on marine technology.

The Scottish government wants projects that secure funding under the MRCF to be exporting power to the national grid in 2016.

Seven of the world's eight tidal demonstration projects are based in Scotland's waters, including a 1MW turbine close to Orkney operated by ScottishPower Renewables, which successfully completed its first testing period in May and is already providing electricity to the island of Eday. ScottishPower plans to apply the same technology in Scotland's first tidal turbine array, which it already has planning permission to build in Ismay. It will generate 10MW of power.



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Short cuts

Carbon neutral Windows

Software giant Microsoft has pledged to achieve carbon neutrality in its business operations in more than 100 countries during the firm's next financial year, which starts on 1 July. The commitment to zero emissions covers the company's data centres, software development labs, offices and employee air travel. To achieve its goal, the producer of the ubiquitous Windows computer operating system has created an accountability model that aims to generate efficiencies, increase the purchase of renewable energy and improve data collection and reporting. Microsoft has set an internal "price" for carbon, which reflects the amount the company has to pay to offset its emissions from electricity consumption and air travel, for example. To encourage behaviour change, business units will be charged a carbon "fee" for their own emissions. Microsoft says that becoming carbon neutral will help the firm reduce the impact of its operations on the environment, as well as manage its business risk and increase efficiency.

Sky turns on wind power

A 155m-high wind turbine has started to power Sky's broadcast centre in west London. The turbine is expected to provide more than 133MWh per year of renewable energy to the £233 million facility known as Sky Studios - enough to meet its annual office lighting requirements. The satellite television company estimates that the amount of CO₂ offset by the turbine will be equivalent to driving 370,000 miles in a typical petrol-powered car each year. The wind turbine will operate in conjunction with a recently commissioned combined cooling, heating and power plant, which will help Sky Studios meet the company's target for all its owned sites to derive at least 20% of their energy needs from on-site renewable sources by 2020. Sky Studios, which opened in July 2011, already boasts a rainwater harvesting facility, natural ventilation and energy-efficient lighting.

Finance directors ignorant of mandatory reporting

Reporting Almost two-thirds of financial directors in the UK have no knowledge of the requirement in the Climate Change Act 2008 that could force firms to disclose their greenhousegas (GHG) emissions as a part of their annual company reports.

Lex Autolease found that 63% of the 452 financial directors polled did not know about the potential additional reporting requirements.

Despite widespread support for mandatory disclosure from the business community, 38% of survey respondents said they opposed its introduction. Just 2% said they believed that reporting GHG emissions would help their company to grow, and 25% said it would harm growth.

Peter Young, chair of the Aldersgate Group, which backs mandatory disclosure, described the results as depressing, but unsurprising. "There's a strong correlation between those who are unaware of the effects of climate change and the GHG emissions agenda, and those that don't see a need for reporting," he said. "If they don't see the problem, then it's not surprising they don't see the need for their company to explain how it's contributing to it or reducing its burden."



The poll's results reflect a wider problem in the mandatory reporting debate, according to Young. "We have the same issue in government, where we seem to have a chancellor (who is effectively the government's financial director) not voting in favour when most other people are."

Ignorance is the biggest challenge, argued Young. "Once business leaders understand the issues they are very much in favour of disclosure, on the simple premise that you can't manage what you don't measure." He is, however, optimistic the government will introduce mandatory reporting, but warned its deregulation agenda means a quick decision is unlikely.

IEMA research conducted last year found that 69% of environment professionals surveyed agreed that mandatory GHG reporting would deliver cost savings for businesses.

Councils are key to climate action

Strategy Limited funding and a lack of obligation is stopping local authorities making a crucial contribution to tackling climate change, putting the achievement of national carbon budgets at risk, says the committee on climate change.

It says councils have an important role to play in reducing emissions because of the significant influence they can exert over key emitting sectors including residential and commercial buildings, surface transport and waste. However, most councils are not taking on such a role because there is no requirement for them to set targets and implement measures to reduce emissions.

"The research we've done shows local authorities have the potential to significantly impact on the UK's scale and speed of emissions reductions," said committee member, professor Julia King. However, the Local Government Association (LGA) hit back, claiming that, despite cuts in funding, councils were effectively tackling climate change and achieving excellent results. It also pointed out that local authorities often have no responsibility for major emitters.

"Many of the biggest polluters, such as motorways, airports and industry, are beyond the control of local government. In addition, a stranglehold by the energy companies on funding, and policies that aren't designed with local authorities in mind are preventing us from doing more to cut carbon emissions," said councillor Clyde Loakes, vice-chair of the LGA's environment board. "We need to be given more access to the funding that is raised by the energy suppliers and the EU emissions trading scheme in order to deliver even better environmental outcomes."

Low-carbon sector bucks economic trend

MPs criticise plans for a green economy

Economy Sales of UK low-carbon environmental goods and services (LCEGS) grew 4.7% between 2009/10 and 2010/11, the second highest growth rate among the top 10 LCEGS-supplying countries and far outstripping the overall performance of the domestic economy, which only increased by 0.7% in 2011.

The figures from the business department (BIS) reveal that UK sales of LCEGS totalled £122.2 billion in 2010/11, a £5.4 billion increase on the previous year. They also show a slight rise in the number of LCEGS companies in the UK, and an increase in the number of people employed in the sector. The data also highlight a positive balance between exports and imports of LCEGS. BIS reports that in 2010/11, the UK imported LCEGS worth £6.8 billion, while sales of exported goods and services totalled £11.8 billion.

The growth in sales in 2010/11 follows an 8.6% rise over the previous two years. The performance places the UK sixth in the global LCEGS league table by value.

Evidence of the success of the LCEGS sector in the UK came as the environmental audit committee warned that the government's deregulation agenda risked stalling the growth of a green economy. Green investment should play a key role in the UK's economic

recovery, but the Treasury still appears to see environmental measures as a cost or block to economic development, says the committee.

It also criticised the coalition's roadmap, Enabling the transition to a green economy, saying that it failed to set out a new, comprehensive or strategic approach with targets to assess progress. The MPs say that the market-led approach being adopted by the government is too focused on voluntary action, and that relying on consumer demand to stimulate the green economy will not work. One recommendation from the committee is for the government to develop indicators that go beyond traditional economic indicators, such as gross domestic product (GDP), and capture the state of the environment. social fairness and wellbeing.

The World Bank has also urged governments to measure not only what is being produced, through measures of GDP, but also what is being used up and polluted in the process. In a new report, the bank asserts that assigning value to farmland, minerals, rivers, oceans, forests and biodiversity, and awarding property rights, will offer governments, industry and individuals sufficient incentive to manage them in an efficient, inclusive and sustainable manner.

Snapshot of the LCEGS sector in the UK

Total sales from 2008/09 to 2010/11

			Growth	Growth
Sales (£m)	Sales (£m)	Sales (£m)	2008/09 to	2009/10 to
2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2009/10	2010/11
112,004	116,780	122,222	4.3%	4.7%

LCEGS companies in UK, 2008/09 to 2010/11

			Growth	Growth	
Companies	Companies	Companies	2008/09 to	2009/10 to	
2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2009/10	2010/11	
52,258	51,611	51,682	-1.2%	0.1%	

LCEGS employment in UK, 2008/09 to 2010/11

			Growth	Growth	
Employment	Employment	Employment	2008/09 to	2009/10 to	
2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2009/10	2010/11	
909,782	914,273	939,627	0.5%	2.8%	

Short cuts

Recycling directory

Zero Waste Scotland (ZWS) has updated its online tool to help organisations find recycling and reuse services in their local area. The website (lexisurl.com/iema12723) allows businesses to search for either collections or recycling centres by location and by the type of waste to be recycled, whether it is catering waste, scrap metal or old books. The relaunch coincided with new research revealing that Scotland's retail, education, and health and social work sectors produce more than half of the country's total mixed commercial waste. The analysis also confirmed that more than 25% of the waste sent to landfill by these sectors could be recycled. According to the findings, each year the Scottish motor, wholesale and retail sectors throw nearly £30 million worth of unused food into their general waste bins, and educational establishments send more than 120 tonnes of unused paper to landfill, worth around £460,000.

Geothermal partnership

Icelandic volcanoes could provide the UK with low-carbon electricity in future after the two countries signed an agreement to work more closely on energy and climate change issues. Under the memorandum of understanding signed by energy minister Charles Hendry and Oddný Harðardóttir from the Icelandic government, the administrations have agreed to: explore the possibility of developing an electricity connection between Iceland and the UK; share information about oil and gas drilling; and work together to support the development of deep geothermal energy in the UK. Hendry said: "This sort of approach can both enhance our energy security and deliver low-carbon electricity in an affordable way." The news came as the Renewable Energy Association released research revealing that deep geothermal energy has the potential to produce up to 20% of the UK's electricity needs and provide more than 100GW of heat, enough to meet the demand for space heating across the whole of the country.

Energy agency forecasts golden age for gas

Energy Unconventional sources will provide a "golden age" for natural gas, says the International Energy Agency (IEA), but only if extraction abides by strict rules to minimise environmental and social impacts.

In a new report, the IEA has set out a series of "golden rules" to address what the Paris-based organisation describes as legitimate public concerns about exploiting shale gas reserves across the world on a similar scale to what is already being achieved in the US.

"If the social and environmental impacts are not addressed properly, there is a very real possibility that public opposition to drilling for shale gas and other types of unconventional gas will halt the unconventional gas revolution in its tracks," warned IEA executive director Maria van der Hoeven.

The exploitation of shale gas using hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking", has expanded rapidly across the US, with enough recoverable resources to supply the country with natural gas for the next 90 years. South America, China, parts of North Africa and Europe all have significant shale gas reservoirs and could soon be using fracking to tap into previously unworkable gas reserves. However, fracking in the US is controversial as it is increasingly



blamed for polluting water aquifers and contaminating rivers.

The IEA rules say that measures should be put in place to prevent any leaks from wells into nearby aquifers, and that rigorous assessment and monitoring of water requirements and of wastewater is necessary. Drilling operations should also be subject to greater regulatory control, says the report. "The industry must win public confidence by demonstrating exemplary performance, and governments must ensure that appropriate policies and regulatory regimes are in place," said van der Hoeven.

Potential investors welcomed the report. "Without effective regulation and an energy policy that aims to reduce

carbon emissions, we fear there will be growing opposition to shale gas from environmentalists and the wider public," said Dr Craig Mackenzie, head of sustainability at Scottish Widows Investment Partnership, a major shareholder in the oil and gas sector. "We see the IEA's golden rules as an excellent blueprint for building public trust and confidence in this new energy resource."

However, WWF warned that use of unconventional gas resources, even if the environmental impacts associated with extraction are overcome, would send global temperatures soaring. "A golden age for gas is clearly very far from a golden age for the planet. Buried in the depths of this report is the bombshell that a global dash for unconventional gas will condemn us to warming of at least 3.5°C," said Keith Allott, head of climate change at WWF-UK.

Last year, the energy and climate change committee warned that a second dash for gas in the UK could delay or even marginalise the development of renewables and make it impossible for the UK to achieve its emissions targets. Scientists recently gave their backing to shale gas exploration in the UK, despite finding that the only drilling operation in the country triggered minor earthquakes in Lancashire in 2011.



CASE LAW

When timing still matters judicial review was heard the

In R (Berky) v Newport City Council [2012] EWCA Civ 378, the Court of Appeal held that a claim for judicial review was not brought "promptly", even though it was within the three-month time limit for making a claim.

The claimant, a local resident, applied to challenge the granting of planning permission for the construction of a new Morrisons supermarket by way of judicial review. The claim form was issued on the last day of the three-month period in which forms seeking such a review had to be filed, as specified by rule 54.5(1)(a) of the Civil Procedure Rules. Also, no letter of complaint against the planning decision had preceded the claim form.

There was a delay in bringing proceedings, so that by the time the application to the High Court to bring a supermarket was already open.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the claimant's appeal against the High Court's refusal to apply for judicial review. Although the judges dissented on the issue of timing, the majority held that the claimant's application had not been brought promptly. The judges said there had been no convincing explanation for the failure to commence proceedings, or even for not having sent a letter until the very end of the threemonth period. They also noted that the claimant would have been aware of work commencing on the site.

The court distinguished the case from *Uniplex v NHS Business Services Authority,* [2010] 2 CMLR 1255. In that case, the European Court of Justice held that the requirement to bring proceedings

"promptly" was contrary to the EU legal principles of certainty and effectiveness, as it would render the limitation period discretionary. The judges in Berky considered that the power to not allow a review arose whenever there was a failure to commence proceedings promptly. As a result, the review could be refused on the grounds of delay if the

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In light of this ruling, applicants for judicial review should be aware that they may be held to account for any delay in bringing a claim.

court thought that appropriate.

However, the judgment of *Uniplex* still stands. Therefore, developers are advised to adopt a cautious approach and continue to regard the full three months as the challenge period.

Colleen Theron and Jen Hawkins, LexisPSL

Business leaders demand action on sustainability

Strategy Chief executives want policymakers to agree more ambitious action on issues such as energy, water and sustainable development, according to the results of a poll by PwC.

The business services company surveyed 141 CEOs at companies with annual revenues of between US\$10 million and \$10 billion, and found that 70% would like to see governments do more to address these issues.

Affordable energy, equality and social inclusion, sustainable consumption and resource scarcity are the top three concerns related to sustainable development in 2012, finds the poll.

Close to 90% of the respondents say that affordable energy is important to their business, with 39% saying it is very important. This proportion increases significantly when looking to the future, with 60% saying affordable energy will be very important by 2022. CEOs also have mounting concerns about water scarcity and climate change, with 78% claiming both will be very important to their business over the next decade.

Malcolm Preston, global lead, sustainability and climate change, PwC, commented: "Global threats and challenges of sustainability are now clearly on the radar screen for multinational companies. Affordable energy, resource scarcity, water stress and climate change are all expected to become bigger, more pressing issues for corporate strategy in the next 10 years, and that is a shorter window than the time frame for most major investments."

Rather than international agreements, chief executives favour national or regional regulation, believing these are more effective in driving action than global goals and targets. Of those polled, 30% claim that the Millennium Development goals are not effective at all, while one-quarter rate international treaties such as the Kyoto Protocol as ineffective. "Business has more confidence in 'bottom up'-driven actions than it has in 'top down' ones," commented Preston.

Meanwhile, the latest *Living planet* report from WWF finds that humans are consuming 50% more natural resources than the planet can sustainably produce, threatening future security and wellbeing.

WWF reveals that it is now taking 1.5 years for the Earth to absorb all the CO₂ produced and to regenerate the renewable resources that people consume in just 12 months. The survey also shows that 2.7 billion people live in areas that experience severe water shortages for at least one month every year.

Poor progress on global goals

Resources Research by UNEP has revealed that of 90 internationally agreed targets aimed at tackling climate change, water quality and biodiversity loss, significant progress has been made in just four areas.

In the fifth edition of its *Global environmental outlook* (GEO-5), UNEP warns that without urgent and coordinated international action to reverse unsustainable resource use and halt harmful environmental impacts, ecosystems will be irreversibly harmed.

"If current patterns of production and consumption of natural resources prevail, then governments will preside over unprecedented levels of damage and degradation," said UNEP's executive director, Achim Steiner. The 550-page report (lexisurl.com/iema12732) confirms that while global efforts have seen some success in halting ozone depletion, eliminating lead from fuels and improving access to water supplies, less progress has been made on tackling deforestation, harmful air pollution and adoption of sustainable development principles by governments.

Of the 90 goals examined, little or no progress had been made on 24, including the mitigation of climate change and its impacts on biodiversity, and recognition of the significance of ecosystems. Furthermore, for eight of the internationally agreed objectives, including the conservation of wetlands and protecting the world's coral reefs, the situation has actually worsened.

COMMENT

Going down to Rio+20



Joan Walley is MP for Stoke-on-Trent North and chair of the environmental audit committee

A lot of readers will remember, as I do, the huge difference that Agenda 21 made following the first UN Earth Summit in Rio in 1992. The global plan was intended to involve action at international, national, regional and local levels to prevent environmental degradation. Twenty years later that need is more urgent than ever.

Unlike in 1992, and in Johannesburg 10 years later, there is less expectation that the outcome of Rio+20 will be as ambitious. Yet the stakes are higher now than they were then, as scientific evidence points to the accelerating rate of destruction of our natural resources. There are many disconnects in our life today, and none is greater than that between the ever increasing consumption of resources and the natural environmental limits of those resources. Unfortunately, there is insufficient understanding and awareness of the work and role of the UN, and of the complex negotiations that underpin events such as Rio+20.

In the UK parliament there is a similar lack of connection between the electorate and their representatives, with a recent Hansard report on the state of our democracy showing that only 48% of people intended to vote at the next general election. With so many people opting out of active participatory democracy, it is not surprising that MPs are under less pressure to face up to environmental challenges.

The environmental audit committee is determined to address this deficit. We published a report last year on preparations for the summit. To help raise public awareness, the committee, the Hard Rain Project and St Martinin-the-Fields in Trafalgar Square staged a debate and exhibition ahead of the summit. Our message is clear: this Earth Summit has to be ambitious. The environmental challenge is every bit as important as the economic challenge we face.



In force	Subject	Details
6 April 2012	Planning	The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 enable a new statutory regime for neighbourhood planning, as required by the Localism Act 2011; the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 provide for a system of local development planning as required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004; the Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012 revoke and replace the 1999 Regulations; the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) (Amendment) Order 2012 amends the 2010 Order; the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) (England) Order 2012 amends the 1995 Order; the Town and Country Planning (Compensation) (England) Regulations 2012 replace the 2011 Regulations; and the Planning Act 2008 (Commencement No.2) (England) Order 2012 brings into force provisions of the Planning Act 2008. lexisurl.com/iema12039; lexisurl.com/iema12047; lexisurl.com/iema12037; lexisurl.com/iema12040; lexisurl.com/iema12043; lexisurl.com/iema12044; lexisurl.com/iema12038
6 April 2012	Waste	The Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012 classify waste as household, industrial or commercial waste for the purposes of Part 2 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, clarifying the meaning of "controlled waste". lexisurl.com/iema12045
6 April 2012 ••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••	Water	The Water Act 2003 (Commencement No.11) Order 2012 and the Water Act 2003 (Commencement No.3) (Wales) Order 2012 bring into force measures in s.86 – which amends Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA) in relation to contaminated land. The definition of "contaminated land" in s.78A of the EPA is amended so that, in relation to the pollution of controlled waters, for land to be determined as "contaminated", it must cause significant pollution of controlled waters or there must be a significant possibility of such pollution. lexisurl.com/iema11740; lexisurl.com/iema12031
9 April 2012	Waste	The Waste (Fees and Charges) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 increase the fees and charges applied by the Department of the Environment for considering applications to register an undertaking carrying on an exempt activity It also details the charges for considering applications for registration as carriers of, brokers of, or dealers in controlled waste. lexisurl.com/iema12334
13 April 2012	Planning	The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 amend the 2009 Regulations. Changes include: requiring the reasons for negative screening decisions to be provided in writing; allowing any person to ask the secretary of state to exercise the power of direction; and the removal of unnecessary criminal offences. lexisurl.com/iema12048
13 April 2012	Planning	The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Wales) Regulations 2012 amend the 1990 Regulations and consolidate subsequent changes; the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012 amends the 1995 Order and consolidates subsequent changes; the Town and Country Planning (Trees) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2012 insert a new regulation (9B) into the 1999 Regulations requiring consent applications for work on trees in Wales; the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2012 amend the 1992 Regulations; and the Town and Country Planning (Compensation) (Wales) Regulations 2012 prescribe various matters for the purposes of s.108 (compensation where planning permission is withdrawn) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. lexisurl.com/iema12616; lexisurl.com/iema12617; lexisurl.com/iema12619; lexisurl.com/iema12621; lexisurl.com/iema12622



LATEST CONSULTATIONS

6 July 2012

Infrastructure planning

Seven consultation documents relating to planning for major infrastructure projects and the Planning Act 2008 have been published by the communities and local government department (CLG). They are: the Planning Act 2008 consultation on proposed changes to guidance documents for the major infrastructure planning regime (lexisurl. com/iema12650); guidance on associated development – applications for major infrastructure projects under the Planning Act 2008 (lexisurl.com/iema12791); Planning Act 2008 – guidance on the pre-application consultation (lexisurl. com/iema12647); Planning Act 2008 guidance for the examination of applications for development consent of nationally significant infrastructure projects (lexisurl.com/iema12792); Planning Act 2008 – the Infrastructure Planning (Fees) Regulations 2010 guidance (lexisurl.com/iema12648); Planning Act 2008 – guidance related to procedures for the compulsory acquisition of land (lexisurl.com/ iema12651); and Planning Act 2008 -

nationally significant infrastructure projects: application form guidance (lexisurl.com/iema12649).

6 July 2012

Hazardous substances

Proposals to implement in the UK the new Restriction of Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment (RoHS) Directive (2011/65/EU), which was published in July 2011, have been published by the business department (BIS). The new Directive imposes new obligations on those placing products on the market and, in addition to views on its implementation plans, BIS is also consulting on draft regulations and guidance notes.

lexisurl.com/iema12632

9 July 2012

Carrier bags

The Department of Environment in Northern Ireland (DoE) is consulting on legislative proposals for a charge on single-use carrier bags. The consultation document summarises the broad policy direction on carrier-bag charging in the country, outlines the DoE's specific legislative plans and

includes a copy of the draft Single Use Carrier Bags Charge Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012. lexisurl.com/iema12623

31 July 2012

Emissions trading

DECC and the devolved **u** administrations are consulting on a draft statutory instrument to replace the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme Regulations 2005. The proposed changes are fourfold: to consolidate 13 sets of regulations into one single statutory instrument – integrating requirements for aircraft and stationary operators to reduce duplication and repeal a number of existing regulations; to introduce an opt-out scheme for eligible small emitters and hospitals during phase III of the EU emissions trading scheme; to achieve a more proportionate and consistent penalties regime for stationary and aircraft operators by moving to a regime of civil sanctions only, and improving regulator discretion in applying them; and to use the First-tier Tribunal for hearing appeals in England and Wales.

lexisurl.com/iema12631



NEW GUIDANCE

Water pollution

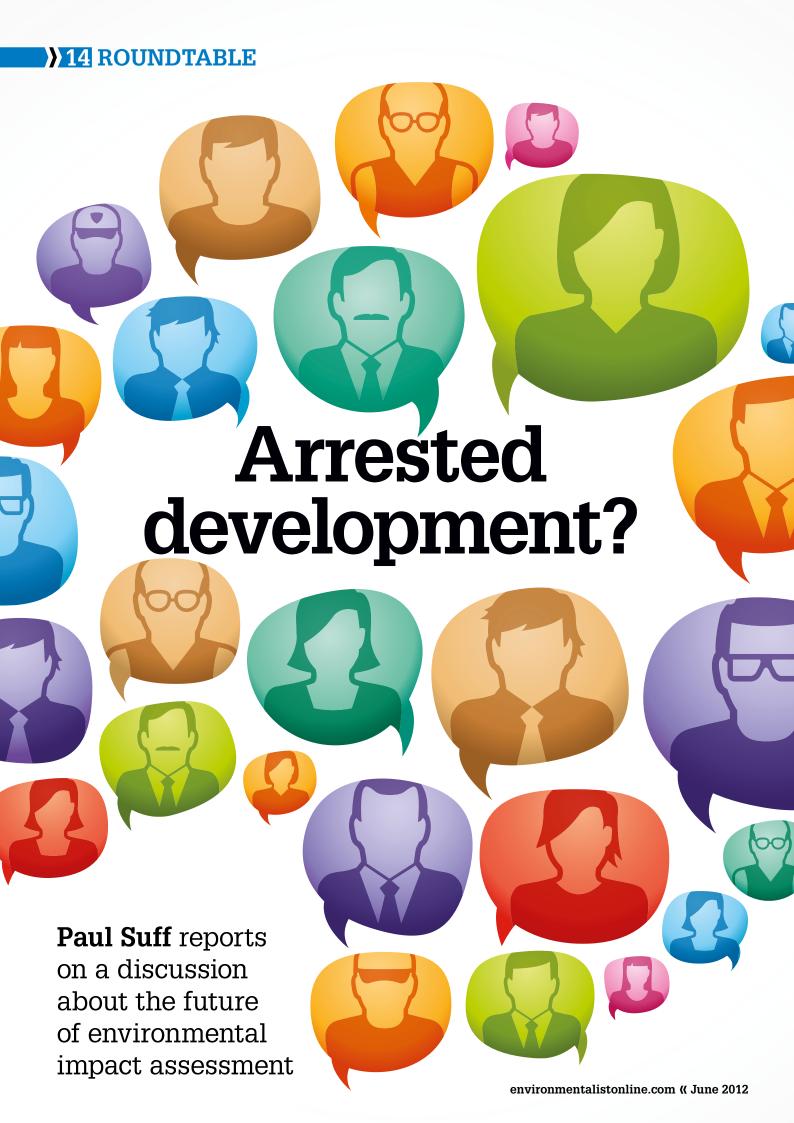
A revised version of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency's (SEPA) *Water pollution arising from land containing chemical contaminants* – commonly known as the Brown Booklet – has been published (lexisurl.com/iema12634). It provides information on how SEPA assesses whether significant pollution of the water environment is occurring, or is likely to occur, at a site with land contamination. The aim of the guide is to provide a generic overview and to act as a pointer to other reference sources in pursuing a site-specific approach to a risk assessment of the water environment. The 2012 edition, which is only available online and includes recent changes to EU and domestic legislation, replaces the 2001 version.

Pollution prevention

The Environment Agency and its Scottish (SEPA) and Northern Irish (NIEA) colleagues have issued pollution and prevention guidelines for the construction and demolition industries (lexisurl.com/iema12635). It explains what contractors are required to do by law and describes good-practice measures to reduce the risks of pollution. It is designed for site managers and supervisors in companies of all sizes, including small- and medium-sized enterprises, and specialist contractors. The guide covers basic principles, such as what pollution is and the consequences if pollution occurs. It also contains a checklist to ensure operators have considered and attempted to mitigate pollution risks.

Radioactive contaminated land

New statutory guidance on radioactive contaminated land in England has been published by DECC (lexisurl.com/iema12637). The guidance, which is legally binding, explains how local authorities should implement the radioactive contaminated land regime, including how they should go about deciding whether land is "contaminated" in the legal sense. It also elaborates on the remediation provisions of Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, such as the goals of remediation, and how the Environment Agency (EA) – as the enforcing authority for radioactive contaminated land – should ensure that remediation requirements are reasonable. In addition, the guidance explains specific aspects of the Part 2A liability arrangements, and the process by which the EA may, in certain circumstances, recover the costs of remediation from liable parties.



ince its introduction in the late 1980s, more than 10,000 development projects in the UK have been subject to an environmental impact assessment (EIA), a systematic way of ensuring a project's significant environmental implications are considered before it goes ahead.

UK policymakers had initially expected "a couple of dozen" assessments a year, but now there are more than 500 annually. Over the next decade much-needed infrastructure in the UK, including new power-

generation plants, will be designed and constructed. Many of these projects will be controversial and EIA will be at the centre of the development process.

In May, the environmentalist and IEMA brought six experts together to discuss the role of environmental impact assessment and whether the existing EIA Directive (85/337/EEC) - and subsequent amendments, which were recently consolidated into a "new" Directive (2011/92/ EU) – and its legal interpretation in the UK act as a barrier or an enabler for development.

Iterative process

Josh Fothergill, EIA policy lead at IEMA, chair, begins the session by asking for panellists' views on current

EIA practice. All agree that, while EIA in the UK retains its original remit to produce information to aid planning decisions and prevent damaging development, the process has evolved over the past quarter of a century,

and not always in a way that has delivered improvement.

There is complete unanimity that EIA is a force for good. "EIA has, and always will be, a barrier to bad development," asserts, Ross Marshall, head of the National Environment Assessment Service (NEAS) at the Environment Agency. Stephen Tromans, a legal expert on impact assessment and regular contributor to the environmentalist, says: "EIA is obviously not fulfilling its function if there is bad development, but I think it is increasingly being used to make development better," he says.

Such an outcome is partly because developers are now far more receptive to incorporating the outcomes of the EIA process into project design. "It used to be the case that a developer would come up with a scheme, and want it assessed and an environmental statement produced simply to get it through the planning process," comments Tromans.

"Now the approach is much more iterative, and there's an acknowledgment that the scheme may evolve during the environmental assessment and could end up being very different to what was initially envisaged."

Cara Davidson, from the environmental assessment team in the Scottish government's directorate for local government and communities, also believes that EIA's evolution into an iterative process, producing a comprehensive assessment of environmental impacts, means it increasingly plays a positive role.

Rob White, partner at Manchester-based NJL Consulting, has experienced the evolution of EIA, so that it is now increasingly used to refine the designs for developments. "Pre-1999, you'd just be given a project to EIA. These days there's a greater appreciation that EIA can really enhance the project - reduce its impacts and improve how it will operate in the future."

He says developers now know they cannot just walk in with a final design. "Increasingly, they see the value of EIA," comments White. "Obviously they have an initial design but they are much more open to feeding back the outcomes of EIA into the design."

"I've experienced a similar shift and it's something we try to encourage our clients to consider," explains Philip Rowell, a director at Adams Hendry, a consultancy based in Winchester. "It's the iterative process that goes from identifying a potential issue to addressing it that is the real value of EIA," he asserts.

Bigger and better?

One major change in EIA practice over the past two decades or so, which is causing some concern

There is now a greater appreciation that EIA can really improve a project – reducing its environmental impacts and improving how it operates in the future

among practitioners and could hamper future infrastructure development, is the growth in the size of environmental statements (ESs).

"They've become bigger and more comprehensive," says **Tromans**. "And, as a result, I wonder if they are now less useful."

White says that last year he saw an ES for a relatively small wind farm that was 400 pages long. "I haven't got time to read a statement that long and planners won't either," he concedes. "I think the more you put in an ES, the more there is to pick over, which raises the risk of a legal challenge."

The size of many ESs raises questions about how accessible the information is to the reader, and puts at risk one of the main aims of EIA - to help decisionmakers reach an informed decision.

Rowell agrees that lengthy statements can potentially damage the planning process. "Decisionmakers will often, understandably, admit that it is difficult for them to read all the material in any detail to meet the timescale for making a decision.

"Often you get asked by a decision-maker for clarification on X, Y and Z. But really what they're asking for is help with finding the answers in the document already produced."

White agrees and says this can slow down the process. "You wait and wait for a response, and then get a last-minute one with lots of questions from someone who, quite patently, hasn't read the document."

Marshall is not surprised to hear that some decision-makers are struggling to understand complex environmental interactions, as he believes this is increasingly a challenge for environment professionals,

16 ROUNDTABLE

particularly when they are faced with assessing large, complicated projects. "If the people who are doing this every day are struggling, heaven help Joe Bloggs, the solitary planner left in a local authority planning department who gets an EIA once every three or four years."

"Yes, they can argue that they're short of resources but that doesn't help you when you're trying to get consent," adds **White**. "Delay is the biggest cost for a developer."

Tromans believes the answer is to produce a simple document explaining what the development

If environment professionals are struggling

with assessing large, complicated projects,

heaven help the solitary local planning officer

is and listing the "pluses" and "minuses". "Although we need to retain all that good technical information, it needs to be distilled down in some way to make it more accessible," he explains. "At the moment, even non-technical summaries are too technical!"

Davidson would like to see better signposting in documents. "Accessibility is about reducing the length of statements, but we should also make them easy to navigate."

There is an acknowledgment among the panellists that improving accessibility should not be confined to decision-makers alone, but should make the information penetrable for all stakeholders, including local communities.

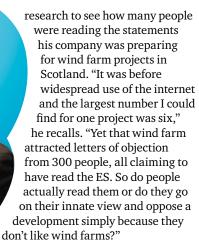
As **David Hinde**, senior environment adviser at the Highways Agency, points out, the government's localism agenda could alter who makes planning decisions, as local communities are given more power to agree or reject developments. "Will they sufficiently understand EIA?" he asks. "It's not clear if they are going to receive any support from people who do understand its role."

Davidson agrees the user-friendliness of environmental statements is a challenge, particularly as the audience for these documents gets broader.

"We need to ensure the statement does the job of informing not only the decision-makers but the public as well. How you manage that is a key challenge for EIA going forward," she acknowledges.

Marshall, however, fears that many stakeholders will pay only lip service to an environmental statement. The head of NEAS explains that, while working in the power sector, he did some





The panel also notes that the scope of EIA is slowly expanding, which is not assisting in producing "slimmer" environmental statements.

"EIA has increasingly become a 'coat hanger' upon which to hang other regulatory and society issues," warns Marshall. "So, rather than having a separate climate change assessment, we've brought that into the EIA process. as well as compliance with the Habitat Directive and the Water Framework Directive. And, if I wasn't here today, I'd be in Birmingham discussing how we bring ecosystems services into EIA.

> "It's become a 'catchall' for other contentious issues. Too often now, I have to remind people that EIA is principally concerned with providing decisionmakers with accessible information on the significant effects of a development. That's the bedrock of EIA and we must be careful about expanding that remit."

Legal confusion

Some projects, particularly large ones, often trigger more than one set of EIA regulations and, therefore, several consenting bodies and practitioners would like to see more harmonisation.

"There is too much inconsistency," says Hinde. "Although the Town and Country Planning [EIA] Regulations have recently been updated, other legislation hasn't. It all feels rather bitty. And that doesn't help the quality of EIA."

"That's a very good point," acknowledges Rowell. "There are projects covered by two or more sets of regulations, all subtly different, that are being considered by different decision-makers. Which one do you follow?

It would be much better to have a single set of EIA-related regulations."

Rowell uses the example of the marine environment, where there is both the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and the local planning authority (LPA), to illustrate the overlap. "While the LPA is concerned with the Town and Country Planning Regulations, the MMO is looking at the Marine Works Regulations," he says.

"Certainly in the transport sector EIA regulations haven't been updated," says Hinde. "On more than one occasion we've had to go Department for Transport lawyers to ask for clarity.

"Interestingly, they respond by advising that you should be following the regulations because they transpose the Directive. However, case law has highlighted the fact that some regulations are now dated. So, is it the Directive we should fall back on?"

Legal expert **Tromans** advises: "The courts would probably say that if there is no argument about the Directive being transposed correctly you should look at the domestic regulations. However, where it is argued that there has been incorrect transposition, you should go back to the Directive."

"We often go back to what the Directive says to avoid any confusion," says Rowell.

Marshall explains that NEAS operates an internal screening role for Environment Agency projects to determine which EIA regulations apply. "Like the overlap between the MMO and the LPA, we often have

Some projects are covered by two or more sets of regulations and are being considered by different decision-makers. Which regulations do you follow?

to balance the demands of the Land Drainage [EIA] Regulations, which are a very strange interpretation of environmental impact assessment, and those of the Town and Country Planning [EIA] Regulations."

Davidson says the Scottish government recently consolidated, updated and replaced the EIA regulations that apply to planning applications in Scotland, with the aim of clarifying the legislation.

The 2011 changes to the EIA Regulations across the UK included importing carbon capture and storage projects and a requirement to set out the negative reasons for determining screening - in England, also the right for members of the public to ask for a screening determination. Schedule II was also revised with regard to changes and extensions to developments.

While welcoming the consolidation of the main EIA Regulations, following numerous amendments since 1999, some of the new requirements present a challenge for EIA practitioners and project developers.

"I'm grappling at the moment with changes and extensions," admits White. "We've recently been given the details of phase six of a development that wasn't in the original application. An environmental impact assessment had been completed on phases one to five. Now, is phase six an extension or a new development? And do we have to re-EIA the whole development?" he asks.



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For more information please contact:

Rob White - rob@njlconsulting.co.uk
Chris Garratt - chrisg@njlconsulting.co.uk

Web: www.njlconsulting.co.uk

Adamson House, Towers Business Park, Wilmslow Road, Didsbury, M20 2YY

Tel: 0845 362 8202

"That's going to be a really big issue," agrees **Tromans**. "It's got the potential to affect so many different types of development. It's definitely going to give rise to more angst!"

Future challenges

The publication of the national planning policy framework (NPPF) for England, with its presumption in favour of sustainable development, might significantly impact EIA in the future, according to some panellists. "I'm struggling to understand how the existing EIA process is giving decision-makers the right information about how a project will contribute to sustainable development," argues **Hinde**.

Marshall foresees potential conflict between the pursuit of development to aid economic growth on the one hand, and addressing environmental concerns on the other. "There is a very strong drive for growth at the moment and the EIA process has to support that. If it is seen as a barrier, people will start asking whether it is needed," he warns. "Similarly, if people perceive environmental degradation as a result of growth they will ask questions. There's a fine balance here for decision-making bodies and consultees to tread."

White cautions against EIA practitioners acting as judges. "It's not the role of environmental impact assessment to judge whether a project is or is not sustainable. I think it would be very dangerous if the concluding chapter of the ES includes this kind of judgment," he warns. "We may think a development will have adverse impacts, but it's up to the decision-makers to judge whether it is good or bad." He also believes it would be a backward step for EIA practice. "It took time to educate clients that just because some ES chapters concluded with adverse effects didn't mean that they wouldn't get planning consent. Developers now accept that EIA needs to cover adverse as well as positive impacts."

"I think there is always a tendency to focus on the significant adverse effects, but the Directive talks about significant effects, not just the adverse ones," explains **Rowell**, "so there is nothing wrong with the environmental statement stating both. We're talking about development, so you're never going to have a completely positive assessment."

"I get the feeling that too many stakeholders use the ES simply to pick up on the negative aspects," **Marshal** says. "And they use the ES as a stick to beat the developer."

"EIA isn't a barrier to development if it is done rightly," asserts **Hinde**. "It should prevent bad development, but what's 'bad' to me might be regarded as 'good' by someone very interested in the economic growth agenda."

10 more years

So, after a quarter of a century of environmental impact assessment practice in



ROUNDTABLE PARTICIPANTS



Cara Davidson is policy lead in the environmental assessment team which is part of the Scottish government's directorate for local government and communities.



David Hinde is senior environment adviser at the Highways Agency, where he is responsible for the agency's design manual for roads and bridges, which includes impact assessment.



Dr Ross Marshall, head of the national environmental assessment service, is responsible for the management of environmental risk, and its compliance and planning.



Philip Rowell is a director at Adams Hendry Consulting, a Winchester-based company of chartered town planners and environment specialists.



Stephen Tromans QC is a legal expert on environmental impact assessment. A second edition of his book *Environmental impact assessment* was published in February (p.37).



Rob White is partner at NJL Consulting, where he leads the sustainability team. He has a wide range of experience of all the technical phases of the development process.



The roundtable was chaired by **Josh Fothergill**, IEMA's policy and practice lead on environmental impact assessment, a long-standing action area for the Institute.

the environmentalist would like to thank everyone who took part. For further information on the points raised during the discussion, see IEMA's special report, *The state of environmental impact assessment in the UK* (lexisurl.com/iema12662), which was published in 2011.

the UK and with a draft of the revised EIA Directive due in September, what changes would practitioners like to see over the next 10 years?

EIA should prevent poor development, but what's considered "bad" by one person might be regarded as "good" by someone interested only in economic growth

Davidson is less concerned with further changes in procedures, favouring instead a culture change

among practitioners so environmental statements are more accessible.

Marshall agrees. "It's not the regulatory process but the culture in which EIA takes place that needs to alter. Hopefully it will increasingly be used as a design tool as well as a mechanism for regulatory assessment and appraisal. So, we're at the point where development should be designed around the environment rather than environmental aspects being retrofitted to a development."

















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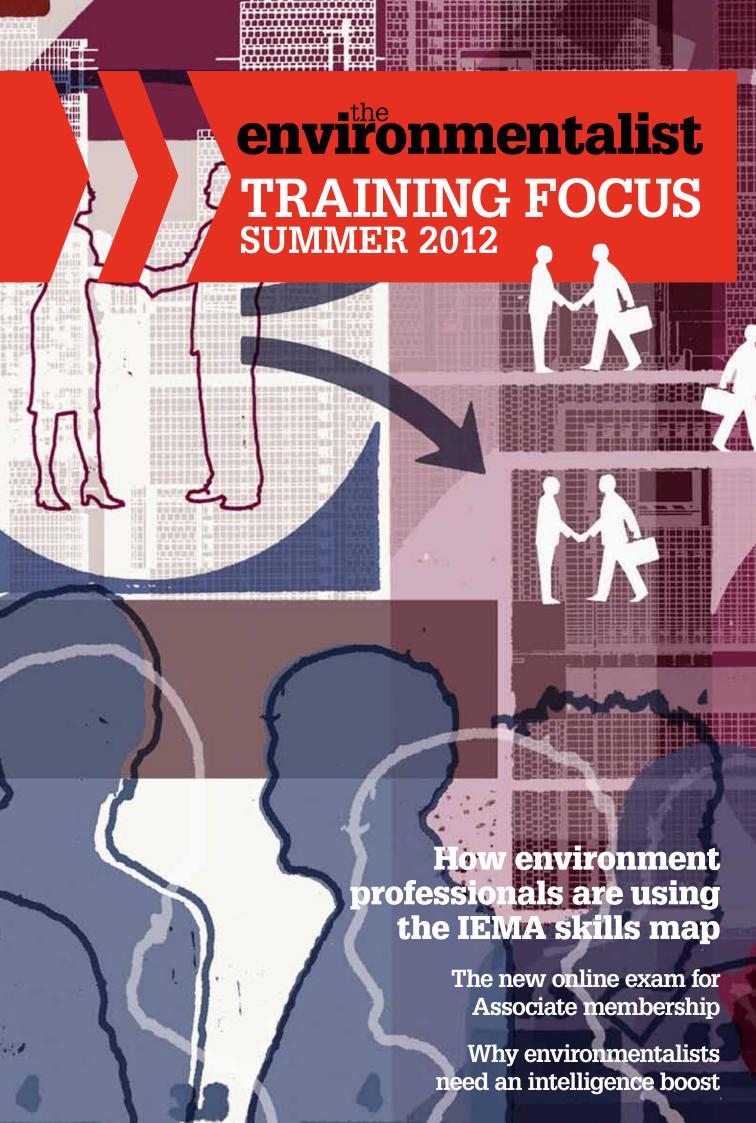
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IEMA Associate Membership Assessment Changes

The assessment for the IEMA Associate Membership is due to change. From 1st January 2013 Training Providers will no longer set and mark the written examinations. Instead a centralised IEMA set exam will be phased in, overseen by a newly appointed Chief Examiner.

The change has been decided based on a review of the standards of Associate Memberships carried out by IEMA over the last 12 months. The review has prompted IEMA to work with an Ofqual Approved Awarding Body to centralise the assessment of IEMA's Associate Certificate Entry Examination.

IEMA have committed to ensure all delegate results will be issued within six weeks of completion.

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Find the right path

A year after IEMA published its skills map, **Sarah-Jayne Russell** finds out how it is being used to direct professional development

efore the publication of IEMA's environmental skills map last June, no competency framework existed against which all environment professionals, regardless of seniority or sector, could benchmark themselves and identify where they needed to develop their knowledge and skills base.

IEMA recognised that in such a rapidly evolving sector, and with employers increasingly demanding practitioners meet specified levels of competence, it was important to help members ensure their professional development was focused and relevant. In response, IEMA began to develop a tool to clearly identify the knowledge and skills needed at different levels of seniority across the profession.

The map

After six months' working with employers, recruitment consultancies, universities and training organisations,

IEMA launched the first layer of the map last summer (lexisurl.com/iema11446). It outlines 14 competency areas, split into five broad categories:

- Knowledge and understanding Fundamental environmental and sustainability principles; Environmental policy issues; Environmental management and assessment tools; Environmental legislation; and Business management.
- Analytical thinking Analyse, interpret and report data and information; and Develop sustainable solutions.
- **Communication** Implement effective communication; and Engage stakeholders.
- **Sustainable practice** Implement sustainable thinking; Deliver environmental improvement; and Managing business resilience.
- Leadership for change Lead change; and Influence behaviour.



TRAINING FOCUS



HAVE YOUR SAY

As a part of the ongoing development of the map, IEMA is consulting members, organisations and other stakeholders on the details to be included on the second layer, which provides specific examples of the skills and areas of knowledge for each segment of the map that environment professionals need to demonstrate competence in.

Following the successful mapping of the competencies required at the operational-role level, IEMA has drafted a list of competencies for the non-graduate/graduate, managerial and leadership levels and is seeking feedback on its choices. Any IEMA member wanting to get involved in the development of this crucial professional development tool can take part in individual interviews, surveys, webinars or group workshops. Those interested in participating should contact Tara Cox at: t.cox@iema.net or +44 (0) 1522 540 069.

The one-page framework then sets out the types of skills and knowledge needed to demonstrate competency in different job roles, namely: non-graduate/graduate entry-level positions; operational roles; specialists; managers; and leadership roles.

It outlines, for example, that graduates should understand environmental policy issues, whereas managers are expected to be able to explain trends and developments in policy. Similarly, leading environment professionals must be competent in creating a vision for strategic change, while those working at an operational level are able to implement changes.

One year on, and with IEMA working to complete a second layer to the map providing more detail on the skills and knowledge needed for each competency, Claire Lea, the Institute's director of membership strategy and development, is pleased with the feedback so far.

"The reaction in our first year has been really positive," she says. "People can see that the skills map was needed and that it clearly sets out all the different role categories that people need to know and be able to do."

Russell Grinham, assurance adviser at Research Sites Restoration, agrees: "Before the environmental skills map came out, there was nothing that gave an idea of the skills you need in an environmental role linked with career progression, particularly anything that covers business skills as well as environmental ones."

In launching the first layer of the map, IEMA's main aim was to provide greater guidance for its members on what skills they needed to continue performing to the best of their ability. "The motivation to create the map was feedback from graduates and career changers who said that after completing some initial training, for example the IEMA Associate course or an environment-related degree, it was unclear as to what their next steps should be," confirms Lea.

"It has also become clear that the map has more uses than we originally envisaged, in a really positive way. Professionals working in organisations have taken it and used it as a more strategic tool, and that's exactly what we wanted."

The map offers individuals the opportunity to assess their own knowledge and skills against a sector-wide benchmark, helping them to identify areas in



which they might want to consider further training or development, but also allows businesses to evaluate the competency of staff with environment responsibilities and predict future skills requirements (see panel on p.V).

Using the map

Early adopter Grinham has been using the map to evaluate his personal professional development since it was first published and says it became particularly useful when he changed jobs from a broad environment role to one focused on assurance.

"I wanted to have a look at where I needed training and development, so I used the skills map to identify those gaps. I simply crossed out all the competencies that I thought I met, and the ones that weren't crossed out I then knew I had to focus on," he says.

"As a result, over the next six to 12 months, I will seek to develop my experience in auditing. In the longer term I will be looking to improve my competency in business management areas such as 'understanding commercial tools', to reach the higher competency levels."

Grinham argues that this ability to plan in the long term is one of the skills map's strengths. "If you intend to move up the career ladder towards leadership, you can plan out your training and development over a number of years. This can help you to avoid being sent on courses that you don't actually need or which aren't relevant to your role or future goals."

This broader, career-long approach has also been adopted by some organisations. Jo Murphy, national technical manager at the National Environmental Assessment Service (NEAS), the development arm of the Environment Agency, has been working to incorporate the map into the organisation's existing

IEMA-approved technical development framework. "My role is to support our 55 environment project managers and ensure they have the right skills, capabilities and training," she explains.

"The skills map slots very neatly onto our framework and by incorporating the map's competencies we are giving our staff the opportunity to benchmark themselves against people in other organisations. This encourages them to set their own development paths with consideration of that bigger picture.

"At NEAS we train people to work well for us while also having in mind their own career development, because, as much as we'd like to keep everyone, they are not always going to work for us. It's important that professional development structures are tied to that wider context."

One particular benefit of the IEMA skills map, according to Murphy, is its straightforward structure. "I've been through a number of other professional development frameworks and this is by far the most clear," she says. "The fact that you can just print it out on an A3 piece of paper and stick it up on the wall is really helpful and I think its accessibility means its uptake will spread quickly and people will use it."

Murphy also praises the map's acknowledgement that different job profiles need different skills.

"It recognises that people in leadership roles don't simply need to know more of the same things as operational staff, but that they might actually need less detail and apply it in a different way or combine it with other skills," she says.

Performance review

Several organisations are already using the map to incorporate the evaluation of environmental knowledge and skills into more generic, company-wide performance assessments. After seeing the skills map in *the environmentalist*, Matt Wisdom, environment manager at Thomas Vale Construction, used it to map his assistant's competencies as a part of the firm's annual review process.

"Our internal performance review includes elements of skills mapping and looking at your performance against a number of target areas, so using the map fitted into that process. We used it to chart where we thought my assistant was at the moment, where he was going and to set targets for the next year," he explains.

"Due to the nature of our business, our development matrix has to be very broad, so it was good to be able to align the skills map with what was already in place and assess skills that were more specific to the job role."

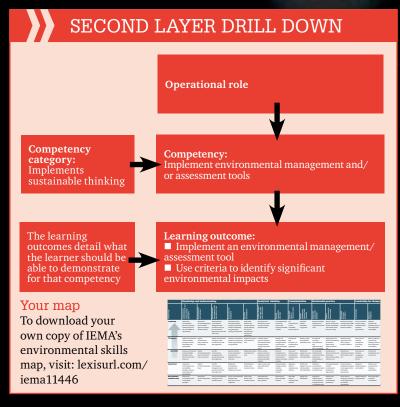
While offering specific guidelines for environment professionals, the map's wide remit, including leadership and managerial skills, has also helped Wisdom.

"I don't think if someone asked me to write down all the skills necessary for my role that I would have included everything that's on the map. It's definitely helped to broaden my thinking of environmental skills overall."

For Murphy, the map's broad scope is proving to be useful in planning for NEAS's future. "Part of my role is identifying what skills we are going to need and ensuring we train people to meet that. The map helps me see gaps that we may not have otherwise considered."

HOW DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS CAN USE THE SKILLS MAP (ESM) Outlining a Planning professional Identifying resources to Environment professionals development career path fill competency gaps Students using Programme leads mapping Award professional incorporating ESM ESM to plan ESM to course material to Universities qualifications in careers/skills identify knowledge gaps and professional alongside academic <u>dev</u>elopment workshops align learning outcome Organisations identifying Employees assessing Senior management identify their own competency competency gaps and training/ future needs in external **Organisations** gaps or alongside line recruitment needs in organisation environment that link by embedding framework to skills Opportunities to create new Mapping training syllabuses in line with skills Training providers courses to ESM gaps both individually and in organisations Use ESM as a tool for consultancy in Consultants organisations Liaise with organisations to Partnering with HR departments Ability to specify job recruit suitable individuals once to embed framework to satisfy specifications matched Recruitment agencies competency gaps have been training, recruitment and to skills defined, or to fulfil future needs development needs

TRAINING FOCUS



Meanwhile, at infrastructure firm Balfour Beatty, Bekir Andrews, group sustainability manager, says balancing the need to have generic requirements applicable to a diverse range of environmental and sustainability roles with the desire for specific competency outcomes has been the most difficult challenge he's faced in developing a new company-wide environmental skills matrix based on IEMA's map.

"You want to be all encompassing, but at the same time to be specific, because you want to define particular role profiles and identify the knowledge and the skills you need to meet those profiles," he said.

Andrews has been working on Balfour Beatty's new skills matrix since January, first working with IEMA to identify the level of membership held by its staff and then collating information on all the different environmental and sustainability job roles across the organisation's 50,000 staff. Andrews has taken this information and created a matrix using the skills map and amended content to align with Balfour Beatty's specific skills requirements and broaden it in line with the firm's 2020 vision for sustainability.

"The key thing in using the skills map is to make sure that it aligns with your overall sustainability strategy and helps to deliver that strategy," advises Andrews.

After consulting with Balfour Beatty's sustainability leads and refining his draft matrix, Andrews aims to share this output with the firm's HR function so it can be properly incorporated in core processes, particularly recruitment, skills training and leadership development.

"Once it's been approved, I can see the matrix being used for interviews, skills development, coaching and helping people move around in the organisation. I can also see it being really useful for practitioners working to upgrade their IEMA membership," he confirms.

The next level

While each of these organisations and individuals have been using the first layer of the map, IEMA has been working to develop the next level of detail. This second layer provides a list of practical examples of what individuals should know and be capable of under each of the competencies outlined (see panel, left).

"It specifically explains the kind of things that you need to know and be able to do, to fulfil each of the listed competencies," explains Lea.

For example, under the area of "fundamental environmental and sustainability principles", the first layer of the map states that practitioners at an operational level should be able to "understand environmental and sustainability principles and their relationship with organisations". In the second layer, the map states that they "would know and understand the underpinning concepts of sustainability, sustainable development and the importance of biodiversity".

Those who are already finding the map a useful tool have warmly welcomed the development of this extra layer of detail. As Wisdom points out: "In the top layer, some of the competencies aren't clearly distinguished across the different professional levels, so it can make it difficult to determine which level you are working to."

Grinham agrees: "It was difficult to decide whether or not I met some of the competencies, so it will be really useful to see more detail to see whether I was benchmarking myself correctly."

As it stands, IEMA has fully developed the second layer of detail for the operational role level of the skills map and aligned this to the new Associate standard. It is now consulting with IEMA members and other stakeholders on the practical competencies for the nongraduate/graduate entry, managerial and leadership levels – for more information on getting involved in this process, see panel on p.IV.

"We will have developed learning outcomes for each of these levels by the end of 2012, with work beginning on the detail behind the specialist level due to start in 2013," confirms Lea.

While this second level of detail will be a useful addition to the map, the message from those already using the skills map is clear: environment professionals don't need to wait to start mapping out their professional development.

Andrews says: "The map provides a step-by-step pathway, breaking down career development into bite-sized chunks. If you're starting off as a graduate at Balfour Beatty and you want to move up to adviser level, it shows you what you need to do to progress, and then again to move up to a senior adviser. I only wish it had been around when I started my career!"

More quidance

If you want to use the environmental skills map, but would like further guidance on how to apply it to your individual professional development or how to use it in your organisation, contact Tara Cox at t.cox@iema.net or +44 (0) 1522 540 069.

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Online testing

Paul Suff discovers How IEMA's new entry exam for Associate IEMA's new entry exam the open book assessment membership differs from the open book assessment



rom the start of July, environment professionals seeking an independent way to becoming Associate members of IEMA will have to sit an online exam rather than take part in the open book assessment (OBA), which has been the self-study route for the past 10 years.

The new, web-based Associate entry examination went live in May and is now the only way to achieve the Associate standard without taking a relevant training course with an approved training provider.

The introduction of online assessment coincides with major changes to the Associate certificate (see lexisurl.com/iema12402). Although the structure and content of the standard is largely unaltered, several key additions have been made to ensure it continues to raise competence and meet the needs of both environment professionals and employers going forward.

The main additions include ensuring Associates are able to: describe the main components of an environmental business case; explain the importance of environmental sustainability across an organisation's value chain; and improve sustainability through influencing behaviour and implementing change. To successfully pass the Associate entry exam, candidates will also have to be able to collect, analyse and report on environmental information and data, and to describe important ecosystems services.

The changes also link with IEMA's skills map (lexisurl.com/iema11446) as the Institute's professional standards manager, Claire Kirk, told the environmentalist in April: "We have aligned the Associate standard with the competence requirements outlined in the skills map for individuals fulfilling an operational role, making it very simple for anyone wanting to map out the knowledge that they need to achieve the Associate level against the job they are doing or want to do."

A new way of working

The OBA typically involved candidates downloading the examination paper from IEMA and completing it over a 10-day period. Usually, they would not receive the results for at least four months. This was not an ideal process, as Kirk explains: "Candidates would submit their answers in a variety of formats. And the 10-day window allowed candidates to go away and research answers before completing a specific question, but the point of the Associate standard now is that they have the necessary breadth of knowledge before taking the examination. And, naturally, people want to know as soon as is practicable how they've done, not wait four months!"

The online entry exam overcomes all of these potential drawbacks. Registered candidates simply log into the examination platform using their unique candidate number. It costs £122 and candidates have a 28-day window to complete the exam following receipt

of a confirmation email containing their candidate number. Once they start, candidates have 2.5 hours to complete the exam, they cannot log off and return. Like the OBA, the exam consists of 10 central questions based on the Associate standard. Candidates type their answers directly into the box below a question – the box automatically expands to accommodate their answer. When they are happy with their answer they move on to the next question, although not necessarily in the set one-to-10 order. An on-screen clock tells the candidate how much time has elapsed.

"Basically, candidates have 15 minutes per question, though some will take a bit longer and others a bit less," explains Kirk.

Completed online exam papers are sent to the allocated examiner, who receives an email informing them that there is a paper to mark. The mark is validated by the chief examiner, Helen Manns (see panel, p.X). And, rather than having to wait four months for their result, candidates will receive their mark within six weeks.

"The online system provides much more flexibility for professionals wanting to achieve Associate status," Kirk says. "The OBA was only available three times a year. Now, the entry exam is available throughout the year, so, as long as you've got access to a computer connected to the internet you can take it at any time."

Manns agrees. "Candidates now have the freedom to take the exam when it suits them, rather than have to wait for when the next OBA is available, when the timing may not be convenient."

Another change is that candidates taking either the self-study (the online exam) or the training provider route to Associate status will both sit the same exam and have their papers marked by the central assessment team headed by Manns. Previously, training providers had set and marked their own exams.

"Centralising the process ensures uniformity, so every Associate meets the requirements of the standard irrespective of the route they took to achieve it," says IEMA's Kirk.

The only exceptions to the centralised exam and assessment are the applied learning route, where candidates also have to submit a portfolio of evidence, and some university courses, where the Associate certificate is delivered as part of a lower- or higher-degree course. "Universities have their own quality assurance systems so are exempt," explains Kirk. However, commercial Associate courses offered by universities that are not part of a degree course will be subject to the central examination and assessment process.

"The centralised exam and assessment will guarantee that we have equity across all routes to Associate standard," comments Manns.

Preparation is everything

As Kirk acknowledges, one of the biggest differences between the OBA and the online entry examination is that candidates will no longer be able to research answers as they complete the exam; they will be expected to be ready before logging on to begin. "The important thing is that people are properly prepared

TRAINING FOCUS



THE MARKING SCHEME

Examiners appointed and trained by IEMA externally mark the Associate entry examinations. The chief examiner, Helen Manns (see panel below), leads the five-strong team of assessors. They apply rigorous standardisation procedures to ensure marks are awarded in a consistent manner so that all examination scripts are marked to the same standard.

Each question is worth 12 marks, so 120 marks are potentially available. Where there are two or more parts to a question, candidates will be able to see how many marks each is worth. So, for example, a question asking the candidate to outline the main objectives of environmental auditing may attract up to six marks, while one relating to environmental risks of storing bulk chemicals on-site may be worth three. The marking scheme provides guidance to examiners on the marks to be awarded for each question or part question.

Candidates answering a question on the carbon or nitrogen cycle, for instance, will receive up to four marks for the first part and a maximum of eight for the second part. To get all four marks for part A, they will have to provide an accurate description of the cycle, covering all of the salient features, and identifying the processes, sinks and pathways/transfers. Top marks for part B will depend on whether the candidate accurately describes how human interventions impact on natural cycles, the examples used to show these interventions, and the depth or breadth of knowledge demonstrated.

Hazardous waste provides another example of how marks are allocated for answers to multi-part questions. Candidates will, for example, receive up to two marks if they successfully identify relevant legislation, such as the Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005 and the Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC; a further mark for identifying the appropriate regulator; and up to nine marks for describing how a company can comply with the legislation, and what actions to take to ensure it effectively manages its hazardous waste.

To achieve a pass, a candidate must score 72 out of 120 (60%). A candidate who has achieved a pass will have demonstrated satisfactory knowledge, understanding and application of environmental and sustainability issues at Associate membership level.

Results are reported as pass or fail. The candidate will also receive details of their total score, along with their mark per question. Self-study candidates may resit the examination by reregistering online, while training candidates are able to retake it after reregistering through their IEMA-approved training provider.



HELEN MANNS - CHIEF EXAMINER

Helen Manns is associate dean, region, external engagement and partnerships at Northumbria University, and will head the team of assessors for the new IEMA Associate entry exam. She has a BSc in environmental biology and an MSc in rural resource management. An AIEMA herself, Manns has been an Associate assessor since 1999. She was a member of the group reviewing the standard, and is the education sector representative on the Institute's North East regional steering group.

Manns's environmental career spans the local government and higher education sectors, having first started as a parks department researcher for Sheffield City Council. She then moved to the council's environmental health department where her role covered pollution control, airquality monitoring and contaminated land. In 1992, Manns became environmental policy officer at the newly formed Northumbria University. Her role included environment and waste management, and energy. She also helped to establish environment in the curriculum. Her move into academia occurred in 1999. Prior to her new role as associate dean, Manns was head of division of environmental management at Northumbria and programme leader for its foundation degree in sustainable wastes and environmental management.



before they start," notes Kirk. IEMA says candidates could spend up to 80 hours of independent study – depending on their level of existing knowledge – before attempting the exam. The Institute has put together a comprehensive suite of online documents and aids to assist in this knowledge-gathering process (lexisurl.com/iema12414). Online materials are arranged under several headings, including the environmental business case, the principles of change management, data management, main ecosystem services and environmental reporting and green claims. The information source will include pre-recorded presentations and links to useful resources. The IEMA's professional development adviser, Victoria Douch, is also available to help.

"The questions are quite straightforward," says Kirk. She explains that many are scenario-based, so candidates will have to relate their answers to how an organisation would deal with an issue under specific circumstances.

Examinees will be expected to reference relevant legislation in their answers and to include workplace examples wherever appropriate. Although there are 10 questions in total, some are split into more than one part. For example, the first part of a question may ask the candidate to describe either the carbon cycle or nitrogen cycle, while a second part may require an explanation of how human interventions impact natural cycles, with examinees asked to illustrate their answer with relevant examples.

As with the OBA, the online exam will contain at least one question specifically relating to legislation – although reference to legislation may be required when answering other questions. Overseas candidates will have the option of answering the question on English law, if they feel sufficiently knowledgeable, or one relating to an international treaty and how it applies in their own country. For example, whereas a UK-based candidate would answer a question on the key legislation governing hazardous waste in the UK and how an organisation can comply, an overseas candidate might have to explain the measures an organisation would have to take to comply with an international treaty or guideline on water.

Exam papers are selected from an extensive pool, so that two people registering for the exam on the same day will sit a different paper. The Institute is working with a body recognised by Ofqual – which regulates general and vocational qualifications in England and vocational qualifications in Northern Ireland – to deliver the online assessment platform.



Professional development

Anyone who wants to become an Associate member of IEMA but does not wish to take the online exam or feel ready to undertake the necessary self-study can still take an Associate certificate course with one of the Institute's approved training providers (lexisurl.com/iema12415 or pp.XVI–IXX).

But with interest in IEMA's environmental skills map rising (pp.III–VI) and IEMA Associate membership increasingly becoming the industry benchmark for working in an environmental role, demand for AIEMA status is growing, and the new online entry exam will ensure IEMA can handle this growth.

"The new system will mean many more people can become Associates as long as they have the knowledge required to pass, ensuring Associate status becomes stronger in number and recognition," says Kirk.

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

- 1. Members or those applying for membership and registration at the same time register for the Associate entry exam with IEMA at lexisurl.com/iema12203. The exam costs £122.
- 2. IEMA issues the candidate with a unique link to the online assessment, a login name and a password which can be personalised at first login. These details will be delivered to the candidate's nominated email address within 10 days of receipt of payment for the exam.
- 3. A candidate then has 28 days to log in using their unique details, follow the on-screen instructions and complete the exam.
- 4. There are 10 central questions (there may be more in total when taking sub-questions into account), which must be answered within 2.5 hours in one sitting rather than in a number of short sessions that total 2.5 hours. An on-screen timer notifies the candidate of their available time.
- 5. After the candidate has answered all 10 questions they have the opportunity to go back, check and amend any answers as long as there is still time remaining.
- 6. A final screen offers the candidate one last view of their answers before they are invited to finish and submit their exam for marking.
- 7. Their answers are sent securely to an assessor, who marks the exam against the set criteria and standard. The Associate chief examiner will then verify (or dispute as appropriate) the mark awarded before sending the result to IEMA for distribution back to the candidate within six weeks. Successful candidates will also receive a certificate and notice of their membership having been upgraded to Associate status. Unsuccessful candidates will be notified and advised of their options, including appeal and retaking the exam.



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Giving professional intelligence a boost

s environment professionals we are used to thinking about scientific concepts and how these may be applied to further our work. We may have a background in science, environment management or other similar training, and we will have learned about natural systems and case studies from literature or field visits, providing us with the knowledge and skills necessary for our work.

But there is more to professional practice than simply understanding our specialisms. If environment professionals are going to act as change agents, we need to be able to appreciate and learn from areas or events that are outside our traditional comfort zone.

We need to understand four types of "intelligence":

- Emotional intelligence the ability to identify, assess, and control one's emotions as well as those of others, and of groups;
- **Spiritual intelligence** the ability to create a "coherent whole" from our knowledge, day-to-day actions, belief system and personal values;
- Political intelligence developing an understanding of how best to operate where other stakeholders are involved; and
- Practical intelligence the ability to learn from past mistakes and successes.

Together these are known as ESP&P intelligences. They may seem to be more fitting to the world of business, but as practising environmentalists we would do well to consider this framework in relation to how we achieve our own objectives.

Great expectations

Emotional intelligence, particularly in relation to leadership, is about meeting one's own objectives while genuinely demonstrating a willingness to find solutions that also meet other people's

Understanding people is the real key to delivering change, argues **Richard Campen**

objectives. This is a process of sensitive negotiation achieved through personal connections built on trust. It can be difficult to get some projects off the ground but if, as an environmentalist wanting to achieve your own targets, you can help other people through challenging and difficult experiences, the result will be a positive outcome for all.

Some people believe that science is simply about facts, but facts are only part of the picture. As practitioners we must be able to combine our knowledge, belief system, personal values and day-to-day activities in a way that can help us better understand the world in which we live. Our sense of commitment to a particular subdiscipline, such as conservation, arises in part from our beliefs and values. For example, we see the intrinsic value of nature, or the importance of biodiversity.

But sometimes we have to find solutions that accommodate different ways of looking at an issue even if they do not exactly fit our own ideal outcome. To do this we must first recognise our own values and beliefs and second, try to understand the values and beliefs of others.

Ideal leaders

Idealism is an admirable quality that can often get things done through leadership; however, it can be a "double-edged sword". To provide leadership, one must have "followers" and some people may be put off

by the strong communications and commitments of an idealist. Private landowners, communities and even peer groups might not support the idealism of a committed conservationist but,



environmentalistonline.com « Summer 2012

by the same token, without such input a project or vision may fail.

Nevertheless, we need to be able to see things from the points of view of others and to recognise that these perspectives may be based on different values and beliefs. Others may also have their own agendas and targets to meet, so environmentalists need to develop an awareness of every stakeholder's objectives. Knowing others' priorities helps identify where the "levers" are in terms of decision making, and the various sources of power, or power bases, that we need to work with to achieve environmental goals.

Examining why something did or did not work can also help achieve change in the long run. In addition to building up a good repertoire of data, literature, techniques and questions, environmentalists need to ask themselves if they received full buy-in from key individuals or groups and whether these stakeholders understood the longer-term goals, or the bigger picture.

Interaction with others means dealing with their feelings and emotions. To achieve a project's vision or goal we must inspire people and lead them to the outcomes we desire. Developing a roadmap to provide a clear path to achieving the goal can help. It can be used at various times to draw on different people in pursuit of the vision or goal. Creating the roadmap means planning, listening, anticipating and identifying solutions that best meet people's needs and expectations as well as, in this case, our environmental goals. Some environmentalists may be very skilled technically but not so well tuned in to the ways of getting the maximum support from less technical audiences.

Very often, the key is getting people to work together even where agendas are very different. A project or programme requires strategic planning, genuine consultation – listening more than telling – and influencing people. This requires empathy and "active listening" as well as a focus on the environmental goal. Active listening means paying careful attention to what is said, acknowledging the speakers and understanding the whole message rather than selected parts.

Right direction

Our contribution to society means working with people who have different world views, needs, expectations, motives and understanding. Being a practising environmentalist is as much about effective leadership as it is about being an excellent manager in any sector or discipline. The emotional, spiritual, political and practice-based intelligences provide a suitable framework for thinking about our continuing professional development.

Richard Campen is director of operations at the Peak District National Park Authority.



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The Associate certificate course can be de	elivered as part of an MSc, via	a applied learning, distance learning and	residential learning.
Astutis	Cardiff, Heathrow, Leeds and Warrington	+44 (0) 845 241 3684 enquiries@astutis.com astutis.com	Sept-Nov
Aviva Risk Management Solutions UK	Various UK	+44 (0) 500 559 977 risksolutions@aviva.co.uk aviva.co.uk/risksolutions	July, Sept and Oct
British Safety Council (Diploma in Environmental Management)	Various UK	+44 (0) 20 8741 1231 customer.service@britsafe.org britsafe.org	July, Sept-Dec
Cambio Environmental	Abergavenny, Maidstone, Swindon and e-learning	+44 (0) 1873 890 819 julia@cambio-uk.com cambio-uk.com	July, Sept and Dec
Corporate Risk Systems	Various UK, international, applied and distance learning	+44 (0) 1283 509 175 rb@crsrisk.com crsrisk.com	All year
EEF	Various UK	+44 (0) 845 239 9850 eef.org.uk/training	Sept, Oct and Dec
Environmental Academy	Various UK	+44 (0) 191 465 6248 environmental-academy.com	July, Sept and Nov
Envirotrain Training	e-learning	info@envirotrain.co.uk envirotrain.co.uk	All year
Integra Training and Consulting	Sunderland	+44 (0) 191 515 2329 enquiries@integratraining andconsulting.co.uk	Oct
International HSE Council	Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Malaysia	+971 4870 4010 jhoanna.magtoto@hsecouncil.org	July–Dec
Loreus	Distance learning	+44 (0) 115 848 3050 loreus.com	All year
North Notts Create	North Notts College	+44 (0) 1909 504 710 csiddall@nnc.ac.uk	Oct
Nottingham Trent University	Blended learning (distance learning and attendance)	+44 (0) 115 848 5537 richard.howarth@ntu.ac.uk ntu.ac.uk/riskmanagement	Oct (CPD modules throughout the year)
Pivotal Performance	Various UK	+44 (0) 1536 533 233 info@pivotal-performance.com pivotal-performance.com	July
RRC Training	London, distance learning and e-learning	+44 (0) 20 8944 3100 info@rrc.co.uk rrc.co.uk	All year
Santia Consulting	Various UK	+44 (0) 808 100 2689 training.enquiries@santia.co.uk santia-training.co.uk/environmental	All year
SEQM	Newcastle	+44 (0) 191 265 1034 office@seqm.com seqm.com	Sept and Nov
Staffordshire University	Distance learning	+44 (0) 1782 294 400 enquiries@staff.ac.uk lexisurl.com/staffs	Oct
The Key Consultancy	Bromsgrove and Birmingham	+44 (0) 1527 575 182 gl@thekeyconsultancy.co.uk thekeyconsultancy.co.uk	July, Aug, Oct and Nov
TWI Middle East	Azerbaijan, Baku, Dubai and Egypt	+971 4364 3010 twihsetraining.com	Aug, Oct–Dec
University of Bath	Distance learning	+44 (0) 1225 386 405 bath.ac.uk/em	All year

Course provider	Location of course	Contact details	Dates available
University of Derby	Derby and e-learning	+44 (0) 1332 591 133 a.mehra@derby.ac.uk <i>derby.ac.uk</i>	Sept
University of Hertfordshire (also MSc in environmental management for business and water)	Hatfield	+44 (0) 1707 284 146 admissionsenvman@herts.ac.uk	Oct and Nov
University of London (also Diploma and MSc in environmental management)	University of London	+44 (0) 20 7898 4273 cedepadmin@soas.ac.uk soas.ac.uk/cedep	July–Oct
University of Plymouth	Plymouth (course runs annually)	+44 (0) 1752 585 858 science.technology @plymouth.ac.uk lexisurl.com/plymouth	Sept
University of Surrey	Guildford	+44 (0) 1483 689 047 p.savill@surrey.ac.uk	Sept
LEAD ENVIRONMENTAL AUDITOR CO	URSE (ADVANCED EMS)		
Antaris Consulting	Dublin	+353 6146 4666 info@antarisconsulting.com antarisconsulting.com	Nov
Aspects International	Various UK	+44 (0) 1423 781 218 john@aspexint.com	July, Oct and Nov
BSI Training	Various UK	+44 (0) 845 086 9000 bsigroup.co.uk/training	July–Sept
Bywater Training	London, Oxford and Wakefield	+44 (0) 1908 543 900 sales@bywater training.co.uk bywatertraining.co.uk	July, Sept–Nov
ERM CVS	Various UK and US	+44 (0) 20 3206 5281 post@ermcvs.com ermcvs.com	Nov and Dec
Excel Partnership	Various UK	+44 (0) 1442 242 929 training@excelpartnership.co.uk excel-world.co.uk	Sept and Nov
IQMS	Various UK	+44 (0) 191 516 9191 enquiries@iqms.co.uk iqms.co.uk	July, Sept–Dec
SGS UK	Various UK	+44 (0) 1276 697 777 training.uk.sgs.com	Aug–Nov
EMS IMPLEMENTATION COURSE			
Antaris Consulting	Dublin	+353 6146 4666 info@antarisconsulting.com antarisconsulting.com	Nov
ECUS	Sheffield	+44 (0) 114 266 9292 training@ecusltd.co.uk ecusltd.co.uk/training.html	July, Oct and Nov
Waterman Energy Environment and Design	Sheffield or in-house	+44 (0) 114 229 8900 watermangroup.com	Sept and Dec
FOUNDATION COURSE IN ENVIRONM			
Antaris Consulting	Dublin	+353 6146 4666 info@antarisconsulting.com antarisconsulting.com	Oct
Aspects International	Various UK	+44 (0) 1423 781 218 john@aspexint.com	Sept, Oct and Dec
NQA Training	Various UK	+44 (0) 800 013 0900 nqa.com/training	All year

TRAINING FOCUS

Course provider	Location of course	Contact details	Dates available
SEQM	Newcastle	+44 (0) 191 265 1034 office@seqm.com seqm.com	Sept and Nov
University of Brighton	Brighton	+44 (0) 1273 642 305 ccp@brighton.ac.uk brighton.ac.uk/ccp	Oct
FOUNDATION CERTIFICATE IN ENV	IRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT	Γ	
Cambio Environmental	Abergavenny, Maidstone, Swindon and e-learning	+44 (0) 1873 890 819 julia@cambio-uk.com cambio-uk.com	Sept and Nov
EEF	Various UK	+44 (0) 1926 310500 eef.org.uk/training	July, Sept, Nov and Dec
E.ON Engineering Academy	Nottingham	+44 (0) 2476 191 540 paul.a.smith@eon-uk.com	July
Pivotal Performance	Various UK, international, applied and distance learning	+44 (0) 1536 533 233 info@pivotal-performance.com pivotal-performance.com	July
RRC Training	London, distance learning and e-learning	+44 (0) 20 8944 3100 info@rrc.co.uk rrc.co.uk	All year
Santia Consulting	Various UK	+44 (0) 808 100 2689 training.enquiries@santia.co.uk santia-training.co.uk/environmental	All year
Wiltshire College	Salisbury	+44 (0) 1722 344 213 guy.bears@wiltshire.ac.uk wiltshire-enterprise.co.uk	Sept and Nov
Workplace Law Environmental	London and e-learning	+44 (0) 871 777 8881 ben.clement@workplacelaw.net iema.workplacelaw.net	All year
INTERNAL EMS AUDITOR COURSE			
AMEC Environment and Infrastructure (UK)	Various UK	+44 (0) 800 371 733 +44 (0) 191 272 6100 marketing.ukenvironment@amec.com amec-ukenvironment.com	All year
Bidwell Management Systems	Various UK	+44 (0) 191 633 0123 marek@bmstraining.co.uk bmstraining.co.uk	All year
Excel Partnership	Various UK	+44 (0) 1442 242 929 training@excelpartnership.co.uk excel-world.co.uk	Aug and Oct
Mabbett and Associates	Aberdeen, Belfast and Glasgow	+44 (0) 141 227 2300 training@mabbett.eu mabbett.eu	Nov and Dec
Marsden International (UK)	Blended learning and e-learning	+44 (0) 1302 752 123 marsden-international.com auditmentor.com	July, Sept and Nov
SEQM	Newcastle	+44 (0) 191 265 1034 office@seqm.com seqm.com	Sept and Nov
WYG Environment, Planning Transport	Various UK	+44 (0) 7771 807 873 wyg.com	Contact for dates
INTRODUCTION TO EMS	Distance 1 1 1	+44 (0) 20 0044 2120	A 11 ::
RRC Training	Distance learning and e-learning	+44 (0) 20 8944 3100 info@rrc.co.uk rrc.co.uk	All year

TRAINING FOCUS

Course name	Location of course	Contact details	Dates available
IEMA DIPLOMA/CPD AND ALL OTHER			
IEMA Diploma in sustainable business	Woodland Grange	EEF	July and Sept
practice	and Leamington Spa	+44 (0) 845 293 9850	
		eef.org.uk/training	. 11
IEMA environmental awareness	Various UK	Gibson Consulting and Training	All year
		+44 (0) 1829 732 648	
IEMA environmental awareness	Dubai	gillian@gbgibson.com; gbgibson.com International HSE Council	Aug, Oct and Dec
TEMA environmental awareness	Dubai	+971 4 870 4016	Aug, Oct and Dec
		info@hsecouncil.org; hsecouncil.org	
IEMA environmental awareness;	Southampton	Olive Consultancy	All three courses
Carbon, greenhouse gases,	Science Park	+44 (0) 23 804 41440	run from Oct
footprinting, accounting and		admin@consultolive.com	141111111111111111111111111111111111111
management; and		consultolive.com	
Sustainable procurement			
IEMA environmental awareness	Various UK	RBS Mentor	July, Sept–Nov
		+44 (0) 141 227 4341	• •
		alexis.ballantyne@mentor.uk.com	
Certified sustainability (CSR)	Various worldwide	Centre for Sustainability and Excellence (CSE)	Sept and Nov
practitioner training		+30 210 808 5565	
		development@cse-net.org; cse-net.org	
Construction site managers and	Various UK	ASHE	All year
supervisors; CDM – an introduction		+44 (0) 7968 185 449	
to environmental best practice		robert.brown@safelark.co.uk	
Environmental awareness award for	e-learning	Environmental Academy	All year
business and industry (NCFE level 2)		+44 (0) 191 465 6248	
	** * ***	environmental-academy.com	T.1. 0 . D
Environmental good practice on-site	Various UK	CIRIA	July, Sept–Dec
		+44 (0) 20 7549 3300	
Cita vivo eta mana a amantanlan and	Canatan	enquiries@ciria.org; ciria.org	Iulu Daa
Site waste management plan and SMARTwaste plan	Garston	BRE +44 (0) 1923 664 471	July–Dec
SWAKT Waste plan		smartwaste@bre.co.uk; bre.co.uk	
Groundwork environment	West Midlands	Groundwork West Midlands	Sept
management systems (GEMS)	vvest iviidialids	+44 (0) 121 530 550	эсрг
management systems (GEME)		wmebs@groundwork.org.uk	
Carbon, greenhouse gases,	Various UK	Conestoga Rovers and Associates (Europe)	Aug, Oct and Dec
footprinting, accounting and	Val1045 011	+44 (0) 115 965 6700	1146, 001 4114 200
management		carboncourse@cra.co.uk; cra.co.uk	
Carbon, greenhouse gases,	Various UK	Aspects International	All year
footprinting, accounting and		+44 (0) 1423 781 218	•
management		john@aspexint.com	
Environmental data management	Southampton	Olive Consultancy	July and Nov
	Science Park	+44 (0) 23 804 41440	
		admin@consultolive.com	
		consultolive.com	
Enviropass certificate	Wales and the West	Enviropass	All year
		+44 (0) 1646 600 062	
	** ' ****	mike.e@tyf.com; enviropass.org.uk	. 1 0 ~
Environmental management for	Various UK	EEF	July, Sept–Dec
senior executives		+44 (0) 845 293 9850	
Dogguego officiar av	Various IIV	eef.org.uk/training	Oct and Nov-
Resource efficiency	Various UK	EEF +44 (0) 845 203 0850	Oct and Nov
		+44 (0) 845 293 9850 eef.org.uk/training	
ISO 50001: 2011 anaray managament	Dublin	Antaris Consulting	Oct and Dec
ISO 50001: 2011 energy management systems implementation	מוווטטער	+353 6146 4666	Oct and Dec
o, stems implementation		info@antarisconsulting.com	
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Bryony Cunningham and **Larraine Wilde** on why impact assessments should do more to consider the effects of a changing climate

itigation interventions seek to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, and national governments, development agencies and the private sector have invested considerable effort in recent years to prevent climate change. By contrast, adaptation interventions are necessary responses to a changing climate, but, until recently, there has been little focus on adaptation. As a result, many large-scale, long-lived pieces of infrastructure and other developments continue to be designed with limited consideration of the potential effects of climate change on asset performance.

At risk

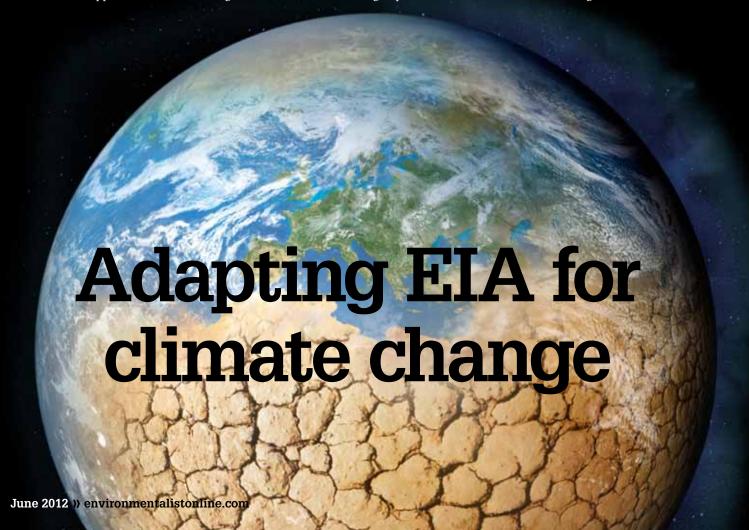
Ideally, climate change risks, and adaptation needs, should be incorporated into a project as early as possible, including in the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process, so the most cost-effective means for ensuring a development's resilience to climate change is factored in before construction starts. Routine approaches to undertaking EIA have

been established using the assumption that the baseline climate is static. However, extreme changes in climate are likely to alter the relationship between a project and its local environment and communities throughout its lifetime.

The implications of climate change on developments that should be addressed in the EIA are fourfold:

- climate change may alter the effects of a project on the environment and society;
- climate change can modify the effects of the environment and social conditions on the project;
- local individual adaptation actions, including those of the project, may lead to unforeseen cumulative impacts; and
- monitoring and mitigation measures in EIAs may not be effective where projects have not been designed to cope with climate-related environmental and social changes.

For EIA practitioners there are inherent risks in undertaking impact assessments without considering



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SIX STEPS TO INCORPORATE CLIMATE CHANGE INTO EIA

Climate change risks and adaptation needs can be addressed at several stages in the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process, from initial scoping through to mitigation planning and subsequent project monitoring.

While climate change mitigation is comparatively well developed, adaptation urgently needs to be incorporated into project design.

Environmental consultancy SKM
Enviros and climate change adaptation
specialists Acclimatise have developed
some basic guidelines to help incorporate
climate adaptation in EIA as part of a
project supporting the European Bank
for Reconstruction and Development
to incorporate climate change risk and
adaptation into its project cycle.

Step 1 – Scoping and analysis of alternatives

- Assess the inherent vulnerability of the project to climate change, considering sectoral, geographical and locational vulnerabilities and the likely timescale for construction, operation and decommissioning.
- Consider whether the characteristics of the project and its area of influence lie in a region at risk for example, in proximity to coastline, or an area noted as of concern for local authorities.
- For climate-sensitive projects, identify which climatic or climate-related hazards need to be considered as part of the EIA.
- Determine the climate-related information, impact assessments and level of expertise that will be needed.
- Question whether project alternatives have been identified to avoid significant climate change.

Step 2 – Analysis of legal requirements

Robust EIAs need to demonstrate project compliance with legal requirements. Note that England's 2011 EIA Regulations require forecasting methods associated with assessments to be described. It is also worth noting that some legislation, regulations and standards in certain jurisdictions may be regularly revised in the light of changing knowledge about climate change impacts.

Step 3 – Baseline conditions

- Collect data and information on observed longterm climate and climate-related trends.
- Collect data on projections of future climate change and climate change impacts.
- In analysing the environmental baseline, consider how observed climate trends have influenced

environmental conditions and how future projected climate change will potentially influence these conditions.

Identify performance indicators, targets or acceptance criteria related to the baseline that can be used to monitor the impacts of a changing climate.

Step 4 – Impact assessment

■ Analyse how climate change will affect

– both positively and negatively – the
interactions between the project, the
environment and communities over
its lifetime, including the magnitude,
likelihood, duration and reversibility
of climate-related impacts. The analysis
should include an assessment of impacts both
on the project itself and by the project on the
environment and communities.

 Consider if climate change could create cumulative impacts for other projects and stakeholders.

 Determine whether adaptation measures are required to manage impacts on, or of, the project in the light of climate change.

Step 5 – Avoidance, minimisation, mitigation and compensation measures, and assessment of residual impacts

- Ensure that recommended mitigation measures management measures that reduce the impact of the project on the environment or society and not actions to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions are designed appropriately, so that they are resilient to climate change.
- Identify opportunities to build the adaptive capacity of environments and communities.
- It can be helpful to identify actions that can be taken by the project developer and those that can be taken by, or in partnership with, both private and public sector organisations.

Step 6 – Environment management and monitoring plans

Environment management and monitoring plans (EMMP) should include monitoring and management of any climate-related risks and adaptation measures. The EMMP should also include monitoring, where there may be uncertainty regarding risks, and adaptation needs to assist future decision-making. Updated EMMPs should include any emerging climate change risks.

Applying climate change analysis in EIA as outlined in these steps allows developers, regulators and other stakeholders to take appropriate decisions in relation to climate change risk and adaptation measures, and can contribute to the sustainability and effective performance of projects.





24 EIA IN PRACTICE

climate change. Both the legal and insurance professions consider climate change to be "a reasonably foreseeable event". As such, an environmental impact assessment that does not consider climate risks could be seen as incomplete and its author potentially negligent.

Individual chapters in some environmental statements have started to incorporate climate change considerations, such as adding 20% to peak flow calculations for flooding events (see panel, p.25). The wider context of climate change, such as the availability of project resources, requires much greater consideration, however.

As IEMA has acknowledged, there is limited information on how climate change mitigation and adaptation should be taken into account in EIA practice. "This lack of advice

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While there are clear commitments to climate change adaptation in a number of organisations, the practical application at project level remains limited

poses a challenge for IEMA members, and wider EIA practitioners, wishing to deliver good-practice assessments," the Institute states on its website.

Sensitivities and thresholds

Determining whether the project has climate-related sensitivities or critical climate-related performance thresholds is a rapidly evolving area. The UK Climate Projections (lexisurl.com/iema12551) provide projections for future changes to the climate based on simulations from climate models.

Organisations such as the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution (RCEP) have also highlighted the critical nature of this issue. In its 2010 report *Adapting institutions to climate change* the RCEP concluded that the challenge of adapting to climate change was not appreciated sufficiently widely nor being addressed with anything like sufficient urgency.

At the start of the year, the government published the UK climate change risk assessment (lexisurl.com/iema12552), which reviews the evidence of 700 potential climate change impacts. Also, IEMA has a dedicated web page (lexisurl.com/iema12558) on the issue, and, in 2010, produced a document outlining EIA and climate change principles. In addition, around 300 local authorities have signed up to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change, which recognises that climate change can have a

real impact on how services are planned for and delivered.

In international terms, a number of countries – for example, Australia, Canada and the Netherlands –

include a requirement to consider climate change impacts in EIAs. And in July 2010, the European Commission launched a public consultation for comments on how to update the EU EIA Directive, including how to encompass policy development on climate change.

The consultation followed

the commission's 2009 white

paper Adapting to climate change: Towards a European framework for action. It stated that member states must develop guidelines to ensure that climate change impacts are taken into account in the implementation of the revised EIA Directive. However, the outcome of this process is still some way off.

Sources of climate change data and information outside of the UK can be sourced from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Climate Wizard, UNFCCC and via national communications.

Some development banks, such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Inter-American Development Bank, identify climate change risks as critical, and have devised risk profiling and screening tools to guide the process of risk identification and methods to address adaptation needs.

In practice

While a number of organisations and government bodies have made clear commitments to climate change adaptation in development, the practical application at project level, and in EIA, remains limited.

An area where further work could help to remedy this situation would be for governments to undertake strategic environment assessments in terms of particular sectors, technologies or geographical locations that are climatically sensitive to help highlight areas that could give cause for concern.

This would also help prepare a framework for those at a project level to place potential cumulative effects into context. Whatever actions are taken by governments, it is incumbent upon practitioners to address climate change risks in impact assessments and for climate change practitioners to be involved in EIA teams as a matter of routine.

Dr Bryony Cunningham and **Larraine Wilde** are principal consultants at SKM Enviros.



LIVERPOOL WATERS TAKES ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The Liverpool Waters vision involves regenerating a 60-hectare historic dockland site to create a high-quality, mixed-use waterfront quarter in the city centre. It is located on the east of the River Mersey estuary and work on the site is due to start later in the year, with completion by the 2040s.

Peel Holdings' 30-year development timeframe means that climate change adaptation was a key consideration in preparing the environmental impact assessment (EIA) for the site. A particular challenge was considering the impacts of sea-level rise over the duration of the development, and beyond.

Rising seas

Given the long lifetime and high cost of the built environment, it is imperative that plans and investment projects take into account the changing risks over the coming 100 years or more. Sea levels have been generally rising since the end of the last Ice Age, but in the UK the movement of the land complicates forecasting future sea levels. Basically, the South East of the UK is sinking faster, relative to mean sea level, than the North West.

There is now evidence to indicate that climate change is accelerating the rate of ice depletion in the Arctic and pushing up average global temperatures to such an extent that the long-term rate of rise in sea level around the UK is faster than previously anticipated.

To these figures it is necessary to add the effects of potentially increased storminess, which augments wave heights, and storm surge, where water is forced into estuaries and onto the coast by sustained strong winds, together with the effect of low atmospheric pressure. As a result, water levels can occur considerably above those which would be expected on account of astronomical tide levels alone. Clearly, the situation is highly complex.

The various climate change model scenarios set out in the UK Climate Projections 2009 (UKCOP09) take account of a range of political decisions and global economic growth over the next century. These will influence the likely human impact on average sea levels that will prevail in Liverpool in 100 years' time, and the allowances that should be made for potentially higher waves and surge. What these show is that there is considerable uncertainty as to the predicted levels that can be most appropriately dealt with by a "managed adaptive approach" – that is, to invest now in actions that manage today's risks, but keep options open so better decisions can be continually made over the whole life of investments.

This issue has been a particular concern for Liverpool Waters because of the need to preserve the heritage assets of the former docklands, part of which is a World Heritage site, and means that alteration of these highly significant features has to be avoided.



Retaining heritage

The overall approach to the Liverpool Waters development has been to retain the remaining historic dockland surface features that are of heritage significance. Historic buildings will be carefully conserved to incorporate resilience and land uses appropriate to the future flood-risk exposure.

For the proposed new buildings, minimum finished floor levels have been specified in the floodrisk assessment supporting the EIA. Also, there is a requirement that any residential occupation is at first-floor level or at such a level that future flood risk will not become a problem. Typically, levels are set to be above the 1-in-200-years flooding level, including an assessment of climate change increases in sea level, as recommended by Defra. These figures take account of the climate change scenarios modelled in UKCOP09.

The option to use property-level protection, such as flood barriers for doors, has not been discounted and remains part of the overall managed adaptive approach. Future access and egress arrangements during a flooding event are considered as part of this approach as it is essential that, in such circumstances, vehicular access can be maintained to properties. It has therefore been necessary to consider the creation of routes that do not conflict with the historic features requiring preservation.

Timeframe

The longevity of the development phase and subsequent occupation presents a real challenge to the redevelopment of many prime coastal waterfront locations in the UK. However, by adopting a managed adaptive approach, appropriate development specification can be provided to ensure ongoing flexibility, so future levels of protection will not be prejudiced, while at the same time it will preserve the important heritage assets.

Matthew Elliott, technical director at WYG

Click to screen

Experts examine three new pieces of software to see if they can improve the efficiency of environmental assessments

sing IT software to help the process of environmental impact assessment (EIA) is not a new development. As many EIA practitioners are aware, there are a number of different software tools available for nearly every environmental discipline in the sphere of environmental assessment. Whether it is the use of 3D photomontages, the production of the "zones of visual influence" as determined by terrain models, or modelling programmes that predict impacts on noise, air quality, groundwater or floodplains, the use of software packages has revolutionised the environmental assessment sector.

Software can improve the presentation of environmental statements with tools available to ensure the accuracy of impact prediction and assessment, as well as generate visual representations of developments that help non-technical stakeholders to understand potential impacts.

Recently, a number of new tools have come onto the market, targeted at supporting environment practitioners, both at the generalist level and at various stages of the assessment and the project development process. Here, three are analysed – the local ecological footprint tool (LEFT), the EIA calculator and the sustainability optioneering review tool (SORT) – to determine how well they can assist the EIA, strategic environmental assessment (SEA) and sustainability appraisal processes.

Location, location, location

The Biodiversity Institute at Oxford University has developed LEFT in partnership with StatOil, the Norwegian oil and gas company. In addition to helping protect biodiversity outside of protected areas, LEFT can also assist businesses to decide where in a landscape to site their facilities so as not to impact adversely on local biodiversity.

Although there are already a number of mapping methods available for determining important areas for conservation in protected areas, few exist to assess the ecological value of landscapes beyond those areas. An ecological tool which does this could be relevant to any development that results in a parcel of land being transformed from "natural" to "developed". Specifically, what is needed is a method to help practitioners determine which landscapes, beyond protected areas, are important for the ecological processes they support and the threatened and vulnerable species they may contain.

LEFT is an automated method for mapping ecologically important landscapes beyond protected areas. It uses existing globally available web-based databases and models to provide an ecological score against five key ecological features – biodiversity, fragmentation, threat, connectivity and resilience – for every parcel of land in a given region.

The end product is a map indicating ecological value across the landscape. This tool is designed for practitioners involved in planning the location of any industrial and/or business facility outside of protected areas. It provides a pre-planning tool, for use before undertaking a more costly field-based environmental impact assessment, and quickly highlights areas of high ecological value to avoid in the location of facilities.

Calculating significance

The EIA calculator is a piece of software developed by consultancy firm Five Oceans Environmental Services. It aims to determine the significance level of individual environmental impacts and works in a similar way to an impact matrix. The approach has been adapted from the "New approach to appraisal", the decision framework developed in 1998 by the then Department for Transport, Environment and the Regions.

The user interface comprises a series of mini matrices where the size/severity of the impact is compared against four different aspects of magnitude – importance, sensitivity, timeframe and reversibility. The software produces an impact significance rating based on a calculated score of 0–16.

The accompanying guidance document states that the purpose of the calculator is to provide EIA practitioners with a consistent methodology for determining significance. While this might be the intention, the approach does not appear to be directly compatible with

some approaches set out in other impact assessment guidelines, such as those published by the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (lexisurl. com/iema12748), which determine whether an impact is significant at a geographical scale – local, regional, national, for instance.

If this approach is widely adopted by practitioners, the EIA calculator could be enhanced to make it applicable on a geographical scale.

The calculator is a useful tool when supplemented by other guidelines and when used by experienced practitioners.

It helps to provide a level of consistency and transparency in the decision-making process. It may also assist practitioners and consenting authorities in cross-checking significance conclusions in the peer-review process.

Knowing your options

SORT is currently being

developed by Temple Group and can be applied to a variety of large-scale linear developments, in particular infrastructure projects, although it is flexible enough to be used for any major development, such as housing. It allows rapid and automated identification of key sustainability and environmental features and constraints in a defined geographical area through the use of

geographic information systems (GISs). SORT streamlines data capture and aids the more rapid comparison of complex layers of GIS data than can currently be achieved by traditional methods. The range and complexity of information typically associated with appraisals and assessments is ever growing, and SORT seeks to automate as many steps as possible, thereby maximising the consistency and accuracy of reported data. SORT is intended for use at various stages of project development and the assessment process, specifically the development and assessment of options phase

(optioneering). It can be used

for a number of assessment

and appraisal outputs, such

as WebTAG, SEA, Habitat

Regulations assessments and EIA, as well as providing a holistic approach to dealing with wider sustainability indicators. The benefits of using SORT vary according to a project's context, such as its scale, the number of options being appraised, the environmental/community sensitivity, the risks associated with the project and the timing of its use in the project cycle.

The tool can save time and cost in undertaking the required sustainability analysis at the optioneering and assessment stages as well as help to improve the acceptability and reduce the overall risks of the scheme.

Any piece of software that seeks to replace the judgment of EIA practitioners in the interpretation of assessment data needs to be handled with care

Use with care

The main benefits of software tools in environmental assessment are clear in terms of cost savings and the visual presentation of complex data to aid communication and understanding among stakeholders. However, there can be pitfalls and these tools need to be used with an element of caution. The use of any GIS-based system, for example, is reliant on the quality of the data available.

The identification of potential impacts and the determination of significance of associated environmental effects is the cornerstone that drives the environmental impact assessment process. The consistent application of significance criteria would add some value to the understanding of impact assessment, but the practitioner and supporting software tools need to be flexible enough to adapt criteria to the individual scenarios being assessed. Therefore, a "one-size-fits-all" set of criteria may not be appropriate for all developments or sites. However, a tool that is adaptable and can be tailored to site-specific environmental aspects identified during scoping would be of greater benefit to practitioners.

A number of specialist tools are currently available and more are being developed. This is to be encouraged, but with so many potential complex issues and impacts to consider, environmental practitioner input will always be needed to ensure robust and defensible outputs. By its very nature, EIA, like other environmental assessments, is often not an exact science.

The environmental impact assessment process is largely reliant on elements of subjective interpretation and prediction, such as the determination of significance for any identified potential impact on any given receptor. It is with this in mind that any tool which seeks to replace the professional judgment of EIA practitioners in analysing data needs to be handled with care.

Tom Smeeton is principal EIA consultant and **Charlene Baker** is an environment consultant at Temple Group; **Dan Parsons** is an environmental consultant with Mouchel.

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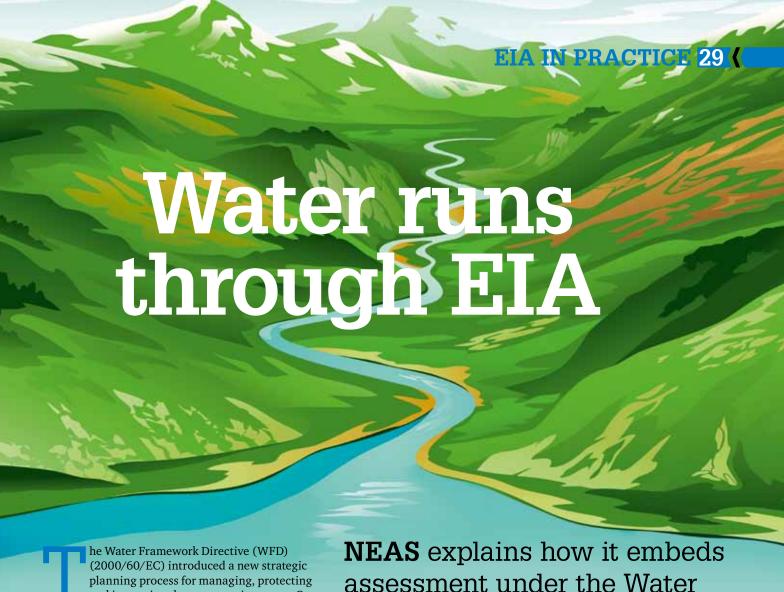
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and improving the water environment. One of its aims is to improve the ecology of water bodies, and it recognises that changes to the shape and flow of a groundwater body, river, estuary, lake or coastal water will have an impact on its ecology. As a result, the National Environmental Assessment Service (NEAS), which manages the Environment Agency's assessment of its own development plans, needs to consider WFD-related issues when assessing projects.

In addition to establishing ways to improve a water body, the WFD places greater emphasis on implementing better environmental options, and demands robust and transparent assessment. NEAS has found that environmental impact assessment (EIA) is an effective way to integrate these considerations and influence project development. By embedding WFD assessment in EIA, NEAS has created significant efficiencies, benefiting the overall project development process.

Starting early

The need for WFD assessment starts with screening, as issues generated by the Directive could trigger the need for a statutory EIA – for example, if deterioration cannot be avoided. It is important not to collect too much information too early, however – a proportionate appraisal is needed before making such an early judgment call. Gathering information on relevant water bodies, their characteristics and the elements likely to be affected will be required. This will help identify what the key issues are likely to be, improve consideration of the inter-relationships between issues - for example, between hydromorphology and ecology - and contribute to the start of any cumulative effects assessment.

assessment under the Water Framework Directive into EIA

Another important activity facilitated by EIA is finding the right consultees to engage with when assessing a project. The WFD is an integrated approach, so the skills needed tend to be from a range of specialist areas, such as vegetation, geomorphology and fisheries, for example. NEAS has found that early consultation with appropriate experts is the key to successful scoping.

Consideration of the WFD at the early screening and scoping stages of the EIA process is important and must continue throughout options appraisal with assessment of compliance against the preferred option. This promotes efficiency, so options are not developed that would fail the WFD article 4.7 tests - an assessment to ensure that options support the maintenance and future achievement of good ecological status or potential.

Options, assessment and reporting

In many of the projects assessed by NEAS, the WFD provides an underpinning to ensure a wide range of potential options are considered in flood risk management projects, including environmental options that seek to work with or promote natural processes. The iterative identification of impacts and mitigation helps NEAS develop preferred, and ultimately sustainable, options.

It is worth noting that there are important differences between EIA and the WFD. For example, impacts in the overall EIA can be minor, moderate or major

30 EIA IN PRACTICE

but the WFD requires a firm decision as to whether an option is compliant or not. Levels of acceptable uncertainty are therefore lower for the WFD than for some associated EIA components. Integrating the WFD assessment clearly and succinctly in the environmental statement topic chapters, as well as including a clear WFD statement in the conclusion, is the most efficient reporting mechanism. However, if the WFD issues are complex or need resolution before the production of the statement, a separate assessment may be required.

NEAS seeks to ensure that clear statements on WFD compliance are present in its environmental statements and in internal business cases for flood risk management funding. Statements also set out the achievement of WFD objectives, legal compliance and the project's overall contribution to sustainable development.

Monitoring is a particularly important but often neglected aspect of EIA. NEAS works closely with project teams to ensure appropriate pre- and post-construction monitoring is in place and adequately funded. This is vital to embedding the WFD as well as providing an additional compliance safeguard, ensuring corrective action can be taken if predicted effects do not occur.

Demonstrable improvement

The overall process of environmental assessment has been effectively used by NEAS to integrate the work



SLAD BROOK FLOOD ALLEVIATION

The preferred option for Slad Brook flood alleviation scheme in Gloucestershire included two flood storage areas. The scoping consultation predicted significant negative impacts, in relation to fish passage and loss of gravel spawning areas, due to siltation. This was considered likely to both cause deterioration of the whole water body and prevent future improvements.

The first approach was to develop a long list of mitigation measures, but even with these in place, deterioration and restrictions on future improvement were still predicted. These issues contributed to a rethink by the project team. An earlier, and better environmental option, which had previously been dismissed, was revisited and through the integration of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) work into the appraisal was ultimately reselected as the preferred solution.

The revised option, which comprises catchment-scale land management activities and individual property protection, meets the flood risk objectives, but is compliant with WFD, as with a stronger environmental basis it works better with natural processes.

necessary to consider whether a project is compliant with the requirements of the WFD. The process also promotes the Directive's overarching objectives: to protect and enhance the water environment. And it allows NEAS to demonstrate that it meets the legal compliance requirements for "no deterioration", does not prevent the achievement of "good status" or "good potential" and is contributing to the delivery of the UK's river basin management plans.

Jo Murphy, Amy Cocker, Bruce Munro, Claire Vetori and Richard Woodward, NEAS.



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Why EIA needs EMS

Linking impact assessment to an environment management system is vital, says **Martin Broderick**

nvironmental impact assessment (EIA) is a well-established instrument. And, as with any deep-rooted tool, there is ongoing debate about how effective it really is. A key question that needs answering is whether an EIA, on its own, leads to a project – and the impacted environment – being managed in an acceptable way.

Appropriately employed, EIA is an important tool that helps to protect the environment, but it's only one device in the policy toolbox. Other actions include monitoring and evaluation of the impacts of a project that has been the subject of an assessment (an "EIA follow-up"), together with subsequent management of the development's performance through an environment management system (EMS).

By reducing negative impacts and highlighting positive outcomes, EIA follow-up can provide a safeguard for environmental protection. And the most effective EIA systems are those that use follow-up processes to tangibly link EIA and EMS.

Drivers of EIA development

The diffusion of EIA practice through legal instruments has been the primary driver for its take-up, although impetus has also come from the development of voluntary codes and principles in industrial and financial sectors. Additionally, EIA practitioners, through professional bodies such as IEMA, have produced a range of best-practice guidance.

Having emerged first as a systematic and integrated process in the US (through the 1970 National Environmental Policy Act), several other countries, including Australia and Canada, followed suit and adopted EIA. The EU EIA Directive (85/337/EEC) came into force in 1985 and applies to a wide range of defined public and private projects. However, too often national EIA regimes, even those regarded as highly

effective, only measure its success through procedural compliance rather than project outcomes. With EIA practice now well into its second generation it is vital that legislative regimes "mature" by embedding follow-up and monitoring.

Voluntary measures

Best practice indicates that projects be assessed to determine their social and environmental outcomes, and this activity is endorsed through several voluntary codes and industry-standard principles.

The World Bank, for example, first developed environmental guidelines back in 1988. The aim of its EIA operational directive is to ensure that projects proposed for funding by the bank are environmentally sound and sustainable. The bank favours preventive measures over mitigatory or compensatory measures whenever feasible, and monitoring and follow-up are integral to procedure.

Another initiative comes from the International Finance Corporation (IFC), which promotes sustainable private sector investment in developing countries, and is part of the World Bank Group. The IFC's environmental and social safeguard policies and its disclosure policy mean the organisation applies sustainability standards to all investment projects to minimise their impact on the environment and on affected communities. Monitoring and follow-up are integral to the standards. In my own experience, the monitoring and follow-up requirements of the standards lead in a tangible way to better outcomes for all stakeholders.

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) adopted its first environmental policy in 1991. It is accompanied by 10 related performance requirements based on good international sustainable development practice which EBRD-financed projects are expected to meet. The EBRD has defined specific performance requirements for key areas of environmental and social issues and impacts.

The Equator principles are a financial industry benchmark for determining, assessing and managing social and environmental risks in project financing. The principles are based on the World Bank and IFC guidelines and oblige financial institutions signing up to them to finance projects only where there is a guarantee that the social and ecological impact of projects are assessed. There are 10 principles, and number four (entitled "Action plan and management system") is the most relevant for linking EIA and EMS.

Principle four calls on developers to prepare a plan for implementing mitigation measures, corrective actions and effective monitoring in order to manage the impacts and risks identified in the impact assessment. It also says they should maintain or establish an EMS that addresses the management of these impacts, risks and corrective actions to ensure they comply with applicable host country social and environmental laws and regulations.

In the UK, IEMA has also included follow-up as part of its best-practice guidelines. IEMA states that follow-up is one of the most important parts of the EIA process as it helps determine whether assessment makes a difference in terms of improved environmental protection.

Follow-up is essential for determining the outcomes of EIA. By incorporating feedback into the EIA process,

post-development assessment enables organisations to learn from their experiences. It can and should occur in any EIA system to prevent impact assessment from simply becoming a pro-forma exercise.

Adding value

One of the characteristics of an advanced and effective EIA system is that it is linked to an EMS through follow-up. Appropriately employed, EIA is a key integrative element in environmental protection.

Monitoring and assessing post-development performance has the same goal as EIA, but its emphasis is placed on the action taken to achieve this goal. EIA has little value unless follow-up is carried out because without it the process will be incomplete and the consequences of EIA planning and decision making will remain unknown.

EIA follow-up can ensure the outcomes of the process are successfully incorporated into operational environment management systems, ensuring substantive and sustainable outcomes for projects.

Martin Broderick is senior technical director at WSP Environment & Energy. He is a contributing author to "Improving ESIA effectiveness through links to EMS" in *The impact continuum: Towards a seamless connection between EIA and EMS*.

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Members elect new IEMA council

Council The current term of office for those elected to the IEMA council in 2008 expires shortly. The election of new council members in those sectors where there were more nominations than available places has now ended and IEMA is pleased to welcome 13 new members.

The elected positions are divided among the four broad employment sectors in which IEMA members work – business, consultancy, the public sector and education. Members have voted in the following new representatives for each sector.

- **Business** John Leader, Toby Robins and Susan Smitherson.
- Consultancy Simon Cordingley, Fiona Draper and Rufus Howard.
- **Public** George Ablett, Richard Holdsworth and Jo Murphy.
- Education (uncontested) Martin Bigg, Louise Ellis, Miklas Scholz and Maarten van der Kamp.

Louise Ellis will now represent the **corporate** membership section. Her position was uncontested.

IEMA chief executive, Jan Chmiel, and council chair, Allen Norris, have both extended messages of welcome to the new council members, details of which can be found at lexisurl.com/jema12746.



The new members will take their place on the council at the next meeting in September 2012, together with appointed members from the Institute's regional steering groups.

The council is the key advisory body to the IEMA board on the Institute's strategic direction and is responsible for ensuring this strategy is being achieved. It also advises the board on issues relating to the Institute as well

as the environment and sustainability profession as a whole.

In addition, the council is responsible for the appointment of IEMA's non-executive directors.

To find out more about the role of the council, visit lexisurl.com/iema12747.

Council working group

Many of the recommendations made by the group set up last year to look at how the IEMA council was working have been implemented. However, some issues remain outstanding. At a meeting on 30 April, members of the board joined the group to discuss the role of the council, its objectives and the best way of achieving them.

The group agreed to address the connections between the council, regions and members, as well as the role of the council. The advisory role of the council was reaffirmed. The meeting also agreed to consider the size of, and representation on, the council, possible overlaps with other groups and committees, and legacy issues. Proposals will be presented at the next meeting in the autumn.

Professor Martin Bigg, chair of the IEMA council ways of working group

Find out more about the new Associate exam

AIEMA The new Associate entry exam has now been online since May. Many of the first candidates to have taken the 2.5-hour exam will have already received their results and, if they have passed, confirmation of their Associate status.

If you are interested in seeing how the Associate exam works, you can view a new step-by-step video guide, lasting six minutes, that takes you from log-in to the submission of your answers.

In addition to the video, IEMA is also hosting a webinar on the revised Associate standard and the new online exam. The webinar will go live at 12 noon on Friday 29 June.

IEMA's chief examiner, Helen Manns, will take participants through the new additions to the standard, explaining

how a candidate should demonstrate that they meet the Associate criteria and specification. She will also give an overview of the online exam and outline some examples of suitable answers – the kind that her team of assessors will be looking for from candidates.

Straight after the webinar – between 1pm and 2pm – a live webchat will take place on the IEMA LinkedIn group page. Here, questions can be posted about the standard and the exam, as well as the support and guidance available to IEMA members. Manns will be on hand alongside members of the IEMA team to answer any queries.

To book your place on this first Associate exam webinar, go to lexisurl. com/iema12705. To post your questions – either before the webinar or during the live webchat – head to the IEMA LinkedIn group page at lexisurl.com/iema12706 and look for the discussion entitled: "What do you want to know about becoming an Associate?"

If the convenience of the online exam and/or the swift turnaround of results inspire you to upgrade your membership from Student, Graduate or Affiliate to the internationally recognised Associate level, then why not contact IEMA's professional development adviser, Victoria Douch. She can offer some one-to-one guidance and support as you seek to move up the membership ladder.

Further information can also be found in the Training Focus supplement in this issue of *the environmentalist* (pp.VIII–XI). The new exam video is available at lexisurl.com/iema12704.

Revising ISO 14001

IEMA sets out its position on the new EMS standard

14001 The International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) is currently revising ISO 14001 – the leading independent standard for environment management systems (EMSs). The most recent figures show that there are more than 250,000 accredited certifications across 155 countries.

The revised standard is expected to be adopted in 2015 and is likely to operate into the mid-2020s. As such, the updated version must provide organisations with the basis for managing existing and future environmental challenges and opportunities. However, the revision also needs to ensure the standard remains accessible to a broad range of organisations, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), if its current success, growing at more than 25,000 certified organisations a year (see table, p.35), is to be maintained.

IEMA and its members have been providing expert knowledge and thought leadership on EMSs for more than 20 years. The Institute's leadership in this area will continue with the revision of 14001, with Martin Baxter, IEMA executive director of policy, appointed by the British Standards Institution (BSI) as the UK's national representative for the change.

He attended the first working group meeting on the revision of 14001 in Berlin in February 2012, with IEMA members receiving feedback on progress from the event via a webinar delivered on 16 March – still available at lexisurl.com/iema12721.

The next meeting, where issues relevant to IEMA's position will be considered, will take place in Thailand at the end of June.

Commenting ahead of the meeting, Baxter said: "This revision provides an opportunity to ensure the standard establishes a firm basis for organisations to integrate the environment into their strategic goals and allow it to meet future environmental challenges. The contribution from IEMA members in providing user feedback gives a strong steer on key issues that need to be addressed in the revision."

Gathering the evidence base

At the end of 2011 and beginning of this year, IEMA ran a series of workshops across the UK and Ireland bringing together more than 400 EMS practitioners, including operational environment managers, auditors, certification body representatives and senior environment professionals.

IEMA gathered their views on prioritising the 24 recommendations set out in the ISO report *Future challenges of EMS*, which form an integral part of the revision's scope.

Based on the priorities identified through the workshops, the Institute conducted an online survey among its membership in April 2012 to gauge support for a series of key statements relating to the revision of 14001. More than 1,650 environment professionals responded to the poll. They gave strong backing to all of the statements, with many endorsed by more than 90% of those participating in the survey.

Throughout the development of its position statement, IEMA has sought views from others with an interest in 14001. This includes those with environmental responsibilities in global businesses with multiple sites using an EMS. It has also consulted with regulators and policymakers who use EMSs to support compliance assurance and improve environmental outcomes.

While the focus of IEMA's engagement activity was to inform professionals and organisations about the revision

process, participants have also provided their views on the effectiveness of EMS implementation and the value of certification. These areas will feature in IEMA's ongoing EMS activity.

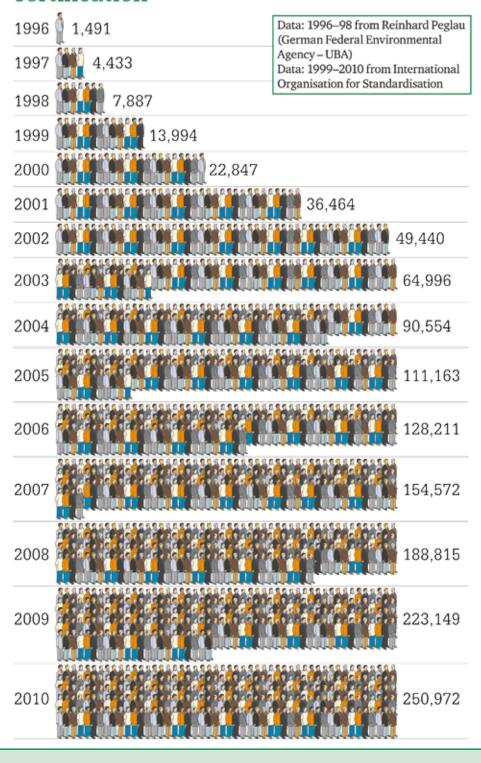
IEMA's position and key messages

IEMA has identified the following five areas the revision to 14001 needs to address if it is to make certain that existing and future users of the standard have an EMS capable of meeting the environmental challenges and opportunities of the next decade:

- Build stronger links between the EMS and overall strategic direction To remain at the fore of driving integration of the environment into organisational decision making, the revised standard must make stronger links between the EMS and an organisation's overall strategy.
- Consider impacts from a changing environment 14001 needs to provide a framework for organisations to manage the risks and opportunities in a changing environment, in addition to managing their impacts on the environment.
- Place greater emphasis on managing impacts across the value chain 14001 needs to place more importance on managing environmental impacts across the whole life cycle of products and services, including across supply chains and in the development and use of products and services.
- Integrate EMS requirements within core organisational procedures ISO's new high-level structure for management systems (lexisurl.com/iema12775) provides an opportunity for 14001 to ensure that the environment is integrated into the core management of businesses and other organisations.



Worldwide uptake of ISO 14001 certification



- Strengthen requirements on demonstration of legal compliance and performance improvement
 - 14001 needs to strengthen requirements around organisations demonstrating compliance with regulations and environmental performance improvement.

The revisions must also ensure that there is continuing clarity about the principal aim of the standard. It is IEMA's view that this main aim should be to provide a framework through which organisations can deliver improvements in their environmental performance.

IEMA's position on revising 14001, and the evidence it is based upon, can be found at lexisurl.com/iema12726.

The position statement also covers IEMA's views on:

- linking an EMS to strategy;
- legal compliance;
- an accessible standard; and
- strengthening requirements.

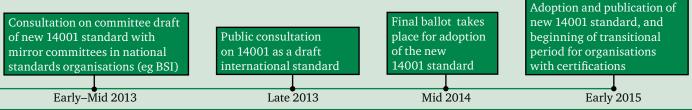
What might the future 14001 standard look like?

IEMA's vision for the future of 14001 is a management standard that better prepares organisations to effectively manage both existing and future environmental challenges.

Organisations would integrate the environment into their strategic direction in order to recognise, and proactively respond to, risks and opportunities arising from increasing customer and stakeholder expectations; their own environmental impacts and those related to their supply chain; and the environment's potential impacts on their business.

An increased number of SMEs would find the future standard more accessible through the use of the new ISO structure, its improved clarity and the simpler language around its requirements.

Actions to ensure 14001 meets the strategic needs of organisations in a clear and understandable manner will help to guarantee that the standard plays a key role as the world economy accelerates its efforts to decarbonise.



Institute receives IAIA award

Assessment In February, the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) named IEMA winner of the 2012 institutional award in recognition of the Institute's work on environmental impact assessment (EIA). Josh Fothergill, IEMA's policy and practice lead on EIA, collected the prize on 1 June at the IAIA energy future conference in Porto, Portugal (pictured).

The institutional award is presented annually to a national or international government or non-governmental organisation that has made an outstanding contribution to impact assessment practice or other environment-related activity that is deemed worthy of recognition. IEMA won the award for the launch of the EIA Quality

Mark scheme (lexisurl. com/iema12798) in 2011 as well as the publication last year of its special report *The state of environmental impact assessment practice in the UK*. The IAIA stated that IEMA was selected for the award because of its "promotion of quality and improving environmental

practice and performance in environmental impact assessment practice in the UK".

Claire Lea, IEMA's director of membership strategy and development, said: "IEMA is delighted the EIA Quality Mark and special report on the state of



EIA practice has been recognised by IAIA.

"We feel that the EIA Quality Mark scheme, which has been in place for just over a year, is making a significant contribution to the improvement of EIA in the UK, encouraging knowledge sharing and the improvement of practice. Receiving the institutional

award is a great achievement for IEMA."

Past winners of the award include the African Development Bank, the International Institute for Environment Development and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.

IEMA EVENTS Date Region/Time Topic Regional events 29 June South West Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy visit London Future directions for EIA in the UK 2 July Cardiff Future directions for EIA in the UK 3 July 4 July Birmingham Future directions for EIA in the UK 5 July Manchester Future directions for EIA in the UK 5 July South East 6 July Edinburgh Future directions for EIA in the UK 10 July South East Valuing the natural environment South East 14 July Valuing the natural environment 25 July Yorkshire & SITA Kirklees - waste-to-energy Humber plant visit Membership workshops 2 July East Anglia Full and CEnv workshop (Peterborough) Full and CEnv workshop (London) 6 July South East 26 September Midlands Full and CEnv workshop (Nottingham) Webinars 26 June 12-1pm Climate change risk assessment 28 June The value of a non-technical summary 12.30-1.30pm 29 June 12-1pm Associate entry exam Non-IEMA events 27 June South West Green drinks (Bristol) 12 July South East Green drinks (Southampton)

More successful IEMA members

IEMA would like to congratulate the following individuals for achieving Associate, Full, Dual (Full and CEnv) and Fellow membership, and those who have achieved Principal environmental auditor status.

Associate

Muhammad Afzal, University of West Scotland Hayley Jewitt, Laing O'Rourke Nicholas Fekete Perez, BiTC

Full

Sharon Harley, Interserve

Dual Full/CEnv

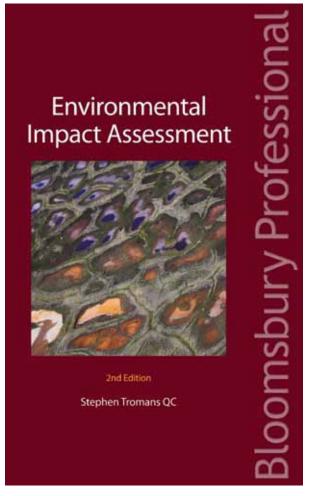
Colin Braidwood, Dixon Retail
Peter Cole, Temple Group
Anna Francis, BioRegional
Suzanna Jackman, London
Underground
Adrian Kesterson, Environment
Agency (NEAS)
Andrew Logie, N-Power Renewables
Gerard Stewart, Environment
Agency (NEAS)
Howard Waples, URS

Fellow

Simon Turner, Magnox

Principal auditor

Tom Cutter, MWH Helen Durrant and Alison Kyle, Environment Agency (NEAS)



Environmental impact assessment (second edition)

Stephen Tromans / Bloomsbury Professional / Paperback £85 / ISBN: 978-1-84766-675-8

BOOK The name Stephen Tromans will be familiar to many readers of the environmentalist owing to his regular "Laying down the law" column. What they may not know is that in 2003 he co-authored a book, entitled Environmental impact assessment – law and practice. The first edition was a tour de force of the legal framework and case law related to EIA, with the latter part of the book dedicated to good practice in assessment. This second edition has dropped the good-practice advice, which is increasingly available elsewhere, and instead focuses on the regulatory and legal aspects of EIA. This may sound like a rather dry subject, but for the practising professional the singular focus enhances the book and provides an essential counterpart to knowledge gained from the practical application of EIA. Tromans introduces the legislative context of EIA before moving through the screening process, assessment procedures and subsequent environmental statement. He then covers special cases of impact assessment in the planning system and where EIA is applied to non-planning developments. New to this edition are sections on strategic environmental assessment and the application of conservation and habitats legislation (eg the Habitats Directive) in an EIA context – both of which are welcome additions. The new version is nearly one-third longer than the first edition and provides comprehensive coverage of the increasingly complex and overlapping legal cases. It takes full account of the 2011 changes to planning-related EIA Regulations in England – the regulatory focus of the book is on the English planning regime. This book will be of great value to EIA practitioners, planners, statutory consultees and academics alike. In the few months it has been sitting on my desk I have found it a useful reference guide. This is not a book for the general environment professional, but if you are directly involved in EIA you should definitely have ready access to a copy.

Review by Josh Fothergill, IEMA policy and practice lead on EIA

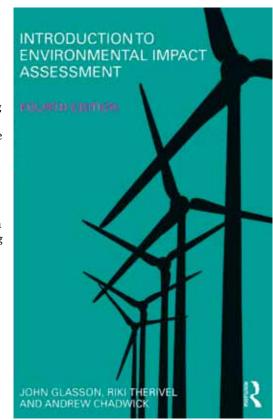
Introduction to environmental impact assessment (fourth edition)

John Glasson, Riki Therivel and Andrew Chadwick / Routledge / Paperback £32.99 / ISBN: 978-0-415-66470-7

BOOK When the fourth edition of this book landed on my desk, the names Glasson, Therivel and Chadwick immediately took me back to university and how the second edition was fundamental to developing my initial understanding of EIA. Time has passed and I now regularly converse with the authors on developments and future directions in practice. However, that memory did make me wonder how many environment professionals, in the UK and internationally, owe a substantive part of their fundamental understanding of EIA to this book, or its predecessors – the first edition was published in 1994.

The opening chapters of the new version are dedicated to setting out the principles, origins and development of EIA, starting from the international perspective and then focusing on the UK. Next, it discusses the EIA process, with information usefully interspersed with updated advice from the sector, including references to guidance in IEMA's 2011 EIA report and a number of micro case studies. Part three focuses on EIA practice and is where the most substantive updates are to be found. These chapters consider UK practice, covering the 2011 EIA Regulations and the implications from key pieces of case law. A series of case studies covers both EIA and strategic environmental assessment with a focus on energy and transport infrastructure. The final section examines future prospects for EIA, including how to make it more effective, with advice on assessing climate change, health, equality, socioeconomic and cumulative effects. This book is clearly more than a simple "introduction" to EIA, and with each chapter closing with a series of questions – designed to enhance learning – it is clear that it will be of great value as a textbook.

Review by Josh Fothergill, IEMA policy and practice lead on EIA





Our Vacancies

In response to significant growth in the business, we are now looking to fill the following positions which will be based at our London offices.

Business Development

Technical Director x2 £65,000 - £100,000

Bid Manager £35,000 - £45,000

We continue to experience significant growth in the business across a number of technical and strategic service areas. To this end, we are looking for candidates with significant consultancy sector experience and a strong business development acumen.

Planning

Technical Director £65,000 - £100,000

We provide policy and strategic planning support at central, regional and local government level. Our chartered planners represent clients on all professional matters, developing and negotiating cost effective and sustainable solutions/ outcomes. Development planning, land use policy, master planning and urban design, as well as statutory planning and appeals are typical of the types of services the successful candidate would be engaged with in addition to supporting growth in key areas.

Air Quality

Technical Director £65,000 - £100,000

Senior Consultant £34,000 - £46,000

Junior Consultant/ Consultant

£20,000 - £27,000/ £26,000-£36,000

We have an increasing demand for our air quality services in monitoring, modelling and assessment across a range of market sectors including major transport infrastructure, commercial, ports, waste and residential.

Successful delivery of our projects involves significant liaison with clients and other team members, local authorities, equipment and software providers. A sound knowledge of air quality legislation, assessment procedures and a range of modelling techniques are essential.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Consultant

£26,000 - £36,000

We provide a comprehensive range of EIA services, from specialist advice and support on specific disciplines to the production of Environmental Statements. We also offer a broad range of environmental services covering many key technical disciplines through our network of around 150 Associates and Partners, which gives us unprecedented access to experts in many fields. We are looking for candidates with a track record in supporting the delivery of challenging and complex commissions within tight timescales.

Temple holds IEMA's EIA Quality Mark which exemplifies our commitment to high technical quality standards and effective project management.

Closing date for applications is Friday, 6th July 2012. Early applications welcomed. For more details and job descriptions, please contact the HR department at recruitment@templegroup.co.uk. Alternatively, send a covering letter and full CV to recruitment@templegroup.co.uk



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0121 250 5797 | info@sustain-recruitment.com | www.sustain-recruitment.com

Senior/Principal EIA Consultant

We are now looking to recruit an experienced and motivated Senior/ Principal EIA Consultant to join our friendly team and to build on our existing and growing EIA portfolio.

The post:

- > Full time permanent position, based at our offices on the outskirts of Bath.
- > The post will involve:
 - Developing new business opportunities and writing tender proposals for EIA projects across a range of sectors.
 - Coordination, management and writing relevant sections of EIA projects across a range of sectors, including the production of the ES.
 - > Direction and management of specialist sub-consultants and liaison with planners, architects and developers.
 - Managing projects by yourself.
 - Acting as day-to-day client interface.

The candidate:

You will have:

At least 5 years' proven EIA consultancy experience, having produced at least two [Senior] or four [Principal] self-authored Environmental Statements in addition to Screening, Scoping staged and non-technical summaries.

- Proven skills and experience in project management, and the ability to produce written reports to a high standard.
- Clear understanding of the technical aspects of EIA disciplines (eg air quality, noise).
- Excellent attention to detail and strong understanding of quality systems such as ISO 9001.
- > Proven ability to win new EIA projects.
- A thorough understanding of EIA legislation and the UK planning system.
- Proven ability to build effective relationships with clients, sub-consultants and regulators.
- A relevant undergraduate degree together with an MSc and membership of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (AIEMA or MIEMA).

It would also be an advantage to have:

- > Chartered status.
- Specialist technical experience in one key area (e.g. water quality as well as EIA co-ordination/ management).
- > IEMA Registered EIA Practitioner.

In return, we offer a diverse range of interesting and relevant work, competitive salary package and support to extend your skills and experience through appropriate training and development.

Please apply in writing (CV and covering letter) to liz@johnsassociates.co.uk or to Liz Johns, Limpley Mill, Lower Stoke, Bath, BA2 7FJ.

NO RECRUITMENT AGENCIES



Opportunities to Grow with RPS

RPS are currently looking to recruit the following roles in our busy and vibrant Brighton office:

Introducing RPS

RPS has grown into one of the world's pre-eminent consultancies by maintaining its local connections whilst underpinning these with the resources and knowledge of a global business.

We employ 5,000 people in the UK, Ireland, the Netherlands, the United States, Canada, Brazil, Africa, the Middle East, Australia and Asia. Our international presence allows us to undertake co-ordinated and integrated projects throughout the world.



Acoustics Team Leader

The successful candidate will have management experience in transport, infrastructure and industrial and/or energy projects, experience of managing a team and the ability to build internal and external client relationships.

Ideally you will be a corporate member of the Institute of Acoustics (MIOA/FIOA) and have experience within an Acoustics Consultancy. You will be able to demonstrate excellent communication skills (both written and verbal) and hold a full driving licence. Knowledge of Building Acoustics and experience of wind farms and inquiry expert witness would be a distinct advantage.

Senior Air Quality Consultant

The successful applicant will work within an established team to provide air quality consultancy advice to clients, generally related to new development and/ or industrial processes requiring assessment under EIA, IPPC, or in support of new planning applications in Air Quality Management Areas or locations perceived to be at risk from poor air quality.

You will need to have a good academic background (minimum Graduate level) and ideally would have at least five years' relevant commercial experience at a more junior level, with a high level of technical proficiency across the main Air Quality areas such as air quality dispersion modelling, ambient air quality monitoring, local air quality management/review and assessment

Acoustics Graduate

This position will involve working on high profile projects across the UK and include noise monitoring, mapping and report writing, with close mentoring and support from Senior Staff members.

Interest and experience in Environmental Noise and Associate/Technician Grade Membership of the Institute of Acoustics would be preferred but not essential. A current full driving licence is essential. Some working away from base may be required from time to time.

We offer a very competitive salary and benefits package together with the opportunity to develop your career with one of the UK's leading environmental consultancies.

To apply for any of these roles, simply forward a copy of your CV to:

Geoff Thorpe - Recruitment Manager E: geoff.thorpe@rpsgroup.com

RPS is an equal opportunities employer NO AGENCIES















Make an Impact on your Career.

URS is a leading integrated services provider, with a rich heritage in environmental consultancy. Within our Environmental and Social Impact Assessment team in UK, the opportunities at URS are second to none. Voted the EIA Consultant of the Year at last year's EDIE awards, we have a range of high profile projects and clients both in the UK and worldwide, and we are expanding fast. Our key projects include the lead EIA consultant on High Speed 2 and we number amongst our key clients major oil and gas and mining companies.

We are looking for candidates at all levels from consultant to director whose previous focus or interest is in oil and gas, mining, urban regeneration, transport infrastructure, power development and local government. Opportunities exist within these sectors on UK and international projects run out of our network of UK offices.

If you have the qualities and drive to join our busy EIA team and would be keen to discuss the opportunities further, please get in touch with Jo Webb on 01256 310 466 or email your cv to ukeia@urs.com.



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