

Sustainability in NI: Local View of a Global Picture



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20th June 2011

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CONTEXT



MEASUREMENT



PRACTICE

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Making Sustainability Meaningful

Putting sustainable development into practice means enhancing the **economic, social and environmental well-being** of people, businesses and communities, achieving a better **quality of life** for our own and future generations.

“A sustainable society is distinguished by a **system of governance**; has **democratic values**; is prepared to **invest in health and well-being** of its people; encourages **sustainable economic growth**; and solves major environmental problems by **reducing the impact on the environment** to levels that are sustainable in the long-term.”

Doing More with Less

Problems

Climate Change
Economic Down Turn

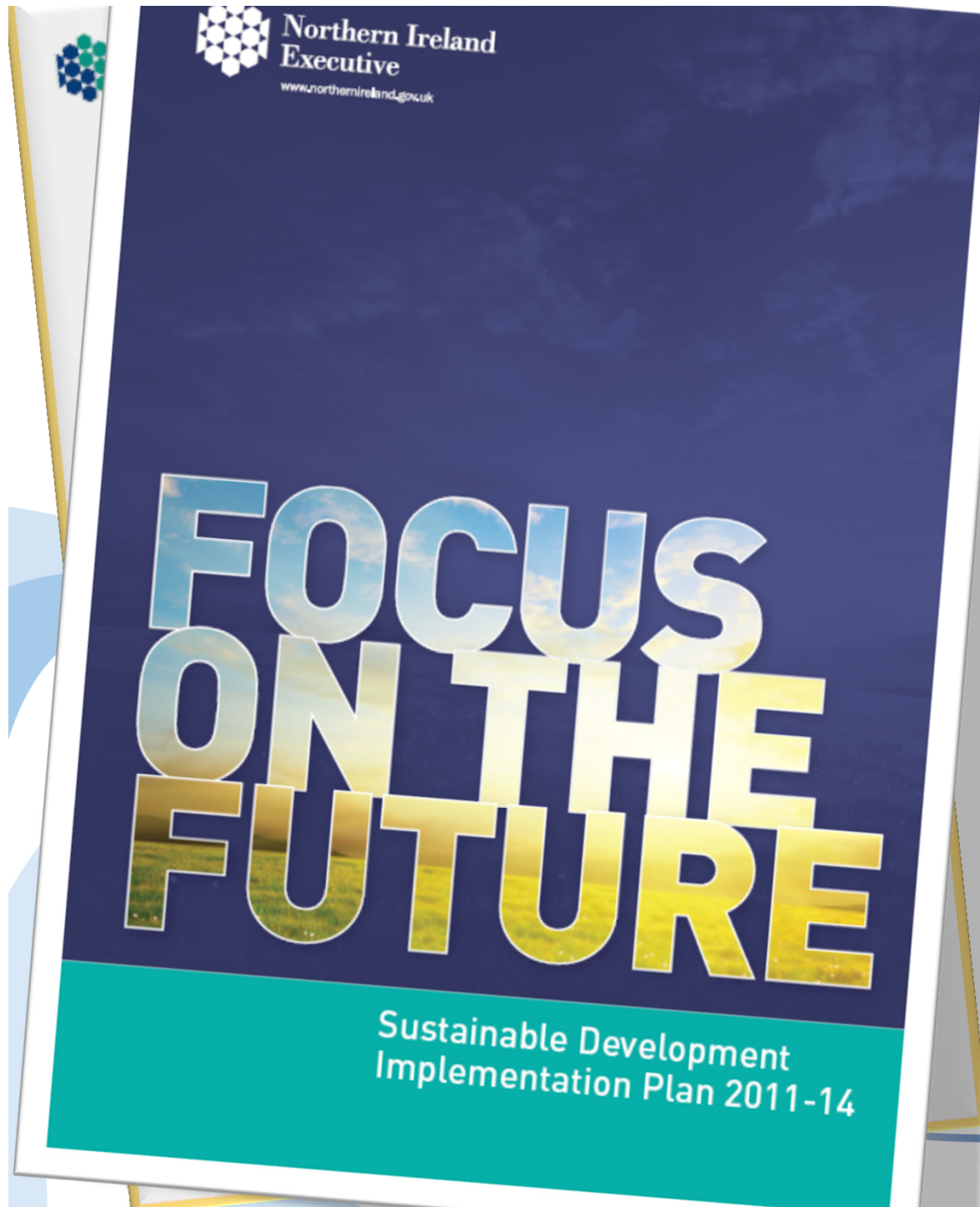
Solutions

Sustainable Development

Future Proofing

Community Planning

- Interpreting the theory?
- Balancing social, economic and environmental considerations.
- Balancing policy screening with operations.
- Making it relevant.
- Embedding it throughout the organisations.
- Using SD principles to make better decisions.



Northern Ireland's Sustainable Development Strategy

Implementation
Plan should work in
parallel to the
Programme for
Government

Priority Areas of the Strategy



Priority Area ONE

Building a dynamic innovative economy that delivers the prosperity required to tackle disadvantage and lift communities out of poverty



Priority Area TWO

Strengthening society such that it is more tolerant, inclusive and stable and permits positive progress in quality of life for everyone



Priority Area THREE

Driving sustainable, long-term investment in key infrastructure to support economic and social development



Priority Area FOUR

Striking an appropriate balance between the responsible use and protection of natural resources in support of a better quality of life and a better quality environment



Priority Area FIVE

Ensuring reliable, affordable and sustainable energy provision and reducing our carbon footprint



Priority Area SIX

Ensuring the existence of a policy environment which supports the overall advancement of sustainable development in and beyond Government

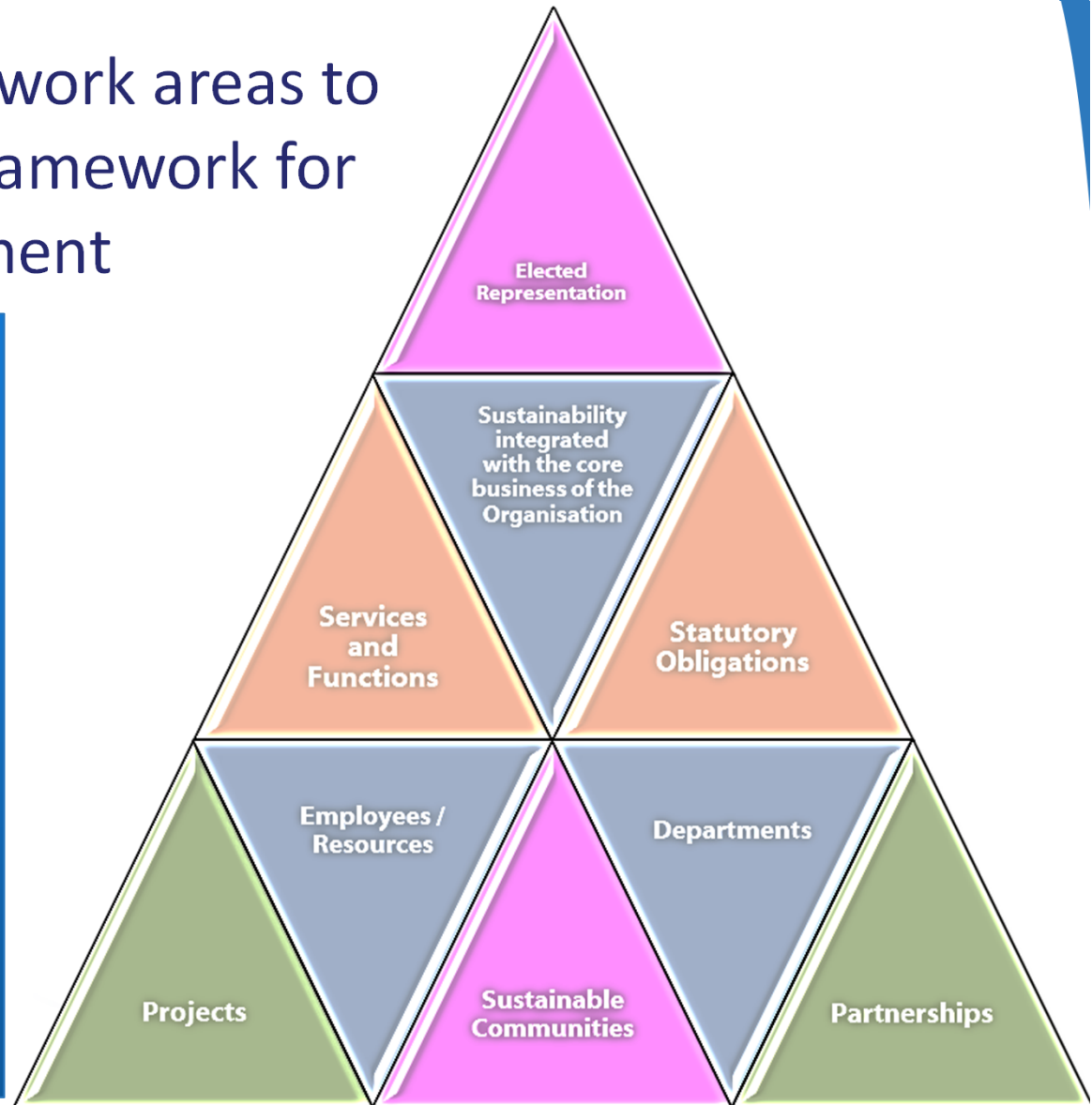
Commitment by Local Government

- 1. Increase the proportion of energy they source from renewable sources;**
- 2. Promote, regulate and improve the energy efficiency of the built fabric in their areas, including that of building premises;**
- 3. Seek to develop low carbon jobs through diversion of waste from landfill and encouraging recycling;**
- 4. Invest in parks, play areas, accessible walking and cycle paths and leisure facilities to assist in tackling health inequalities;**
- 5. Encourage local food production e.g. through provision of allotments and land sharing;**
- 6. Support local community organisations such as sporting organisations, arts festivals, volunteer environmental programmes;**
- 7. Successfully implement the forthcoming Clean Neighbourhoods legislation;**
- 8. Consider the development of sustainable procurement policies;**
- 9. Develop a local SD Strategy and Action Plan, to include locally agreed Sustainable Planning Policy**
- 10. Work in partnership with OFMDFM to communicate the SD Strategy and Implementation Plan to employees, to local citizens and to businesses.**

Developing a Framework

Review your existing work areas to identify an existing framework for sustainable development

Why?
Increases efficiency, better co-ordination of resources, optimisation of results and greater confidence by the public



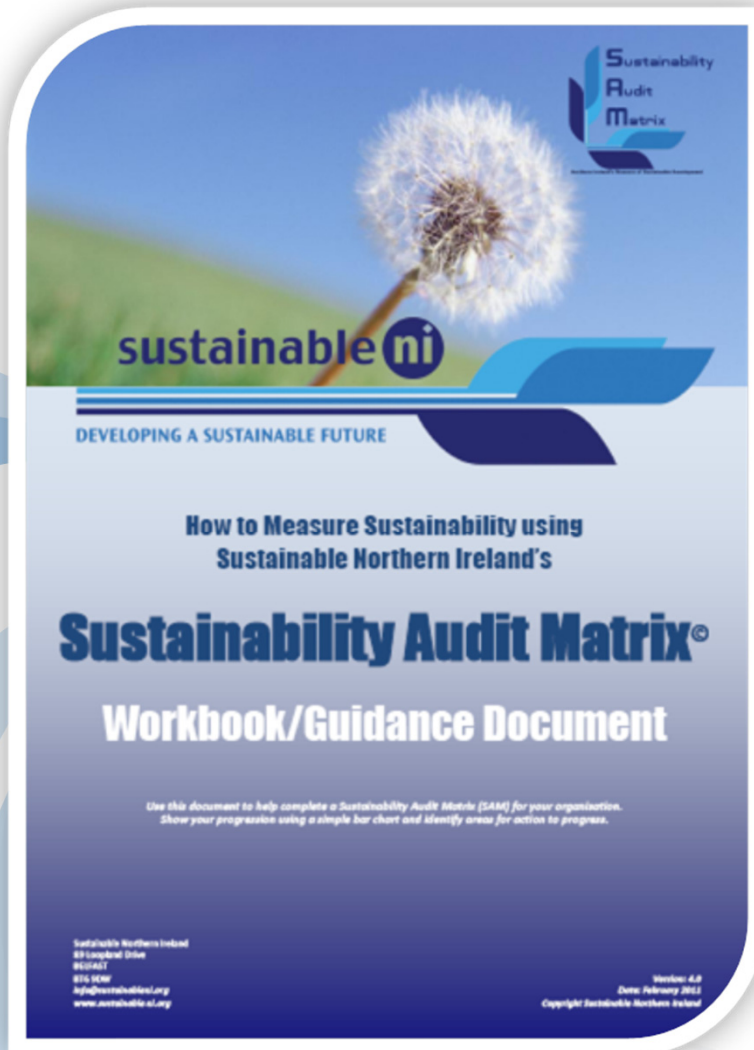
How to Measure Sustainability using Sustainable Northern Ireland's



Northern Ireland's Measure of Sustainable Development



Building a Comprehensive Picture of SD



SAM looks at how sustainability principles are integrated across the organisation :

- Strategic
- Cross-Departmental
- Operational

25 Specific Elements to Assess

Strategic Integration

Towards Sustainability (Policy)
Commitment and Integration
Embedding at Corporate Level
Embedding at Service Level
Capacity Building
Participation and Community Planning
Measurement and Review
Communication

Internal Cross-Cutting

Sustainable Procurement
Energy Management
Transport
Waste Management
Land and Property Management
Environmental Management
Corporate Management

External Operational

Biodiversity
Waste Management
Leisure/Sports/Recreation and Culture
Sustainable Communities
Environmental Health
Economic Development
Tourism
Building Control
Cleaner, Safer, Greener
Sustainability Education

Brief Examples of SD include:

GP leisure centre referral schemes

Skills development of council workforce, including IT and literacy skills

Monitoring of fuel used by council vehicles and drivers

Community Safety and anti-social behaviour initiatives

Consideration of climate change in planting decisions

Replacing 11th night bonfires with cultural beacons

Online job applications

Reduction in chemical fertilisers, pesticides and herbicides

Health Improvement Partnership, participation in healthy eating schemes, no smoking schemes etc.

Introduction of laptops for elected members to reduce the need to print minutes, agendas and other documents

Economic Examples of SD

- Capacity building within the local workforce to increase the success rates of local businesses securing council tenders.
- Job fairs organised by the council
- Social Enterprise Schemes to stimulate employment
- Projects to increase the energy efficiency of local businesses, therefore reducing energy costs



It is not about doing sustainable development projects – it is about integrating the principles of sustainable development into other activities

Social Examples of SD

- Innovative ways of involving the community through ART.
- Community Safety Partnerships
- Leisure outreach programmes, GP referral schemes etc.
- Community energy schemes
- Re-imaging Projects for local estates
- Fuel poverty schemes
- Community forums
- Health and well-being programmes for staff of the council



Many of the activities undertaken by the councils cut across the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development

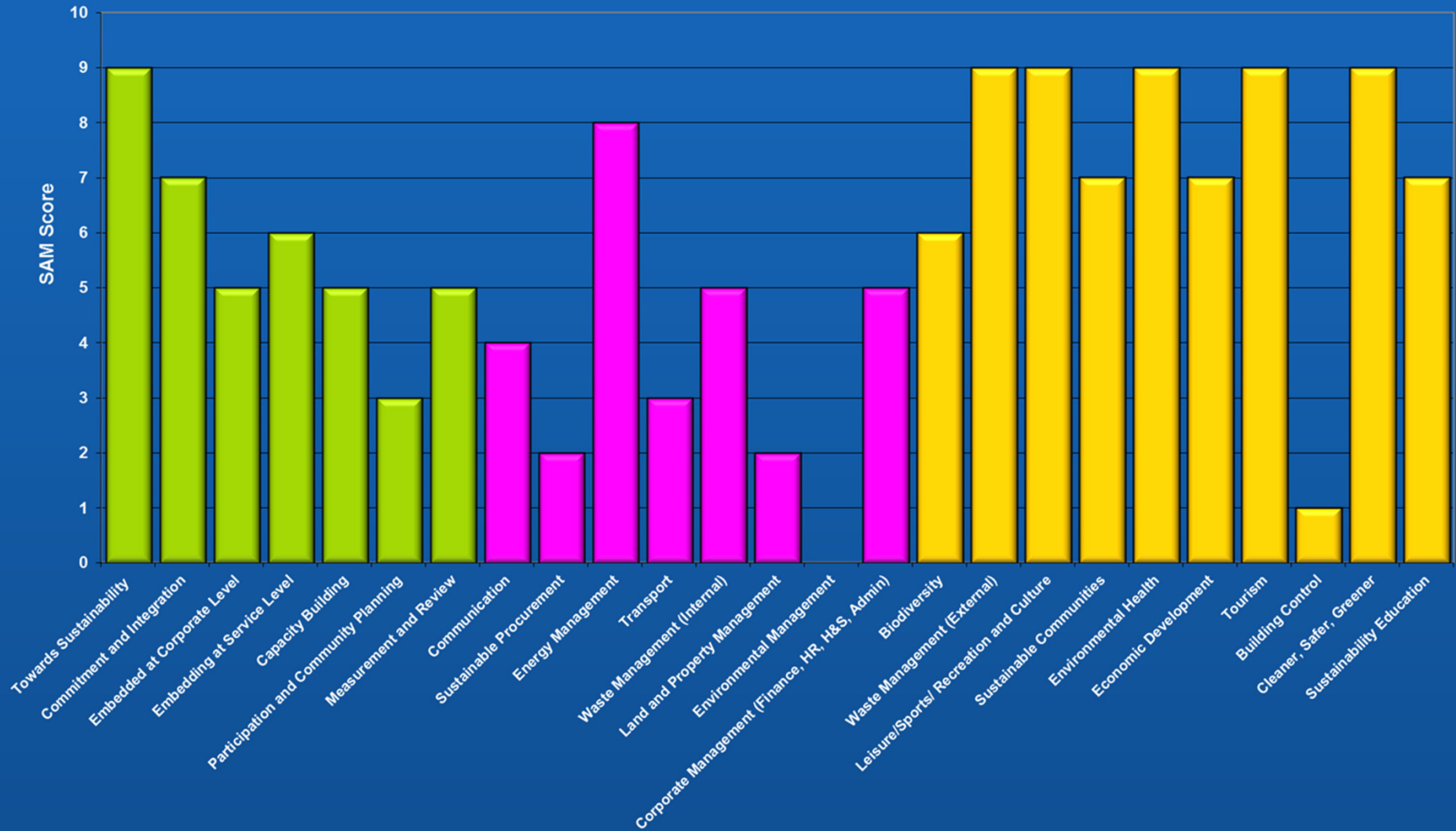
Strategic Examples of SD

- Formal commitment to the principles of SD
- SD champions identified within each department
- SD action plans with SMART targets in place
- Reporting integrated into Balanced Score Card monitoring
- Inclusion of sustainable development within job descriptions



Communication of sustainable development is an important aspect of the Matrix (SAM) and increases people's understanding of their contribution

SAM Results June 2011



Compliance with the Duty?

A Council's contribution to the Priority Areas of the Sustainable Development Strategy

