



NORTH SEA COMMISSION ENVIRONMENT GROUP MEMBER PROFILES 2006

INTRODUCTION

At the AGM of the North Sea Commission Environment Group in September 1997 the first edition of this document was agreed. This, the 12th updated version, is a result of amendments as at 1st May, 2006. The purpose of the member profiles is to provide the definitive reference source to the environmental competencies, contacts,

and initiatives of the Members of the North Sea Commission. It also serves as a starting point for members to develop contacts between authorities with a view to partnership projects or simply becoming aware of evolving best practice.

Per Horberg,
Environment Group Co-ordinator.

Suggestions for improvements and details for updates are welcome at any time. Please contact
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NORTH SEA COMMISSION

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ENVIRONMENT GROUP

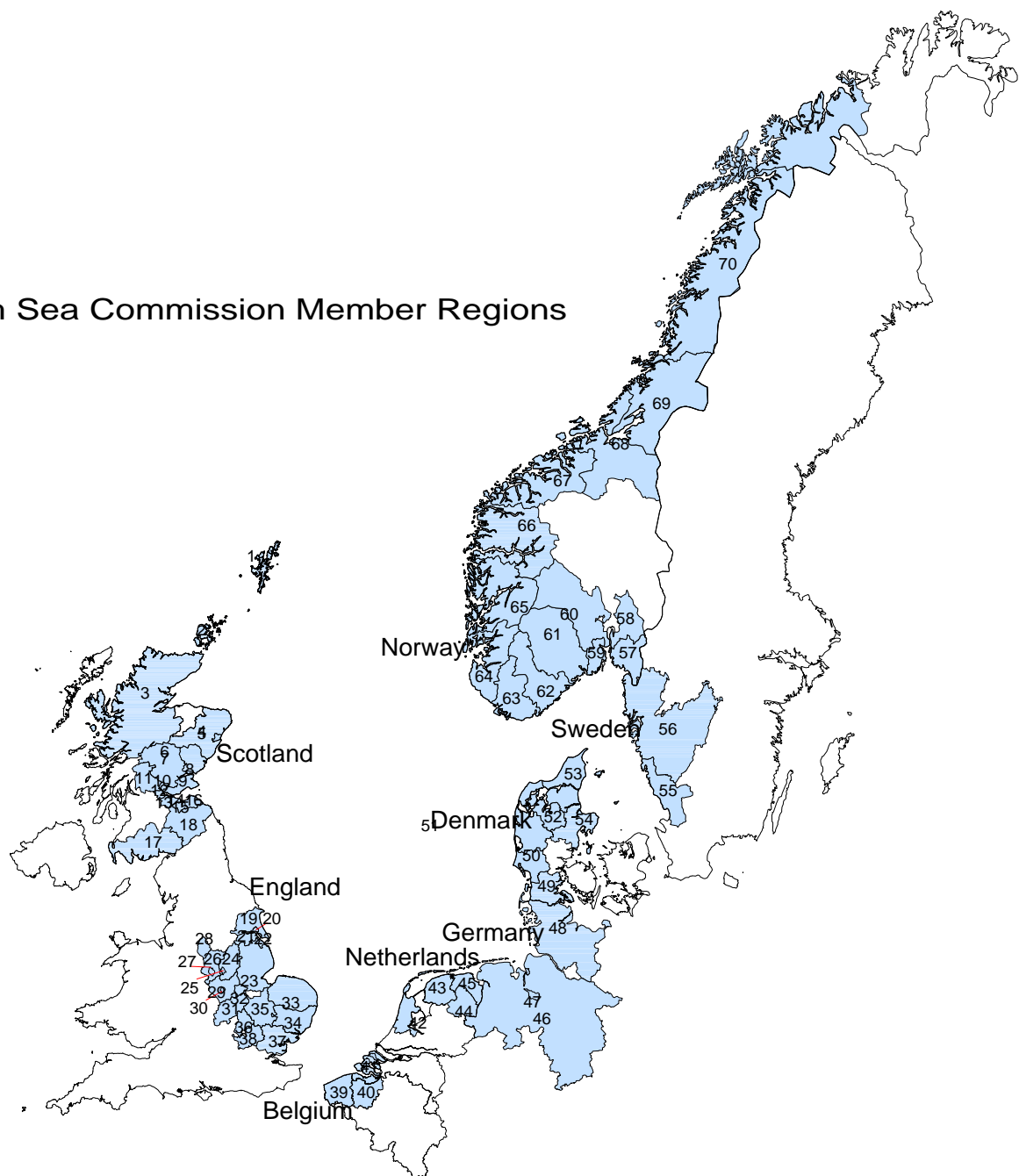
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North Sea Commission Member Regions



North Sea Commission Member Regions (As per June 2003)

Scotland

1. Shetland Islands Council
2. Orkney Islands Council
3. Highland Council
4. Aberdeenshire Council(a)
5. Aberdeen City Council(a)
6. Angus Council(a)
7. Perth and Kinross Council(a)
8. Dundee City Council(a)
9. Fife Council(a)
10. Clackmannanshire Council(a)
11. Stirling Council(a)
12. Falkirk Council(a)
13. West Lothian Council(a)
14. City of Edinburgh Council(a)
15. Midlothian Council(a)
16. East Lothian Council(a)
17. Dumfries and Galloway (b)
18. Scottish Borders (b)

England

19. East Riding of Yorkshire Council(c)
20. Kingston Upon Hull City Council(c)
21. North Lincolnshire Council(c)
22. North East Lincolnshire District Council(c)
23. Lincolnshire County Council(d)
24. Nottinghamshire County Council(d)
25. Nottingham City Council(d)
26. Derbyshire County Council(d)
27. Derby City Council(d)
28. Peak District National Park Authority(d)
29. Leicestershire County Council(d)
30. Leicester City Council(d)
31. Northamptonshire County Council(d)
32. Rutland County Council(d)
33. Norfolk County Council(e)
34. Suffolk County Council(e)
35. Cambridgeshire County Council(e)
36. Bedfordshire County Council(e)
37. Essex County Council(e)
38. Hertfordshire County Council(e)

Belgium

39. West-Vlaanderen, Belgium(f)
40. Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium(f)

The Netherlands

41. Provincie Zeeland(f)
42. Provincie Noord-Holland
43. Provincie Fryslân(g)
44. Provincie Drenthe(g)
45. Provincie Groningen(g)

Germany

46. Land Niedersachsen
47. Hansestadt Bremen
48. Land Schleswig-Holstein

Denmark

49. Sønderjyllands Amt
50. Ribe Amt
51. Ringkøbing Amt
52. Viborg Amt
53. Nordjyllands Amt
54. Århus Amt

Sweden

55. Region Halland
56. Västra Götaland Region

Norway

57. Østfold Fylkeskommune
58. Akershus Fylkeskommune
59. Vestfold Fylkeskommune
60. Buskerud Fylkeskommune
61. Telemark Fylkeskommune
62. Aust-Agder Fylkeskommune
63. Vest-Agder Fylkeskommune
64. Rogaland Fylkeskommune
65. Hordaland Fylkeskommune
66. Sogn og Fjordane Fylkeskommune
67. Møre og Romsdal Fylkeskommune
68. Sør-Trøndelag Fylkeskommune
69. Nord-Trøndelag Fylkeskommune
70. Nordland Fylkeskommune
71. Troms Fylkeskommune

(a) Represented by East of Scotland European Consortium (ESEC)

(b) Represented by The South of Scotland

(c) Represented by The Humber Forum

(d) Represented by East Midlands Assembly

(e) Represented by East of England Regional Assembly

(f) Represented by Euregio Scheldemond

(g) Represented by Samenwerkingsverband Noord-Nederland

SCOTLAND

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Environmental Competencies

Central Government

Not supplied

Local Authorities

Through strategic planning and development control, local authorities can make sure that development is appropriately sited and complements the natural heritage which promote the effective management of the local environment. Local authorities designate and care for a range of local sites including Local Nature Reserves and Areas of Great Landscape Value. Their role in promoting good countryside management in non-designated areas is equally important.

Local authorities also provide substantial support for countryside recreation, through the work of Regional Parks and Countryside Around Towns projects and facilities such as Country Parks and Long Distance Routes.

Local authorities have become increasingly active in preparing and implementing environmental charters and action plans, ensuring that their services are delivered in an environmentally friendly way. This involves all council services.

The environment can be seen as a theme which runs through everything that local authorities do. Whichever structure is adopted, good co-ordination is the key to future success.

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) was established in 1992 from a merger of the Nature Conservancy Council for Scotland and the Countryside Commission for Scotland. SNH is a government agency which receives its funding from the Secretary of State for Scotland. Much of SNH's conservation effort for species, habitats and landscapes focuses on the parts of Scotland which are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), including Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and National Nature Reserves and National Scenic Areas. SNH provides financial assistance to and establishes special projects with, a wide range of bodies to replenish the depleted areas both in the remote areas of the countryside and in and around towns and cities. SNH also undertakes informal education through the provision of facilities, including footpaths, signposts and car parks, as well as the grant-aiding of the Scottish Countryside Rangers service.



SHETLANDS ISLANDS COUNCIL

(updated September 2003)

Shetland Islands Council, Greenhead, Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 0PY

Tel: +44 1595 744940 / 744912 / 744904

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Geographic Description:

Shetland is the most northerly part of the UK, on a latitude 60-61 degrees N.

An archipelago of over 100 islands, 15 of them inhabited, it consists mainly of hilly, treeless, poor quality land, much of it moorland, and has a fairly harsh, windy climate.

Main Industries:

The main employment is oil-related, fish catching, fish processing, fish farming, agriculture, knitwear, tourism and services.

Major Town

Lerwick, pop. 6,830 (2001)

Population (2001) 21,988

Pop.change (1991-2001) -2.4%

Pop. density (Inhab./sq. km.) 16

Landward Area (sq. km.) 1,468 sq km

Length of coastline (km) 1,450 km

Highest point (m) 449 m (Ronas Hill)

Current Environmental and Sustainability Issues:

Coastal zone management. Marine oil pollution.

Renewable energy and energy conservation. Marine litter.

Recycling. Biodiversity of species

Contacts

Principal officer for

NSC Environmental matters

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Principal politician with

environmental responsibilities

Mr Jim Henry

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

(Profile updated June 2001)

Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX, Scotland

Tel. + 44 (0) 14 63 70 20 00

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Major City: Inverness (50,970)

Major Towns: Thurso (7880)

Fort William (9,320)

Nairn (8,190)

Alness (4,790)

Dingwall (4750)

Population (2000) 208,600

Pop.density (Inhab/km2) 8

Length of Coastline 4,905 km

Highest Point Ben Nevis 1,343m

Landward Area 25,304 sq km

Inland Water 832 sq km

Geographic Description

Excluding the Islands, Highland is the most northerly region within Scotland and represents a third of the Scottish landmass. Much of the region is mountainous with over 80% lying above 300m. It has a lengthy coastline which accounts for almost 50% of the Scottish mainland coast. The bulk of the regions population and employment is within a narrow coastal strip, particularly on the east coast where most industry and commerce are situated.

Main Industries

The majority (i.e. 79%) of employment in the Highland Area is in service industries, particularly those related to tourism and the public sector. Rural areas are heavily dependent on primary industries, agriculture, forestry, fishing and fish farming (5%). Manufacturing accounts for about 10% of employment, but with processing of primary products being important.

Contacts

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Minerals Officer -	John Wood	+ 44 (0) 14 63 70 25 02
Archaeological Officer -		
Councillor responsible for environment -	Councillor M. Foxley	

Current Environmental Issues

- Integrated rural land management (particularly in areas of high natural heritage value.
- Amnesiac Shellfish Poisoning
- Maritime safety
- Marine Pollution (especially in shellfish designated waters).

Current European Environmental Projects

- Norcoast
- Partner in Ecos Overture Project - “INTEGRADEV” Sustainable Regional Development.
- Partner in LIFE project - “Duthchas” Area Sustainability Strategies for Peripheral Rural Areas. A project looking to promote a more integrated approach to rural development.

Topics which Council would be prepared to work in partnership with others

In addition to current environmental issues the Council would be keen to become involved in work in partnership on

- sustainable tourism/communities,
- biodiversity
- sustainability indicators.
- Coastal Zone Management
- Community development and the natural heritage
- Application of GIS (Geographic Information Systems) to areas of high natural heritage
- Pilot actions of demonstration in the sphere of renewable energies.



ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

(Profile updated April 2003)

Woodhill House, Westburn Road, Aberdeen, AB16 5GB, Scotland

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Geographic Description

Aberdeenshire lies in the North East of Scotland bounded by the North Sea and stretches inland to the Cairngorms, Britain's largest mountain massif. From this mountainous area, Aberdeenshire gradually opens out into moorland. The landscape is dominated by the major rivers of the Dee and the Don. Nearer to the coast are the richer agricultural lowlands of the Howe of Mearns and Buchan. The coastline itself is varied with long sandy beaches and steep bird inhabited cliffs.

Main Industries

Traditionally Aberdeenshire has been economically dependent upon many of the primary sector (agriculture, fishing, forestry) and related processing industries. Within the last 25 years, the emergence of North Sea oil and gas and the development of a growing service sector have broadened Aberdeenshire's economic base. The mainstay of Aberdeenshire's economy are the primary industries of farming and fishing which in turn support a range of ancillary industries including food processing, boat building and agricultural engineering.

The manufacturing sector also includes engineering, particularly associated with oil and gas activity, whisky distilling, paper production and textile manufacture. The service sector, incorporating tourism, retailing, finance, technology, public sector and personal services has grown significantly and accounts for over 65% of the employment in Aberdeenshire. Aberdeenshire also has a significant construction sector and self-employment is important across major sectors.

Of the major towns in Aberdeenshire, Peterhead has a relatively diverse economy. It is a major offshore oil and gas-servicing base and is Europe's premier white fish landing port. Fraserburgh is primarily fishing based, and sustains associated servicing and processing activity in the town. Inverurie is traditionally linked to its agricultural hinterland and supports food processing and a major livestock market. Recently it has developed oil and gas service industries and has become a growing commuter settlement for Aberdeen. Stonehaven is still a popular visitor destination and acts a centre for administration and services, both commercial and public. Proximity to Aberdeen has encouraged commuting in recent years.

Major Towns:	Peterhead (18,801)	Fraserburgh (13,023)
	Inverurie (10,603)	Stonehaven (10,430)

Population 2001	226,740
Pop Change (1991-96)	+5.1%
Pop. density (persons/km ²)	36.2
Length of Coastline	207.14 km
Highest Point	Beinn McDuibh (1,309m)
Area (km ²)	6,288.83

Current Environmental Issues

- Water catchment management
- Biodiversity audit and action planning
- Local Agenda 21 Strategy for Community Action
- Corporate Environmental Charter
- Towns Action Programme
- Access development and management
- Plan making in and on edge of National Park
- Archaeological Interpretation

Current European Environmental Projects

1. Forestry Initiatives

Review of Indicative Forestry Strategy, and development of Biofuel Plant

2. North East Rivers Project

Project aims to identify the issues facing the rivers and tributaries of the north east and to develop a grant aid scheme to protect and enhance riparian habitats and associated economic benefits, i.e. fishing, agriculture and woodlands, tourism and culture. In addition 2 new initiatives are to be taken forward (A) a Dee Catchment Management Plan (as a consequence of the Water Framework Directive in Scotland and the Natura 2000 Special Area of Conservation Candidate Designation), and (B) the 3 Dee Vision, an Interreg Project , focusing on public consultation in the implementation of water management programmes. The lead partner is Friesland with partners from Norway, North Jutland and Vastra Gotland.

3. Aberdeenshire Countryside Access Strategy

Initiative to co-ordinate access development and management throughout Aberdeenshire, providing sustainable routes for all types of non vehicular user. New Land Reform Act now requires the preparation of a core path network within 3 years for submission to Scottish Ministers.

4. Upper Deeside Access Trust

Project to look at visitor use and management of the Upper Deeside area and to develop an action programme which allows more sustainable use of the area by visitors.

5. Nortrail - Interreg 111C Project.

To make the most of the coastal resources of many of the Councils around the North Sea, involving pathway, heritage, accommodation and dissemination networks.

6. Blackdog Environmentally Friendly Housing Layouts Project

A comprehensive practical demonstration project, now complete, which focused on the environmental quality of new housing design in terms of the overall layouts of residential development. Now being rolled forward into a follow-on project with Angus Council called the Scottish House which seeks to take forward the lessons learned at Blackdog.

Topics which Council would be prepared to work in partnership with others

In addition to current environmental issues, the Council are be prepared to work in partnership on subjects such as water management, green purchasing, sustainable tourism/communities and sustainability indicators.

The Council's current Sustainable Development Charter is being reviewed by external consultants, with a reduction in the number of actions being proposed and replaced by more crosscutting examples of responsible use of resources, and the taking forward in a pilot project the prospects of ecological footprinting being undertaken for parts of Aberdeenshire or indeed the whole area (to be used as a monitoring tool for sustainable actions). Interests from elsewhere on this subject would be appreciated.

Contacts

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

(Profile updated 2005)

St. Nicholas House, Broad Street, Aberdeen AB10 1BW
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Geographic Description

Aberdeen City is Scotland's third largest City. It is located in the north east of Scotland between the Rivers Dee and Don, which flow down from the Cairngorm Mountains. For 800 years, Aberdeen's 'foot print' has extended into both the agricultural hinterland and the North Sea to the east.

Main Industries

Aberdeen is known as the Energy Capital of Europe, with oil, gas and their support industries constituting a major part of the economy. Aberdeen Harbour, serving the North Sea energy industry and the fishing industry, lies in the heart of the City. There are ferry services from here to Scotland's Northern Isles and Europe. Aberdeen is the commercial, administrative and research centre for the north east of Scotland. Other industries within the City include paper products and textiles, food processing, engineering and chemicals.

Population 2004	203,450	Pop Change (2001 - 2004)	-8460
Pop. density (Inhab/km ²)	1,080		
Length of Coastline	17 km	Highest Point	266 km
Total Area (km ²)	188.46	Landward Area (km ²)	113.85
Employment in North Sea Oil (2003)	39,000		

Current Environmental Issues

- Coastal zone management
- Litter and pollution sources from land and sea
- Traffic and sustainable transportation
- Waste minimization
- Multiple use of the coastal zone
- Urban biodiversity
- Energy issues
- Offshore Windfarms

Current European Environmental Projects

ALTENER Potential of Renewable Energy Technologies in the North East of Scotland

Topics which the Council would be prepared to work in partnership with others

Sustainable land use and urban planning; policy integration of economy, environment and society; sustainable tourism and cultural activities; sustainable energy supply and demand management; sustainable City transport systems and management; and sustainable waste management systems.

Contacts

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ANGUS COUNCIL

(Profile updated May 2005)

The Cross, Forfar, Scotland, DD8 1BX.

Tel. 44 1307 461460

Fax: 44 1307 461780

Geographic Description

Angus is situated on the east coast of Scotland, between the cities of Dundee and Aberdeen. Angus lies between the rivers Tay and North Esk. It is an area of diverse geography ranging from remote and sparsely populated upland areas of the Angus Glens, to the fertile Strathmore valley and the coastal areas and towns where around 50% of the Angus population lives.

Main Industries

Angus has a diverse economy, which reflects both its history and geography. From an earlier concentration on agriculture and manufacturing, the economy of the area has experienced a considerable level of transition, diversification and expansion with a growing service sector and a significant dependence on oil and gas and food products emerging as the main industries.

Major Towns:	Arbroath	(22,785)
	Forfar	(13,206)
	Montrose	(10,845)
Population 1998		108,400
Pop Change (1991-2001)		-2.7%
Pop. density (Inhab/km2)		50
Length of Coastline		55.5 km
Highest Point Glas Maol		1068m
Landward Area (km2)		2182 (842 sq miles)

Current Environmental Issues

- ‰‰ Coastal erosion
- ‰‰ Shoreline management plan (in partnership with the Tay Estuary Forum)
- ‰‰ Soil erosion
- ‰‰ Nitrification of water courses

Current European Environmental Projects

- ‰‰ Coastal Erosion
- ‰‰ Possible and preventative measures are currently being investigated to cope with the rigours of the North
- ‰‰ Sea environment.

Contacts

Person to contact on North
Sea Commission
Environmental Issues

Pam Coutts

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General Environmental Issues	Pam Coutts	+ 44 (0) 1307 473547

Councillor responsible
for Environment

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Perth and Kinross Council

(new profile, June 2002)

2 High Street, Perth, PH1 5PH

Tel: +44 (0)1738 476476

Fax: +44 (0)1738 476410

Major Towns:

Perth	-	41,490
Blairgowrie	-	7,861
Crieff	-	5,996

Population 1999: 134,030

Pop density (Inhab/km2): 25

Highest Point: Schiehallion (3,553 ft)

Landward Area (km2): 5,311

Total Households: 56,300

Geographic Description

Perth and Kinross is geographically at the heart of Scotland. Perth and Kinross is a vast and varied area stretching over 5,311 sq km, encompassing the impressive scenic contrasts of both Highland and Lowland landscapes.

Main Industries

Significant changes during the past year have included Norwich Union's merging with CGU in Perth. Norwich Union has committed itself to Perth and intends developing its Customer Care support team by recruiting an additional 200/300 people. Scottish and Southern Energy continues to grow its share of the energy market and remains committed to its headquarters base in Perth. On the other hand existing businesses in tourism and agriculture have come under increasing pressure due to the effects of the Foot and Mouth crisis and worsening demand conditions.

According to one survey, "Perth has become the most profitable town in Scotland for companies to do business in". In a survey of 430 towns, involving 250,000 companies, Perth was revealed to be "the healthiest trading centre in Scotland, with local firms achieving an average profit level of 10.2 per cent last year, compared to 9.5 in 1999". On a UK basis Perth was ranked 34th but ahead of Edinburgh, Glasgow and Dundee.

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Councillor responsible for		
Environment	Cllr Willie Robertson	01738 475026

Current Environmental Issues

- ◆ Environmental Education
- ◆ Waste Management
- ◆ Tay Estuary (in Partnership with the Tay Estuary Forum)
- ◆ Biodiversity (with the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership)
- ◆ Litter and Dog Fouling

Current European Environmental Projects

Loch Leven Catchment Management Plan.

Sustainability Appraisal of the Perth and Kinross structure and development of associated indicators.

Travel Survey – a subsequent travel plan being produced for Perth and Kinross Council offices in Perth.

Developing programme and initiatives to promote environmental education.



FIFE COUNCIL

(Profile updated April 2003)

Fife Council, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes, KY7 5LT, Scotland.

Tel. +44 (0) 1592 414141

Fax: +44 (0) 1592 416300

Geographic Description

Fife is a peninsula on the east coast of Scotland, bounded to the north by the Firth of Tay, to the east by the North Sea, to the South by the Firth of Forth and to the west, generally, by the eastern slopes of the Ochil Hills. Fife has a mixed landscape with both extensive rural areas and areas which are more urban and industrial in character.

Main Industries:

Fife has both traditional industries such as paper manufacturing and mechanical engineering and industries such as electronics and instrument engineering. Considerable numbers of people are also employed in retail distribution, business services and public administration.

Major Towns:	Kirkcaldy (47,100) Dunfermline (42,500) Glenrothes (39,910)
Population 1998	348,900
Pop. density (Inhab/km2)	2.64
Length of Coastline	185 km
Highest Point:	West Lomond 522m
Landward Area (km2)	1,320

Current Environmental Issues

- Coastal erosion
- Loss of wetlands
- Water quality (sewage treatment and ferruginous discharges)
- Contaminated/derelict land
- Waste Recycling

Current European Environmental Projects

No Information supplied.

Topics which Council would consider to work in partnership with others

In addition to current environmental issues, the Council would be prepared to work in partnership on sustainable tourism/communities, biodiversity, biological recording and sustainability indicators.

Contacts

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Councillor responsible for Environment	Councillor William Kay
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CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL

(Updated profile May 2005)

Greenfield, Alloa, Scotland FK10 2AD

Tel: +44 (0)1259 450000

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<http://clacksweb/>

Geographic Description:

Clackmannanshire is Scotland's smallest County. The floral 'Hillfoots' villages, Alva, Tillycoutry and Dollar, are characterized by their tower houses, castles, woollen mills and beautiful parks, with the majestic and regionally significant Ochil Hills as a backdrop to the north. Cut through with deep glens, the Ochils offer many beautiful walks. One of the most popular is the climb to the summit of Dumyat, near Menstrie. At the other end of the range Dollar Glen is a romantic wooded valley through a narrow gorge. Perched about it is Castle Campbell, a 15th Century stronghold of the powerful Clan Campbell.

The Hillfoots are famous for changing weaving from a cottage industry to an industrial process, making the area the second most important weaving centre in Scotland. Dollar Museum picks up the thread of the story as it spins the tale of the village, while Menstrie Castle dates back to the 16th century. Even older, is the recently restored Alloa Tower, a 14th century tower house with its tremendous 11ft thick walls. Clackmannan boasts an even older tower, while Gartmorn Dam is the oldest man-made reservoir in Scotland. Today the Dam is a haven for wildlife, including thousands of wintering birds.

Main Industries:

Traditional industries such as woollen production, brewing, distilling and deep mining have gradually declined over the last 30 years. However, there has been recent success in attracting and developing new sources of employment particularly in tourism, retailing and in the service sector. A major regeneration programme is underway with the provision of first class Business Parks by a local partnership of the Council, Scottish Enterprise and Clackmannanshire Investments Limited.

Major Town	Alloa, pop. 13,000
Population	48,500
Landward Area (sq. km.)	160 sq km (smallest mainland Scottish local authority)
Length of coastline (km)	16 km (part of the Firth of Forth Estuary)
Highest point (m)	721 m (Ben Cleuch)

Current Environmental and Sustainability Issues:

Biodiversity	Green Belts
Sustainable Economic and Residential Growth	Recycling
Sustainable Transport	Responsible Countryside Access
Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation	

Contacts

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		Email	jgarry@clacks.gov.uk

Principal politician with environmental responsibilities -	Cllr Eddie Carrick
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EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL

(Profile updated 1999)

Council Buildings, Court Street, Haddington, East Lothian, EH41 3HAS

Tel. + 44 (0) 1620 827827
Fax: + 44 (0) 1620 827888

Major Towns: Musselburgh (18,649)
Haddington (8,844)

Population 1995 87,630
Pop Change (1991/95) +3.2%
Pop. density (Inhab/km²) 125.4
Area (km²) 699.3
Highest Point: Lammer Law 527 m
Length of Coastline: 69 km

Geographic Description

East Lothian comprises fertile coastal plain and low hills, extending from the former coal mining areas around Musselburgh in the west to beyond Dunbar in the east and from the coastline of the Firth of Forth to the Lammermuir Hills. Although Musselburgh is East Lothian's largest town, Haddington is its administrative centre.

Main Industries

East Lothian has undergone major structural change in its industrial base and traditional industries such as paper manufacturing and deep coal mining, formerly major employers, have now disappeared. The major employers today are electricity generation (coal and nuclear) mineral extraction (surface working includes coal, aggregate and limestone), cement production, biotechnology and tourism.

Contacts

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Landscape Officer	Archie Martin	44 (0) 1620 827396
Ecological Officer (and Biological Records)	Robin Holder	44 (0) 1620 827397
Coastal Officer	Robin Holder	44 (0) 1620 827397
Minerals Officer	Niall Urquhart	44 (0) 1620 827370
General Environmental Issues	Ian Glen	44 (0) 1620 827395

Councillor responsible for Environment	Councillor John Ross Councillor Tom Lawrie	
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Current Environmental Issues

- impact of opencast coal mining
- wind farm development
- upstream pollution of river estuaries
- protection and enhancement of woodland heritage
- landscape implications of major housing developments
- development of coastal recreation and interpretation facilities
- town centre improvements

Current European Environmental Projects

- town centre local and gateway environmental improvements
- coastal recreation and interpretation facilities (RECHAR funding)

The Council would be prepared to work in partnership with others on any of the above topics.

EAST OF SCOTLAND EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM

(Profile updated 1999)

ESEC is a co-operation between 9 county councils and 2 local authorities. Angus, City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Fife, Midlothian, Perth & Kinross and West Lothian are also a member of the NSC.

Representative: City of Edinburgh Council, 12 St. Giles Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1PT, Scotland

Tel. 44 (0) 13 14 69 38 25

Fax: 44 (0) 13 14 69 39 33

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Gordon Summers Tel. 44 (0) 1307 473056

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SCOTTISH ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY

(updated September 2005)

SEPA is the public body responsible for environmental protection in Scotland. Its main aim is to: "provide an efficient and integrated environmental protection system for Scotland that will both improve the environment and contribute to the Scottish Ministers' goal of sustainable development."

SEPA was established by the Environment Act 1995. It became operational on 1 April 1996. The Environment Act 1995 also sets out SEPA's powers and responsibilities.

In broad terms, SEPA regulates:

- activities that may pollute water
- activities that may pollute air
- storage, transport and disposal of waste
- keeping and disposal of radioactive materials.

Some of SEPA's other principal responsibilities include:

- maintaining a flood warning system
- implementing the National Waste Strategy
- controlling, with the Health and Safety Executive, the risk of major accidents at industrial sites
- operating the Scottish part of the Radioactive Incident Monitoring Network.

SEPA also works with many other organisations to help protect and improve the environment.

SEPA employs around 1200 staff in a wide range of occupations and specialisms. These include chemistry, ecology, environmental regulation, hydrology, communications, quality control, engineering, planning, business support and management functions. Staff are currently split between four directorates and three departments. These are located in a network of 22 offices, from Lerwick to Newton Stewart, and SEPA's Corporate Office in Stirling. For office locations and contact details please refer to www.sepa.org.uk

Preferred contact

Dr Campbell Gemmell
Chief Executive
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Erskine Court
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FK9 4TR

SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE

(Profile updated 1999)

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Current Environmental Issues

No Information supplied.

Current European Environmental Projects

No information supplied.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

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Current Environmental Issues

No information supplied

Current European Environmental Projects

No information supplied

ENGLAND

(Index Ref. 17-32)

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17-32.	No Entries
31. Norfolk	28
32. Suffolk	30

Environmental Competencies

At the national level, central government's policy and guidance on environmental matters is issued by the Department of Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) formed in June 2001. This department covers agriculture, the food industry and fisheries, environment, rural development, countryside, wildlife and sustainable development. The Department for Transport, Local Government and Regions (DTLR) covers transport, local government, housing, planning, regeneration, urban and regional policies whilst the Regional Development Agencies come under the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

In addition, on a national scale, there are a number of government agencies that are responsible for specific environmental matters:

The Environment Agency, Rio House, Waterside Drive, Aztec West, Almondsbury, Bristol, BS32 4UP is responsible for the regulation of land, air and water. It was created in April, 1996 and brought together the National Rivers Authority, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution, Waste Regulation Authorities and several units of the Department of the Environment, to provide a "comprehensive approach to the protection and management of the environment".

English Nature, Northminster House, Peterborough, PE1 1UE is the national body responsible for nature conservation. It advises central government and designates sites of international and national importance.

The Countryside Agency, John Dower House, Crescent Place, Cheltenham, GL50 3RA is the national body responsible for countryside conservation and recreation.

English Heritage, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 1AB is the national body responsible for the conservation of the built environment.

Each of the English Regions now has a non-elected Regional Assembly and a Regional Economic Development Strategy drawn up by its Board after consultation with a wide range of agencies.

There is no elected regional tier of government in England although there are groupings of voluntary regional groups and local authorities such as the North of England Assembly. Local government includes both two-tier and single-tier authority systems. The two-tier system includes County Councils and District Councils. The single-tier system consists of unitary authorities, which combine the responsibilities of County Councils and District Councils.

County Councils have a number of responsibilities which encompass environmental matters: strategic land use planning, waste planning and disposal and minerals planning; countryside access and management; and the local management of the archaeological and historic environment. **District Councils** are responsible for local land use planning and environmental health matters. County Councils, District Councils and unitary authorities all have responsibility for Countryside access and management and aspects of the local management of the archaeological and historic environment. They all have also been given the role of initiating and leading Local Agenda 21 in their areas and Biodiversity Action Plans.

There are also important non-governmental organisations that operate at the local level. **County Wildlife Trusts** play an important role in nature conservation through the collection of information, the management of certain sites and the implementation of nature conservation projects.

NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

(Profile updated September 2003)

County Hall, Norwich, NR1 2SG, England

Tel. +44(0) 1603 222762

Fax: +44(0) 1603 223219

www.norfolk.gov.uk

Geographic Description

Norfolk is the northern county of East Anglia on the eastern coast of England, made up of the most recent geological formations in the British Isles. It is low gentle countryside with its highest point at 101m and significant areas at or close to sea level. Its coasts face north east and west and are made up of saltmarshes, shingle banks and sand dunes or low eroding cliffs up to 30 metres high. The countryside contains a large number of areas of recognised national and international importance - the Broads National Park, the Broads and Brecks Environmentally Sensitive Areas, the Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, six Special Protection Areas (EU Wild Birds Directive), twelve candidate Special Areas of Conservation (EU Habitats Directive) and a large number of Sites of Special Scientific Interest and of Scheduled Ancient Monuments. It also has many other fine areas of marshlands, woodlands, heaths, historic parklands, archaeological remains and ancient churches, windmills and other historic buildings. Extensive arable farmlands cover much of Norfolk. Some are well endowed with hedgerows and trees of nature conservation, visual and historic interest, whilst other areas have lost many of these features in recent decades in the interests of efficient agriculture and are somewhat barren of both historical/cultural and biodiversity interest.

Main Industries

A number of the traditional industries of the county are based on agriculture, in the agricultural service and food processing sectors and on tourism. However, Norfolk's economy has diversified significantly in recent years in terms of both size of business and scope of activity. Many household food processing names and firms involved with food processing machinery engineering, pharmaceuticals, medical drugs and equipment, the southern North Sea gas industry servicing, insurance, specialist car manufacture and many small businesses are all represented in Norfolk.

Major towns:	Norwich	(196,300)	Great Yarmouth	(65,400)
	King's Lynn	(39,700)	Thetford	(20,700)
Population (mid 2000)	804,000			
Population Change (1991-2000)	44,000 (+6% in total)			
Pop. density	144 km ²			
Length of coastline:	154 km			
Landward Area	5,350 km ²			
Highest point	101 m			

Current Environmental Issues

- European Marine Site management
- Coastal zone management
- Water resources
- Woodland and heathland management
- Transportation in fragile environmental areas
- Conservation of historic buildings and archaeology
- Environmental Tourism
- Renewable energy – especially offshore wind, wave and tidal energy
- Coast defence/flood protection, especially in relation to EU habitat designations
- Protected landscape area management
- Loss and restoration of wetlands
- Landscape restoration and management
- Biodiversity
- Waste management
- Offshore dredging
- Agri-environment schemes

Current European Projects

- LIFE: part of a national programme for 'Relevant Authorities' to prepare management schemes for Marine Special Areas of Conservation in our case the Wash and North Norfolk Coast. The scheme of Management has now been prepared for this area, and implementation has commenced.
- Successful bid, with Drenthe (NL) as lead partner and Suffolk, for the Transnational Ecological Network project to enhance wetland management. A significant local partnership established below the international partnership to deliver this project..
- LEADER+: landscape enhancement projects being sought.

Topics which the Council would be prepared to work in partnership with others

Any of our current environmental issues.

Contacts

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Principal politician involved
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SUFFOLK

(Profile updated June 2002)

Suffolk County Council, Environment & Transport Department, St. Edmund House, Rope Walk, County Hall, Ipswich IP4 1LZ

Tel. + 44 1473 583172
Fax: + 44 1473 288221
email: jerry.hindle@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk

Major Towns:	Ipswich 117,530	Lowestoft 58,470
	Bury St. Edmunds 35,370	Felixstowe 24,580
Population (2000)	671,370	
Pop. Density (Inhab/km2)	177	
Land Area:	3,800 km2	
Length of coastline:	80 km	

Geographic Description

Suffolk is the most easterly county in the U.K., bounded by the North Sea and 120 km north of London. It is a predominantly rural county with extensive arable farming on rolling claylands. The north west of the county is covered by Breckland, an area of sandy lowland heaths and pine forest and a similar landscape is found backing the coast. This is low lying and broken by four estuaries but dominated by Orfordness, a 19 km shingle foreland and several wetland reserves of international importance for bird life.

Main Industries

Suffolk has traditional industries such as engineering, printing, food processing and brewing. Felixstowe is by far the largest U.K. container port and Newmarket is headquarters of the horse racing industry. Large numbers of people are also employed in insurance and public administration.

Contacts

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River Valley Management	Katherine Blake	+44 (0) 1473 583176 katherine.blake@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk
Planning & Transportation	Don Ayre	+44 (0) 1473 583145 don.ayre@et.suffolk.gov.uk

Current environmental issues

Coastal and estuary zone management, coast erosion, implications of climate change, biodiversity and in particular wetland, heathland and woodland management/recreation, agri/environment issues, water management, LA21 and local community involvement in environment management.

European Environmental Projects

Intereg IIC NSC - Integrated Coastal Zone Management - completed
NORCOAST.
REGENSEA

Transnational Ecological Network (TENS)

Completed Structural Fund Projects

Anglia WoodNet - Sustainable Woodland Management
Breckland 'Tracks in the Sand' - Heathland Access.
Heart of Suffolk - Sustainable Tourism.
Heart of Suffolk - Landscape Enhancement
Flyers to Friars - Promotion of small scale heritage sites

Current Projects

LIFE – Lifescapes
Tomorrow's Heathland Heritage

Topics on which the Council would be prepared to work in partnership with others

As indicated in "Current Environmental Issues" above and in addition landscape quality, environmental education, countryside management, sustainable tourism and recreation in particular with walking, cycling, sailing. Biodiversity plans, commercial shipping/environment management issues, Community empowerment.

BELGIUM

(Index Ref. 33-34)

33.	West - Vlaanderen	No Entry
34.	Oost-Vlaanderen	No Entry

NETHERLANDS

(Index Ref. 35 - 39)

36	Noord-Holland	31
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39.	Groningen	37

Environmental Competencies

The National Government has the main responsibility for the long-term vision on environmental matters. Its policy is written down in the National Environmental Policy Plan, which is the framework for provinces and municipalities. Additionally the National Government is primarily responsible for solving environmental problems at national and international level. The responsibility of the National government is delegated to different Ministries, with the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment as a co-ordinator.

The Netherlands is divided into **12 provinces**, each with its own Provincial Government. The provinces are responsible for the whole regional policy for spatial planning, nature, water and environment, which is described in several provincial policy plans. The three most important plans are the Provincial Environmental Policy Plan, The Provincial Water Policy Plan and The Provincial Spatial Planning Plan.

Each province is divided into several **municipalities** with local responsibilities for environmental matters like noise, transport and traffic. In addition, municipalities are responsible for other disciplines like spatial planning. They always have to operate in the framework of the policy of the provinces (and National Government). The policy of the municipalities is written down in "destination-plans" and is binding for the public.

In contrast with the National Government, the Provincial Government and Municipalities, the **Water Boards** (Water Management Agencies) have only functional responsibilities. They are directly linked to the Provincial Government and have to manage water quantity and quality problems.

PROVINCE OF NOORD-HOLLAND

(Profile updated May 2006)

Province of Noord-Holland, P.O. Box 123, 2000 MD Haarlem, The Netherlands

Tel: +31 23 514 31 43

Fax: +31 23 514 40 40

Geographic Description:

Noord-Holland ranks highly among the Dutch provinces, not only in terms of size and the number of inhabitants but also in terms of economic activity and growth. Noord-Holland is, however, not exclusively devoted to business. It provides a stimulating environment in which to live and relax, and offers an abundance of leisure opportunities. It is a region full of diversity with the less densely populated rural landscapes in the north contrasting with the urban areas to the south. Just one hour's drive to the north from the heavy steel industry concentrated around IJmuiden Sea Port, one can find the bulb fields. At the northern tip of the province, at Den Helder, lies a marine tourist centre that is being created on the site of a former military base. The province boasts 260 kilometres of coastline enjoyed by millions of people each year from all over Europe and further afield. Many visitors include a trip to the Gooi-en Vechtstreek nature reserve where the Hilversum Multi Media Park is also imaginatively located. The whole area is one of great beauty and interest. Much of Noord-Holland is, of course, below sea level and the land reclamation. Amsterdam is both the national capital and the largest city in the Netherlands, while Haarlem is the provincial capital of Noord-Holland and the seat of provincial government.

Main Industries:

Agriculture and fishery:	30,000 (2.26 %)
Industrial sector and building industry:	183,500 (13.81 %)
Business services:	710,100 (34.46%)
Non-commercial services:	404,800 (30.47%)
Total Employment:	1,328,400 persons
Registered Unemployment Rate:	4 %

Major City:	Amsterdam	739,295 inhabitants
Population 2005:		2,595,294
Pop. Change (2001-2004):		+1.4%
Pop. Density (2005):		972 (inhabitants/km ²)
Land Area:		2670 km ²
Length of Coastline:		260 km
Highest Point:	dune in Schoorl (municipality of Bergen);	56,02 m above mean sea level
Lowest Point:	Wijkertunnel (municipality of Velsen);	- 9,78 m below mean sea level

Current Environmental Issues:

- Improvement of the quality of water, soil and air;
- Waste management;
- Effects of climate change and the sea level rise;
- Effects of land subsidence, coastal erosion;
- Peat restoration;
- Restoration of an ecological main structure;
- Sustainable agriculture;
- Sustainable tourism;
- Energy.

Current European Environmental Projects
EU Life

Contacts

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Ms Coby Riensema

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Ms Bregje van Beekvelt
Ms Saskia Pasma

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Waste-recycling and -prevention officer (not a competence of the Province of Noord-Holland)
European Officer

Ms.Simone Melis

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Responsible Councillors for relevant Environmental subjects:

f Environment/Nature:	Albert Moens
f Water/Sea Defence/Landscape:	Patrick Poelmann
f Economic/Recreation/Tourism/Agriculture:	Hans Schipper
f Spatial Planning:	Ton Hooijmaijers
f Transport/Port Development:	Cornelis Mooij
f European Affairs:	Rinske Kruisinga



PROVINCE OF FRYSLAN

Postbus 20120, 8900 HM Leeuwarden, The Netherlands

Tel: +31 58 292 5925 Fax: +31 58 292 51755

Email: www.fryslan.nl www.fry

Description

Fryslân is part of the north of the Netherlands. The main land is bounded to the north by the Wadden Sea, to the west by the Lake IJssel and to the east by the province of Groningen. The province incorporates four Wadden Sea islands which are bounded to the North Sea. Fryslân has a mostly rural landscape dominated by grasslands and is characterised by large amounts of water in lakes and canals.

Major City:	Leeuwarden (91.281
Inhabitants.) Population 2001:	630.539
Pop. Change (1991-2001):	+5%
Pop. density (2002):	189 (Inhab/km ²)
Total Area:	5,741 km ²
Land Area:	3,358 km ²
Length of Coastline:	104 km (Islands included: 348 km)
Highest Point:	Vuurtorenduin (Dune on Vlieland); 45 m above mean sea level
Lowest Point:	Workum; 3.2 m below mean sea level

Main Industries

Public Service Sector	25%	Industrial Sector	18%
Trade Building	14%	Building Industry	9%
Business Services	9%	Agriculture and Fishery	8% (mainly cattle breeding)
Total Employment	217.489 persons (ie jobs of more than 15 hours a week)		
Registered Unemployment Rate	8.3%		

Current Environmental Issues

- Improvement of the quality of water, soil and air;
- Sewerage / individual sewage treatment;
- Waste management;
- Effects of Climate Change and the Sea Level Rise;
- Effects of Land Subsidence;
- Bog restoration;
- Restoration of an Ecological Main Structure
- Strategy for sustainable development.

Current European Environmental Projects

- Water City International-II (Leeuwarden, Göteborg, Norwich, Emden, Sneek, Malmö, Göteborg, Odense and Stockton-on-Tees);
- LNOLIMP: (Fryslan, Nordjylland, Aberdeenshire, Vastra Gotaland)
MOPARK: Mobility and National Parks (various partners)
- Flows, Flood Plain Land Use Optimising Workable Sustainability (various partners)

Contacts

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PROVINCIE DRENTHÉ

(Profile updated April 2003)

Provincie Drenthe, Postbus 122, 9400 AC ASSEN, The Netherlands

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Geographic Description

Drenthe is the smallest of the three northern Dutch provinces. This province is bounded to the north by the province of Groningen, to the west by the province of Fryslân, to the south by the province of Overijssel and to the east by Germany.

Drenthe has a high sand - plateau in the middle, surrounded old peat - areas. Diagonally, from the northwest to the southeast, the sand - plateau is bordered by a line of low hills (the Hondsrug). Drenthe is known in the Netherlands as the province of ancient burial sites, varied scenery, campsites, bicycle and bridlepaths, small museums and other tourist attractions. The province is also well equipped with residential areas merging with the landscape rather than replacing it, industrial estates with an excellent infrastructure, as well as regional - orientated schools, shopping centres, hospitals and other modern facilities. Since January 1st 1998 Drenthe has 12 municipalities (to replace the 34 up till then).

Major City:	Assen (60,000 inhabitants)
Population 2000	470,000
Pop Change (1996-2000)	+ 2.7% growth
Pop. density (Inhab/km2)	175
Land Area (km2)	2,652
Highest point	South east Drenthe >25 metres above mean sea level
Lowest point	South west and North Drenthe < 0 metres mean sea level

Main Industries

Public service sector 26%

Industrial sector 25%

Trade 16%

Building 10%

Business service 15%

Agriculture 8%

Total employment 148,400 jobs (ie. Jobs of more than 12 hours a week).

Employment rate 65%

Registered unemployment rate 4.8%

Current Environmental Issues

- Sustainable development (strategic).
- Sustainable industrial areas.
- Sustainable housing and regeneration.
- Water, soil and earth quality improvement.
- Sewerage / individual sewerage treatment.
- Waste management.
- Restoration ecological main structure.
- Sustainable agriculture.
- Energy.

Current European Environmental Projects

- Restoration ecological main structure (NHI).
- Waste management (NHI).
- Oude Diep / Rheider land (EU Life project).
- Development of tools for sustainable planning (Interreg IIC).

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Provincie Groningen

(Profile updated September 2003)

Postbus 610, 9700 AP Groningen, The Netherlands

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Fax: +31 50 313 8193

Geographic Description:

Groningen is part of the north of The Netherlands. The province is bounded to the north by the Wadden Sea, to the west by the Province of Fryslân, to the south by the Province of Drenthe, to the east by Germany. Groningen is characterised by a rural landscape dominated by arable land. Groningen has the largest natural gas field in the world. The city of Groningen is a university city.

Main industries (2001):

Industrial sector (important: metal, chemical, agro)	18,3%
Public Service	33,6 %
Government	7,1 %
Education	8,3 %
Health and welfare	15,1 %
Others	3,1 %
Trade	12,9 %
HoReCa	2,4 %
Building	6,9 %
Business Service	12,5 %
Financial Institutions	2,8 %
Transport and Communication	6,0 %
Agriculture and fisheries	4,6 %
Total employment:	205.045 persons
(i.e. jobs of 15 hours or more per week)	
Registered unemployment rate (2001):	4,1 %

Major city (1-1-2002):	Groningen	(176.000)
Population (1-1-2002):		570.000
Pop.change (1990-2002):		3.0 %
Pop.density (Inhab/ km2):		243
Total area (km2):		2.967
Land area (km2):		2.347
Length of coastline (km):		100
Highest point:		12 m above mean sea level (Ter Apel)
Lowest point:		3 m below mean sea level (Slochteren)

Current Environmental Issues:

- * Water -, soil - and air - quality improvement
- * Landfill management/ Soil Policy Plan/Life Cycle Management of Soils
- * Land subsidence effects
- * Restoration ecological main structure
- * For more information (in Dutch language):

http://www.prvgron.nl/ Projecten/ popnet/ pop_pages/ inhoud_balans.nl

Current European Environmental Projects:

- * The Wadden Sea Project/Eems - Dollard Estuary
- * Development Transnational ecological main structure (N.H.I.)
- * Waste management (N.H.I.)

Contacts

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GERMANY

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DENMARK

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Environmental Competencies

The county responsibilities include among others: supervising environmental conditions in surface waters, setting up standards for sewage discharge, water resource management, supervision and regulation regarding polluting industries, introducing cleaner technology in the industrial sector, cleaning up after ground contamination, nature restoration projects, management of protected areas, regulation of extraction of raw materials, spatial planning, coastal protection and flood defence.

Monitoring of pollution sources is to a large extent based on a system of self-regulation carried out by the municipal councils and industry. To a lesser extent, the County supplements this system with actual inspections. Supervision of aquatic areas is the sole responsibility of the County. Following an established programme the entire aquatic network is examined for actual pollution and the status of the whole County is reviewed every 4 years.

The inlets and the coastal parts of the North Sea are examined annually in accordance with an established programme in which water chemistry, flora and fauna and the sediment are included.



SOENDERJYLLAND

(Profile update September 2003)

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Tel. +45 7433 5050

Fax: +45 7433 5151

www.sja.dk

Geographic Description

Sønderjylland is to the south bounded by Germany and to the north by the counties of Ribe and Vejle. The western part of the county is flat and bounded by the Wadden Sea. The eastern part is more hilly. This part of the county was shaped during the last glacial period. 72% of the county is rural areas and 7% is covered by forests.

Main Industries

Public service sector:	29%,	Industrial Sector:	28%
Trade and Finance:	21%,	Private Service Sector:	13%,
Agriculture and Fisheries:	8%,		
All together	130,000 people employed.	Unemployment Rate:	5,3%.

Major city of area:	Sønderborg	27,000
Population (2003)		253,116
Pop. change (1996-2003)		+0,21%
Pop. density (Inhab/km ²)		64
Landward area (km ²)		3,938
Length of coastline:		567 km
Highest point (Skamling):		113 m

Current Environmental Issues:

- Restoration of River and Flood Plains
- Bog Restoration
- Heath and Moor Restoration
- Information and interpretation (nature, landscape)
- Ground Water Protection
- Ground Contamination (cleaning up)
- Green Network (industry)
- Implementation of the Water Framework Directive
- Bringing e-information on environmental matters to the public

Current European Environmental Projects:

- The Wadden Sea Project (D, NL, DK)
- Monitoring of Flensborg Fjord (D, DK)
- Restoration of the Danish/German Krusaa tunnel-valley (D, DK)
- Common Danish/German operation of the restored Froeslev/Jardelund Moor (D, DK)
- Common Danish/German administration of the common population of the red deer (D, DK)
- Mapping of the Ribe Groundwater formation (D, DK)
- Satellite-based Information System on Coastal Areas and Lakes (SISCAL-Project), (F, D, N, IL, DK)

Topics of interest for future Projects:

- Subjects connected to "Current Environmental Issues".

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Jens Andresen

RIBE

(Profile updated 1999)

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Tel. +45 75 42 42 00
Fax: +45 75 42 49 11

Major city: Esbjerg 82,905
Population (1996) 223,097
Pop. density (inhab/ km2) 71
Landward area (km2) 3.131
Highest point (Vittrup Bavn) 101m

Geographical Description

Ribe County is to the south bounded by Sønderjylland county and to the east and north to Vejle and Ringkøbing counties. The western part of the county is flat and bounded by the Wadden Sea. Two islands, Fanø and Mandø are placed between the Wadden Sea and the North Sea. The eastern part is more hilly. The county was shaped during the two last glacial periods. 64% of the county is rural areas and 10% is covered by forests.

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Jens Lauridsen

Current Environmental Issues:

- Restoration of Rivers
- Bog Restoration
- Information and Interpretation (nature, landscape)
- Ground Water Protection
- Ground Contamination (cleaning up)
- Green Network (industri)

Current European Environmental Projects

The Wadden Sea Project (D, NL)



RINGKJØEBING

(Profile updated May 2006)

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Geographical Description

Ringkjøbing County is one of Denmark's 14 counties. The County comprises 18 municipalities and covers 4,853 sq.km, which equates to about 11% of the total territory of Denmark.

Ringkjøbing County is situated along the North Sea with a 100 km coastline. To the north, the county border generally follows the coastline of Limfjorden. To the east, the county extends to the Jutland ridge by the county of Vejle, Viborg and Aarhus, and to the south, to the limit of Ringkjøbing Fjord by the county of Ribe. The county is characterised by a very flat landscape consisting of 66% of agricultural areas and 25% of areas covered in forest and heath.

Main Industries

The dominant sectors in Ringkjøbing County are agriculture and industry. The public and private services are not as well represented, except for tourism activities such as hotels and restaurants. Within the industrial sector, the production of textiles and clothing is absolutely the most predominant industry. Nearly 40% of all Danish jobs in textile and clothing production are located in the County of Ringkjøbing.

Textile and clothing industry 31%

Iron and metal industry 29%

Food Industry 14%

Wood and furniture industry 13%

Other Industries 11%

Green City Denmark A/S

Ringkjøbing County is one among approximately two hundred shareholders in the Organization Green City Denmark. The object of Green City Denmark A/S is the marketing of the Danish environmental technology and know-how. The organization has appointed the municipalities of Videbæk, Herning, Ikast and Silkeborg to a kind of national "show window" for the Danish environmental industry and the Danish knowhow. Together with the County of Ringkjøbing and Aarhus and the municipality of Aarhus, these form the so-called Green Belt, which are appointed to a wider hinterland for the different activities in the Green City organisation. The marketing of the Danish environmental technology and know-how takes place via a database. The database includes plants of references in the fields of: water/ waste water, waste/recycling, energy supply, cleaner technology in the industry, urban ecology, traffic/transport and agriculture/ food production. As a parallel to this, the organisation frequently arranges visits to foreign delegations to the Danish plants of references, industries and the public authorities etc.

Major cities of area:	Holstebro	(41,000)
	Herning	(60,000)
Population	275,000	(about 5% of Danish population)
Landward area (km ²)	4,853	(about 11% of Danish area)
Length of coastline:	200 km	(about 6,500 km watercourses)

Current environmental issues:

- %% The preparation of a “scoresystem” for supervision of the large amounts of chemicals which are discharged from the textile and clothing industry.
- %% Active measures in watercourses (e.g. fauna passages and ochre control)
- %% Biomanipulation in freshwater lakes.

Previous experience from international projects

- %% Aquatic environment planning in Green

Topics in which the county would be prepared to work in partnership with other:

- %% Integrated coastal zone management
- %% Water resource management
- %% Active measures in watercourses (e.g. fauna passages and ochre control)
- %% Biomanipulation in freshwater lakes
- %% Supervision/monitoring and evaluation of quality of surface waters

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VIBORG

(Profile updated April 2003)

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Geographic Description

Viborg County is situated in the north western part of Jutland bordering to the North Sea. The largest Danish inlet, The Limfjord is stretched out through the county.

County Responsibilities regarding environment and nature

Approximately 100 persons are dealing with nature and environmental protection and spatial planning. The county responsibilities include among others : supervision of the environmental condition in the waters of the count, inspection and regulation of sewage treatment plants, management of water resources, supervision and regulation of polluting industries, cleaning up after round contamination, nature restoration projects, management of protected areas, regulation of raw materials, spatial planning and coastal planning.

Major City of Area Viborg (30,000)

Population 232,000

Pop. Change (1990-97) +0.1%

Pop. Denisty (Inhab/Km2) 56

Landward Area (km2) 4,122

Main Industries

Public Service Sector 31% Industrial Sector: 33% Trade and Finance 7%;

Private ServiceSector 15% Agriculture & Fisheries 10% Unemployment Rate 5.4%

All together 120,000 people employed

Current Environmental Issues

Preparation of a plan for the management of fishing in the Limfjord (incl. mussel dredging).

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NORDJYLLAND / NORTH JUTLAND

(Profile updated June 2005)

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Geographic Description

North Jutland is the northernmost tip of Denmark, bounded to the south by the county of Viborg and the county of Aarhus. North Jutland is the largest of the 14 Danish counties. Centuries ago, most of North Jutland rose up from the sea as the enormous ice masses of the last Ice Age disappeared. 60% of the county is intensive rural areas, 8% forests and 14% designated areas. The west coast towards the North Sea is one 130 km long sandy beach with sand dunes.

Major city: Aalborg
Population (2004) 495,669
Pop. density (Inhab/km²) 80
Area (km²) 6,200
Length of coastline: 630 km
Highest point 116 m

Main industries

Service Sector: 44%, Industrial Sector (e.g. electronic): 19%, Trade 18%
Finance: 2% Agriculture and Fisheries: 6%

All together 245,000 people employed, (8% unemployed)

Tourism plays an important role in North Jutland, mainly because of the west coast beaches.

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SWEDEN

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Environmental Competencies

In Sweden this is a split up between several organisations.

The state has the over-riding responsibility in environmental matters, on the national level represented by the Swedish Environment Protection Agency. The County Administrative Board is the regional representative of the state. Among other things it issues permits and conditions for major environmentally hazardous activities and controls that these are complied with. It also administers nature reserves and other protected areas.

The County Council is responsible for the environmental impact of its own activities, predominantly hospitals and other health care institutions. It can also act as an initiator of environmental measures together with other actors in the region.

The municipalities have, within their geographical area, a wide responsibility for environmental matters. They handle permits and control of minor environmentally hazardous activities. They are also responsible for the Local Agenda 21 activities.

It is the municipalities' responsibility to plan the use of land and water. The participation of the public plays a major role in the Swedish planning process. Each municipality is required to draw up a comprehensive plan that includes guidelines for the use of both land and water out to the territorial boundary. Contrary to other European countries the comprehensive plan is not legally binding to either authorities or individuals, but it gives guidelines for decision-making in accordance with the National Resources Act (NRA). The comprehensive plan is followed up with legally binding details plans or area regulations.

VÄSTRA GÖTALAND REGION

(Profile updated July 2001)

Västra Götaland Region, Environmental secretariat, Regionens Hus, Box 1726, SE-501 17 Borås, Sweden.

Tel. +46 33 17 48 10

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Major City of Area: Göteborg

Population (1999): 1,488,709

Pop Change (1991-98): +2,8%

Population density (inhab/sq.km) 62,2

Area (km²): 23,945

Unemployment (1996) 7 %

Geographic Description

Västra Götaland is a large region comprising many different types of landscape: a rocky coastline, fragmented agricultural landscape with forests and many lakes in the north and south, vast agricultural flatlands in the centre and the exceptionally large lakes Vänern and Vättern. The south west, with the cities of Göteborg, Borås, Uddevalla, Trollhättan and Vänersborg, is densely populated and industrialised, while the north and east are sparsely populated and predominantly rural.

Main Industries

Among industries car manufacturing (with suppliers), petro-chemical industries and food processing are notable. Agriculture is both small scale and large scale and fisheries still plays a rather important role.

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Current Environmental Issues

Main environmental problems in the region are acidification of ground and fresh waters and eutrophication and pollution of the sea. In the urban areas road transport causes pollution as well as noise problems.

Previous Experience from International Projects

- Forum Skagerrak, Interreg II e project.
- Introduction of Eco-management systems in public authorities.
- LIFE; Eutrophication of shallow coastal waters; removal of green algae.

National Projects

- Production of educational material for environmental measures at workplaces in the health care sector.
- Introduction of ecological agricultural methods at our Upper Secondary School of land use.
- Promotion of ecologically and locally produced food.
- Promotion of renewable vehicle fuel, biogas.

Topics which the region would be prepared to work in partnership with others

Pilot projects and exchange of experience in the field of sustainable development.

NORWAY

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Environmental Competencies

In Norway this is split between three levels; the national level, the regional/county level and the municipality level.

The state has the over-riding responsibility in environmental matters, on the nation level represented by three different directorates:

- Direcktoratet for naturforvaltning; Directorate for Nature Management
- Statens forurensningstilsyn; The State Pollution Control Authority
- Riksantikvaren, the Directorate for Cultural Heritage
-

These directorates are at the national level responsible for several environmental legislation but have also given the state regional level represented by Fylkesmannen (The County Governor) a responsibility for legal control of the different Acts.

Fylkesmannen has an Environmental Protection Department and the department's main tasks are

- Legislation Control of Environmental Acts
- Nature and Wildlife Conservation
- Pollution Control, Sewer and Waste

The County Councils are responsible for spatial and area planning in their regions and have also a responsibility for guiding the municipalities in their area planning under the Planning and Building Act. Furthermore, the County Council has responsibility for the environmental impact of its own activity, predominantly hospitals and schools (for those between 16-19). The County Councils can also act as an initiator or as a partner of environmental measures together with other actors in the region.

The municipalities have within their geographical area a wide responsibility for environmental matters. They handle permits and control a wide range of local problems. They are also responsible for Local Agenda 21 activities.

AKERSHUS COUNTY COUNCIL

(Profile updated April 2003)

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Geographic Description

Akershus County surrounds Oslo and constitutes a common job market with the capital.

Main Industries

No other region in Norway has the same variation in industry in terms of size and breadth, where there is interaction between industry, finance, research and development, education, the service industry and the public sector.

Agricultural land is a main natural resource in the region. Akershus is the largest corn-growing county in Norway. Service industries are the main overall key sector.

Major Towns	Oslo
Population	460,000
Pop. Change	1.2%
Pop. Density (Inhab/Km2)	91.5
Area (km2)	4,917

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VESTFOLD FYLKESKOMMUNE -VESTFOLD COUNTY MUNICIPALITY

(Profile updated May 2002)

Tel. +47 33 34 40 71
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Major Towns Tønsberg
Sandefjord
Larvik
Horten
Population: 216 456
Area 2.216 km²

Geographic Description

Vestfold is a small county. The landscape consists of four parts. The coastal areas have not only numerous islands, peninsulas and fjords but also the major towns with most people. The Vestfold moraine is an ice-formed formation and stretches as a cohesive gravel ridge from the north to the south-west. Behind the big moraine there is a rural landscape with vigour valleys with forests of beech, oak, spruce and pine, flat farming areas with small townships. The big valley, Lägendalen, is covered with woods in the mountain side, on the bottom of the valley; fields, meadows and one of Norway's best salmon rivers.

Vestfold is an important county for holidays and recreation. The summer climate is perfect for recreation. On the coastline there is a lot of places suitable for camping and swimming, summer houses and hotels.

Habitation in Vestfold has a long history. Rich historic discoveries as a number of graves and stone settings tell the story about old settlements. Today Vestfold is a popular living area. The population density varies from eight persons per sq. km. in the municipality of Lardal to 337 in Borre. By comparison the population density in the Netherlands is about 350.

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Geographical Information Systems	Trine Flagstad	+ 47 33 37 41 19

Current Environmental Issues

- County plan for integrated area use and transport system
- Coastal zone management
- County plan for cultural Heritage, preservation and management
- Agenda 21 both on a local and regional level

TELEMARK COUNTY COUNCIL



TELEMARK
FYLKES-
KOMMUNE

Fylkeshuset, N-3706 Skien. Norway
(updated September 2003)

Tel. +47 35 58 42 00

Fax +47 35 52 90 44

Website: www.telemark-fk.no

Major Towns:	Skien	50,272 population
	Porsgrunn	33,202
	Notodden	12,402
	Kragero	10,559
Population (2003)		165,855
Area:		15,315 km ²
Length of coastline		1054km

Geographic Description

Telemark is often called Norway in miniature. South Telemark has a rock coastline, further north and west you come into the inland with agriculture landscape and forests and in the north and western part of Telemark you have the mountain area. Telemark is most densely populated in the coastal area and more sparsely populated and predominantly rural in the middle and northern part of the country.

Main Industries

The main industry is located around the towns Skien and Porsgrunn in the region called Grenland. Grenland is known for its processing and petrochemical industry. Grenland also have one of the largest harbours in Norway.

Tourism is an important industry in Telemark. Modern skiing originated from Telemark so winter tourism and skiing is important for the mountain areas in the northern and middle part of the country. Summer tourism is important by the coast and by the lakes in the middle part of Telemark.

Current Environmental Issues

- Coastal zone management; developing guidelines for the use and protection of the coastal zone. The coastal zone in Telemark is under a strong pressure for building summerhouses on one hand and trying to preserve areas for recreation on the other hand.
- Wilderness areas; development guidelines for the use and protection of the wilderness areas.
- Sustainable area - and transport planning.
- Cultural Heritage.

Participation in Current Interreg IIIB projects

- Water City International II
- Forum Skagerrak II
- Canal Links
- Mobility in National Parks

Contacts

Senior Advisor
on Environmental Issues

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Archaeology &
Cultural History
The County Governors Office
Environmental Protection
Nature Management
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Other Officers

Bjørn Reisz,
Torstein Fjeld,

Head of International Division
Area and Transport Planning



AUST-AGDER COUNTY COUNCIL

(Profile updated September 2003)

Fylkeshuset, Ragnvald Blakstads vei 1, N4809 Arendal, Norway

Tel. +47 37017300

Fax +47 37017303

Internet homepages <http://www.aust.agderkomm.no>

Geographic Description

Aust-Agder County comprises 15 local municipalities. The county has a diversity of natural habitats. The coastline is mainly rocky but interrupted by sand dune beaches and moraine beaches shores. Aust-Agder's scenic archipelago is an asset for both recreation and tourism. The inland consists mainly of forest hills and mountains (up to 1.507 m.a.s.l.) and is cut by the 200 km long Setesdal valley.

Main Industries

- Public and private admin and services 42%
- Manufacturing 20%
- Trade and Tourism 17%
- Transport 7%
- Private Services 6%
- Building and Construction 7%
- Fishing/ Agriculture 2%

The major portion of manufacturing is related to the production of fabricated metal products. There is also a substantial production of wooden material for construction and furniture. The majority of pleasure boats produced in Norway come from Aust-Agder. The electronic industry creates a high tech environment of international format.

Major Towns	Arendal	40,000	Grimstad	18,000
Population		101,000		
Pop. Change		+0.4% p.a.		
Pop Density (Inhab/km ²)		11		
Area:		9,212 km ²		

Current Environmental Issues

- Integrated Coastal Zone Management
- Nature Conservation
- Renewable energy from wood and woodlands
- Acidification of Lakes and Rivers
- Agenda 21

Topics to work in partnership with others

Integrated Coastal Zone Management

Long distance transported pollution (acid rain, radioactivity)

Contacts

Environmental Matters	Sverre Fosse	Tel +47 3701 7345 Fax: +47 3701 7313
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Coastal Zone Management	Kristin Johansen Floystad	Tel +47 3701 7347 Fax: +47 3701 7365
Senior Planning Officer (Physical Planning)	Ketil Castberg	Tel +47 3701 7346 Fax: +47 3701 7365
Senior Planning Officer (Regional Planning)	Stein Eliassen	Tel +47 3701 7348 Fax: +47 3701 7313
Senior Planning Officer (Agenda 21)	Øivind Hugsted	Tel +47 3701 7311 Fax: +47 3701 7313

VEST-AGDER FYLKESKOMMUNE - VEST-AGDER COUNTY COUNCIL

(Profile updated 1999)

Tel. 47 38074500
Fax 47 38074504

Population 154,000
Major Town Kristiansand

Geographic Description

Vest-Agder Fylkeskommune (County) is the south county in Norway.

The county has a long and rocky coastline in the south, fragmented agriculture and hills in the middle and mountains in the north.

Most of the population is around the cities in the south which are all sea-related in location.

Main Industries

Vest-Agder has a great number of export industries such as offshore industries, fishing and fish agricultures and petro chemical industries. Kristiansand as the port and main connection to Europe is the second largest harbour in Norway.

Contact

Leif Storsve	Tel	+47 38 074500
	Fax	+47 38 074504
	email:	leif.storsve@vest-agder-fkommune.no

Current Environmental Issues

- Acid pollution of ground and water
- Transport pollution and noise in Kristiansand.



ROGALAND COUNTY COUNCIL

(Profile updated May 2006)

P.O. BOX 130, N-4001 STAVANGER
Tel +47 51 51 66 00 (0730 - 1530)
Fax +47 51 51 66 74

Geographic description

Rogaland is characterised by large variations in topography from region to region. From the west and south of the county to the north east the landscape rises to approximately 1600 metres. Dalane region in the south of Rogaland is characterised by a rolling hill and valley landscape. The mountain areas here are between 600 and 800 metres above sea level. The coast of Jæren is characterised by gradually sloping sand and pebble beaches unprotected by skerries. Within the Jæren region there is a clear divide between the flat coastal area and the rolling hill areas to the east. (400-500 m).

The landscape is dominated by granite basement rocks, with the exception of Dalane which is dominated by anorthosite. In the north eastern part of the county there are two clear divisions of the fjord and valley systems one northeast-southwest and the other north-south. The valleys are mainly formed by the glaciers, some steep valleys and small canyons are eroded by rivers. In Ryfylke the valleys and fjords are steep and rise to over 1000 metres. The fjords of Ryfylke are branches of Boknfjord, an open fjordbasin. The Boknfjord is deepest along its northern edge. Both Vindafjord and Nedstrandsfjord are just over 700 m deep. The islands of the fjord basin are less than 300 m above sea level with the exception of the island of Ombo. Karmøy and Haugesund peninsula (Nord Rogaland) is also mostly hilly divided by fjords and sounds, but the region also has relatively flat areas. The terrain rarely reaches more than 300 metres. The topographical division with Ryfylke follows the Skjoldafjord.

Major cities/towns:	Stavanger	population	115,157	(01.01.06)
	Sandnes	population	58,947	(01.01.06)
	Haugesund	population	31,738	(01.01.06)

Population of the area:	397,594	(01.01.06)
Population change:	1% average	(1998-2005)
Length of coast: Land	1,259km	
Islands	1,085	km
Highest point:	Vassdalseggen	1659 m
Landward Area:	8,736	km ²
Inland Water:	589	km ²

Employment by Sector /

Employment by Sector (2004):

Fishing, Agriculture	8,552 (4%)
Manufacturing	39,572 (21%)
Building, electricity supply	14,417 (8%)
Retailing, hotels, restaurants, transport	44,379 (23%)
Private and financial services	33,733 (17%)
Public services	51,262 (25%)
Total	191,915

Current Environmental and Sustainability Issues:

Coastal Zone Planning
Integrated Area and Transportation Planning
Watershed Management
Waste Management Planning
Recreation Planning
Wind Energy Planning
Cycle Route and Cycle Tourism Development

Current European Projects:

Cycling On	North sea Trail
Northern Maritime Corridor (NMC)	Safety@Sea
KNOT (kultur, naturog turisme - culture nature and tourism)	

Potential Partnership Projects:

None at present.

Contacts:

The principal officer for NSC

Environmental matters:	Mr. Per Frøyland Pallesen	pfp@rogfk.no
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Other officers and their environmental responsibilities:

Energy	Mr. Kjell Ove Hauge	koh@rogfk.no
Transportation	Mr Odd Magne Soerfossmo	oms@rogfk.no
HiTrans	Mr Hans Magnar Lien	hml@rogfk.no
Coastal Zone & Transportation	Mr Olav Andreas Sagen	oasa@rogfk.no
NMC	Ms Anne Solheim	ans@rogfk.no
Cycling, Recreation	Ms. Eli Viten	evi@rogfk.no
Watershed & Waste Mgt.	Mr Bernt Ostnør	beos@rogfk.no

The principal politician with environmental responsibilities:

Mr. Jon Arne Silgjerd	jona@nautic.no
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HORDALAND FYLKESKOMMUNE

(Profile updated April 2003)

Hordaland fylkeskommune, Postboks 7900, N- 5020 BERGEN

Tel. +47 55 23 90 00

Fax +47 55 23 90 01

Geographic Description

To the west Hordaland is characterized by a rugged coastline with numerous islands, bays and skerries. The middle of the county is dominated by the 179 km long Hardanger Fjord, and to the east the mountain plateau Hardangervidda makes one of Norway's largest national parks.

Main Industries

The city of Bergen is situated on the west coast. The Greater Bergen area has about 2/3 of the county's population. Bergen is an important centre for shipping, finance, culture and education. In the coastal communities, light manufacturing, shipbuilding and construction of oil platforms, fishing and aquaculture are the more important industries. Agriculture is important in the inland community of Voss and a number of other communities around the county. The fruit farming of the Hardanger community Ullensvang is of national importance. Hordaland is a major norwegian producer of hydro- electric power.

In a number of communities, of which Odda is the largest, chemical or textile manufacturing based on hydro- electric power is important. Bergen and Hardanger are important tourist destinations on a national level.

Major Cities/Towns	Bergen, (236,000)
	Stord, (16,500)
	Odda, (7,500)

Population (2002)	442,000
Pop. change (1995 - 2002):	0.8 %per year
Pop. density (inhab.s/ sq. km.)	28
Length of coastline (km)	5423 (incl. islands)
Highest point (m)	1839
Landward Area (sq. km.)	15634
Inland Water (sq.km.)	672

Employment by sector (2001):

Fishing, agriculture:	5,000 (3 %)
Manufacturing:	32,700 (17 %)
Building, electricity supply:	15,800 (8 %)
Retail trade, hotels, restaurants, transport:	46,200 (23 %)
Private and financial services:	40,700 (21 %)
Public services:	57,200 (29 %)

Current Environmental and Sustainability Issues

Developing sustainability tools for the Greater Bergen region.

Local Agenda 21

Plan for energy - use and production

Plan for Wind power - use and production

Contacts

Principal officer for
NSC Environmental
matters

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Other officers and their environmental responsibilities -

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Ms. Anne- Gro Ullaland
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Coastal zone planning,
Geographical information
systems;

Mr. Inge Døskeland
Email: inge.doskeland@hordaland-f.kommune.no

Principal politician with
Environmental
responsibilities

Ms. Bente Bonhus

SOGN OG FJORDANE FYLKESKOMMUNE / SOGN OG FJORDANE COUNTY COUNCIL

(Profile updated 2002)

Fylkeshuset, Askedalen 2, N-6863 Leikanger. Norway

Tel.	+ 47 57 65 61 00
Fax	+ 47 57 65 61 01
Major Towns:	Flora (11.000)
	Førde (10.000)
	Måløy (6.000)
Population:	107.000
Area:	18.634 km ²

Geographic Description

The fjords (Sognefjorden – the longest fjord – 205 km), the glaciers (Jostedalbreen - the largest glacier in northern Europe), the mountains and the coastal landscape; - Sogn og Fjordane is a unique source for really discovering the rich contrast in nature, a “cornocopia” that never runs empty.

This bountiful source also creates an important foundation for the businesses in the county, such as industry needing a lot of power, animal farming, fruit growing, fishing, agriculture and the oil industry.

Main Industries

Important industries in Sogn og Fjordane includes:

- Energy and industrial production linked to hydroelectric power
- Traditional fishing, agriculture, fish processing and export
- Maritime activities linked to shipbuilding industry

Sogn og Fjordane is a beautiful county where modern technology has made its impact. The world's longest tunnel from Lærdal to Aurland opened in 2000. Måløy is the second largest landing port for fish in Norway. Many people are employed in the municipal and state sectors. Agriculture is the single most important employment sector, but employment here is decreasing. Various schemes directed towards travel and tourism are aimed towards giving farming a few more legs to stand on, particularly since travel industry is very likely to grow in the years to come.

Only 2,5 % of the population of Norway live in Sogn og Fjordane, but the region represents a far higher percentage in terms of the quantity of food production. The county has a higher income from exports than elsewhere in the country and adds considerable wealth to Norway.

Contacts

Principal officer for NSC Environmental matters	Ms. Liv Janne Kvåle	Tel: + 47 57 65 62 42 Fax: + 47 57 65 61 01 liv.janne.kvale@sf-f.kommune.no
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Other Officers

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Principal officer for International matters	Mr. Lars Hustveit	Tel: +47 57 65 62 52 Fax: + 47 57 65 61 01 lars.hustveit@sf-f.kommune.no

Current Environmental Issues

- Integrate sustainable development in the County plan's programme for action (regional agenda 21).
- County plan for land use (including coastal zone management)
- Local and regional Agenda 21
- County plan for climate and energy
- Aquaculture / wild salmon

MØRE OG ROMSDAL COUNTY COUNCIL

(Profile updated 1999)

Fylkeshuset, N-6400 Molde, Norway

Tel. +47 712 58 000
+47 712 58 180
Fax. +47 712 58 167

Major Towns Kristiansund, Molde,
Andasnes and Alesund
Population 240,000
Pop Change
Area (km²) 15,100

Geographic Description

Møre & Romsdal's environment attracts a large number of tourists each year. In addition to the ocean and the rugged coastline, the county offers fjords, high mountains and valleys. Tourism has great traditions in the country. As a coastal county Møre & Romsdal has and will continue to have access to important natural resources such as fish, oil and gas. Møre & Romsdal's traditions in shipping reach back a long time.

Møre & Romsdal is the largest fisheries county in the country and among the leading in fish farming. The onshore fish industry also plays a leading role within production of clipfish and salted fish. The county is ranked as the fifth largest industrial county and has one of the heaviest, more varied future oriented and small-scale company industrial establishments in the country. Through generations an industrial cluster has evolved within maritime activities based in fisheries/shipping, ship's equipment, fisheries and fish processing, meeting international standards. The furniture industry is just a small branch in the country as a whole, but it plays an important part within the industrial establishment of Møre & Romsdal.

Contacts

Dept of Industry & Environment

Director	Joralf Flataukan	Tel	+47 71 25 80 00 +47 71 25 81 80
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Coastal Planning	Jonny Loen		
Environmental Issues	Lars Kringstad		
Petrochemical Industries	Ståle Nogva		
Development, research & regionalprogrammes	Birger Flemsaeterhaug		

Dept of Culture and Heritage

Cultural Heritage & Preservation	Jens Peter Ringstad	Tel	+47 71 25 80 00 +47 71 25 88 33
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The County Governor Office

Dept of Environmental Protection			
Director	Per F. Brun	Tel	+47 71 25 80 00
		Fax:	+47 71 25 85 09
Nature Management Section	Trond Haukebø		
Nature Conservation			
Wildlife			
Fish			
Lakes & Watercourses			
Pollution Management Section	Kolbjørn Megard		

Current Environmental Issues

Area Management -

- **Coastal Zone** - Coastal Zone Management Plan. Development of agreed guidelines for the use and protection of the coastal zone.
- **Wilderness areas** - Only few and small wilderness areas remain in Møre & Romsdal. Genuine wilderness is here defined as areas more than 5 km from roads, railroads, electric powerlines and other human encroachments. The County Council has initiated a project that will focus on these areas. Through this project we want to establish agreed guidelines for managing the wilderness areas. We will also focus on "wilderness" areas closer to human encroachment than 5 km especially near towns and suburban areas.
- Biological diversity
- Local Agenda 21
Driftsassistansen for vann og avløp. - A project initiated by the County Council to give technical and administrative assistance to the local authorities, in according to secure and build out water supply and the municipal sewerage systems.

NORTH SEA COMMISSION ENVIRONMENT GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

Introduction

The North Sea Commission Environment Group is one of a number of technical groups set up by the North Sea Commission.

VISION

The overall vision is to encourage the development of sustainable communities, the sustainable use of resources, and the development of policies and actions which take full account of environmental requirements.

AIM

The aim of the Group is to progress key environmental issues as they affect local authorities bordering the North Sea by co-ordinating and initiating projects involving all members or on a partnership basis. The Group through the Executive Committee will attempt to influence future research and future EU and national policies. The Group will also take steps to encourage a heightened awareness of the North Sea as an important ecological area.

KEY ENVIRONMENT ISSUES

In the light of the need to focus on issues it is considered that the following matters represent the current priorities: (not in order of priority)

- Marine Pollution (e.g. Nitrates, sewage, industrial, chemical, marine litter).
- The need for coastal zone management (including coastal erosion).
- Acidification of North Sea land caused by air pollution.
- Safety at Sea (e.g. oil spills, transportation of oil tankers and obsolete installations).
- Mineral extraction (e.g. super quarries, sand, sea bed).
- Riverine pollution.
- Network preservation of coastal flora and fauna (in particular birds).
- Environmental impact assessment.
- Use of marine biological resources.

PROCEDURES

To arrange a yearly conference and Steering Group meeting. Such would focus on important environmental issues, and encourage the broadest possible attendance from the member regions both politicians and officials.

To undertake business and progress work through a project working group with one representative and substitute from each member state.

To utilise Information Technology to ensure effective communication and reduce the environmental effects resulting from travel.

ACTIVITIES

To develop involvement with relevant international commissions or organisations.

To work for funding of joint projects and to help member regions to find partners in projects.

To work for the improvement of the horizontal (between regions, local authorities and nations) and vertical (between EU/national/regional local) flow of information. To be actively involved in the planning and implementation of other European programmes.

RT/EK/748

Revised June 1996 following comments after EG meeting in Moss, Norway.

Revised August 1997 following meeting in Morpeth, England.

CPMR - NORTH SEA COMMISSION - ENVIRONMENT GROUP PROJECT WORKING GROUP - TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At the meeting in Husum in October 1995 it was agreed that there was a need for a group to be set up, based on member states, to service the North Sea Commission Environment Group. It was considered that the Environment Group meetings being of a limited duration and infrequent in meeting could not serve as a Working Group. It was agreed that the Environment Group should be seen as being more of a Steering Group which required to have specific recommendations put to it in advance for consideration.
- 1.2 The Environment Group meetings would still be based in different locations in order for members to gain practical knowledge of the problems and potential solutions in its members areas. Such meetings would consist of a Steering Group meeting and an associated conference and study tour.
- 1.3 At Moss in May 1996 it was further agreed that the EG meetings would from 1997 be restricted to an annual conference and meeting and that the Project Working Group should meet three times a year in co-ordination with the NSCEG and NSC Executive and General Assembly. The PWG should however fulfil its enhanced remit from August/September 1996.
- 1.4 In Fife in August 1996 further clarification was agreed on the role of representatives and advisers. The terms of reference were formally agreed by the NSCEG on the 12 October 1996, Further modifications were made following agreement in Goteborg in May 1997.

2. MEMBERSHIP

- 2.1 The membership of the Project Working Group shall consist of one individual representative from each member state to be endorsed by the North Sea Commission Environment Group, the Environment Group Co-ordinator and the Chair of the Environment Group. Currently the country representatives are:-

BELGIUM	Kathy Belpaeme
DENMARK	Ole Roed Jenson
ENGLAND	Harry Fawcett
GERMANY	No nominee
NETHERLANDS	Hans Van Meerendonk
NORWAY	Sverre Fosse
SCOTLAND	No nominee
SWEDEN	No Nominee
CO-ORDINATOR OF EG	Per Horberg
CHAIR OF EG	John McCormack

- 2.2 The representative is required to:-
 1. Undertake co-ordination with all environment officers of the North Sea Commission members within his/her country.
 2. Provide the chair with documentation on (1) in respect of minutes of any meetings.
 3. Establish a network of contacts within his/her country to ensure that interested groups are aware of projects and avoid overlap. A list to be maintained by each representative and advised to the Chair.
 4. Attend meetings of the PWG and the NSCEG and provide minutes of such to Member Environmental Officers.
 5. Provide written reports in advance of each PWG of projects for which he/ she is responsible and other reports agreed by the PWG in their presence. (see responsibility 3)
- 2.3 Contacts will be in a voluntary capacity except where they are specifically required for an approved project and will then be considered as consultant/ technical advisers for that particular project.
- 2.4 Each country representative is required to identify a substitute who would attend meetings in their absence. Joint attendance would be at the discretion of the country involved.
- 2.5 The Chair is responsible for running the meeting and for preparing the Agenda in consultation with the Co-ordinator. An initial minute shall be prepared by the host country and then a draft circulated through the Co-ordinator.

3.0 REMIT

- 3.1 The remit of the Working Group is to:-
 1. Prepare draft annual work programmes for the Environment Group consisting of a limited number of projects of interest to the whole geographic area of the North Sea Commission.
 2. In pursuit of the above to recommend to the Environment Group how the annual work programme and projects should be developed and funded.

3. To encourage the establishment and implementation of partnership projects between groups of members with particular reference to the North Sea Commission Environment Group's own priorities. These are set out in its terms of reference.
4. Monitor environmental projects being carried out by members of the North Sea Commission including those in respect of remits 2 and 3 with a view to the dissemination of good practice.

Version 2.0 20/8/97

Version 2.1 Updated 10/5/96 (in light of NSCEG meeting of 10/5/96)

Version 2.2 Editing change 27/5/96

Version 2.3 Updated 19/9/96 (in light of NSCEG PWG meeting of 30/08/96)

Version 2.4 Updated 18/10/96 (in light of NSC meeting of 12/10/96 and Executive meeting of 24/10/96)

Version 3.0 Updated in light of NSCEG PWG meetings of May 1997 and 8th August 1997.

APPENDIX 3

AMENDMENTS to the PROFILES

Members are requested to advise the editor as soon as they are aware of changes of their profile. The information provided should set out the following information:

Authority
Existing Information
Revision to the Information
Date of Revision

The change should be signed by the officer responsible for North Sea Commission matters.

The amendments should be sent either by post or e-mail to:

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