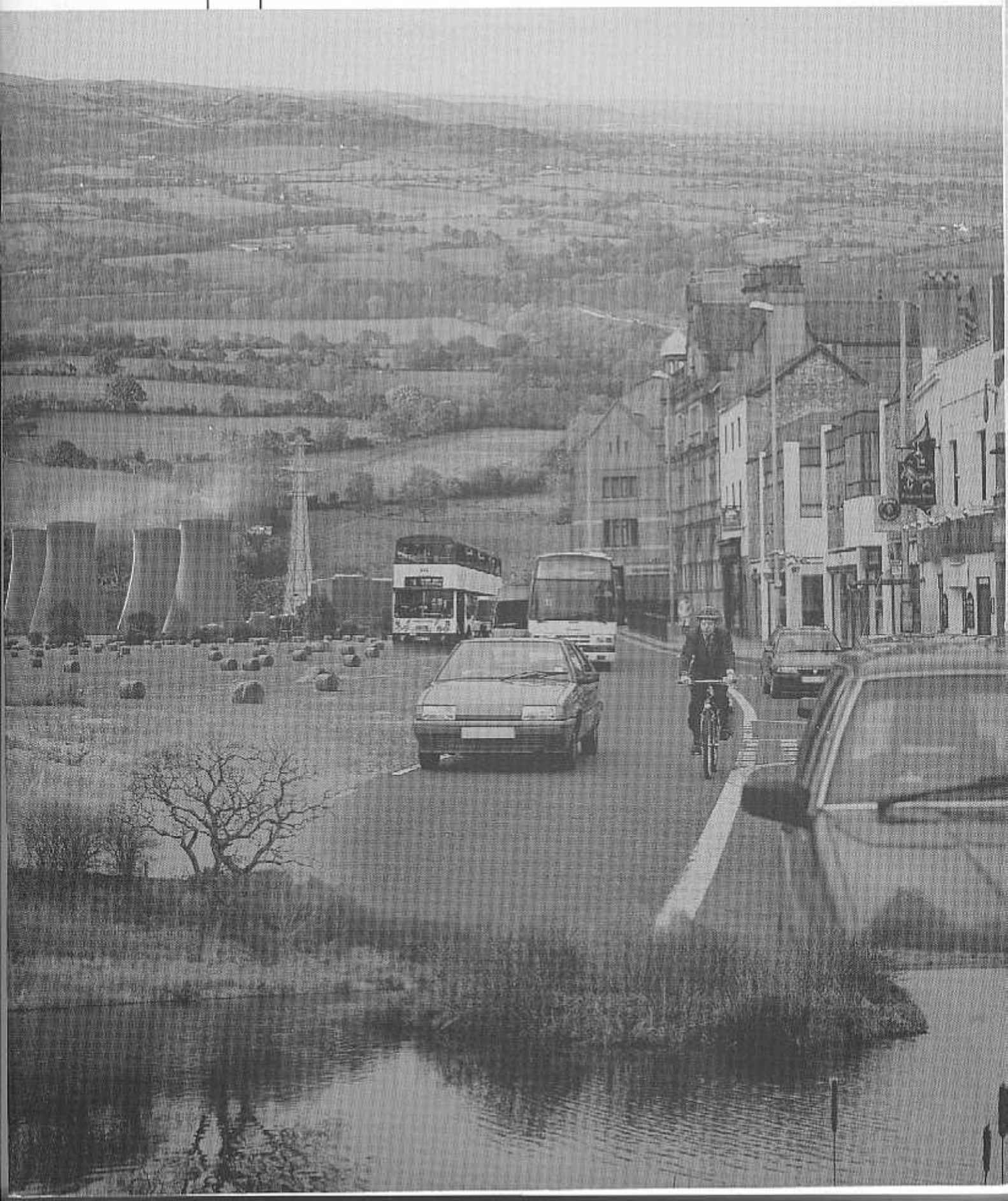# Cheshire's
AGENDA 21

Pathway into the 21st Century

STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Adopted by the Sustainable Cheshire Forum September 1996
Endorsed by Cheshire County Council November & December 1996

ENERGY

The Task Group

Arthur Ellinson — **Task Group Chairman** (Formerly Manweb)

Edward Brady — ICI Chemicals and Polymers

Peter Stanway — Government Office North West

Terry Lilley — Crewe Alsager Faculty Manchester Metropolitan University

Brian Kerr — Cheshire Association of Parish Councils

Paul Cooper — Leighton Hospital National Health Trust

Terri Washburn — Northwich Friends of the Earth

Barry Redfearn — Mulberry Homes

Gill Robinson — National Council of Civic Societies

Tracy Underwood — Eco-Schools (Harthill CPS)

Cllr David Palmer — CCC

Adrian Otsa — Energy Manager CCC

Facilitators — Sarah Barker/Simon Excell Environmental Planning CCC

Summary of Discussions

A broad range of issues and objectives was discussed within the energy topic, reflecting the wide-ranging membership of the Task Group and wide-ranging nature of energy as a topic. Some Task Group members did not have specific expertise in the field of energy, but as energy users or through their roles within the public, private and voluntary sectors, all group members had something to contribute and a means of directly influencing energy in Cheshire. The issues highlighted in the Cheshire Focal Point on "Energy Balance" (1995) formed the starting point for the Group's discussions and many have been carried forward.

Energy overlaps with most of the other topic areas, particularly transport and air. Therefore addressing the issues of energy use in transportation and poor air quality has been left largely to the Task Groups working on these topic areas. Energy is a diverse and complicated issue. Responsibility for energy generation, supply, regulation and consumption is widely dispersed between the Government and its agencies, private companies, institutions, organisations and individuals, making this topic difficult to manage.

The first key issue related to the rate of consumption of finite energy resources and their efficient use. Methods of reducing energy consumption are to lessen demand by encouraging energy conservation, for example people walking instead of using the car, to improve the efficiency with which energy is used, for example through using low energy lightbulbs or generating electricity through combined heat and power schemes and to increase the use of renewable energy resources such as solar power.

The second issue explored the local and global effects of pollution resulting from the exploitation of energy resources. The Group concentrated upon emissions from power stations and industrial plants and specifically emissions of sulphur dioxide, which is a cause of acid deposition. A possible method of measuring the effects of such pollution is to monitor the variety/spread of lichens throughout the County, as they are susceptible to specific pollutants and hence can provide important data as a pollution indicator.

The third issue was the lack of an integrated national energy policy through which to tackle the first two issues. Businesses, institutions, organisations and individual householders could benefit from innovative and pump priming investment initiatives and from an integrated approach at the national level to regulatory, fiscal and advisory measures on energy and related policy areas such as transport and education. This is perhaps the greatest constraint upon progress in reducing the environmental impacts of energy use by society.

Setting targets relevant to the objectives was difficult because of the lack of available energy data for Cheshire. A significant effort was required to determine where and how useful data could be collected before the targets could be finalised. Some of the actions therefore relate to data collection. As ideas for targets and actions were developed, it became clear to the Task Group that a more extensive field of cooperation was needed to help work towards them. This, it was suggested, could be encouraged through the emergence of a lobbying strategy and through a partnership approach involving all the key players: utilities, local authorities, major energy users, etc.

Targets were prioritised on the basis of their potential to be influenced, relevance, data availability, achievability, contribution towards sustainable development and meaning to the residents of Cheshire. Two clear "favourites" emerged through a ranking exercise and they reflected the two key concerns of the Task Group in its discussions: the need to increase the energy-efficiency of the existing housing stock in Cheshire and the need to impress on the younger generation the importance of using energy wisely. These two needs should be assisted by current initiatives: the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 requires the energy rating of houses by local authorities, while the Eco-Schools initiative involves children in making decisions about energy use in the running of their school. The targets and actions build on these to make sure that they are supported to give maximum benefit.

The Task Group selected five key targets and developed the action plan in relation to them. There were also four other lower priority targets and these should be reinstated in the longer term. They relate to the number of houses in Cheshire with an energy rating (NHER) of 10 or more, the number of CHP schemes, the capacity of renewable energy schemes and the distribution of certain types of lichen. These will be kept under review.

Energy

The Issues

Targets	Short Term Actions (1997)
T1a Increase proportion of existing housing stock with energy rating above 6 to 20% by 2000, 50% by 2010.	Establish base data in partnership with District Councils through such software as NHER's 'Stockprofiler' and refine the target
T1b Each household to obtain one additional energy-saving lightbulb each year up to 2000	Establish a sample of 1,000 households' electricity and gas consumption involving MANWEB and British Gas or through Global Action Plan. Develop through partnership exemplar schemes to demonstrate measures being developed to improve energy efficiency and conservation. Look into "Thermie" to develop a retrofit scheme/eco-house. A mobile energy exhibition targeted at the general public to tour Cheshire. Develop a monitoring system for the take-up of energy-saving lightbulbs through approved providers, random sample, electoral register or electricity bill, etc.
T2 Reduce authorised SO_2 emissions from Fiddler's Ferry power station by 74% by 2005, while maintaining a constant capacity of 2000MW.	Monitor through Environment Agency. Investigate targets for other major producers of SO_2 in Cheshire and incorporate them in the target.
T3a 170 organisations in Cheshire to have made a corporate commitment to energy efficiency or be pursuing an energy-saving policy by 2010	Carry out a sample survey of those businesses, institutions and community buildings which have an energy policy/manager. Monitor increase in companies making a corporate commitment
T3b Support the energy element in Eco-Schools: 12 schools in 1996 24 schools in 1997 200 schools by 2000.	Organise seminars for schools on energy aspects of Eco-Schools. Publicise those schools taking part to raise the profile of Eco-Schools. Consider an Eco-Schools newsletter or regular section in the LA21 newsletter. In every school, identify one teacher who is willing to to act as environmental co-ordinator and a governor who will take responsibility for energy in the school. Monitor the number of children who are in, or have been a part of an, Eco-School. Encourage electronic links between schools to enable the exchange of energy-saving ideas

Energy

The Objectives

OB1a To improve energy conservation and efficiency in electricity generation, manufacturing, buildings and transport.

OB1b To increase the use of renewable energy resources.

OB2 To reduce emissions of pollutants from power stations, buildings and vehicles.

OB3 To increase awareness/effectiveness and availability of advice to businesses and residents on energy issues.

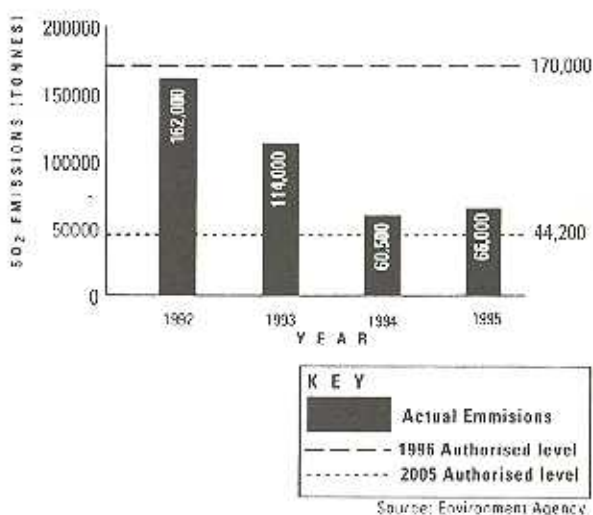| Medium Term Actions (before 2000)	Long Term Actions (by 2020)
Increase awareness of homebuyers, architects, builders etc, regarding the importance of energy-efficient homes and the NHER scheme.	Monitor at 5-yearly intervals (2000-2020) Cheshire's housing stock profile.
Establish a partnership approach amongst agencies and industry in Cheshire to develop shared saving schemes and other financing initiatives. Extend system if effective to other energy-saving appliances.	
Monitor through Environment Agency.	Monitor trends in emissions against measurements of acid deposition in the UK.
Increase awareness of MACC (and/or similar schemes) highlighting benefits, particularly to small and medium sized businesses.	Monitor number of organisations.
Assess success of a possible autumn 1997 seminar for schools and re-run it in subsequent years if considered worthwhile. Continue publicity campaign for energy awareness through Eco-Schools. Use exhibition spaces available eg Woodford Lodge to publicise action taken in schools.	Help schools maintain their improved energy performance and Eco-School status in the long term.

Energy

The Sustainability Indicators

IND1   Energy consumption (electricity and gas)
        per household/company, including
        proportions with basic insulation.

**Emissions of SO$_2$ from Fiddlers Ferry Power
Station**

IND2a   Trends in SO$_2$ emissions from power
        stations and industrial plants.

IND2b   Variety/spread of lichens present in the
        County.

KEY

■ Actual Emmisions

– – – – 1996 Authorised level

· · · · · · · 2005 Authorised level

Source: Environment Agency

**Companies "Making a Corporate Commitment"
to Energy Use**

IND3   Number of businesses, institutions and
        community buildings with energy policy
        and/or energy manager, or having
        undertaken an energy audit.

Source: Chester City Council
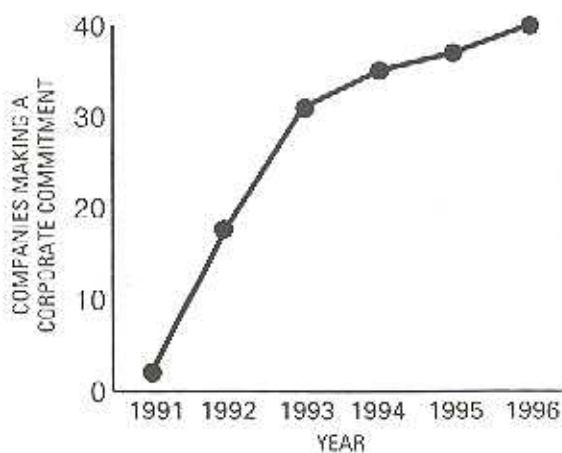
WASTE

The Task Group

Mike Worthington	**Task Group Chairman** Chamber of Commerce	Delia Skeet	Eco-Schools
		Cllr Ron Carey	CCC
Elizabeth Gentil	CPRE	Mike Myers	Waste Management Officer CCC
Clare Hodgkiss	UK Waste		
Dave Forster	Environment Agency	Facilitator:	Stephanie Gray
Neville Cartwright	Leighton Hospital National Health Trust		Environmental Planning CCC
Viv Mountford	Halton Friends of the Earth		
Margaret Oldman	CPRE/Waste Watch		

Summary of Discussions

The Waste Task Group is composed of people who represent their organisations in a very committed, enthusiastic and positive manner leading to full debates on the various issues. There is no shortage of targets for managing waste, particularly relevant are those set in the Government's White Paper "Making Waste Work" (December 1995) and the Cheshire Waste Management Plan (March 1996).

In some ways this did not make the Group's work any easier and there were lively discussions about the realism of stricter targets, the respective roles and responsibilities of collection and disposal authorities, the need for individual actions at home and work and the ability of the Group to be truly influential.

Cheshire's position adjacent to the conurbations of Merseyside and Greater Manchester has resulted in it being a recipient of waste from neighbouring areas. These waste imports are using up existing landfill capacity at a rapid rate. This is of particular concern to the Group.

The Task Group endorsed the 'Waste Hierarchy': Reduction, Re-use, Recovery (recycling, composting, energy recovery), and final Disposal. The Packaging Directive should help to cut back on the amount of waste produced, particularly where it is for cosmetic/marketing purposes rather than safety reasons. Environmental auditing of business operations should identify the financial and environmental costs of their waste, and highlight areas where action could be taken to minimise its production.

The landfill tax should encourage the move away from straightforward disposal to landfill to other methods of recycling and energy recovery.

It is worth defining the various types of waste for which targets have been set:

General Waste: Mainly factory waste - off-cuts, rejects, packaging, scrap metal, paper, plastics and putrescibles. Also includes significant element of commercial waste from office and shops - paper packaging.

Construction and Demolition Waste: Road planings, soil (some contaminated), timber, glass, bricks, metal and concrete.

Municipal Waste: Parks and gardens waste; road sweepings, gully cleaning, some element of commercial waste; household wastes and trade waste.

Household Waste: Packaging, glass, tins, food; garden, garage and DIY waste.

Organic Waste: Mainly food and garden wastes. Waste paper is also suitable for composting.

Bulk industrial waste produced by the chemical industry and the power generating sector is either disposed of to lagoons or to boreholes. The volume of waste requiring disposal to lagoons or boreholes has decreased by 65% and by 96% respectively since 1979. Any potential for further waste minimisation is limited. This waste was not therefore considered by the Task Group in the first phase of work.

Other types of waste that have not been considered at this stage include: agricultural wastes, canal dredgings, clinical waste, sewage sludge, mines and quarry waste.

Note was made of the various re-cycling schemes for household waste in different parts of the county and the significant amount of work already underway. The variety of schemes can make it difficult to get a comprehensive reliable indicator of the amount of household waste recycled.

Education, in its broadest sense, was seen as the key to reducing the amount of waste produced and in the manner of its disposal. Providing information, advice, publicising good practice - and the effects of poor practice - were considered necessary at all levels from individuals and schools to major companies. Green Business Clubs, Waste Watch Groups, Junior Recycling Clubs and "roadshows" can all be useful ways of getting messages across.

Discussions in the Task Group established the need for better information systems, in some cases combining data from different agencies to give a comprehensive picture and to make the data more widely available. This is reflected in actions already being carried forward.

Waste

The Issues

IS1   Need to minimise wastes from all sectors of industry, commerce and households.

IS2   Uncertain future waste disposal/management capacity due to high levels of imports.

IS3   How to reduce the amount of waste being disposed of to landfill.

Targets	Short Term Actions (1997)
T1 Reduce the amount of general waste disposed of to landfill pa by 15% by 2001 and 40% by 2005.	Improve data on waste minimisation, re-use and recovery.
T2 Recycle 20% of general waste pa by 2001, 25% by 2005.	Establish a network for promoting waste minimisation in industry and commerce.
T3 Reduce amount of construction and demolition waste disposed of to landfill by 40% pa by 2005.	
T4 25% of houschold waste to be recycled or composted by end March 2000.	
T5 40% of municipal waste to be recovered each year by 2005.	
T6 40,000 tonnes of organic waste to be composted by 2001, 70,000 tonnes by 2005	

Waste

The Objectives

OB1 To pursue the waste hierarchy of reduction, re-use, recovery (recycling, composting and energy recovery) and disposal

OB2 To ensure an integrated and adequate range of facilities are provided to treat and dispose of Cheshire's waste as close as possible to its source.

OB3 To pursue best practice and ensure waste management activities cause no harm to the environment or risk to human health.

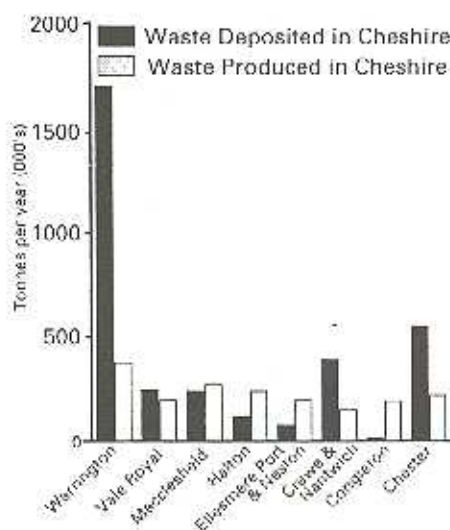| Medium Term Actions (before 2000)	Long Term Actions (by 2020)
Set targets for waste minimisation in industry and commerce, and review all targets for waste reuse, recovery and final disposal.	Review all targets.
Campaigns: 'Recycling by Design', 'Buy Green', 'Buy Recycled' and 'Waste Watch'.	
Establish Environmental Award Scheme for best practice or innovative projects.	
Agenda 21 mobile exhibition to visit business clubs, Business Link, Chambers of Commerce, Shows and Events.	Establish a household waste recycling facility in each parish/ward.
Secure home composting schemes in 40% of houses with gardens. Encourage more local 'waste watch' initiatives.	

Waste

The Sustainability Indicators

IND1 The amount of waste arising and disposed of annually in Cheshire by type, method and source.

Waste Produced and Deposited in Cheshire 1992/93

IND2 The amount of waste recovered and recycled annually from general industrial waste (including construction and demolition) and commercial waste.

Household Waste Recycled by all Organisations 1993/94
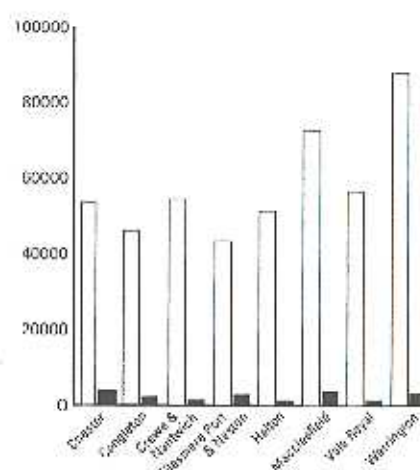
IND3a Average amount of household waste recycled per household by district and by county

IND3b Amount of waste recycled per household as a percentage of total household waste arising by district and by county.

AIR

The Task Group

Hilary Blumer   **Task Group Chairman**
South Cheshire Health Authority

John Freeman   Churches Together - Vice Chairman
Alec Sutherland   Environment Agency
Roy Alexander   Chester College
Helen Carey   Cheshire Landscape Trust
Terri Washburn   Northwich Friends of the Earth
June Garner   Nantwich Town Council

Facilitator: Geoff Corker
Environmental Planning CCC

Summary of Discussions

The Air Task Group is small in size but high on quality and brings together debate from different perspectives.

Underpinning all of the work in the Task Group are two common themes. Firstly, the current state of knowledge about the causes and effect of air pollutants and their relationship to human health is not well understood. The Group is keen to promote better understanding about the current state of knowledge. Secondly, the ability to do this even in the short term by promoting greater co-operation between the multitude of agencies who hold some of the pieces of the jigsaw relating to air quality. There is a recognised need to work more in partnership in order to produce better information.

Even though our state of knowledge is incomplete, the Group believes much can be done at local level to stimulate public debate about the issues. It is hoping to produce a user-friendly report on a regular basis which pulls together data from various agencies and to present it in such a way that engenders informed public debate.

Whilst most discussion, naturally enough, centres around the external air quality, air quality in buildings - at home, at work, at school - is also important. Most of us spend more time indoors than outside and the quality of that environment should be of concern if we are to be able to maintain a healthy life.

Having set challenging but achievable targets, the Task Group found that data is not available for all the things felt to be particularly critical. As an example, the target to reduce breaches in emissions from vehicles by a percentage each year cannot be measured by failures in MOT tests caused by breaches in emissions. That information is not readily available.

There are strong links between air quality and transport and energy use. Popularly, the incidence between asthma, particularly in children, and traffic fumes has been widely linked in the media. Indeed, "Don't Choke Cheshire" is the slogan for TravelWise accompanied by a picture of a child using an inhaler. The Task Group has expressed its desire for an audit to be conducted by the Eco-Audit Task Group of emissions from buses used to transport children to and from school. Complaints are received from local people about emissions from engines that are left running for long periods.

Environment has now moved to centre stage in the Government's Health of the Nation strategy as a sixth key area. The Department of Health has announced a research programme to address the effects of air pollutants on health, especially respiratory disease.

In addition, the high profile publicity given to the launch of the National Air Quality Strategy places additional duties on local government - but without corresponding resources. However, the Group is pleased to note the increasing importance placed on air quality and health and its key place in the environment.

Air

The Issues

Inadequate air monitoring.

Impact of air quality, including smells, on health in the internal and external environment.

Atmospheric pollution due to: road vehicles; emissions from heavy industry and power stations; emissions from domestic sources.

Targets	Short Term Actions (1997)
T1 Produce a 1st annual report of air quality information for Cheshire by September 1997.	Gather data, edit and produce a user-friendly report with data on SO_2 and NOx for annual report. Ellesmere Port air monitoring station up and running to augment those in Runcorn and Widnes. Gather data on asthma prevalence and smoking by electoral ward for annual report. Obtain data on lichens as air quality indicators.
T2 Remove at least one identified gap each year in air monitoring network.	
T3 Reduce number of days with less than "very good" air quality by at least 50% by 2000. (Baseline 1996 20 days/year).	
T4 Reduce breaches in emissions from industrial processes by 5% per year. Reduce breaches in emissions from vehicles by 10% per year.	Greater publicity for "Smoky Diesels Hotline". Encourage LA's to adopt powers to monitor vehicle emissions.
T5 Reduce the prevalence of cigarette smoking in men and women aged 16 and over to no more than 20% by the year 2000 (1990 levels 31% and 28% respectively).	Discourage smoking.

17

Air

The Objectives

OB1a To improve monitoring of air quality.

OB1b To achieve better exchange of good quality data between agencies and the public in order to inform debate and make comparisons meaningful.

OB2a To achieve 'very good' air quality at all times. "Using DoE air quality standards".

OB2b To minimise adverse impacts of air pollutants on human health and the environment.

OB3 To minimise emissions of pollutants.

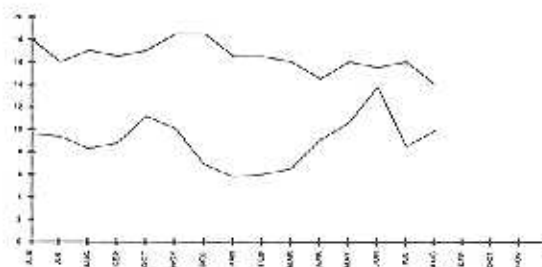| Medium Term Actions (before 2000)	Long Term Actions (by 2020)
Review usefulness of annual report and modify as public's perceptions; demands and air quality issues change.	Continue review of air quality indicators and update information.
Identify and install other stations to improvement monitoring. Wider user of NOx diffusion tubes. Increase real time monitoring of CO and NOx Address internal air quality	
Campaign for better monitoring of and reductions in vehicle emissions. Develop air quality management strategy. Increase awareness of benefits of regular servicing of vehicles (less pollution and cost saving).	
Achieve targeted reduction in smoking.	Smoking to be banned in all public places

Air

The Sustainability Indicators

IND1   Recorded levels of selected pollutants.
        (SO$_2$, NO$_2$, PM10/smoke and O$_3$).

**Recorded Levels of Nitrogen Oxides,
Ellesmere Port, Sept 1996**
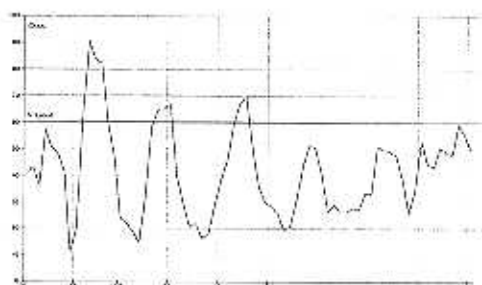
IND2a   Prevalence of asthma per 1000 adults and
   per 1000 children at electoral ward level.

**Comparison of Atmospheric Smoke and SO$_2$
levels with measured Sulphur levels in Scots
Pine, Delamere, 1994/95**

IND2b   Annual changes in the canopy of a sample
        of Cheshire trees. Recorded change in
        lichen zonation across Cheshire.

IND2c   Adult smoking rates at electoral ward level.

Source: University of Wolverhampton

**Failures for Vehicle Emissions - Heavy Goods
and Public Service Vehicles (national figures)**

IND3   Number of breaches of emission limits by
        vehicles and industry.
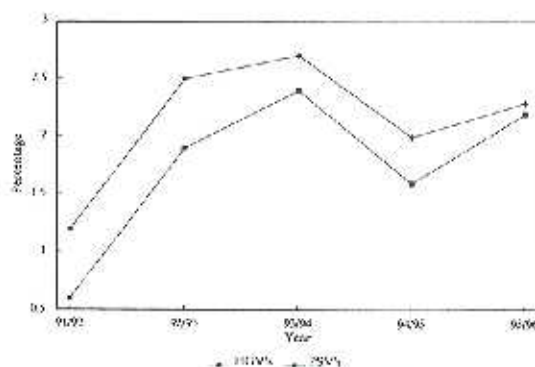
Source: Traffic Safety and a Cleaner Environment, Vehicle Inspectorate

LAND

The Task Group

John Gittins — **Task Group Chairman**
Cheshire Landscape Trust

Philip Percival/
Peter Needham — National Farmers Union
Edwina Oldham — Cheshire Federation of WI
Arthur Wood — Chamber of Commerce
Janette Findley — House Builders Federation
John Thompson — Environment Agency

Sue Ellerby — South Cheshire Health Authority
Charles Burchell — Churches Together
Cllr David Lloyd-Griffiths — CCC
Gareth Ellis — Principal Engineer CCC

Facilitator: Rosemary Williams
Environmental Planning CCC

Summary of Discussions

Two main aspects have dominated discussions: firstly, how realistic it is to expect more urban development to take place on re-used or reclaimed land in Cheshire rather than on "greenfield" sites; and, secondly, how "extensive" farming practices can be encouraged except through EU agricultural policies.

The Task Group agreed that housing needs should be met, that houses should be affordable and that the desire to save the countryside should be neither at the expense of increasing homelessness nor of "town cramming". Better design of housing, making better and more efficient use of land and buildings and an increase in densities could all reduce pressure on the countryside without leading to a loss of quality in urban living. Indeed, there would be benefits in reducing the need to travel so much, particularly commuting long distances to work, and concentrating on re-using urban land would be more sustainable over the short and long term.

It was recognised that the development of "brownfield" or previously developed urban sites may not be straightforward. Such sites often have their problems; that is why some have been left vacant and derelict for many years. It will often require positive help from Government to reclaim difficult sites and remove eyesores. If there is not grant aid money "up front" the market alone may not be sufficient to make development viable.

Nevertheless, the objective of minimising the use of the countryside for new development was endorsed and due recognition also given to the importance of trees and open space in urban areas - as visual "breathing space", wildlife habitats and community amenity areas. It is important that not only are such features not eradicated by the desire to concentrate development in the urban framework but that opportunities are sought to protect and improve their value.

Major proposals for development are currently assessed for their impact on the environment but not on human health. With increasing emphasis on "prevention rather than cure", widening the criteria for assessing the impacts of development to incorporate health was felt to be a step forward but one which might take several years to achieve.

The notion of "setting-aside" areas of farmland and more intensively farming the remainder was not considered desirable. Although set-aside is not a major problem in Cheshire, bringing all farmland under good husbandry and adopting environmentally-friendly farming practices was the favoured option. Not only would this keep the land in good

heart without the need for polluting use of fertilisers, herbicides or pesticides, it would enable the distinctive pastoral landscape of Cheshire to be well maintained and improved and a sustainable farming pattern to be established. The problem is how to achieve this if not supported by European agricultural policies. Campaigns, model farms, information on grants and supporting advice appear to be the best way forward in the short to medium term.

Actions to manage and increase woodland, replace hedges and hedgerow trees and protect ponds were agreed and bring together a number of initiatives and link closely to the Wildlife Group's aims. They include schemes involving agencies from small communities to the Forestry Authority. The best example, and a model to be developed elsewhere, is the Mersey Forest project where clear targets, set in the framework of a masterplan, are being achieved.

The Land topic, more than any of the other subjects has strong connections to Development Plans. The principles of sustainable development have to be incorporated in the emerging Structure Plan (Cheshire 2011) at the County level and subsequently in Local Plans. Targets set have to be complementary.

Whilst many of the land use issues debated have to have the correct policy context set at European, national or local government levels, the actions have to be "grounded" in local communities, through farmers, schools, Women's Institutes, Churches or Parish Councils. The Task Group recognised both the challenge and opportunities ahead. It aims to have Quality of Environment set alongside Quality of Life.

The Task Group has considered which targets are the key ones and have to be tackled first. Using less countryside for urban development with at least half of new houses being built on re-used sites and buildings (T1) was regarded as top priority. Supporting this target is derelict land reclamation (T2). Acting now to protect, improve and enrich the landscape (T4) was something that can be undertaken by many partners and has strong community support. Adopting "environmentally-friendly" farming practices (T3) was recognised as necessary for long-term sustainability.

Targets which cannot be progressed immediately will not be overlooked but may need a longer lead-in time before actions can be started. These will be kept under review

Land

The Issues

IS1   The urbanisation of Cheshire through the use of "greenfield" land for development.

IS2   The capacity for re-use of derelict or contaminated land, vacant or previously developed sites for future development purposes.

IS3   Agricultural practices and sustainable food production.

IS4   Pressures on traditional landscape features such as hedges, hedgerow trees and ponds; 1.2 million trees over mature.

IS5   "Town cramming" and importance of open space and trees in urban areas

IS6   The impact of land use on human health

Targets	Short Term Actions (1997)
T1 Transfer of rural land to urban land uses not to exceed 0.05% pa on average to 2011 (reducing from 0.075% pa) with at least 50% of new homes to be built on re-used sites or buildings by 2005.	Revised Structure Plan (Cheshire 2011) to ensure preference is given to re-use of previously developed and vacant land and buildings. Establish more detailed monitoring system in Cheshire for land use change
T2 Reduce the total amount of derelict land by at least 50% by 2011 (from 1,611ha in 1983).	Prepare Local Authorities' programme and bids for reclamation of 225ha of derelict land over next 5 years and secure funding.
T3 Treble the number of farms in Countryside Stewardship schemes by 2000 (115 by 1995); encourage extensive farming practices and reduce amount of set-aside land by at least 50% by 2000 (from 3,800ha in 1994).	Campaigns to: - encourage farmers to take part in Countryside Stewardship and similar schemes. - promote and market locally produced foods, eg through establishment of Farmers Markets. - work with MAFF, Environment Agency and Cheshire FWAG to co-ordinate and increase practical advice and support.
T4(i) Double the area of woodland by 2011 (from 8,800ha in 1982), and the area of managed woodland	Co-ordinate and promote information and advice on grant aid schemes for woodland planting. Set up system to identify landowners willing to establish new woodlands and promote planting schemes. Support Mersey Forest project to achieve target of average 244 ha/year throughout forest area. Identify priority planting areas with Forestry Authority and other partners. Structure Plan policies to support woodland creation.

Land

The Objectives

OB1 To minimise the use of greenfield land for development purposes.

OB2 To increase the number/size of land reclamation schemes and to make the best use of these brownfield sites for new development.

OB3 To achieve an agricultural industry which incorporates good practice in animal and crop husbandry and produces the amount and quality of food required.

OB4 To retain, renew and increase the hedge, hedgerow tree, copse and ponds landscapes.

OB5 To take opportunities to identify, retain and increase "greenspace" in urban areas

OB6 To ensure consideration is given to health impacts of proposals for major developments

Medium Term Actions (before 2000)	Long Term Actions (by 2020)
Local Plans' policies and proposals to comply with targets over County as a whole; monitor ability to continue to meet targets. Assess and monitor scope of brownfield sites to deliver a commercially viable option for development	Re-assess availability of brownfield sites and review target accordingly. Monitor area of land re-used for development.
Set up register of derelict, vacant and remediated sites and buildings with information on location, size, known condition and former uses	Monitor progress and review.
County Smallholdings Estate to undertake and promote best practice on integrating farming, woodland and environmental aims. Promote LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming) and FWAG (Farming and Wildlife Action Group) through Cheshire Farms Award.	Review targets according to EU agricultural policies
Start woodland planting on basis of agreed strategy. Support and promote management of woodlands. Develop Local Community Woodland Initiatives with Borough Councils. Promote the use of local sustainably grown timber.	Monitor progress and review targets re position on: - grants - taxation - value of other uses of land

Land

Targets	Short Term Actions (1997)
T4(ii) Replace hedgerow/individual trees at rate of 90,000pa to 2005; renew and replace hedgerows; and retain all critical pond clusters identified in Pond Life Project.	Support Cheshire Orchard Project to: - conserve existing orchards - create community orchards Local authority/privately owned sites to be identified where environmental improvements can be carried out. Hedgerow planting to be undertaken through Parish Hedgerow Project, Countryside Stewardship Scheme Mersey Forest project, Landscape Conservation Grants and Hedgerow Oak Grants. Parish Tree Wardens to monitor tree health, numbers and type in selected areas. Land use and landscape surveys in selected areas to be carried out by schools and WIs; repeated every 5 years. Promote Pond Life Project among farmers to improve care and management of ponds.
T5 At least achieve the NPFA target of 2.4ha of open space per thousand population by 2011.	Promote and publicise the Countryside Commission's "Millennium Greens" project. County Structure Plan to include policy on open space requirements.
T6 25% of proposals subject to EIA to have health impact analysis by 2005.	Set up system for assessing health impact of selected types of development and raise awareness of issues.

Land

Medium Term Actions (before 2000)	Long Term Actions (by 2020)
Create at least 20 community/neighbourhood orchards in towns and villages. Planting and landscaping to be carried out with/by local communities on sites identified; in appropriate cases to be leased to Parish Councils, schools or community groups. Tree planting scheme across Cheshire with new native trees planted in every Parish and Town. Organise tree planting events through local groups and churches	Planting and maintenance of landscape buffers, within and at edge of new developments to increase urban tree cover and wildlife habitats and soften edge in rural locations. Monitor and review tree/hedge planting rates
Identify at least 2-3 sites for "Millennium Greens" and secure their implementation. Develop data base of open spaces (in urban areas) and particular uses. Local Plans to set standards of open space for their areas and put forward proposals to remedy any deficiencies	Continue to improve value of open spaces for visual, wildlife and community uses.
Land use policies and major proposals to be assessed on environmental and health impacts and to show best practicable option	

Land

The Sustainability Indicators

IND1   The amount of land used annually for urban development (i) agricultural and other rural land and (ii) existing urban and vacant land.

IND2   The total amount of derelict land; area justifying reclamation and actual area brought into beneficial use.

IND3   (i) Livestock densities per hectare; (ii) amount of 'set-aside' land; (iii) farms in Countryside Stewardship and similar schemes.

IND4   (i) Planting carried out or grant aided by local authorities; woodland planting grant aided by Forestry Authority and MAFF; Mersey Forest planting rates; (ii) Pond Life Project results;
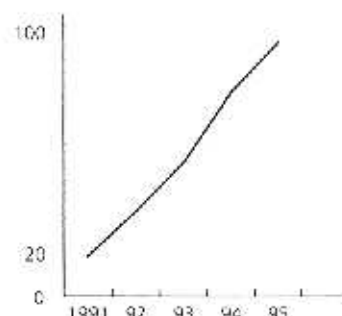
IND5   Community surveys of land use and landscape change (including open space, hedges, trees and ponds) in sample urban and rural areas.

IND6   The proportion of major proposals that have undergone health impact analysis as well as EIA.
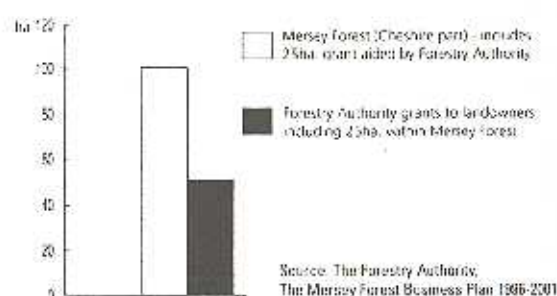
Land Used for Urban Development (hectares)
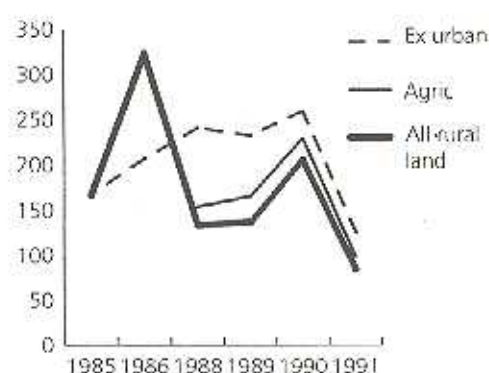
Countryside Stewardship Agreements in Cheshire

Woodland Planting 1995/96

WILDLIFE

The Task Group

Chris Mahon	**Task Group Chairman**
	Cheshire Nature Conservation Forum
Len Johnson	Cheshire Wildlife Trust
Pam Nolan	Environment Agency
Maureen Walmsley	Cheshire Federation of WI
Tim Melling	RSPB
Colin Hayes	English Nature
Don Grimsditch	Churches Together
Mike Wellman	Cheshire Constabulary
Cllr Jim Humphreys	CCC

Kay George	Eco-Schools
Helen Doe	British Association of Shooting and Conservation
Ian Marshall	Nature Conservation Officer CCC
For information/liaison with district programmes:	
Jo Phillips	Vale Royal Borough Council
David Bell	Warrington Borough Council
Facilitator:	Joan Fairhurst
	Environmental Planning CCC

Summary of Discussions

The Wildlife Task Group has itself evolved during 1996 in an attempt to complement the already established professional role of the Cheshire Nature Conservation Forum. In the spirit of Agenda 21 the group has deliberately tried to select information which will be of wide community interest and has benefited greatly from the advice provided by different community representatives. This has ensured the inclusion of animal welfare issues.

The momentum provided by three key elements has been of particular help in creating a sense of achievement in this first round of discussions. These are:

- The first edition of a Cheshire Biodiversity Audit prepared during 1996 by Cheshire Wildlife Trust in cooperation with key organisations and county recorders. This is significant progress building on earlier records and publications for individual groups of animals and plants. The audit provides a statement of our present collective knowledge of species and habitats in the 'vice county' of Cheshire which incorporates the 1974-1998 administrative County and Wirral. The audit also provides an evaluation of which species and habitats require intervention if they are to be sustained in the locality.

- Biodiversity Action Plans for individual habitats and species are being developed nationally, regionally and locally to counter species loss. In Cheshire the approach is being taken forward in three stages; preparing draft Biodiversity Action Plans based upon information gleaned from the Biodiversity Audit; identifying key players able to take positive action and develop each Biodiversity Action Plan in line with national guidance; implementation and review in the period upto 2020.

- The first phase of the Cheshire ECOnet project undertaken by the County Council Environmental Planning Service in partnership with the University of Salford. This involves developing GIS data to promote the evolution of a sustainable network of habitats and counter the now protracted period of habitat decline and fragmentation. The project builds upon the preliminary habitat survey data held since 1984 adding more recent and comprehensive habitat inventories. This will supplement our present knowledge of some 55 Sites of Special Scientific Interest for nature conservation and

some 570 Sites of Biological Importance to establish core areas, nature restoration areas, buffer zones and wildlife corridors/stepping stones.

Considerable discussion has taken place choosing species suitable for community recording. Some threatened species require undisturbed habitat and others are so obscure that they are unlikely to capture public interest. The final choice seems justified by the level of cross-matching with the list of nationally important species in the UK Biodiversity Steering Group Report. It was also agreed that the species involved might change over time.

The use of the term biodiversity, which has come from the international agreement made at the Rio Earth Summit, and the new phase of jargon associated with Biodiversity Action Plans has proved particularly daunting. We hope that the involvement of individual organisations as champions of particular habitats and species will help to break down this specialist barrier. Biodiversity embraces the whole variety of life on Earth encompassing not just nature conservation but also concerns raised for rare breeds and the gene pool of domesticated species.

As yet our attention has focused upon Cheshire's fauna and flora without considering our impact on habitats and species elsewhere on the planet. In future we will collaborate with Ness Botanic Gardens and Chester Zoo which has an established breeding programme for a number of species some of which are on hold pending more secure conditions in their natural habitat. In 'thinking globally and acting locally' we are only just embarking on our agenda for the 21st century.

The vision statement provided by the Sustainable Cheshire Forum has encouraged the Wildlife Task Group to recognise how much more can be achieved by creating attractive habitats for people and wildlife in both existing and new development. This is one of a number of links with the work of the Land Task Group which will deserve further consideration.

The 1996 Sustainable Cheshire Forum sees the development of a sustainable network of habitats as the top priority for wildlife. The Wildlife Task Group has identified a number of targets and actions which should help the Cheshire ECOnet and Biodiversity Action Planning become a reality.

Wildlife

The Issues

IS1   The reduction and fragmentation of wildlife habitats.

IS2   Concern for the viability and well being of species populations.

IS3   The impact of intensified land use and development on animals and plants.

IS4   The increasing separation between people and wildlife.

Targets	Short Term Actions (1997)
T1 Prepare and update a Biodiversity Audit for Cheshire. NB: First edition completed for the Vice-County in 1996.	
T2 Establish Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPS) for key habitats by end of 1997, complementing national and regional targets NB: Draft BAPs have been prepared in 1996 for: peatland; heathland; ancient woodland; reedbeds; meres.	Identify the leading contributors and prepare draft Biodiversity Action Plans for key habitats in Cheshire: ponds; fen; grazing marsh; cereal field margins; rich hedgerows; saline lagoons; verges; unimproved grass land; new development Progress the draft Biodiversity Action Plans by working with relevant partners for: peatland; heath land; ancient woodland; reedbeds; meres.
T3 Establish Biodiversity Action Plans for the 100 most threatened Cheshire species by 2000, complementing national and regional targets. NB: Draft BAPs have been prepared in 1996 for 38 species. otter; Cheshire reptiles(4); water vole, Cheshire bog spiders(5); dormouse; white-clawed crayfish; Cheshire bats(9); dingy skipper butterfly; brown hare; small pearl-bordred fritillary butterfly; barn owl; white letter hair streak butterfly; black-necked grebe; white-faced darter dragonfly; farmland birds(10); black poplar; great crested newt, bog rosemary; palmate newt.	Identify and prioritise the 100 most threatened species in Cheshire, and a selection of community indicator species. Establish the leading players in preparing species Action Plans and progress priority species BAPs.
T4 To have all Cheshire SSSIs under positive management by 2000 and the majority of designated County Sites of Biological Importance by 2020.	Have site management statements agreed with landowners/managers for internationally important sites in Cheshire and 50 sites of County importance.

Wildlife

The Objectives

OB1 To improve our knowledge and understanding of biodiversity in Cheshire

OB2 To care for and enrich the characteristic biodiversity in Cheshire.

OB3 To maintain and restore ecological processes across the county while providing sufficient scope for appropriate economic and agricultural development.

OB4 Increase appropriate opportunities for the interaction between people and wildlife to encourage respect for the well-being of the natural environment

Medium Term Actions (before 2000)	Long Term Actions (by 2020)
Implement and review BAPs for priority Cheshire habitats	
Implement and review the priority BAPs for Cheshire species.	Maintain an annual monitoring and review mechanism for Cheshire habitat and species BAPs
Complete site management statements for SSSIs without existing management agreements and 100 sites of County importance.	Maintain an annual monitoring and review mechanism for Cheshire SSSIs and SBIs.

Wildlife

Targets	Short Term Actions (1997)
T5 Create a sustainable network of habitats and species in partnership with landowners and agencies across Cheshire by 2020.	Resource the development of Cheshire ECOnet beyond 1997 and establish a Cheshire ECO/GIS users forum with partner organisations.
T6 Have active community involvement in wildlife recording by 2000.	Promote the 12 selected species as community indicators by: seeking community champions; providing a series of postcards for recording observations; featuring in a 1998 calendar; Internet; exhibition at focused events.
T7 Double the number of Local Nature Reserves in Cheshire to 20 by 2000.	Identify potential sites for Local Nature Reserve Status.
T8 Every school to have access to a wildlife area by 2000.	Identify which schools do not have access to a wildlife area. A WATCH group, a local ranger service, or equivalent.
T9 Establish good practice in urban design by 2020.	Identify good practice in urban design.

Wildlife

Medium Term Actions (before 2000)	Long Term Actions (by 2020)
Integration of ECOnet and Biodiversity Action Planning (BAPs) in planning for sustainable development.	Utilise Cheshire ECOnet and Biodiversity Audit to identify gains and losses.
Ensure that Sustainability Indicators are used to inform the evolution of planning policy and development control.	
Declare at least 10 new LNRs in Cheshire in collaboration with District Councils.	
Prioritise support to schools which are under-resourced.	
Promote good practice in urban design.	Incorporate standards for ecologically aware urban design.

Wildlife

The Sustainability Indicators

IND1   The extent of selected characteristic Cheshire habitats:

woodland; peatland; heathland; meadows and pastures; ponds; semi-natural water courses; hedgerows; verges; urban/industrial.

IND2a   Proportion of UK species in Cheshire in selected groups:

mammals; birds; reptiles; amphibia; fresh water fish; insects; other invertebrates; flowering plants; ferns; fungi; lichens; mosses.

IND2b   Proportion of Cheshire species populations which are threatened in selected groups:

mammals; birds; reptiles; fish; amphibia; butterflies; dragonflies and damselflies; flowering plants.

IND2c   The status of nationally important species in Cheshire.

IND3   Cheshire ECOnet as a map-based (GIS) indicator to demonstrate prime biodiversity areas and connections between habitats across the county, linking to national and local networks.

IND4   Community records for 12 high profile Cheshire species:

otter; songthrush; brown hare; frog; cowslip; skylark; bats; blue butterflies; kingfisher; hedgehog; black poplar; barn owl.
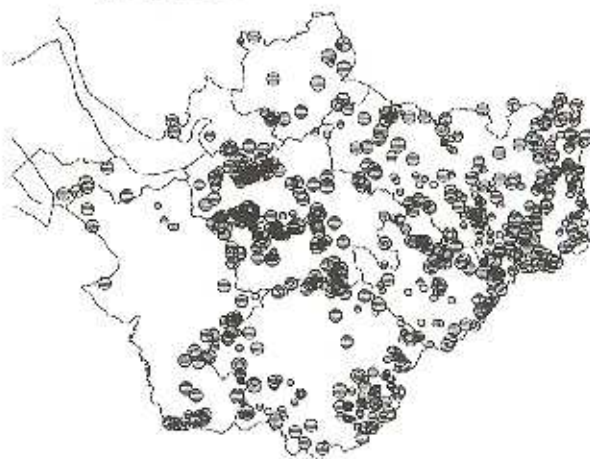
1996 Species Audit

Cheshire Species
UK Species not in Cheshire

Cheshire Species at Risk
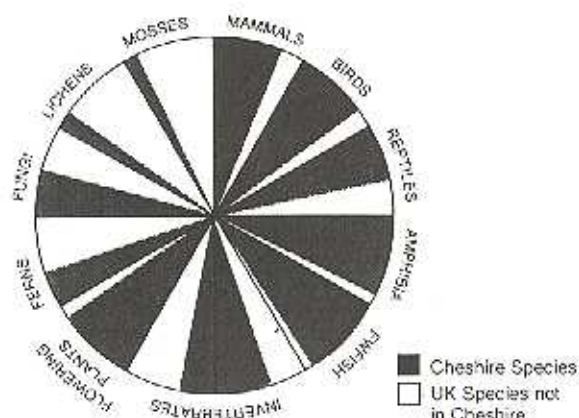
Cheshire Species at risk
Cheshire Species not at risk
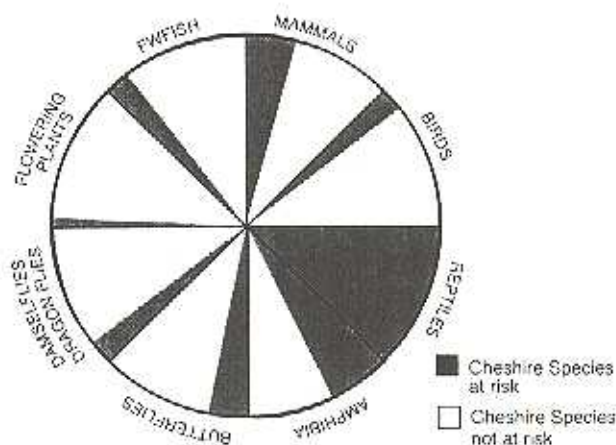
ECOnet
AN ECOLOGICAL NETWORK FOR CHESHIRE

WATER

The Task Group

David Crawshaw — **Task Group Chairman**
North West Water

Mark Turner — Mersey Basin Trust
Clive Gaskell — Environment Agency
David Hall — Chester Waterworks Company
Anthony Powell — Friends of the Earth
Tony Jenner — South Cheshire Health Authority
Simon Young — Churches Together
Cllr John Clarke — CCC

Barrie Morris — Eco-Schools (Ashton Hayes CPS)

Facilitators: Ian Whittaker/Gill Phillips
Environmental Planning CCC

Summary of Discussions

The Water Task Group reflects a wide range of expertise from the water industry and regulatory and conservation bodies. Discussions have focused on a number of key areas of concern to professionals in water-related industries as well as considering the perceptions and concerns of the water consumer.

Two major issues were identified in the initial discussions of the Task Group. The first is a response to the increasing demands on the water supply generated by modern lifestyles and expectations. It was felt that it was important to match consumption patterns to the available resources so that a sustainable water industry could be maintained without damage to the environment or the creation of costly new resources.

The second major issue was that of watercourse quality. The situation in the North West has been particularly serious as the Mersey and its catchment are among the most polluted watercourses in the country. The problems of pollution are part of the inheritance of the industrialisation and urbanisation of the Mersey Belt and the use of watercourses not only for supply in the clean upper reaches but also for disposal of both industrial and domestic effluent lower down the catchment. In Cheshire 30% of watercourses are classified as of either poor or bad quality. They cannot support fish life and would be unsuitable for a drinking water supply.

The Task Group agreed that in relation to the first issue it was important to reduce the amount of water lost through leakage. This was also identified as a priority target overall by the Forum. It was proposed that a realistic target was a 30% reduction in leakage by the year 2000. It reflects public and media concern that water resources must be seen to be better conserved. In addition it was considered important to encourage domestic consumers to be careful in the use of water and to aim to stabilise consumption patterns by the year 2000. Various approaches were discussed including the merits of metering and the development of less wasteful household appliances. It was also considered vital to encourage a continuation of current reductions in the rate of consumption by industry and agriculture.

Discussions on the second major issue, the state of Cheshire's river and streams, recognised that there is already firm political commitment to investment designed to achieve major improvements to water quality in the Mersey

catchment (ie up to at least grade 2 or a quality which can support fish life) by the year 2010. In relation to promoting the improvement in quality of watercourses in Cheshire, the Task Group agreed that it was important for public confidence and support that changes in water quality could be demonstrated in a comprehensible and vivid way. While reliance should continue to be placed on the expert measurements of quality employed by the Environment Agency, the implications of these measurements became meaningful when linked with their effects on the potential of a watercourse as a habitat for wildlife. Sightings of particular species could therefore become important indicators of water quality.

The Task Group also considered that drinking water quality was a major public concern. It was decided that in Cheshire there were three specific drinking water quality parameters which should be monitored. These were the incidence of lead, faecal coliforms, and nitrates in drinking water supplies. The point was made that the quality of drinking water throughout Cheshire was very good and that the target should be to maintain these high standards in relation to faecal coliforms and nitrates, and, in relation to lead, to encourage the progressive replacement of lead piping in older properties within the County.

It was recognised that in relation to water, although corporate investment was important, the decisions and actions of individual consumers could be of great significance. The need to persuade individuals to use water efficiently and ensure schools provide pupils with the necessary information about the whole water cycle was seen as vital.

Water

The Issues

Targets	Short Term Actions (1997)
T1 Reduce water lost through leakage by: 30% by the year 2000 50% by the year 2010	The County Council to encourage water companies to set more stringent leakage control targets (NWW Ltd to reduce leakage from 247 litres/property/day to 189 litres/property/day by 2000). Raise customer awareness of their role in reduction of leakage rates via Agenda 21 literature, education on the water supply system in schools, information/literature provided by the water companies.
T2 Reduce long term domestic water consumption per head of the population by stabilising consumption by the year 2000.	Promote use of water saving devices/appliances (eg the 'Hippo' displacement device). Promote efficient use of water for garden watering. Develop education packs and create links with schools via the water companies and Environment Agency's, technical literature and encourage the Forum network to adopt the 'Hippo' as an emblem.
T3 Maintain or reduce current rate of non-domestic consumption.	Adopt Waste Group minimisation targets and support waste minimisation projects being introduced by businesses such as 'Catalyst'.
T4 Reduce the incidence of lead failure by 50% and to maintain zero incidence of nitrates and faecal coliforms in water supplies.	County Council and district councils to Lobby Government for increased grant to householders for replacement of lead pipes within dwelling curtilage. Chester Water target of replacing 500 lead pipes per year North West Water regional target of replacing 50,000 lead pipes each year
T5 Maintenance of the existing Class A and B (or equivalent grade) watercourses and to achieve at least Class C (or equivalent) for the remainder by 2010	Monitor pollution incidents via continuing operation of DEEPOL (river Dee pollution monitoring system) and Mersey Estuary emergency planning arrangements. Widen public access to the Mersey Measure Monitoring system.

Water

The Objectives

OB1a   To ensure that there is increased efficiency in the use of water to promote a sustainable supply.

OB1b   To ensure that resources provide for consumption without environmental damage.

OB2   To achieve and maintain drinking water standards suitable for human consumption.

OB3   To achieve river water standards which allow environmental enhancement and promote improved biodiversity.

Medium Term Actions (before 2000)	Long Term Actions (by 2020)
Investment by water companies in mains replacement programmes. Continue education process. Water industry to assist consumer to identify leaks by developing devices that can help detect underground leaks in private supply systems.	Continued investment to maintain downward trend and achieve further reductions in leakages.
Promote shift to water metering of supplies Promote use of eco-labelled appliances and products. Lobby for review of local Byelaws. Continue education/awareness raising and develop links with Third World countries.	Review and adjust consumption targets. Implement continued action programmes as necessary Develop links with Housebuilders Federation and Legislators to achieve introduction of water efficient systems into house design standards.
Promote waste/water minimisation within business/industry. Promote 'soft engineering' solutions to agricultural irrigation requirements (such as on farm storage of water in ponds, etc).	Review and adjust consumption targets. Implement continued action programmes as necessary.
NWW Ltd target in Cheshire to reduce failure rate for lead from 3.4% to 2%. Maintain water companies replacement programme. Loans made available to householders to replace lead pipes in property	Review progress and approach on programme for lead pipe replacement.
NWW Ltd and Welsh Water investment programme in - Waste Water Treatment Works - Sewer networks Mersey Basin Campaign Initiatives - Estuary Management Plan - River Valley Initiatives Dee Water Protection Zones to control storage and use of materials that threaten water quality.	Review progress towards 2010 target and adjust programmes as necessary.

Water

Targets	Short Term Actions (1997)
T6 Reduce pollution incidents of watercourses.	Promote wider adoption of ADAS farm audit and monitor take up. Develop links between ADAS, the Environment Agency and the Mersey Basin Campaign. Encourage householders to adopt Environment Agency programme designed to remedy wrong connections of domestic foul drains to surface water drains.
T7 Increase populations of indicator species of:- Water vole Otter Kingfisher Frog Brown Trout	Monitoring of sightings by Wildlife Groups, the public and the Mersey Basin Trust. Identify and establish resources for surveys and funding for university/college/schools projects and develop support for the education sector via sponsorship from industry, local authorities, the Mersey Basin Campaign, Wildlife Trust and other environmental groups.
T8 Reduce total annual pollution load (BOD).	NWW Ltd and Environment Agency to review trends in Cheshire and set appropriate target reduction figure.

Water

| Medium Term Actions (before 2000)	Long Term Actions (by 2020)
Mersey Basin Campaign initiatives - Farming 2000, designed to produce pollution/wildlife and conservation/diversification advice and identify solutions and sources of financial help. - River Valley Initiatives.	
Encourage angling clubs and other voluntary organisations to become involved in collecting information on indicator species.	

Water

The Sustainability Indicators

Domestic Water Consumption

Domestic Consumption in litres/head/day
Mean figures for Cheshire
m - metered   n.m - non metered

IND1   Trends in water demand

- per capita domestic usage (metered and non metered) per day

- industrial consumption per day

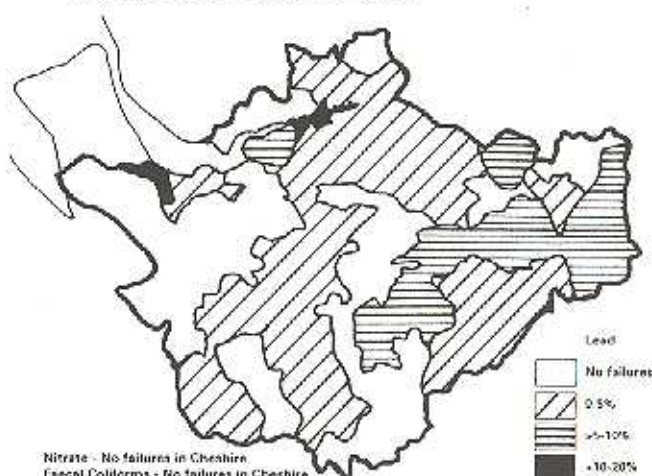- agricultural consumption per day

- leakage per day

Incidence of Lead Failures
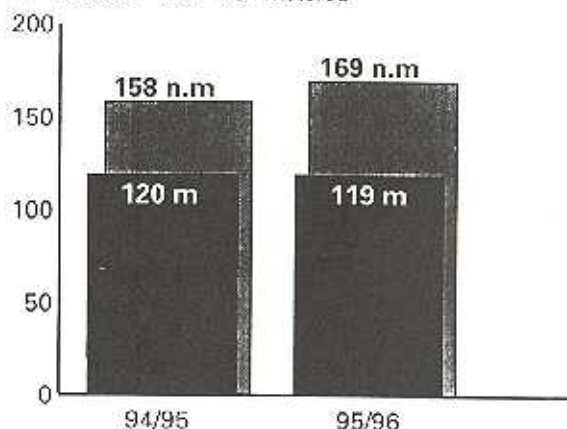
IND2   The annual percentage non compliance figure of Cheshire water supplies with national/European standards for the incidence of

- lead
- faecal coliforms
- nitrates

Nitrate - No failures in Cheshire
Faecal Coliforms - No failures in Cheshire

Lead
No failures
0-5%
>5-10%
>10-20%

IND3a   The total annual pollution load in Cheshire watercourses.

IND3b   The annual assessments of water quality carried out by the Environment Agency (ie chemical assessment) referenced to the characteristics of the watercourse (ie those at risk from agricultural pollution/industrial pollution) combined with IND3c.

Chemical Grades of Water Courses in Cheshire

IND3c   The presence of selected indicator species of birds and fish along selected lengths of watercourse in Cheshire.

IND3d   Number of reported pollution incidents:-

i)   Farming
ii) Sewage
iii) Industry

37
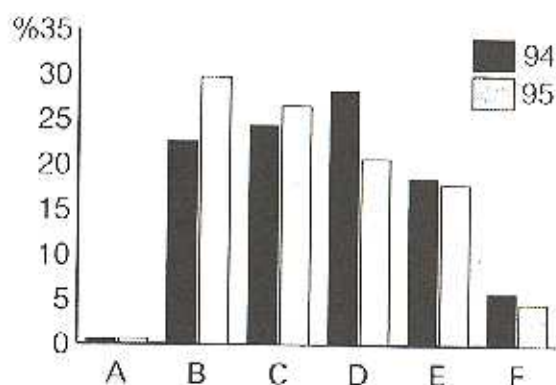
TRANSPORT

The Task Group

John Atkins   **Task Group Chairman**
Manchester Airport plc

Brian Kerr   Cheshire Association of Parish
Councils

Nicky Sant   Hays Chemicals
Margaret Oldman   CPRE
John Burns   Mersey Forest
Peter Foster   Sustrans
Heather Crocker   Freight Transport Association

Guy Hayhurst   South Cheshire Health Authority
Geoff Kendrew   P&O Ferrymasters
Bob Windsor   Eco-Schools
Barry Johnston   Chester Friends of the Earth
Cllr Derek Bateman   CCC
Facilitators: Jeff Lee, Environmental Planning
CCC
Carlton Roberts-James, Engineering
CCC

Summary of Discussions

Putting transport on a more sustainable footing raises issues affecting the economy, people's life-styles and their aspirations for mobility. Although a lot can be achieved locally, some of the influences for change can only be exerted at a national level. The Task Group recognised that Cheshire's Local Agenda 21 needs to form part of a much larger picture, and we should think in terms of a long term timescale for change to happen.

Nationally there is not yet a consensus on the right framework for transport, as illustrated by the differing views of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, in its report on "Transport and the Environment" (October 1994), and the Government's Green Paper on "Transport - The Way Forward" (April 1996)

There was general agreement on the main issues which Local Agenda 21 raises for transport, but it was not so easy to choose suitable indicators and targets for Cheshire. There is some information available, but it often does not deal with the most important issues from the LA21 point of view, nor is it collected on a sufficiently frequent or systematic basis.

It was agreed that we should try to select the "best" indicators from the sustainability point of view, even if the information is not currently available. There is therefore a vital need to establish new information-gathering strategies and devise new monitoring regimes, and obtain the necessary resources to carry these through on a regular and long term basis.

One way forward would be to carry out a regular household survey in Cheshire, which might collect information on transport and other LA21 topics.

Data is also needed for the targets. At present for most of the chosen targets there is no baseline information available for Cheshire.

In terms of the 5 targets chosen the Group's thinking was that:

* a target for cycling was thought essential in recognition of the need to encourage this form of travel and the growing momentum behind the Government's National Cycling Strategy;

* public transport has a key role as an alternative to the car, and therefore a target was thought important, though there are difficulties in influencing this in the current deregulated commercial environment;

* a target for changing journey to work patterns was important, because it represents the peak period of transport use, there is at least some information to hand, and it is the focus for many existing transport measures;

* freight has been seen throughout the process as very important and therefore a target was chosen, although the Group recognised that there is very little information on the situation in Cheshire, and that the greatest scope for influencing change lies at national level;

* a target on safe routes to schools encapsulates many of the concerns arising from LA21, strikes a chord with the community, and offers the possibility of involving young people in the process. It also ties in with national initiatives in the same direction.

There was a strong feeling that whilst LA21 was about encouraging environmentally-friendly modes of travel such as cycling and walking, these are also the most vulnerable. Targets must include a commitment to make the transport environment safer for vulnerable users.

There was a limit to how far the Group felt able to consider the resource implications or proposed actions in detail. Some measures need to be costed and assessed properly for their feasibility. The practicality of achieving actions and targets will not be the same across the County - some will be more realistic in urban rather than rural areas - and will depend upon local circumstances. Many of the transport measures are inter-related and should form part of an integrated, overall strategy.

Transport

The Issues

Contribution of fossil fuel consumption to global warming.

Access to goods, services, facilities and people.

Air pollution due to transport.

Reduction in health and safety because of growing road transport.

Targets	Short Term Actions (1997)
T1 To increase the proportion of passenger kms carried by public transport to 20% by 2005 from 12% in 1993.	Give greater priority in existing budget resources to improving public transport infrastructure. Adjust quickly to new funding regimes and to "tapping" new sources. Commit resources to obtaining information on public transport use, so that progress towards targets can be assessed (eg through 'Cheshire 1,000' Household Survey, or Travel Diaries, as outlined in Summary of Discussions.

Transport

The Objectives

OB1 To move to a more sustainable pattern of transport.

OB2 To minimise the need for transport.

OB3 To reduce dependency on the car.

OB4 To provide safe and secure facilities for environmentally friendly modes of transport.

Medium Term Actions (before 2000)	Long Term Actions (by 2020)
Concentrate new development near existing and new public transport facilities.	Introduce innovative people mover technologies.
Plan for public transport users in design and layout of new development.	Encourage provision of specialist public transport services.
Ensure developer contributions towards new or improved public transport facilities and services (eg revenue support).	
Draw up S106 agreements with developers for green transport plans (including cycle networks).	
Give priority to buses over private vehicles in traffic management schemes.	
Develop and implement package of measures tailored to local situation eg	
- introduce (real time) information for public transport	
- encourage multi-modal/multi-operator ticketing systems eg Travel Cards	
- reduce road capacity for cars to create more space for buses and bikes	
- increase or introduce car parking charges in urban centres	
- support bus operators	
- aim for improved quality in public transport	
- provide bus shelters.	
Review car parking standards.	
Promote construction of new railway stations.	
Safeguard former rail corridors from development which would prevent their re-use.	
Renovate and upgrade infrastructure such as railway stations, bus stations, interchange facilities, waiting areas etc.	
Lobby Government for increased resources for public transport.	
Promote integrated approach from Railtrack, Train Operators and Rolling stock owners.	

Transport

Targets	Short Term Actions (1997)
T2 To reduce the proportion of journeys to work by car to 60% by 2011, from 70% in 1991	Commit resources to monitoring trends in journey to work travel.
	Carry out sample survey of employers to establish baseline data and follow up with subsequent surveys (in parallel with 'Cheshire 1,000' Household Survey, as above).
	Champion company green transport plans
	Get businesses to sign up to TravelWise campaign.
	Raise awareness of environmental costs of car travel.
	Encourage personalised targets for using alternative modes of travel eg each person to carry out two of their normal car journeys by other means of transport, per week
	Review car parking standards in new development.

Transport

Medium Term Actions (before 2000)	Long Term Actions (by 2020)
Introduce package of measures including traffic restraint, tailored to local situation.	
Improve cycling and walking networks to centres of employment as alternatives to using the car.	
Reduce lump sum/council car schemes which encourage car use.	
Encourage employers to provide incentives/payments for alternatives to the car, and to review their parking provision.	
Promote low energy 4-5 seater cars.	
Manage parking and the use of roadspace to give preference to car sharers.	
Encourage car sharing eg by pilot study for database on sharing opportunities.	
Introduce measures encouraging higher vehicle occupancy levels	
Ensure new employment development is close to public transport networks	
Encourage innovative working practices eg teleworking, working at home.	

Transaort

Targets	Short Term Actions (1997)
T3 To double the proportion of freight tonnes-kilometres carried by rail, water and pipeline by 2011.	Establish monitoring systems for freight transport in Cheshire (possibly a sample of freight managers in Cheshire), or apply local factor to national data. Restrict goods vehicles from sensitive urban areas and rural environments.

Transport

Medium Term Actions (before 2000)	Long Term Actions (by 2020)
Locate new developments close to existing train and freight facilities.	
Encourage movement of freight by rail and waterway, and transfer of freight between modes eg through interchange facilities or transshipment depots.	
Restrict the loss of further rail lines.	
Direct road freight to Primary Route network and trunk roads.	
Lobby the Government to construct West Coast Main Line and "piggy back" facility for heavy goods vehicles.	
Lobby local firms to invest in freight facilities so that they can use rail in future.	
Lobby Government for	
- stricter enforcement against illegal road freight practices	
- use of economic instruments to favour non-road freight	
- promotion of good practice eg reducing empty running by road hauliers.	

Transport

| Targets	Short Term Actions (1997)
T4 To double the proportion of journeys by bike in Cheshire by 2002 and to quadruple it by 2012.	Cycling officer to prepare a cycling strategy. Commit increasing % of County's budget to cycling and seek funding from new sources. Commit resources to obtaining information on cycle usage in Cheshire, and establishing ways of monitoring trends. One way forward would be through a 'Cheshire 1,000' Household Survey, or by asking residents to complete Travel Diaries. Apply National Cycling Strategy recommendations to Cheshire. Raise awareness of benefits of cycling and environmental costs of car travel.
T5 To develop a network of safe routes to schools on foot, by bike or by public transport.	Establish baseline information on travel to school patterns, and set up regular information-gathering (possibly in conjunction with schools). Seek parents and schools' ideas on how to reduce school car journeys. Carry out safety audits of existing routes. Liaise with Road Safety, TravelWise and Eco-School campaigns. Develop an indicator of relative safety and risk of modes of travel to school.

Transport

| Medium Term Actions (before 2000)	Long Term Actions (by 2020)
Establish a dedicated cycling team and budget, with support at a high management level.	Achieve a County-wide cycle network, embracing leisure routes, inter-urban routes and urban networks.
Create a cycle friendly infrastructure.	
Provide secure facilities for cycle parking at railway stations and in non-residential development.	
Provide bike hire facilities at park and ride sites.	
Introduce traffic management and control measures to give priority to cyclists, using good practice elsewhere eg priority at road junctions, cycle lanes and cycle priority routes.	
Encourage cycle shops as information centres for cycle routes, state of repair etc	
Encourage provision of facilities on buses and trains for carriage of bikes	
Develop a network of safe cycle routes to schools, work places and leisure amenities	
Adopt national cycleway standards.	
Implement specific pilot schemes and demonstration projects, and resource appropriately.	
Plan for cycle users in layout and access arrangements of new development.	
Identify, resource and develop a network of safe routes to schools for walking, cycling and public transport.	
Improve lighting and paved surfaces on routes.	
Establish secure cycle parking facilities at schools, and reduce theft.	
Introduce traffic calming and speed reduction on routes to schools.	
Retain local village schools (resist closures).	
Encourage safe behaviour on foot and on bikes.	

Transport

The Sustainability Indicators

Means of Travel to Work in Cheshire 1971-91

IND1   Number, proportion and length of trips made by
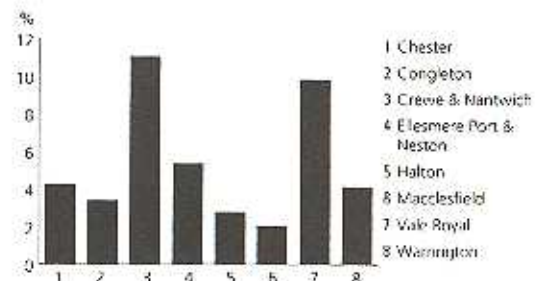different modes of transport (per capita).
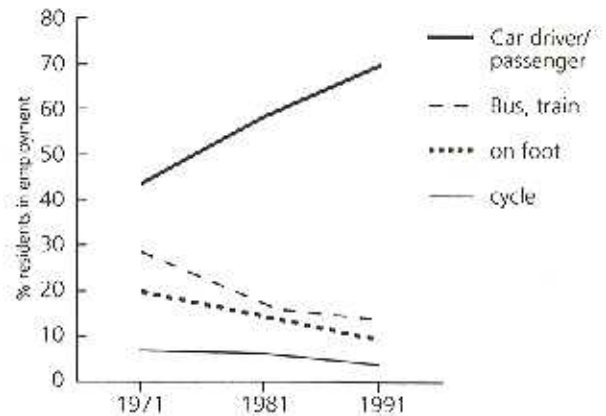
**Distance to Work 1991
(Employees and Self Employed)**
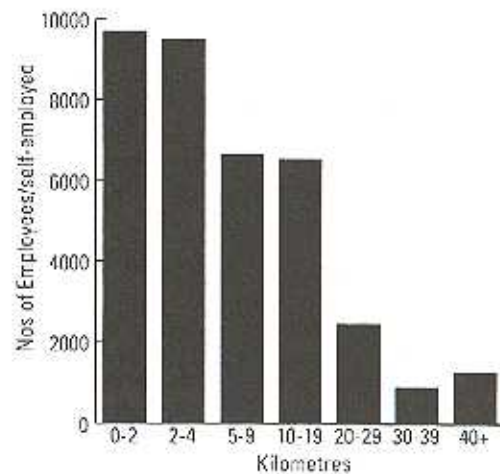
IND2a   Average travel-to-work distance by mode of
transport.

IND2b   Non-road freight as % of total freight.

Travel to Work by Bicycle in Cheshire Districts

IND3   Investment in pedestrian and cycle
facilities.

IND4a   Journey to school/college by different
modes of transport.

IND4b   Some measure of the safety and
convenience of different modes of travel.

IND4c   Number and length of trips for leisure
purposes, by different modes of travel.

ECO-AUDIT

The Task Group

John Millett   **Task Group Chairman**
           Mersey Basin Foundation
John Gittins   Cheshire Landscape Trust
Jim Shields   Forum Chairman
Elise Smithson   BICC
Peter Fox   Environment Agency
Penny Ozanne   North Cheshire Health

Barry Johnson   Friends of the Earth
Leslie Klein   South Cheshire Health
Mike Monaghan   Churches Together
Mark Chandler   Environment Agency
Elizabeth Gentil   CPRE
Facilitator: John Pearson
           Environmental Planning

Summary of Discussions

In the last five years there has been a considerable increase in the level of interest in public and private sector organisations wishing to improve their environmental performance. The activity of environmental management and eco-auditing provides the framework to turn good intention into positive action.

The Eco-Audit Task Group has aimed to provide a practical approach to assist the process of improving environmental performance. The purpose of the Task Group was seen as being overarching; encompassing all the other Cheshire Focal Point topics. The group also saw itself as testing environmental awareness, sampling the level of public and private sector environmental management and encouraging community involvement in eco-auditing. Eco-auditing has thus been viewed as the practical vehicle for promoting environmental awareness and direct action.

A range of discussions have taken place in the group with short and longer term horizons. In the longer term, the group would hope to promote a cultural shift which would see industry and commerce welcoming the opportunity to work in partnership with their local communities on environmental issues and audits. A further long term direction would possibly see an Eco-Audit contact in every parish or community council area in order to facilitate and promote action.

The longer term aims and aspirations were, however, complemented with more pragmatic and practical shorter term actions. An important activity has seen initial work on the development of an eco-audit model to be used in evaluating environmental performance. The model has been adapted from the existing Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution risk appraisal model and will be further modified for use by industry, public sector and community organisations. Four trial audits have been completed at County Council sites and a total of twenty audits will have been completed by January 1997. Seven Forum members have been involved in the audits, and five have qualified as an audit leader.

The value of the audits has seen raised environmental awareness amongst the staff involved at the sites audited, with the potential for replication of good practice in similar establishments. A number of issues have been raised during the use of the model which will help the development process. The need for easy application to the service sector and establishment of business sector guidelines will form the basis of the changes to the model currently in use.

The growth of eco-audit activity throughout Cheshire forms the cornerstone of the actions discussed by the Task Group.

The initial work undertaken by the group should provide a solid foundation for any subsequent work in the development of an eco-audit model. Continuation of trial eco-audits should help the process further in providing a wide range of testing situations.

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

EMAS - ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT SYSTEM

Cheshire County Council has responded to the LA21 discussions by making a positive attempt to put its "own house in order". It is County Council policy for all Services to be registered for Local Authority EMAS by 2005. A senior management steering group and cross service working group has been established in order to co-ordinate action. A number of Services have established Eco teams which will work to integrate environmental considerations into normal working practice.

The work on EMAS is set within a corporate environmental policy which aims to "maintain political and management commitment to the principles and values of environmental sustainability as a framework for the provision of County Council Services and activities". Five key action areas have been identified which are Purchasing; Use of Finite Resources; Transport; Waste Management and Land Management. Work in these areas should result in continuous environmental improvements within all areas of County Council operations, and help to set a good example and lead a positive direction for Cheshire into the 21st century.

ECO-SCHOOLS

Eco-Schools is an international initiative which asks schools to assess their impact upon the environment and to develop action plans to reduce adverse impacts. Eco-Schools was launched in Cheshire in November 1995. Twelve schools have registered and Ashley School, Widnes, was the first school in Cheshire to achieve the Green Flag award. More schools are expected to follow the example and eco-audits of school operations will become standard practice.

ECO-Audit

The Issues

IS1   Need to test the level of environmental awareness and action across the Cheshire community.

IS2   Need to sample a wide range of indicators with a view to enabling a review of environmental performance and improvement.

IS3   Environmental performance should be considered alongside economic performance.

Targets	Actions 1996
T1 Develop suitable criteria for model through pilot audits.	The completion of a further 6 audits covering the focal point topics air, water and wildlife plus 3 others. The establishment of a database of trained auditors in Cheshire.

ECO-Audit

The Objectives

OB1 To encourage private and public sector organisations and the community to work together in improving environmental performance.

OB2 To encourage organisations in Cheshire to strive to continuously improve their environmental performance as it relates to energy, waste, air, land, wildlife, water and transport.

OB3 To encourage organisations in Cheshire to systematically evaluate environmental performance.

Actions by mid 1997	Actions by end of 1997
Establishment of a protocol for the use of the Eco-Audit model. Full development of Eco-Audit model. Establishment of targets for the end of year 2000 Establishment of a target based on schedule A and B returns.	50 audits to be completed (based on the modified OPRA). 30 audit leaders to be established.

ECO-Audit

The Sustainability Indicators

Trained Environmental Auditors for Cheshire ECO-Audits 1996

IND1   The number of trained environmental auditors across Cheshire.

20

Cheshire ECO-Audits 1996

IND2   The number of Eco-Audits taking place across Cheshire.

10

Formal Environmental Management Schemes in Cheshire 1996

IND3   The number of formal environmental management schemes being undertaken in Cheshire.

5

Cheshire County Council