

SEEDA Sustainable Development Committee
8 June 2005

The two main items of interest were:

- I. Developing a 'Roadmap' for arriving at 60% CO₂ reduction by 2050.
 - I.1 For nearly two years JAC has requested the Committee to tackle this subject, and the first stab at it was presented to this meeting. 60% reduction in CO₂ emissions implies substantial changes in the way the regional economy will work. It is to assess these, and to consider the changes in lifestyles, business practices and the regional infrastructure consequent on the proposed reductions that the Committee felt a major study was needed.
 - I.2 The paper presented outlined the situation, painted possible low carbon scenarios drawing on recent Government White Papers. Examples of current industrial processes driven by electricity that end up using only 4% of the chemical energy of the fuel burned on the power station were given. The need to use energy more efficiently and less of it was also included in the low carbon economy scenarios.
 - I.3 This topic is now a standard agenda item, with the intention at each meeting to take a section of energy users, domestic, transport, commercial, manufacturing, etc and report on how that section could contribute to the overall reduction needed, with appropriate lesser reductions at earlier dates, having first evaluated the effect of any major changes in carbon emissions that could be implemented within the timescale being considered. Such changes could include going nuclear for electricity, carbon dumping in old oil wells, developments in tidal wave energy and other renewables. Cost benefit analysis of each of these options and any others considered would need to be provided.
 - I.4 In a year or two a complete 'roadmap' of how this region could get from the current position to 60% reduction in CO₂ will have been drawn. The political, lifestyle and infrastructure implications will have been demonstrated.
 - I.5 Equally the chance to become a world leader in the technologies and social changes needed to halt climate change will give the region a huge export base for both equipment, design of engineering solutions and royalties on patented processes.
2. Alternative methods of measuring growth.
 - 2.1 JAC had also requested a paper on alternative methods of measuring growth. Growth as currently measured includes costs of crime, so as crime rises growth rises, costs of cleaning up a nuclear spill would also increase growth. As the Sustainable Development Committee is required to consider 'Sustainable Growth' a better measure is needed. The paper outlined attempts at doing this, including a list of measurements that would either augment or reduce the crude figures currently used. The paper settled on a system called Measure of Domestic Progress, currently being refined at the University of Surrey. Provided the measurements taken are robust, changes in the designed index year by year should be of significance, and useful when seen against raw GDP data sets.

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Assembly member

15 June 2005