

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This is the first annual report on greening operations in line with the adoption by the Board of an Environmental Policy Statement in July 2000.
- 1.2 This policy statement provides a clear focus for activities across the estate for this and future years, and enables target setting in all key areas. It is posted on the SELB web site.
- 1.3 The Board is primarily an office based organisation and the key environmental impacts which result directly from our operation centre on energy usage, water use, paper consumption, travel and waste, plus procurement of goods and services. As an educational facilitator the Board also has a significant role to play in raising awareness through educational programmes at school level.
- 1.4 In order to show progress in each area, each section of this report begins with the relevant target or objective and a comment about achievement and/or performance. The targets and objectives are drawn from the Environmental Policy Statement and/or current public sector targets in the relevant area of activity.
- 1.5 The key to the use of graphics is -

Smiling Face ☺ - Objective/target met.

Normal Face 😐 - On course to meet longer-term objective/target or performance is variable across the Board.

Sad Face ☹ - Evidence of only limited progress across the Board.

2.0 PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

- 2.1 The Board has been involved for many years in Public Sector Energy Efficiency campaigns, and is recognised as having led many of the successful initiatives undertaken in this field within education.
- 2.2 The Board is committed to build on the achievements made in the energy field and through the business planning process will endeavour to introduce local action plans, with targets for improving the environmental performance of its operations.
- 2.3 An environmental monitoring group has been established to co-ordinate and promote the Improvement Programme. This group will meet on a quarterly basis to prioritise areas for action and assess achievements.

3.0 SUMMARY

- 3.1 The Board is committed to helping achieve sustainable development by reducing environmental impacts of our operations. The adopted Improvement Programme sets out objectives and targets to which we work.
- 3.2 This report is the first on the Board's environmental performance as a whole and describes where work will be focussed to improve this performance over coming years, including development of our monitoring and data collection arrangements, so that we are able to report more fully in future years; with year on year comparisons.

4.0 KEY DEVELOPMENTS

4.1 ENERGY

- 4.1.1 In 2000/01 energy consumption by the Southern Education and Library Board was 19.03 gigajoules per 100 cubic metres (weather corrected) compared with 20.68 gigajoules per 100 cubic metres (weather corrected) in 1999/00. This represents a saving of 8% against a 1% target saving. Weather correction factors have been applied as agreed in Department of Education correspondence dated 24/4/96.
- 4.1.2 Expenditure on energy in 2000/01 amounted to £3,188,209 compared with £2,822,507 in 1999/00.

4.2 TRANSPORT

- 4.2.1 Green transport plans will require to be prepared for all headquarters and ancillary out centres. To this end staff questionnaires have been issued to establish baseline data.
- 4.2.2 The possibilities for cycling and public transport promotion together with the purchase of alternative clean fuel vehicles must be investigated.

4.3 WASTE

- 4.3.1 Total waste arisings amounted to some 4599 tonnes. Much of the waste information available is drawn from the University of Paisley's audit of a sample of Board buildings. Data on waste arisings was obtained from District Councils' Accounts Departments.
- 4.3.2 Following publication of the Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy it is hoped that public service forums can be established with Councils to promote minimisation activities.

4.4 WATER

4.4.1 The Board spent £220,577 on water consumption in the past year. Efforts to establish benchmarks for public sector buildings have been conducted in a “Watermark” project funded through the Treasury’s “Invest To Save Programme”.

4.4.2 The Board in conjunction with the Water Service is working to establish baseline consumption figures and ongoing monitoring arrangements.

4.5 PAPER

4.5.1 Paper procurement in 1999/00 was approximately 90,000 reams. A figure for recycled paper is not available but it is considered negligible.

4.5.2 Future efforts will concentrate on the reduction of current usage and procurement of recycled paper as and where possible. Awareness issues will also be to the fore with concentration being placed on improved use of IT systems.

4.6 EDUCATION

4.6.1 Environmental education was evident at all Key Stages, at post 16 and in the Youth Service through –

- Focused activities at the Shannaghmore and Killowen Outdoor Residential Centres, for example, river and beach studies.
- Projects and competitions run in partnership with external agencies.
- Local and international curriculum projects, for example, Our Town Your Town and Pride of Our Place, in which linked schools in SELB and the Republic of Ireland compared their local environments.
- Topics and issues in the geography and science curriculum for KS2 – ‘A’ Level.

4.6.2 Environmental web sites and links to Environmental agencies were made available to schools through NINE and SELB’s Environment and Society web site.

4.6.3 Environmental education is a key focus in the Environment and Society action plans for 2001/2002, within SELB and at Inter-Board level.

4.7 PROCUREMENT AND PURCHASING

4.7.1 The Board spends approximately £28 million each year on a wide range of goods and services including furniture, audio visual aids, computers, books, printing and stationery, practice materials for schools, food, vehicles and transport services. Most of the purchases are made using framework agreements established as a result of open invitation to tender procedures.

4.7.2 The Purchasing Unit will collaborate with other Education and Library Boards in joint tendering arrangements which promote through contract terms and conditions the Government’s “Green Claims Code”, and will implement the Board’s policy on the environment insofar as it relates to the purchase of goods and services.

5.0 ENERGY

5.1 HEADLINE INDICATORS

Improve energy efficiency and reduce CO2 emissions by 1% per annum	☺
Initiate programme to obtain 10% of the Board's energy from renewable resources	☺

5.2 GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL CONTEXT

5.2.1 Climate change is one of to-day's greatest environmental threats. Many countries acknowledge the need to cut emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO₂) that contribute to climate change. These greenhouse gases are largely produced when fossil fuels are burned. In 1997 under the Kyoto Protocol, the UK agreed to a legally binding target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 12.5% below 1990 levels by 2008/12. The Government also has a separate domestic goal of a 20% reduction in CO₂ emissions by 2010. The Government has produced a new UK Climate Change Programme to meet the legally binding Kyoto commitment and to move towards the domestic goal. This will be a balanced programme in which all sectors play their part.

5.2.2 With CO₂ accounting for around 80% of national greenhouse gas emissions, reducing energy consumption is a key priority. Against this background, the Government announced in March 1999 its proposal for a Climate Change Levy. The levy applies to all non-domestic energy consumers including Government Departments, thereby ensuring that Departments are fully exposed to the economic price signal to improve energy efficiency. In addition, the Government has set suppliers a target of generating 10% of electricity from renewable sources by 2010.

5.3 CORPORATE POSITION

5.3.1 The Board's Annual Report on energy consumption is at Appendix A and shows an 8% reduction in weather corrected energy consumption over the past year. This represents a saving of 14.5% since the base year of 1990/91.

5.3.2 Weather corrected CO₂ emissions have also reduced from 71.32 kg/m² to 56.99kg/m² or 20% over this period. These reductions have been achieved against a background of -

- Unprecedented increases in information technology and other electrical equipment.
- Mild weather in recent years resulting in a high degree day correction factor being applied to enable analysis over years of varying weather patterns.
- Evening and outside letting of premises.

5.3.3 The Department of Finance & Personnel who direct the current public sector campaign are now proposing a target of a 1% reduction in CO₂ emissions per annum together with a benchmarking approach for all public sector buildings. This will enable the highlighting of good and poor practice at individual site level.

5.3.4 The overall improvement in performance has been brought about in the main through -

- Policies initiated by the Energy & Environmental Unit to install LPG equipment in kitchens and change electric heating in some schools to oil or gas.
- Fabric improvement programmes such a flat roof/roofspace/cavity insulation and improved boiler control systems.
- Energy efficient lighting installation.
- Maintenance programmes such as window replacement/re-wires etc.

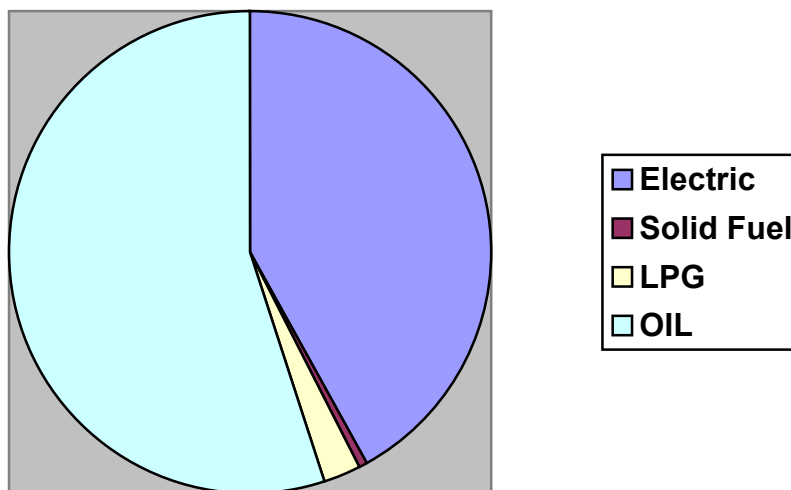
5.3.5 When examining CO₂ emission factors -

Electricity emits	229 kg/GJ and costs 9.4p/kWh
Oil emits	78.76 kg/GJ and costs 1.85p/kWh
LPG emits	74.76 kg/GJ and costs 3.66p/kWh
Natural Gas emits	56.43 kg/GJ - information not available
Solid Fuel	98.49 kg/GJ and costs 2.3p/kWh

It is apparent how inefficient electricity is in terms of CO₂ production compared to other fuels.

Oil is used largely for heating purposes while LPG is the preferred fuel for catering. Solid fuel as a heating source is not very efficient and requires significant handling.

5.3.6 Board production of CO₂ as a whole is as follows-



CO₂ emitted - 37,598

5.3.7 Following approval by the Board approximately 80% of all Board properties have signed up to receive environmentally produced electricity as from 1 April 2001. This is electricity produced from renewable sources and will not be subject to the climate

change levy. It is anticipated that this measure will reduce Board CO2 emissions by a further 30%.

It is possible in the longer term that if a consortium of Boards' would commit to purchasing a particular amount of energy over a period of time that a contract with a supplier would among other things –

- Result in a specially commissioned renewable energy generator being built.
- Help to keep unit prices competitive in the longer term.

5.4 FOCUS FOR ACTION

5.4.1 Whilst the Board is on schedule to meet the reduction target in this area, there remains much to be done. Continuous improvement is necessary as others are benefiting from reduced emissions through the installation of natural gas systems. Priorities for the coming campaign include maximising funding to –

- Improve fabric conditions of buildings.
- Consider changes to heating systems to more cost effective and environmentally friendly fuels (mobile classrooms).
- Improved benchmarking of all buildings to inform the investment process and raise awareness.
- Improve monitoring and targeting generally.
- Maximise awareness through joint initiatives with other agencies.
- Access any opportunities available in the future for natural gas.
- Purchase as much Eco electricity as possible as this does not emit CO2 in the production process and is allowable against targets.

6.0 TRANSPORT

6.1 HEADLINE INDICATORS

Compile green transport plans to minimise adverse impacts on the environment.	☺
Review staff travel and subsistence rules and mileage rates to encourage staff to use more environmentally preferred means of travel and communication.	☺

6.2 GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL CONTEXT

6.2.1 In July 1998, the Government published its White Paper ‘*A New Deal of Transport: Better for Everyone*’ aimed at creating a better, more integrated transport system to tackle the problems of congestion and pollution. The White Paper dealt not only with national transport policy but also with what local authorities, businesses, public transport operators and transport users could do. Green Transport Plans (GTP’s) are key to easing peak time congestion, improving the environmental performance of businesses and delivering benefits to them and their staff. In the White Paper, the Government set its own departments and agencies the target of establishing plans for their headquarters and main buildings by March 1999 and all other key buildings by March 2000.

6.2.2 Recent budgets have introduced measures to support green transport aims, including revised vehicle taxation and tax concessions for employers taking green transport plan measures. The Government is considering workplace parking charges and changes to company car taxation. For individuals, the transport element of the Government’s “Are you doing your bit” campaign has increased travel awareness and promoted greener alternatives to single occupancy car use.

6.3 CORPORATE POSITION

6.3.1 In May 2000 the Central Management Support Unit conducted a fundamental service review of home to school transport. Approximately £1.7m is spent on vehicle fuel across the five area Boards. The Southern Board operates a fuel monitoring system, which provides effective monitoring of fuel consumption and currently covers an estimated 60% of Board vehicles. Data on driver, vehicle and amount of fuel usage is collected on “Templeton” software and transferred to the Tranman system by disk. One recommendation of the review was that Boards’ should seek to maximise their combined purchasing power through greater use of five Board contracts.

6.3.2 Business travel includes the use of the Board’s own vehicles, staff private vehicles and all forms of public transport. At the present time existing management information systems do not allow the aggregation of all travel statistics and as a consequence it is not possible to establish the total number of miles travelled, or the significance of each of the above transport modes. Work is underway to remedy this

situation and it is hoped that further data will be available during 2001-2002. Data does exist in respect of mileage driven in Board owned vehicles, and in respect of staff who have used their own vehicles – see Figure 1.

- 6.3.3 **Bicycles** – The Board does not provide bicycles for staff transport, however facilities do exist for parking, together with showers and changing areas. Many schools are provided with specific areas for bicycle parking, however parental concerns in relation to traffic dangers has seen a decline in their use in recent years. Sincere attempts are now being made to provide cycle ways in many towns in the province and it is anticipated that the use of cycles to school will increase.
- 6.3.4 **Staff Travel** – No data currently exists in relation to staff use of transport, private car use or distances involved. A key element of “Green Transport Planning” is information in this area and to facilitate this a staff survey is to be conducted in the next financial year.

Figure 1

	Mileage
*Boards’ own vehicles	26422
Teachers	282,233
Essential Users	1,165,549
Casual Users	199,585
Public Transport Rate	340,847

***Does not include Home to School Transport**

- 6.3.5 **Focus for Action** – The Board will aim to -
- Prepare green transport plans for headquarters buildings.
 - Assess the feasibility of purchasing alternative clean fuel vehicles through the “Powershift” programme operated by the Energy Saving Trust.
 - Develop, review and deliver the aims and targets in the Green Transport Programme for headquarters and main buildings.
 - Seek to maximise combined purchasing power.

7.0 WASTE AND RECYCLING

7.1 HEADLINE INDICATORS

Set target to reduce solid waste produced from the Boards premises.	☹
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Monitor and audit waste disposed of from premises to ensure effective management and adherence to regulations.	☺

7.2 GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL CONTEXT

- 7.2.1 The draft strategy 'A Way with Waste' reported the preliminary findings of a national survey of industrial and commercial waste undertaken by the Environment Agency. The survey shows that total industrial and commercial waste amounts to between 70-100 million tonnes and that about 35% of this is re-used or recycled with around 50% going to landfill.
- 7.2.2. The EC Landfill Directive (Council Directive 1993/31 EEC of 26 April 1999) requires the UK to reduce over the next two decades the amount of biodegradable municipal waste (including paper and food waste) going to landfill to just 35% of such waste produced in 1995 by 2020). In its first annual report "Greening Government" in June 1999, the Green Ministers Committee introduced the first, initial, cross-government target for waste ("to recover a minimum of 40% of total office waste, with at least 25% of that recovery coming from recycling or composting, in 2000-2001"). The report adds that Green Ministers will decide what further targets, including the feasibility of a waste reduction target, should follow that set for 2000-2001.
- 7.2.3. A Waste Management Strategy for Northern Ireland was recently published by the Department of the Environment, fulfilling its commitments under the EC framework directive on waste. This strategy outlines the need for effective partnerships between sectors and in particular District Councils, if targets are to be met. Co-operation is essential in order to achieve the economies of scale required to make many of the alternative systems viable.
- 7.2.4. "Joint Waste Management Plans are the preferred option of establishing effective waste reduction, recycling and recovery schemes at the local level. District Councils need to implement such schemes under their Waste Management Plans, and promote their uptake through community awareness education and participation".

7.3 CORPORATE POSITION

- 7.3.1 In February 1999 the Board appointed the Environmental Department of the University of Paisley to audit a representative sample of buildings, as part of a Waste Audit and Minimisation scheme. Other partners to this project were Armagh City & District Council, Banbridge District Council and the Southern Health & Social Services Board. A summary of the audit position in schools is outlined as follows -

WASTE CATEGORY	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL WASTE
New unused material	2%
Re-usable material	35%
Recyclable	40%
Actual Waste	23%

TOTAL -	100%
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7.3.2 It is estimated that up to 70% of office waste is recyclable. For the reporting period a priority has been to establish a baseline position for all waste arisings, in order to enable the establishment of a clear annual reduction target.

7.3.3 Data available on waste arisings has been compiled from invoicing records provided by each of the six District Councils namely, Armagh, Banbridge, Cookstown, Dungannon and Craigavon.

7.3.4 Accurate and reliable information on waste arisings, composition and management methods is essential to planning and decision making for improving resource and waste management. It is important that an effective management information system is put in place as a result of the Councils' Southern Waste Management Partnership currently underway. This would enable ready access to data for all major waste producers.

7.4 CORPORATE ACTION

7.4.1 Work has focussed on establishing baseline figures to enable the setting of an overall performance target. Investigations have also taken place in relation to current recycling actively going on throughout the service. The following examples worthy of mention include -

- Free waste paper collections each week at all properties within the Armagh District Council area.
- Income of £4,000 per year from the sale of books and AV material by the Library Service.
- Waste paper collection points at a number of schools in the Banbridge District Council area. Schools are paid £12 for each container lifted, being the difference in the cost between recycling the material against it going to landfill.
- Board Headquarters has a considerable amount of confidential waste, which must be shredded. This waste is carried to a confidential waste handler and routed directly for recycling. The Board recycles approximately 8.52 tonnes per annum in this way.

7.4.2 It is clear that in any waste management partnership formed by the Councils, good practices already carried out by some should be applied throughout the District Council areas. It is also important that a Forum be established to promote best practice and to maximise educational opportunities in this area.

7.5 WASTE ARISINGS

7.5.1 Although the Board has not set a corporate target in respect of waste arisings, a performance benchmark is available from *Green Efficiency - Simple steps to a Greener Office* produced by Wastebusters Ltd for the Environment Agency and Surrey

Council. This states that in a standard office building, less than 200 kg of waste arisings per member of staff per annum is a good level of performance.

7.5.2 Headquarters buildings, Charlemont Place, waste arisings show where we are in relating to this benchmark -

	Tonnes	KG/Person
Charlemont Place & Beresford Row	45.18 Council 20.0 Currans 8.52 Recycled	146 65.57 27.93
TOTAL -	73.7	239.50

It is clear therefore that considerable room for improvement exists.

7.5.3 With regard to the rest of the Board's premises the arisings in each council area are summarised below -

	Schools etc	Meals Kitchens
Armagh City & District Council	414.54	366.52
Banbridge District Council	272.88	210.94
Cookstown District Council	354.06	189.12
Craigavon Borough Council	495.36	440.98
Dungannon District Council	449.06	318.08
Newry & Mourne District Council	*see note 504.44 (estimate)	386.8
	2490.34	1912.35

*Figures were requested from Newry & Mourne District Council but no information was forwarded to the Board.

7.5.4 In addition to the above £6,085.40 was paid for skip hire charges equating approximately to a further 123 tonnes of landfill waste.

7.5.5 Total waste arisings therefore for the Board as a whole including headquarters is estimated at 4599.05 tonnes per annum.

7.5.6 Focus For Action -

- Improve the monitoring and reporting arrangements for individual sectors.
- Work to meet targets in line with the UK Government's commitments.
- Raise staff awareness of the issues involved, the need to minimise waste, and act appropriately.

- Establish dialogue and agree a way forward with Councils, waste handlers and others in the field.

8.0 WATER

8.1 HEADLINE INDICATORS

Draw up a programme to monitor water use at metered sites	☹
Establish a reduction target for water consumption.	☹

8.2 GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL CONTEXT

- 8.2.1 Water is a limited natural resource. Maintaining a clean and potable water supply is costly and necessitates significant energy usage in the treatment process. Government encourages all sectors of society to manage the resource in the most effective and efficient manner. The Water Service is under a statutory duty to promote the efficient use of water by their customers; for example they offer practical advice to all domestic and commercial customers.
- 8.2.2 Government continues to issue advice on water conservation to industry, business and domestic users via such mechanisms as the Environmental Technology Best Practice Programme. Specific advice on water conservation for governmental departments has been issued by DETR through guidance notes, such as '*Conserving water – Advice to Government Departments*'.
- 8.2.3 The Buying Agency has secured funding under the Treasury's "Invest to save programme", to set up a monitoring and benchmarking facility known as 'Watermark'. This will enable schools and other public sector users to benchmark their use of this resource.

8.3 CORPORATE POSITION

- 8.3.1 The Board spent £220,577.18 on water consumption in 2000/01. No total consumption figure is currently available as monitoring arrangements are operated purely on a manual basis for each individual site.
- 8.3.2 Water reduction has not historically been a part of the energy efficiency campaign. However, ongoing efforts have been made to install urinal controls and other water saving devices within many of the larger using buildings.
- 8.3.3 Discussions between the Water Service and the Joint Board Energy Efficiency Group are ongoing whereby data will be provided on an ongoing basis for consumption at all board sites.
- 8.3.4 **Focus for Action** – The Board will –
- Establish baseline information on current consumption at each location.
 - Review monitoring arrangements in conjunction with the Water Service to enable target setting and facilitate regular reviews against the corporate target.
 - Install water heating controls and devices to minimise waste.
 - Raise awareness of local responsibilities in relation to costs for water leakage.
 - Plan and progress the actions necessary to deliver the level of performance required by corporate targets in future years.

9.0 PAPER

9.1 HEADLINE INDICATORS

Review all operations with a view to maximising the use of IT and electronic media to replace the use of paper.	☺
Identify the quantity of printer/copy paper purchased and introduce programmes to save paper through - eg double-sided printing and copying.	☺

9.2 GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL CONTEXT

9.2.1 Paper, newspaper and magazines are a significant element of the commercial and household waste stream. They are generally biodegradable, and are thus part of the diversion targets required by the landfill directives. The active use of recycled paper and segregation after use are key areas where business can contribute to market development. Stable demand with significantly increase the viability of paper recycling bringing both economic and environmental benefits.

9.2.2 Green Ministers have identified paper as one of the main areas for action in the future. Many government departments are now meeting the objective to reduce paper waste use and buy 100% recycled paper comprising at least 80% genuine post consumer waste and to use this for all work not requiring specialist paper.

9.3 CORPORATE POSITION

9.3.1 Reported paper procurement in 1999/2000 was approximately 90,000 reams, none of which was recycled. There is a clear need for improved monitoring of paper purchases both at Board Headquarters and school supplier level. It is essential to determine accurate baselines and put in place adequate monitoring arrangements to confidently report year on year performance in respect of each of the Board's property centres.

9.3.2 **Focus for Action** - In order to ensure progress action must take place as follows -

- Introduction of local area networks and advanced office and IT support systems to help reduce consumption and improve recycling of paper.
- Issue of guidance to staff encouraging the use of recycled paper and waste management.
- Improve data collection at property centres currently unable to provide reliable purchase data.
- Improve the performance of all sectors with regard to the use of recycled paper, and set appropriate baselines and targets for procurement.

10.0 EDUCATION

10.1 GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL CONTEXT

10.1.1 In May 1999, the UK Government published *A Better quality of life, a strategy for sustainable development for the UK*. At the heart of sustainable development is the simple idea of ensuring **a better quality of life for everyone now and for generations to come**. This means meeting four objectives at the same time, in the UK and the world as a whole.

- Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone
- Effective protection of the environment
- Prudent use of natural resources; and

- Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment

10.2 In Northern Ireland, CCEA identified Environmental Responsibility as one of the core values in their recommendations for a revised curriculum in 2001. The proposals state that teachers should help pupils:

- Think globally, act locally
- Cut down on waste and prevent pollution
- Save energy and natural resources
- Look after the local environment
- Encourage bio-diversity

10.2.2 It is envisaged that while these fine goals should be encouraged by all teachers they will be specifically addressed in science, geography and more significantly in a new subject called Citizenship.

10.2.3 Currently these issues are addressed in some aspects of the science and geography curriculum. There is also a specific module on environmental education offered at GCSE, though the uptake is very small.

10.3 CORPORATE POSITION

The SELB supports environmental education by:

10.3.1 Promoting environmental education in all phases of formal education and through the Youth Service. This includes focused activities at the Shannaghmore and Killowen Outdoor Residential Centres, which address the Northern Ireland curriculum for example GCSE and A level science and Geography. Wind turbines have recently been erected at Shannaghmore and will help pupils understand the potential of wind power.



10.3.2 Supporting environmental education projects at local, national and international level. Recent projects such as Our Town Your Town and Pride of Our place brought young people together from north and south in a celebration of their local environments. Environmental Education is a core part of the European Studies Project, which is managed by the SELB.

10.3.3 Supporting outside agencies such as Environmental Link and centres such as Peatland's Park and the Lough Neagh Centre. We have contributed to a register of environmental sites and links on the SELB and NINE web sites. Our links with our local councils are good but could be further developed. This is an area for exploration in the coming year.

10.3.4 An action plan for environmental education drawn up by the Advisers for Environment and Society is addressed at Board and Inter-Board level as appropriate.

11.0 PROCUREMENT AND PURCHASING

11.1 HEADLINE INDICATORS

Introduce training and programmes to raise awareness of environmental issues for purchasing staff and develop systems and procedures for implementing green procurement.	
Review contract terms and conditions to ensure that they do not prevent the purchase of re-manufactured, refurbished and recycled products and refined mineral oils and vegetable based lubricating oils.	

11.2 GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL CONTEXT

- 11.2.1 Government purchasing policy allows NDPB's to decide their own environmental strategy for procurement within the context of achieving value for money. In June 1999 the Department of Education wrote to the Board drawing attention to the Greening Government Initiative and included guidance on Policy Appraisal on the Environment and a model policy statement in line with the initiative. The expectation was that the Board would sign up to its own policy statement on Greening Government and that there would be evidence of progress in this area.
- 11.2.2 In January 2000 the Chief Executives of the Education and Library Boards decided to establish an Inter Board Working Party to draw up an agreed draft policy which could be recommended to the Boards for adoption. At its meeting on 20 July 2000, the Southern Board adopted its Environmental Policy Statement and established an Environmental Management Group to take the policy forward.

11.3 CORPORATE POSITION

- 11.3.1 The responsibility for all non LMS purchasing of goods and services (excluding major and minor works, maintenance of buildings and electrical/mechanical services) resides with the Board's Procurement Officer. All requests by budget holders are channelled through the Board's Purchasing Unit.
- 11.3.2 The Unit has established a catalogue, which contains a number of framework agreements (standing contracts), for a broad range of goods and services regularly purchased by budget holders including schools under local management arrangements. The frameworks have been arranged through the use of effective open competition and in compliance with all relevant legislation and Board Standing Orders.
- 11.3.3 **Focus for Action** - The Unit will -
- Review its standard contract conditions to ensure that manufacturers, suppliers and contractors are encouraged to develop environmentally preferable goods and services at competitive prices.

- Specify refurbished or recycled products and materials where such alternatives are available.
- Work with contracted suppliers to improve environmental performance where this is relevant to the contract and to the achievement of value for money.

12.0 CONCLUSION

- 12.1 It is evident from this report that there has been and can be further significant progress in this important area of activity. The Board has made clear efforts with its greening operations programme particularly in promoting and fostering a clear and consistent corporate approach.
- 12.2 Broadening the use of objectives and targets will provide further impetus to management. Establishing appropriate benchmarks will also highlight areas of soft or incomplete data, in the areas of energy, transport, water and paper.
- 12.3 In many of the areas much of the basic planning is complete and focus should now shift to planning the achievement of demonstrable reductions in consumption and improved resource efficiency.
- 12.4 Education and awareness of the issues involved and the effective use of partnerships will be important in any future ongoing campaign.