

The Environmental Sustainability of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

London Assembly Environment Committee

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<i>Party</i>	<i>Name</i>
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(Cons)	Gareth Bacon
(Cons)	Steve O'Connell
(Lab)	Murad Qureshi (Deputy Chair)
(Lab)	Nicky Gavron
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Terms of Reference

1. To examine and report from time to time on –
 - the strategies, policies and actions of the Mayor and the Functional Bodies
 - matters of importance to Greater Londonas they relate to the environment in London.
2. To examine and report from time to time on
 - The strategies, policies and actions of the Mayor and the Functional Bodies
 - Matters of importance to Greater LondonAs they relate to sustainable development in London
3. To examine and report to the Assembly from time to time on the Mayor's Air Quality, Biodiversity, Energy, Noise and Waste Strategies, in particular their implementation and revision.
4. To consider environmental matters on request from another standing committee and report its' opinion to that standing committee.
5. To take into account in its deliberations the cross cutting themes of: the health of persons in Greater London; and the promotion of opportunity.
6. To respond on behalf of the Assembly to consultations and similar processes when within its terms of reference.

How the Olympics are being delivered

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (**LOCOG**) is responsible for preparing and staging the Games. They are responsible for fundraising for the Games and will let most of the contracts for services to deliver and run the Games.

The Olympic Delivery Authority (**ODA**) is the public body responsible developing and building the new venues and infrastructure for the Games and their use post 2012 and delivering transport infrastructure and services to support the games.

Together LOCOG and ODA are **London 2012**.

The Mayor has responsibility for delivery against programme objectives relating to the wider legacy of the Games in London and for ensuring that appropriate regional policies are delivered through the Olympic programme. The London Development Agency (**LDA**) has responsibility for land acquisition, legacy construction, social/economic regeneration and legacy.

Commission for a Sustainable London 2012 is an independent body set up to monitor delivery of a sustainable Olympics and Paralympics. The commission will report on progress with policies and procedures to deliver sustainability objectives and performance in relation to objectives.

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Executive Summary

“Sustainability was an important element of our bid and underpins our preparations and our vision for the legacy of London 2012.”¹

London 2012 Chairman, Seb Coe

“The Olympics and Paralympics must be a showcase for the British commitment to sustainability. This early declaration and commitment sets a benchmark for action”²

David Miliband, then Secretary of State for DEFRA

Sustainability has been ‘put at the heart of’³ the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.’ One of the legacy promises is that the Olympic Park will be ‘a blueprint for sustainable living’⁴. BioRegional, the ‘One Planet Olympics’ partner are more direct - “This is a fantastic opportunity for London show how we can host the greenest Games ever”⁵

Over £9.3 billion of public money is being spent to prepare for and stage the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, much of it on long-term infrastructure.⁶ It is therefore important that this funding provides an environmentally sustainable legacy. The event and preparations also present a huge opportunity to build skills in delivering sustainable goods and services and to increase the market for sustainable products.

The timetable for staging the Olympics and the budget for doing so are both now set. Therefore specific commitments are needed to ensure that these noble environmental ambitions are not compromised under pressure to meet these time and cost constraints. This is especially important in the face of pressure on budgets caused by rising costs and tightened credit markets.^{7&8}

Summary of Progress

The Committee welcomes the efforts being taken by the London 2012 team to date to make sustainability central to their decision-making process. The organisation has committed to achieving high standards of environmental sustainability while highlighting that this must be achieved within the constraints of delivering the Games on time, on budget and with reliable infrastructure and services. Work to develop new and ambitious sustainability targets and to ensure that existing targets are as demanding as possible should continue to guide this process. The Committee notes the important role played by the Mayor, the Commission for a Sustainable

¹ London 2012, News Release: London Launches Sustainability Plan, 26 November 2007.

<http://www.london2012.com/news/media-releases/2007/2007-11/london-2012-launches-sustainability-plan.php>

² Department for Culture, Media and Sport, News Release: Jowell Unveils Package of Measures to Support Business in Run up to 2012, July 2006, http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/media_releases/2547.aspx

³ London 2012, London 2012 Sustainability Plan, November 2007, p5.

<http://www.london2012.com/documents/locog-publications/london-2012-sustainability-plan.pdf>

⁴ Department for Culture, Media and Sport, Our Promise for 2012, June 2007, p15.

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/3660.aspx

⁵ London 2012, News Release: Green Leaders Back London’s Bid, 17 November 2004.

<http://www.london2012.com/news/archive/bid-phase/green-leaders-back-londons-bid.php>

⁶ National Audit Office, The budget for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, p16.

http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/nao_reports/06-07/0607612.pdf

⁷ The Daily Telegraph, Boris Johnson cracks-down on Olympic budget, 15 May 2008.

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/boris_johnson/1956640/Boris-Johnson-cracks-down-on-London-Olympic-budget.html

⁸ The Guardian, Johnson vows to rein in Olympic costs as IOC begins inspection, 21 May 2008.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2008/may/21/olympics2012.olympicgames2012?gusrc=rss&feed=networkfront>

London 2012, and to some extent the Committee itself, in pushing for London 2012 to go even further.

Developing strategies; setting targets

In terms of planning and implementation the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) are, understandably, more advanced than the London Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG). However, for both delivery agencies, the sequencing of work has meant that design, tendering and even construction has proceeded while environmental strategies are still being formed; in particular the carbon management strategy is not yet complete. It remains to be seen whether this will result in significant missed opportunities. When the Committee raised this with London 2012, representatives were confident that they will be able to incorporate emerging requirements into designs that are underway and contracts already let.

As the Committee has maintained throughout its work in this field, it is clear that having strong targets is important. Targets are the drivers behind venue designs and are used directly to set performance standards in contracts for building and service delivery. We welcome the specific and robust construction related targets, however we believe that more work is needed to firm up standards for Games time and in some areas of Legacy.

Design and construction

The Committee believes that good progress is being made against design and construction based targets such as energy efficiency and renewable energy provision. While these targets are largely in line with government goals, we are concerned that they may not be 'exemplary.' The 'market best' may be being taken instead of requiring greater innovation and using the Games as a driver to push sustainability forward. This concern is somewhat ameliorated by the ODA's assurance that they view these targets as minimums and contractors are incentivised to exceed them. Early indications are that this may be achieved for some targets, for example over 90 per cent of construction waste is being reused or recycled. It should also be noted that government goals in many of these areas are moving quickly and stretching the industry as a whole.

Games time management

LOCOG still has significant work to do in delivering sustainability when developing the food delivery plan, the procurement arrangements, Games time waste management and in understanding the carbon impacts of its operations. We welcome the good start in, for example, working with British Standards to develop a draft standard for sustainable event management. There is a risk that if work to embed environmental sustainability into practices is not completed soon contracts and plans will begin to be settled constraining efforts to reduce and mitigate environmental impacts. The next year will be critical.

Legacy commitments

Legacy commitments that do not relate directly to the built environment are mostly aspirational or promise further planning, for example, by developing a biodiversity action plan, or catalysing waste infrastructure in East London. We believe that plans that are being developed now should push targets further and ensure that the development is still cutting edge when legacy use begins, more than four years from now. This may include promoting greater use of onsite renewables, full use of new waste technologies, and striving for zero carbon. Legacy use is arguably able to take greater risks with new technology than Games time use and therefore stringent environmental standards should be sought.

The next few years

As construction begins on venues and the Olympic Village this year, it will be important for monitoring of progress toward targets to continue. However, it also signals that the window to push for new or harder targets for construction and infrastructure is closing. There is, however, still scope for refinement of operational and legacy targets.

There are two key developments occurring over the next year that will enable further consideration of targets: first, the carbon strategy release in July, and second, the further development of the Legacy Master Plan Framework. The Committee strongly encourages the Mayor and the Commission for a Sustainable London 2012 to continue to stretch London 2012 and maintain a focus on delivering an environmentally sustainable Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Mayor should also begin to give greater consideration to how the preparations for the Olympics can be used to spread environmental legacy benefits to the whole of London. One opportunity may be the development of a waste strategy for East London, which on completion offers London an opportunity to apply the knowledge, skills and supply chains to improve the capital's entire waste infrastructure. Renewable energy provision for the Olympic Park also presents similar opportunities.

The Committee looks forward to progress over the coming years including the development of specific targets in areas such as Games-time waste minimisation; linking legacy carbon strategy development into the work of the delivery agencies; making even greater use of renewable energy including waste to energy and; providing greater transparency about the goals and monitoring of partnership work. This progress will ensure that the expectations of the Games showcasing environmental sustainability and providing an exemplar for future development in London are met.

1. Introduction

“Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”⁹

The Brundtland Commission report, 1987

- 1.1 Sustainability is a widely used term, and one that can be used to convey a variety of meanings. It is often used to indicate that social and environmental factors will be taken into account, not just economic ones. Sustainability may mean social and economic development that respects and maintains environmental integrity, or pursuing social, economic and environmental progress together, or, more controversially, ensuring that any losses in one sphere produce a larger gain in another.
- 1.2 The concept of sustainability arose out of concern about the environmental issues we faced as a result of global population growth, depletion of non-renewable resources, over exploitation of renewable resources and the accumulation of waste and pollution. It was recognised that environmental problems were interconnected with economic and social problems, especially the need to improve living standards in the developing world, and therefore these issues needed to be addressed simultaneously - through sustainable development.
- 1.3 The UK Sustainable Development Commission has interpreted sustainable development as conforming to five principles. “We want to live **within environmental limits** and achieve a **strong healthy and just society**, and we will do so by means of **sustainable economy, good governance, and sound science.**”¹⁰

What is Environmentally Sustainable?

- 1.4 As the Environment Committee, our work has been focused on how close London 2012 is to achieving environmental sustainability.
- 1.5 Environmental sustainability is a core part of sustainability but focuses attention directly on the destination or goals for the physical and natural world. It is concerned with protecting and restoring the environment while recognising the interconnections with social and economic goals and concerns. Therefore environmental sustainability is concerned with preventing the build up of pollution (in the air, land and water), maintaining biodiversity, and preserving of the systems that sustain life (ecosystem services such as a liveable climate, water cycling, soil formation, and enjoyment of natural landscapes).
- 1.6 Environmental sustainability can be conceived as:
 - ‘living well within our environment’ and its limits¹¹;
 - ‘living within the carrying capacity of the ecosystems that support life’¹²; or as

⁹ United Nations World Commission on the Environment, Our Common Future, 1987. <http://www.un-documents.net/wced-ocf.htm>

¹⁰ HM Government, ‘Securing the Future - UK Government sustainable development strategy’, March 2007 <http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/what/principles.htm>

¹¹ Philip Sutton, ‘A Perspective on environmental sustainability? A paper for the Victorian Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability’, 12-April-2004, p1. <http://www.ces.vic.gov.au/CES/wcmn301.nsf/childdocs/-441BB07721D61152CA256F250028C5FB?open>

¹² David Munro, ‘Caring for the earth: a strategy for sustainable living, IUCN;UNEP;WWF,1991.

- maintaining the quality of environment on a long-term basis

1.7 Environmental sustainability is expressed in Olympic bid documents through concepts of zero carbon, zero waste and conserving and increasing ecological value.

Environmental Sustainability: Olympic commitments, targets and standards

1.12 The main documents setting out environmental sustainability commitments and targets for the Games are as follows:

- The London 2012 bid document and associated document 'Towards a One Planet Olympics.' 'Towards a One Planet Olympics' sets out how the One Planet Living principles have been interpreted in the context of the Games. This document was aspirational not binding, but supported the wider London 2012 bid and was endorsed by BioRegional and the World Wildlife Fund.
- London 2012 Sustainability Policy and the London 2012 Sustainability Plan, setting out in more detail how the Policy will be achieved. The Plan brings together the range of sustainability commitments and targets already agreed and sets out areas where it is known more work is needed. The Sustainability Plan will be updated and reported on annually.

1.16 Several other documents also contain standards relating to environmental sustainability:

- The ODA also has a sustainable development policy and sustainability is addressed in its procurement policy.
- LOCOG will define sustainability requirements from the overarching London 2012 documents and functional area business plans. The Commission for a Sustainable London 2012 (CSL) noted in November 2007 that these business plans did not yet 'address sustainable development issues consistently or adequately.'¹³
- Planning conditions for the Olympic Park also set out some of the environmental standards that London 2012 are required to achieve in delivering the Games.¹⁴

1.11 The Environment Committee held a hearing on the London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games on 26 February 2007; which built on two other meetings held by the Committee on the topic since mid 2006. This report summarises the findings of the Committee over this period.

1.12 Our report highlights the major targets agreed by London 2012 and measures these against the aspirations of both the bid commitments, and the public promises made by Olympic leaders about showcasing sustainability. The promises of Olympic leaders provide a basis to for overall assessment of the Olympic environmental sustainability program. A comparison between London 2012 bid commitments and the specific targets for achieving them allows an assessment of whether London 2012 is on track in individual

¹³ Commission for a Sustainable London 2012, On Track for a Sustainable Legacy?: Review of Governance Arrangements for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, November 2007. p38.
http://www.cs london.org/documents/2007_Governance_Review.pdf

¹⁴ ODA Planning Application Decision Notice for the Olympic, Paralympic And Legacy Transformation Planning Applications: Facilities And Their Legacy Transformation Planning Application, Application No.: 07/90010/OUMODA, 7 February 2007, Part II
<http://www.london2012.org/en/ourvision/ODA/ODA+Planning/>

areas. A table setting out bid commitments and the various targets by topic is included in Appendix A.

- 1.13 Our report discusses commitments and targets by topic across six key areas and makes an assessment about actions taken so far towards achieving these commitments. Carbon emissions, energy, waste and food are environmental topics drawn out from the wider sustainability categories in the London 2012 Sustainability Plan. To better understand how commitments will be delivered we have also looked at the role of sponsors and the procurement processes of the delivery agencies.
- 1.14 The Committee has not addressed biodiversity in any depth at this stage; over 2008 the launch of the London 2012 Biodiversity Strategy, and the development of legacy biodiversity plans in the legacy master plan may provide an opportunity for more in depth review.

2. Carbon emissions

- 2.1 The activities surrounding a 'mega event' like the Olympics would ordinarily create a large amount of carbon emissions. So what actions can the organisers take to minimise these emissions, or even make the Games carbon neutral?
- 2.2 'Towards a One Planet Olympics' has zero carbon as an aspirational goal, while the 2012 Sustainability Plan sets an aim of minimising "the environmental footprint and carbon emissions of the Games and legacy development."¹⁵
- 2.2 London 2012 has pledged to undertake a study of the carbon footprint of the Games. The first draft of the carbon footprint and associated carbon management strategy, including a reference scenario and numbers quantifying emissions, is due to be published by the end of July 2008. This will then be revised in light of lessons learnt in Beijing. The Committee was told that issues still being worked through include uncertainties around the carbon costs of operations during Games time, and how to deal with 'residual' emissions i.e. whether to pay for offsetting.¹⁶ We welcome this innovation of measuring the carbon footprint of the Games.
- 2.4 Early calculations of the Games carbon footprint are outlined in the Sustainability Plan. These calculations suggest that the emissions from Olympics-related spending that is outside the London 2012 budget,¹⁷ for example spectator travel to the Games and the activities of sponsors and media, are likely to overwhelm the 'direct' footprint
- 2.5 In February, LOCOG discussed this 'broader picture' of carbon emissions with the Committee. They outlined their plans to use the 'power of the Games to influence change to encourage vast numbers of people to be aware about their carbon footprint and do something about it.'¹⁸ LOCOG are also working with all of their 'corporate partners to influence corporate behaviour, whether it is in the food sector, the energy sector, transport or whatever.'¹⁹ While this was not explicitly called offsetting, it was intimated that this would 'manage' the overall Games footprint and effects of high carbon emitting activities such as spectator and Olympic family travel.
- 2.3 Legacy use is not included in the Carbon Strategy at the moment. The reason given for this was the uncertainty about use of facilities in legacy mode and therefore future carbon output.²⁰ This casts doubt on assurances about achieving bid targets for CO₂ reduction from the built environment in legacy. However the GLA has committed to working on carbon strategy in the legacy master plan and has recruited technical expertise for this task. From discussions so far it seems that the ability to utilise new energy technologies will be key to achieving a low or zero carbon legacy.²¹

¹⁵ London 2012, London 2012 Sustainability Plan, November 2007, p60.

¹⁶ Transcript of Environment Committee meeting, 26 February 2008, p8.

¹⁷ Categorized as shared (The portion of emissions attributable to spending from other public bodies such as TfL, or private partners e.g. Olympic Village on projects partially funded by London 2012) and associated (emissions over which London 2012 has only some control include the emissions from activities of athletes and visitors, media and sponsors).

¹⁸ Transcript of Environment Committee meeting, 26 February 2008, p11.

¹⁹ Transcript of Environment Committee meeting, 26 February 2008, p29.

²⁰ Transcript of Environment Committee meeting, 26 February 2008, p9.

²¹ Transcript of Environment Committee meeting, 26 February 2008, p24.

Assessment and remaining issues

We welcome how London 2012 are working in the spirit of a low carbon Games and taking opportunities to reduce carbon emissions. However, the Committee is concerned that the carbon strategy is being carried out at a relatively late stage and that this may result in missed opportunities. Detailed scrutiny will be required, most importantly from the Commission for a Sustainable London 2012, to ensure that the strategy is robust and all opportunities for carbon saving are identified.

LOCOG appear to have taken on the *“first strong message; that to reduce the footprint of the Games it is imperative to engage on environmental issues with stakeholders outside of LOCOG and ODA. Indeed many of the ‘quick wins’ may well arise out of partnership working and by informing and motivating individuals and organisations.”*²² However, no concrete details are yet available about planned actions to achieve reductions or the actual level of reductions that will be made through changes in stakeholder behaviour. This is something we will want to watch further.

We want to ensure that the carbon strategy work in the legacy master plan occurs in time to link in with London 2012’s carbon strategy and the results are able to influence London 2012 plans where needed. We also want to ensure that leaving legacy out of the carbon strategy does not indicate a broader inclination within London 2012 to discount environmental legacy considerations in favour of more immediate construction and Games time considerations. The Committee encourages London 2012 and the GLA to continue to strive to achieve a zero carbon legacy for the Games.

²² London 2012, London 2012 Sustainability Plan, November 2007, p21

3. Energy

- 3.1. Provision of renewable energy and high levels of energy efficiency will be key to reducing the carbon footprint of Olympic Park and will provide a powerful demonstration of what can be achieved in the rest of London.

Energy efficiency

- 3.2. The Sustainability Plan commits “the Olympic Village to be 44 per cent more energy efficient than 2006 Building Regulations,”²³ an increase over a previous target of achieving 25 per cent greater energy efficiency. This new commitment would comply with the level of energy efficiency that will be required by building regulations in 2013²⁴ but not the zero carbon standard set for 2016.
- 3.3. According to the ODA, the energy efficiency commitment is ‘getting to the edge of what you can do viably with efficiencies through [measures such as] insulation and air tightness.’²⁵ Therefore, to gain greater carbon reductions will require increased delivery of energy from renewable sources, over and above the 20% committed to in legacy.
- 3.4. London 2012 is cooperating in the development of a new BREEAM²⁶ standard for venues and have committed to achieving a rating of excellent for permanent venues in legacy mode. The committee welcomes this development.
- 3.5. No firm commitments have yet been made for the energy efficiency of temporary venues or overlay. London 2012 informed the Committee that for temporary venues and overlay their primary concern is minimising the embodied energy of materials used. This is because over the short lifespan of the structures, used for only few months, the carbon savings from reduced energy used would not outweigh embodied energy in materials needed to achieve greater energy efficiency.²⁷

Energy provision

- 3.6. The bid document holds out LOCOG’s aspiration to ‘produce clean energy from residual general waste and sewage’.²⁸
- 3.7. The Sustainability Plan re-commits to providing 20 per cent of electricity during Games-time from new local renewable energy. However, this new renewable energy includes capacity ‘indirectly inspired’ since London was chosen to host the Games and local is deemed to include Greater London, Thurrock and North Kent Thameside.²⁹ Therefore, it

²³ London 2012, ‘London 2012 Sustainability Plan: Towards a One Planet 2012’, November 2007, pp18

²⁴ Department for Community and Local Government, Building a Greener Future: Policy Statement, July 2007, p5. <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/building-greener.pdf>

²⁵ Transcript of Environment Committee meeting, 26 February 2008, p24.

²⁶ BREEAM measures the environmental performance of buildings by awarding credits for achieving a range of environmental standards and levels of performance (including energy efficiency, water usage, materials and building management).

²⁷ Transcript of Environment Committee meeting, 26 February 2008, p22.

²⁸ London 2012, Candidate File, Volume 1, Theme 5:Environment and Meteorology, 2004. p79. <http://www.london2012.com/documents/candidate-files/theme-5-environment.pdf>

²⁹ London 2012, ‘London 2012 Sustainability Plan: Towards a One Planet 2012’, November 2007, p18-19.

is questionable whether the Olympic Park plans are consistent with London Plan presumption for provision of 20% on-site renewables.³⁰

- 3.8. The ODA informed the Committee that it expects to be able to meet the Legacy commitment to supply at least 20 per cent of energy requirements with on-site renewables. They further indicated they are considering 'opportunities for additional wind turbines,'³¹ which would allow them to exceed the target.

Assessment and remaining issues

The Committee welcomes the progression of targets over time overtime, with some now ahead of current government goals. However, it is still debatable whether the overall standard is exemplary, given the growing numbers of, admittedly smaller scale, zero carbon developments occurring.

Therefore, the provision of more renewables should be a priority - to move the Olympic Park closer to zero carbon. The Committee supports efforts to install further wind turbines where appropriate, and would strongly encourage the ODA to go even further through increased use of biomass and utilisation of other technologies, such as waste to energy, as proposed in bid documents.

³⁰ Policy 4A.7 The Mayor will and boroughs in their DPDs should require developments to achieve a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions of 20% from onsite renewable energy generation, unless it can be demonstrated that such provision is not feasible."

³¹ Transcript of Environment Committee meeting, 26 February 2008, p22.

4. Waste

- 4.1. The aspiration is to stage a zero waste Games – to eliminate waste through the design of products and the way waste is handled. London 2012 targets are moving towards this goal. Targets have been established that no waste produced during the Games will be sent to landfill and that 70% of Games time waste will be reused, recycled or composted.³² More recently the GLA committed to ensuring that no waste would be incinerated during Games time and that ‘new technology’ for energy recovery would be used.³³
- 4.2. London 2012’s Sustainability Policy gives a vision that the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games ‘will act as a catalyst for encouraging the development of new waste processing infrastructure in east London and at other regional venues.’³⁴ The inclusion of new energy recovery plant will be key to both sending no waste to landfill or incineration and to reducing carbon emissions by using waste to generate renewable energy. The Committee was informed that the LDA is now leading the development of a waste strategy for East London, including mapping what new infrastructure may be needed, and have allocated some funding.³⁵ The GLA expect to have ‘very much clearer plans’ by November 2008.³⁶
- 4.3. Approximately 80% of Games-time waste will be food packaging. LOCOG will work with all catering suppliers, including international sponsors Coca-Cola and McDonalds, to ‘have a look at the types of packaging’, to ‘control the types of materials that are input into the site and ... recycle them with the appropriate reprocessing facilities.’³⁷ The environmental impact of food supply is discussed further in the box below.
- 4.4. London 2012 has made a commitment to use waste minimisation principles for temporary venues and overlay such as the Olympic stadium seating. This means designing out waste and promoting reuse, recycling and recovery of materials.³⁸

Assessment and remaining issues

Construction waste minimisation and recycling is a significant success story, and it is now up to LOCOG to reach this high standard in dealing with Games time waste. As further plans for waste infrastructure and minimising food packaging and other Games time waste are developed over the next few years it will become clearer whether the positive goals for waste management will be achieved.

The Committee believes that Games time waste minimisation is likely to be a particular challenge. In the absence of specific targets much will depend on the engagement of London 2012 partners. A new target for waste reduction during Games time would be useful in concentrating the efforts of London 2012 and its partners.

It is encouraging that the LDA has stepped up to fill a previous gap in waste infrastructure planning. The Committee strongly supports new waste to energy

³² London 2012, ‘London 2012 Sustainability Plan: Towards a One Planet 2012’, November 2007, p25.

³³ Transcript of Environment Committee meeting, 26 February 2008, p28.

³⁴ London 2012, ‘London 2012 Sustainability Plan: Towards a One Planet 2012’, November 2007, p60.

³⁵ Transcript of Environment Committee meeting, 26 February 2008, p27.

³⁶ Transcript of Environment Committee meeting, 26 February 2008, p6.

³⁷ Transcript of Environment Committee meeting, 26 February 2008, p16.

³⁸ London 2012, ‘London 2012 Sustainability Plan: Towards a One Planet 2012’, November 2007, xx

infrastructure forming part of these plans.

The Committee would welcome a target for reuse or recycling of materials from overlay and temporary venues. This should be greater than that set for demolition materials, since structures will have been designed with this in mind. This suggests a figure of more than 80% and likely in the 90% range given the high rate achieved in demolition so far. Recent reports of talks between ODA and Chicago, a potential 2016 host, about reuse of the roof and 55 000 seats from the main stadium shows that this area is already being progressed.³⁹

³⁹ The Guardian, For Sale: Flatpack Stadium Suitable for Olympic Games, 27 May 2008.
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2008/may/27/olympics2012.london>

Olympic Food

Games organisers predict that during the Games between 12 and 14 million meals will be served to spectators, staff, volunteers, athletes, officials, and the media. The food served presents a significant opportunity to reduce the environmental impact of the Games, as the food chain is a significant source of carbon emissions,⁴⁰ and waste from both discarded food and packaging.⁴¹

LOCOG were not able to offer any concrete plans about food provision as yet. Food sustainability issues will begin to be scoped during 2008. This will then be fed into the wider 'concept of operations' for catering when the food services section is established within LOCOG in around spring of 2009.⁴² As part of this process, the committee would like to see the development of hard targets for use of local and organic food and minimisation of packaging.

LOCOG raised legitimate concerns about distorting local supply chains by sourcing too much food locally. However, opportunities for catalysing change should be considered, perhaps by supporting existing catering operations to agree to switch their supply chains and take up some 'excess' supply post Games.

A significant numbers of meals will also be consumed during the construction phase, presenting a challenge that the ODA does not seem to have risen to. As construction begins and the workforce on the Olympic Park expands further, the Committee would be encouraged to see on-Park catering respond to this challenge by promoting local and organic produce, encouraging reduced consumption of animal protein and by minimising packaging as envisioned in bid documents.

⁴⁰Almost one-fifth of the UK's carbon emissions are produced by the food chain through agriculture, transport, packaging, retail and waste. Almost half of our food related emissions result directly from rearing animals for the meat and dairy products.
www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/upload/assets/www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/strategy/food/food_analysis.pdf and www.climateactionprogramme.org/features/article/the_world_on_a_plate_food_and_its_contribution_to_climate_c_hanging_emission/

⁴¹ For example, consumers typically throw away around 30 per cent of food purchased.
www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/upload/assets/www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/strategy/food/food_analysis.pdf

⁴² Transcript of Environment Committee meeting, 26 February 2008, p29.

5. Sustainability through partnership?

'All London 2012 commercial partners are required to adhere to specific sustainability policies and criteria developed by the organising committee (these generally relate to procurement, materials and waste management, and ethical trading)'⁴³

Procurement

- 6.1. The ODA has already let around 500 contracts worth over £1 billion. London 2012 expects to have around 7,000 direct contracts worth £6 billion that, together with its suppliers, will form supply chains of around 75,000 sub-contracts. While two thirds of the direct contracts are expected to be with LOCOG,⁴⁴ ODA contracts actually account for more than two thirds of the total spending on the Games.⁴⁵
- 6.2. London 2012 informed the Committee that tenders are considered against sustainability requirements, such as minimising embodied energy, responsible sourcing and designing out waste, separately from cost to form a 'balanced scorecard.'⁴⁶
- 6.3. The ODA has a specific Procurement Policy. It identifies delivery on time and to agreed costs as critical to ODA's success. Sustainability is addressed by requiring that whole life cost of product/service (e.g. including disposal) be taken into account and by including environmental measures in procurement.⁴⁷
- 6.4. The ODA develop sustainability requirements for each contract based on the ODA sustainability strategy using the targets in each area (water, waste, energy, emissions and materials) to inform key performance indicators for each contract. Before tendering for the building of new venues, the ODA works with designers to ensure that the design meets requirements – which then go to the contractor as a package to deliver against.
- 6.5. By considering sustainability throughout the decision making process the ODA has found that in some cases it is able to make savings. For example, the preferred concrete provider was both the cheapest and the best environmentally because they will use (about 25 per cent) recycled aggregate instead of more expensive virgin aggregate.⁴⁸
- 6.6. LOCOG expects to carry out the bulk of tendering from the end of 2009 onwards, and therefore is less well advanced than the ODA. LOCOG told the Committee that sustainability criteria are built into the invitation to tender. 'All our partners have to meet certain sustainability requirements and fit the whole ethos.'⁴⁹ For example, all merchandising containing the London 2012 Olympic brand must follow London 2012 procurement principles for the materials and products.

⁴³ London 2012, London 2012 Sustainability Plan, November 2007, p57.

⁴⁴ London 2012, News Release: Business Dating Agency Launched at Old Trafford to Help Companies Compete for £6 Worth of London 2012 Contracts, 16 January 2008. <http://www.london2012.com/news/media-releases/2008-01/business-dating-agency-launched-at-old-trafford-to-help-companies-compete-fo.php>

⁴⁵ Olympic Delivery Agency, Lifetime Corporate Plan Summary, July 2007, p3.

<http://www.london2012.com/documents/oda-publications/oda-lifetime-corporate-plan.pdf>

⁴⁶ Transcript of Environment Committee meeting, 26 February 2008, p18.

⁴⁷ Olympic Delivery Authority, Procurement Policy, <http://www.london2012.com/documents/business/oda-procurement-policy.pdf>

⁴⁸ Transcript of Environment Committee meeting, 26 February 2008, p18-9.

⁴⁹ Transcript of Environment Committee meeting, 26 February 2008, p15

- 6.7. LOCOG has not yet launched its sustainable sourcing code despite at least one substantial contracts are already being let.⁵⁰ LOCOG hopes to launch the code before the Beijing Games.⁵¹

Assessment and remaining issues

It is encouraging that environmental criteria are included in to tendering processes and that, in some cases, this has allowed cost savings. It is clear that targets and commitments are driving the requirements placed on Games partners. This underlines the importance of having specific targets that must be met by London 2012 and its partners.

We welcome the use of contractual incentives to push for even better environmental performance. However, we remain concerned that environmental performance may be weakened if London 2012 is not fully able to incorporate emerging requirements into existing contracts. The Committee would like to see greater detail made public about the process to reassure that it is meaningful, and also that robust monitoring is carried out.

Sponsorship

- 6.8. LOCOG will raise a large portion of its £2 billion budget from sponsorship deals.⁵² So far, LOCOG has five Tier One sponsors, contributing an estimated average of £50 million each,⁵³ and one Tier Two sponsor.⁵⁴ In return, sponsors are given a “once-in-a-lifetime chance to access [the] powerful business benefits”⁵⁵ of being associated with the Games. The activities of sponsors are included in the ‘associated’ carbon emissions category.
- 6.9. The Committee believes that the sponsors associated with the vast public outlay for the Games should demonstrate good environmental performance. This will both benefit the community and ensure that efforts to create the ‘most sustainable Olympics’ are not weakened by the actions of sponsors. Maintaining high environmental standards is even more important for the sustainability partner category of sponsors⁵⁶; so far EDF Energy and BT have become sustainability partners.
- 6.10. The CSL observes that while there is evidence of sustainability being incorporated into the sponsorship programme, sustainability requirements are still being developed as part of LOCOG business plans and area action plans and would need to be retrospectively applied to sponsorship agreements.⁵⁷ LOCOG does not plan to develop a separate sustainable development strategy.

⁵⁰ <http://www.independent.co.uk/sport/general/others/inside-lines-london-warning-over-new-torch-run-837709.html>

⁵¹ LOCOG, Submission to the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee inquiry into the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, 23 November 2007

⁵² Other sources of income include IOC sponsorship, ticketing, merchandise and £66 million in public funding to cover 50 per cent of the costs of staging the Paralympic Games.

⁵³ Culture, Media and Sport select committee evidence, 4 December 2007

⁵⁴ <http://www.london2012.com/about/the-people-delivering-the-games/international-and-uk-partners/index.php>

⁵⁵ London 2012, Sponsorship, <http://sponsorship.london-2012.co.uk/>, accessed 12 June 2008.

⁵⁶ Companies are required to pay extra to use this designation.

⁵⁷ Commission for a Sustainable London 2012, On Track for a Sustainable Legacy?: Review of Governance Arrangements for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, November 2007. p37

Assessment and remaining issues

While there is obvious intention to address sustainability with sponsors, it is difficult to judge how successfully this intention is being realised without any information around the sponsors' programs. The Committee would like LOCOG to make details of these programmes and their targets public. We believe that there are some exciting opportunities for sponsors to innovate and demonstrate commitment to being more environmentally sustainable and would like to see these opportunities being taken as activities of sponsors expand after Beijing.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1. The Committee welcomes efforts so far to deliver an Environmentally Sustainable Olympic and Paralympic Games and legacy. We would urge London 2012, the Mayor and the Commission for a Sustainable London 2012 to continue to push the agenda forward by setting additional operational and legacy targets where needed, by ensuring that existing targets are as demanding as possible, and by continuing current performance in meeting targets and pledges.
- 6.2. The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games offers a great many opportunities for London to improve infrastructure and actions in an environmentally sustainable manner; some of which are canvassed in this report. Every effort must be taken now to make the most of these opportunities and realise the vision of the greenest games ever.

Appendix A: London 2012 Environmental Sustainability Policy and Commitments

Theme	'One Planet Living' principle	Bid document	2012 Policy	Plan commitments
Climate Change	Zero Carbon: Reducing carbon dioxide emissions by minimising building energy demand and supplying from zero/low carbon and renewable resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-carbon Games • Carbon offset for all Olympic travel • Build to highest sustainable construction standards • Low emission zone for Olympic Park, low/no emission vehicles in Olympic fleet • Olympic park will be an energy action area – showing exemplary standards of sustainable energy • Olympic Village will have the capability of being energy self-sufficient • 20% of Olympic Park electricity to be provided by new local renewable energy sources – mix of generation including tri-generation plant, and use of fuel cell technology • Energy conservation and renewables promoted across other venues, hotels, sponsors and suppliers 	<p>“... the Games provide a platform for demonstrating long-term solutions in terms of energy and water resource management, infrastructure development, transport, local food production and carbon offsetting.</p> <p>We aim to minimise the environmental footprint and carbon emissions of the Games and legacy development, notably by optimising energy efficiency, energy demand and use of low carbon and renewable energy sources.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-site wind turbine and energy centre • Games-time – 20 per cent electricity sourced from new local renewable energy Legacy - At least 20 per cent on-site renewable energy • Future-proofing of utilities infrastructure • Olympic Village – working to achieve Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4 • Designing energy and water efficiency at all venues • Low emission venues and vehicle fleet • Transport planning focused on public transport Green travel planning
Waste	Zero Waste: Developing closed resource loops. Reducing the amounts of waste produced, then	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed loop waste system for the Games with zero waste to landfill • Design out waste at source 	<p>“Our aim is for the 2012 programme to be a catalyst for new waste management infrastructure in</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90 per cent target for reuse and recycling of demolition materials • 20 per cent of building materials

	reclaiming, recycling and recovering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide for front and back of house waste separation • Produce clean energy from residual waste and sewage • National campaign to tackle litter and graffiti • Establish a ‘new approach to waste management’ in the Lower Lea Valley • In legacy, new foul water treatment plant with residue and methane gas used to power a co-generation plant. By 2020 the Lea Valley could be largely water self-sufficient. • Sustainable procurement policy for materials, services, food and merchandise 	east London and other regional venues and to demonstrate exemplary resource management practices. We will minimise waste at source, divert construction waste wherever feasible and all Games-time waste away from landfill, and promote the waste hierarchy of ‘reduce, reuse, recycle’ to facilitate long-term individual behavioural change.”	from secondary sources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero waste to landfill at Games time – 70 per cent to be reused, recycled or composted • Waste minimisation principles applied to temporary venues and overlay • Closed-loop resource management system
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<p>Biodiversity</p>	<p>Natural habitats and wildlife: Existing biodiversity conserved with opportunities taken to increase ecological value and access to nature</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated restoration strategy for Lower Lea Valley • Large new urban park created • Olympic Biodiversity Action Plan • Riverside corridor to provide habitats • Vegetation on roofs and walls, sustainable drainage systems 	<p>We aim to enhance the ecology of the Lower Lea Valley and other London and regional 2012 venues, and to encourage the sport sector generally to contribute to nature conservation and enhancing the natural environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed BAP to define ecological management for priority habitats and species • Focus on ecological continuity utilising river corridor and local ‘Green Grid’ • Integrating biodiversity into design of built environment and landscaping • Venue environment management plans to safeguard habitats and species • Portfolio of educational and practical projects to promote biodiversity conservation • Net increase in accessible, ecologically managed green space • Enhance flood storage capacity in Lower Lea Valley
<p>Healthy Living</p>	<p>Local and Sustainable Food: Supporting consumption of local, seasonal and organic produce, with reduced amount of animal protein and packaging</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable procurement policy for food 	<p>We will use the Games as a springboard for inspiring people across the country to take up sport and develop active, healthy and sustainable lifestyles.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable food strategy to underpin Games catering • Low emission venues • Building capacity in local supply chains to contribute to Games-time demand for food

Note: London 2012 sustainability documents also contain a theme of inclusion, however these policies are not relevant to delivering an environmentally sustainable Games.

Appendix B

Previous work of the Environment Committee

On the 12 October 2006 the Committee put questions to both London 2012 Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) and Olympic Delivery Agency (ODA), along with London Sustainable Development Commission, London Borough of Newham, and the Environment Agency. The Committee recognised the commitment to developing a robust environmental framework but noted several key concerns.

First, it was not clear how the wide variety of objectives and commitments related to one another. Second, that major contracts were being let while the environmental framework was still being developed. Third, that lack of firm commitments may mean that aspirational targets were vulnerable to backtracking, such as, for example, a lack of on-site renewable energy for the aquatic centre.

On the 12 July 2007 representatives from ODA and GLA were questioned about environmental aspects of the ODA's Sustainable Development Strategy. In summary, at that meeting:

- The Committee was informed of progress in areas such as construction waste recycling, and a doubling of the on-site renewable energy commitment from 10% to 20%. The ODA stated it was 'pretty confident' of being able to reach the Mayor's minimum 110 litre per day per person standard for water consumption in the Olympic Village.
- The ODA explained that targets were being treated as minimums, for example contractors were being incentivised to exceed the 20% on-site renewable target.
- The GLA believed that progress was being made to bring the legacy master plan planning application up to standard on issues like waste, energy, water and biodiversity. (Note: This application has now been approved).

The Committee raised concerns about the lack of plans for waste infrastructure. The ODA believed this should be for LOCOG to address, in the context of a waste management strategy. (Note: The LDA has now begun a waste strategy for East London, including considering what new waste treatment facilities are needed).