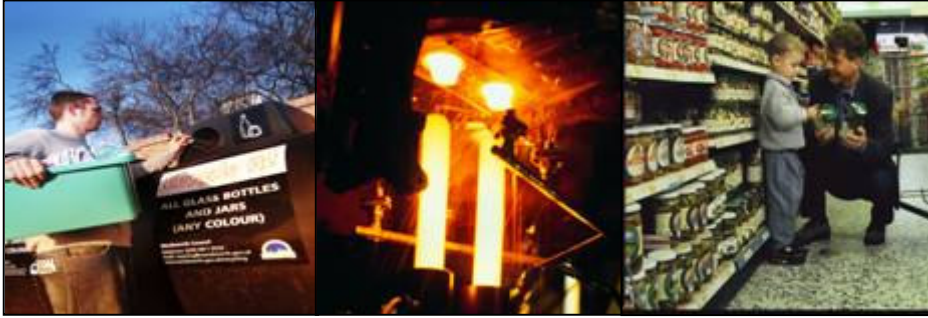


Changing Patterns - Glass Sector Pilot **Pioneering Sustainable Consumption and Production Chains**



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Executive Summary

Increasingly both Governments and Society at large are becoming conscious that Society's profligate use of energy and natural resources, particularly in developed countries is unsustainable, and that something has to be done.

At the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg in 2002 the UK Prime Minister and other world leaders committed themselves to "encourage and promote the development of a ten year framework of programmes ...to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production".. . . As part of this process the UK Government published in September of 2003 "Changing Patterns – UK Government Framework for Sustainable Consumption and Production", which sets out how the UK Government intends to translate these commitments into practical action.

As one of the first steps to delivering Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) made a commitment to establish a number of collaborative projects involving particular industry sectors or product supply chains as pilots to explore the practical application of the SCP approach. The glass sector was chosen as one of these pilots.

DTI set up an initial SCP workshop which gave the opportunity to a wide range of stakeholders to jointly explore barriers, enablers, opportunities and priorities for action in the glass supply chain. The workshop also provided the basis and a framework for this pilot and subsequently a methodology was developed concentrating upon the canvassing of stakeholder opinion and the soliciting of their formal input to the project. This process followed the basic steps outlined:-

1. Supply chain mapping
2. Stakeholder mapping
3. Contacting stakeholders by letter
4. Telephone contact with key stakeholders
5. Key stakeholder interviews and site visits
6. Literature review
7. Report drafting
8. Presentation of preliminary findings at a workshop at the Environment Agency Conference (October 2004).

The project explored the structure of the glass supply chain from the point of production of the raw materials to the final disposal of the finished product at the end of its useful life. It intended to identify at each point in that supply chain the key barriers to, and enablers of, the principles of SCP, and to analyse them in terms of their political, social, economic or technological impacts. The project concentrated on two specific areas, namely the glass container sector and the utilization of thermally efficient glazing.

The generic findings resulting from this research have then been incorporated in the report as a set of Key Issues, identifying areas where specific action could offer opportunities for the better implementation of the principles of sustainable consumption and production, reflecting relevant stakeholders' views, other than Government. General principles have then been further refined into an initial, but non exclusive, set of five project opportunities whose aim would be to explore and encourage further collaborative action and take up so as to take forward the practical implementation of a number of the Key Issues :-

Project Opportunity 001: Glass Container Specification – Supermarket Own Label Brand

Project Opportunity 002: Glass Container Specification – Wine Bottle Specification

Project Opportunity 003: Glass Container Recycling – Increased recovery of container glass from licensed premises

Project Opportunity 004: Flat Glass Recycling – Development of a Good Practice Case Study

Project Opportunity 005: Flat Glass Recycling – Opportunities for the end of life recovery of components from the Replacement Glazing Sector

It should be noted that these five project opportunities reflected what was considered practicable, politically and economically, given the existing legislative and market environment. They did not necessarily reflect those priority areas of concern of individual stakeholders.