

## EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects

Reports from completed projects are available on the EPA website at [www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/research/econ/](http://www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/research/econ/)

During the ERTDI Programme 2000-2006, 45 research projects were funded in the area of Socio-Economic projects, including:

2 Contributory scholarships

14 Desk studies

13 Doctorate projects

4 Fellowships

1 Large-scale study

11 Medium-scale studies

**45 Total projects**

### 45 EPA (2000 – 2006) Projects indexed by

Year and Content

Lead Organisation

Project Leader

### Year and Content:

2000-DS-4-M2	<a href="#"><u>Scope of Transport Impacts on the Environment</u></a>
2001-CS-12-M1	<a href="#"><u>Urban Conservation in Ireland</u></a>
2001-CS-16-M2	<a href="#"><u>Person and Environmental Health - Developing Links between Environmental Threat Perception as a Predictor of Environmental Behaviour</u></a>
2001-EEA-DS10-M2	<a href="#"><u>Evaluation of REPS - Designing a Protocol</u></a>
2001-EEO-DS-1-M1	<a href="#"><u>Material Flow Accounts (MFA) Demonstration for Ireland</u></a>
2001-EEP/DS-2/5	<a href="#"><u>Development of a Strategic Environmental Assessment Methodology for Development Policies, Plans and Programmes: Application for a Desk study</u></a>
2001-EEP-DS7-M2	<a href="#"><u>Distributive Effects of Carbon Taxes - Which Households Gain or Lose?</u></a>
2001-EEP-DS8-M2	<a href="#"><u>Carbon Taxes - Macro-economic Effects</u></a>
2001-EEP-DS9-M2	<a href="#"><u>Fertiliser Taxes - Implementation Issues</u></a>
2001-MS/SE1-M1	<a href="#"><u>Environmental Attitudes, Values and Behaviour in Ireland</u></a>
2001-MS-SE2-M1	<a href="#"><u>Environmental Attitudes and Behaviour: Values, Actions and Waste Management</u></a>
2002-PHD2-11	<a href="#"><u>An Economic Assessment of the Determinants of Quality of Life and Attitudes to the Environment</u></a>

EPA-funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects

- 2002-PHDe-5/5 [Modelling the Impact of Various Policy Options to Control Greenhouse Gas Emissions on Output, Employment and Taxation using an Applied Computable General Equilibrium Model of the Irish Economy](#)
- 2003-PHD3-2 [Welfare Measures and Optimal Compensation for the Siting of Waste Management Facilities](#)
- 2004-PHD4-2-M1 [Documenting Variations in Environmental Quality Indicators over the last c. 150 Years in Ireland: a Multi-proxy Approach](#)
- 2004-PHD4-3-M1 [Market-Based Instruments for Sustainable Settlement Patterns: Designing More Effective, Efficient and Equitable Policy Instruments](#)
- 2004-PHD4-4-M1 [A Model of the Prediction of Traffic Flow Variability: Its Impact on Congestion and Environmental Emissions](#)
- 2004-PHD4-5-M1 [Sustainable Urban Management and the Inner City: an Investigation of Residential Change and Quality of Life](#)
- 2004-SD-DS-12-M2 [The Use and Regulation of Environmental Claims as a Tool for Promoting Sustainable Consumption in Ireland](#)
- 2004-SD-DS-13 [Public Participation in the Environmental Field: Models and Prospects](#)
- 2004-SD-DS-14-M2 [Study of Awareness and Knowledge of Sustainable Procurement among Procurement Professionals and Identification of Education and Training Needs](#)
- 2004-SD-DS-15-M2 [Envisioning a Sustainable Ireland from an Energy Availability Perspective](#)
- 2004-SD-DS-16-M2 [The Regional Distribution of Economic Resources in Ireland has Created Winners and Losers in Environmental Quality? Is Government Policy Addressing this Quality of Life Problem?](#)
- 2004-SD-DS-17-M2 [The Contribution of Energy Crops to a Sustainable Future in Ireland: A Foresight Study](#)
- 2004-SD-FS-21 [Scenarios of Household Waste Streams: Composition and Management in Cork to 2010](#)
- 2004-SD-FS-22 [Landscape Heritage Sustainable Development Indicator Assessment using Geographical Information Systems in conjunction with Clare County Council](#)
- 2004-SD-FS-23 [Galway 21 – Implementing the Principles and Practices of Sustainable Development in Galway City Council](#)
- 2004-SD-MS-18 [Establishing an Eco-Industrial Network for SMEs within the Mid-West Region](#)
- 2004-SD-MS-19 [Action Research on Sustainable Development Indicators: Stakeholder Participation and Indicator Development](#)

*EPA-funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects*

- 2004-SD-MS-20-M2 [\*Sustainable Development Evaluation of Road Infrastructure Programmes and Projects\*](#)
- 2004-SD-MS-21 [\*Sustainable Tourism Development: Towards the Mitigation of Tourism Destination Impacts\*](#)
- 2004-SD-MS-22 [\*A Resource Flow Analysis and Ecological Footprint of Ireland\*](#)
- 2004-SD-MS-23-M2 [\*Sustainable Participation? Evaluating the Role of City and County Development Boards in Local Sustainable Development\*](#)
- 2004-SD-MS-24-M2 [\*Environmental Technology, Dynamic Environmental Capabilities and Competitiveness\*](#)
- 2005-FS-34-M1 [\*A Resource Flow Analysis and Ecological Footprint of Ireland – GIS Application\*](#)
- 2005-PHD5-GIS-5 [\*Spatial modelling of Sustainability Indicators and Policy Implications for Sustainable Development Across Three Regions of Ireland\*](#)
- 2005-PHD5-GIS-17 [\*A Web-based GIS to support Decision-making in Strategic Environmental Assessment for County Development Plans\*](#)
- 2005-PHD5-SPI-4 [\*Participative Democracy and the EU Water Framework Directive: A Sociological Study\*](#)
- 2005-PHD5-SPI-5 [\*The Potential for Competitive Gains in the Irish Agriculture Sector from Emissions Trading.\*](#)
- 2005-PHD5-SPI-8 [\*Integrating Environmental Policies into the Tourism Product – Developing a Model of Best Practice\*](#)
- 2005-PHD5-SPI-13 [\*Expanding the National Accounts in Ireland: Towards Measuring Sustainability\*](#)
- 2005-SD-DS-20-M2 [\*Island limits - North-South Integration\*](#)
- 2005-SD-MS-41-M2 [\*Rural Sustainable Development: Managing Housing in the Countryside\*](#)
- 2005-SD-MS-42-M2 [\*Assessing Access to Information, Participation, and Justice in Environmental Decision Making\*](#)
- 2006-SDM-LS-11 [\*Sustainable Development Research Model\*](#)

[\*Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects\*](#)

## **Lead Organisations:**

### **Clean Technology Centre**

2001-EEO-DS-1-M1 [Material Flow Accounts \(MFA\) Demonstration for Ireland](#)

### **Dublin Institute of Technology**

2004-SD-MS-21 [Sustainable Tourism Development: Towards the Mitigation of Tourism Destination Impacts](#)

### **Economic & Social Research Institute (ESRI)**

2001-EEP-DS7-M2 [Distributive Effects of Carbon Taxes - Which Households Gain or Lose?](#)

2001-EEP-DS8-M2 [Carbon Taxes - Macro-economic Effects](#)

2001-EEP-DS9-M2 [Fertiliser Taxes - Implementation Issues](#)

2006-SDM-LS-11 [Sustainable Development Research Model](#)

### **EnviroCentre Limited**

2004-SD-MS-22 [A Resource Flow Analysis and Ecological Footprint of Ireland](#)

2005-SD-DS-20-M2 [Island limits - North-South Integration](#)

### **Environmental Resources Management Ireland Limited (ERM)**

2001-EEP/DS-2/5 [Development of a Strategic Environmental Assessment Methodology for Development Policies, Plans and Programmes: Application for a Desk study](#)

### **Feasta**

2004-SD-DS-15-M2 [Envisioning a Sustainable Ireland from an Energy Availability Perspective](#)

2004-SD-MS-20-M2 [Sustainable Development Evaluation of Road Infrastructure Programmes and Projects](#)

### **Institute of Technology, Sligo**

2005-SD-MS-42-M2 [Assessing Access to Information, Participation, and Justice in Environmental Decision Making](#)

### **NUI Galway**

2004-SD-FS-23 [Galway 21 – Implementing the Principles and Practices of Sustainable Development in Galway City Council](#)

2004-SD-MS-24-M2 [Environmental Technology, Dynamic Environmental Capabilities and Competitiveness](#)

2005-PHD5-SPI-8 [Integrating Environmental Policies into the Tourism Product – Developing a Model of Best Practice](#)

### **NUI Maynooth**

2005-PHD5-GIS-17 [A Web-based GIS to support Decision-making in Strategic Environmental Assessment for County Development Plans](#)

### **Queen's University Belfast**

2005-FS-34-M1 [A Resource Flow Analysis and Ecological Footprint of Ireland – GIS Application](#)

### **Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland**

2001-EEA-DS10-M2 [Evaluation of REPS - Designing a Protocol](#)

### **Trinity College Dublin**

2000-DS-4-M2 [Scope of Transport Impacts on the Environment](#)

2001-CS-12-M1 [Urban Conservation in Ireland](#)

2001-CS-16-M2 [Person and Environmental Health - Developing Links between Environmental Threat Perception as a Predictor of Environmental Behaviour](#)

2001-MS-SE2-M1 [Environmental Attitudes and Behaviour: Values, Actions and Waste Management](#)

2002-PHDe-5/5 [Modelling the Impact of Various Policy Options to Control Greenhouse Gas Emissions on Output, Employment and Taxation using an Applied Computable General Equilibrium Model of the Irish Economy](#)

2004-PHD4-2-M1 [Documenting Variations in Environmental Quality Indicators over the last c. 150 Years in Ireland: a Multi-proxy Approach](#)

2004-SD-DS-17-M2 [The Contribution of Energy Crops to a Sustainable Future in Ireland: A Foresight Study](#)

### **University College Cork**

2004-SD-DS-13 [Public Participation in the Environmental Field: Models and Prospects](#)

2004-SD-DS-14-M2 [Study of Awareness and Knowledge of Sustainable Procurement among Procurement Professionals and Identification of Education and Training Needs](#)

2004-SD-FS-21 [Scenarios of Household Waste Streams: Composition and Management in Cork to 2010](#)

2004-SD-MS-23-M2 [Sustainable Participation? Evaluating the Role of City and County Development Boards in Local Sustainable Development](#)

2005-PHD5-SPI-5 [The Potential for Competitive Gains in the Irish Agriculture Sector from Emissions Trading.](#)

**University College Dublin**

- 2001-MS/SE1-M1 [Environmental Attitudes, Values and Behaviour in Ireland](#)
- 2002-PHD2-11 [An Economic Assessment of the Determinants of Quality of Life and Attitudes to the Environment](#)
- 2003-PHD3-2 [Welfare Measures and Optimal Compensation for the Siting of Waste Management Facilities](#)
- 2004-PHD4-3-M1 [Market-Based Instruments for Sustainable Settlement Patterns: Designing More Effective, Efficient and Equitable Policy Instruments](#)
- 2004-PHD4-4-M1 [A Model of the Prediction of Traffic Flow Variability: Its Impact on Congestion and Environmental Emissions](#)
- 2004-PHD4-5-M1 [Sustainable Urban Management and the Inner City: an Investigation of Residential Change and Quality of Life](#)
- 2004-SD-DS-12-M2 [The Use and Regulation of Environmental Claims as a Tool for Promoting Sustainable Consumption in Ireland](#)
- 2004-SD-DS-16-M2 [The Regional Distribution of Economic Resources in Ireland has Created Winners and Losers in Environmental Quality? Is Government Policy Addressing this Quality of Life Problem?](#)
- 2004-SD-FS-22 [Landscape Heritage Sustainable Development Indicator Assessment using Geographical Information Systems in conjunction with Clare County Council](#)
- 2005-PHD5-SPI-4 [Participative Democracy and the EU Water Framework Directive: A Sociological Study](#)
- 2005-PHD5-SPI-13 [Expanding the National Accounts in Ireland: Towards Measuring Sustainability](#)
- 2005-SD-MS-41-M2 [Rural Sustainable Development: Managing Housing in the Countryside](#)

**University of Limerick**

- 2004-SD-MS-18 [Establishing an Eco-Industrial Network for SMEs within the Mid-West Region](#)
- 2004-SD-MS-19 [Action Research on Sustainable Development Indicators: Stakeholder Participation and Indicator Development](#)
- 2005-PHD5-GIS-5 [Spatial modelling of Sustainability Indicators and Policy Implications for Sustainable Development Across Three Regions of Ireland](#)

[Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects](#)

**Project Leaders:**

**Bartlett, Dr John**

2005-SD-MS-42-M2 [Assessing Access to Information, Participation, and Justice in Environmental Decision Making](#)

**Chisholm, Dr Nick**

2005-PHD5-SPI-5 [The Potential for Competitive Gains in the Irish Agriculture Sector from Emissions Trading.](#)

**Clinch, Dr Peter**

2002-PHD2-11 [An Economic Assessment of the Determinants of Quality of Life and Attitudes to the Environment](#)

2004-SD-DS-16-M2 [The Regional Distribution of Economic Resources in Ireland has Created Winners and Losers in Environmental Quality? Is Government Policy Addressing this Quality of Life Problem?](#)

**Convery, Prof. Frank**

2003-PHD3-2 [Welfare Measures and Optimal Compensation for the Siting of Waste Management Facilities](#)

2004-SD-DS-12-M2 [The Use and Regulation of Environmental Claims as a Tool for Promoting Sustainable Consumption in Ireland](#)

**Curry, Dr Robin**

2004-SD-MS-22 [A Resource Flow Analysis and Ecological Footprint of Ireland](#)

2005-SD-DS-20-M2 [Island limits - North-South Integration](#)

**d'Auria, Ms Lianda**

2004-SD-FS-22 [Landscape Heritage Sustainable Development Indicator Assessment using Geographical Information Systems in conjunction with Clare County Council](#)

**Douthwaite, Mr Richard**

2004-SD-DS-15-M2 [Envisioning a Sustainable Ireland from an Energy Availability Perspective](#)

**Ferreira, Dr Susana**

2005-PHD5-SPI-13 [Expanding the National Accounts in Ireland: Towards Measuring Sustainability](#)

**Fitzgerald, Prof. John**

2001-EEP-DS8-M2 [Carbon Taxes - Macro-economic Effects](#)

2006-SDM-LS-11 [Sustainable Development Research Model](#)

**Fotheringham, Prof. Stewart**

2005-PHD5-GIS-17 [A Web-based GIS to support Decision-making in Strategic Environmental Assessment for County Development Plans](#)

**Healy, Mr David**

2004-SD-MS-20-M2 [Sustainable Development Evaluation of Road Infrastructure Programmes and Projects](#)

**Henry, Ms Aveen**

2004-SD-DS-14-M2 [Study of Awareness and Knowledge of Sustainable Procurement among Procurement Professionals and Identification of Education and Training Needs](#)

**Hilliard, Dr Rachel**

2004-SD-MS-24-M2 [Environmental Technology, Dynamic Environmental Capabilities and Competitiveness](#)

**Hynes, Mr William**

2004-PHD4-4-M1 [A Model of the Prediction of Traffic Flow Variability; its Impact on Congestion and Environmental Emissions](#)

**Jones, Prof. Mike**

2004-SD-DS-17-M2 [The Contribution of Energy Crops to a Sustainable Future in Ireland: A Foresight Study](#)

**Kavanagh, Dr Brendan**

2001-EEA-DS10-M2 [Evaluation of REPS - Designing a Protocol](#)

**Kelly, Dr Mary**

2001-MS/SE1-M1 [Environmental Attitudes, Values and Behaviour in Ireland](#)

2005-PHD5-SPI-4 [Participative Democracy and the EU Water Framework Directive: A Sociological Study](#)

**Kennedy, Ms Elizabeth**

2004-SD-MS-21 [Sustainable Tourism Development: Towards the Mitigation of Tourism Destination Impacts](#)

**Matthews, Dr Alan**

2002-PHDe-5/5 [Modelling the Impact of Various Policy Options to Control Greenhouse Gas Emissions on Output, Employment and Taxation using an Applied Computable General Equilibrium Model of the Irish Economy](#)

**McDonagh, Dr John**

2005-PHD5-SPI-8 [Integrating Environmental Policies into the Tourism Product – Developing a Model of Best Practice](#)

**Mulally, Dr Gerard**

2004-SD-MS-23-M2 [Sustainable Participation? Evaluating the Role of City and County Development Boards in Local Sustainable Development](#)

**Neguissie, Ms Elene**

2001-CS-12-M1 [Urban Conservation in Ireland](#)

**Ó Cinnéide, Prof. Mícheál**

2004-SD-FS-23 [Galway 21 – Implementing the Principles and Practices of Sustainable Development in Galway City Council](#)

**O’Leary, Ms Eileen**

2001-EEO-DS-1-M1 [Material Flow Accounts \(MFA\) Demonstration for Ireland](#)

**O’Mahony, Dr Margaret**

2000-DS-4-M2 [Scope of Transport Impacts on the Environment](#)

**O’Mahony, Dr Patrick**

2004-SD-DS-13 [Public Participation in the Environmental Field: Models and Prospects](#)

**O’Regan, Dr Bernadette**

2004-SD-MS-18 [Establishing an Eco-Industrial Network for SMEs within the Mid-West Region](#)

2004-SD-MS-19 [Action Research on Sustainable Development Indicators: Stakeholder Participation and Indicator Development](#)

2005-PHD5-GIS-5 [Spatial modelling of Sustainability Indicators and Policy Implications for Sustainable Development Across Three Regions of Ireland](#)

**Roy, Mr Manoj Kumar**

2005-FS-34-M1 [A Resource Flow Analysis and Ecological Footprint of Ireland – GIS Application](#)

**Russell, Dr Paula**

2004-PHD4-3-M1 [Market-Based Instruments for Sustainable Settlement Patterns: Designing More Effective, Efficient and Equitable Policy Instruments](#)

**Sage, Dr Colin**

2004-SD-FS-21

[Scenarios of Household Waste Streams: Composition and Management in Cork to 2010](#)

**Scott, Mr Paul James**

2001-EEP/DS-2/5

[Development of a Strategic Environmental Assessment Methodology for Development Policies, Plans and Programmes: Application for a Desk study](#)

**Scott, Ms Sue**

2001-EEP-DS7-M2

[Distributive Effects of Carbon Taxes - Which Households Gain or Lose?](#)

2001-EEP-DS9-M2

[Fertiliser Taxes - Implementation Issues](#)

**Scott, Dr Mark**

2004-PHD4-5-M1

[Sustainable Urban Management and the Inner City: an Investigation of Residential Change and Quality of Life](#)

2005-SD-MS-41-M2

[Rural Sustainable Development: Managing Housing in the Countryside](#)

**Taylor, Prof. David**

2001-MS-SE2-M1

[Environmental Attitudes and Behaviour: Values, Actions and Waste Management](#)

2004-PHD4-2-M1

[Documenting Variations in Environmental Quality Indicators over the last c. 150 Years in Ireland: A Multi-proxy Approach](#)

**Walsh-Daneshmandi, Ms Anne**

2001-CS-16-M2

[Person and Environmental Health - Developing Links between Environmental Threat Perception as a Predictor of Environmental Behaviour](#)

[Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects](#)

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

*Scope of Transport Impacts on the Environment  
(2000-DS-4-M2)*

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

Trinity College Dublin

**START DATE**

01/12/2000

**CONTACT**

Dr Margaret O'Mahony

**STATUS**

Completed (**ERTDI Report 9**)

**PROJECT TYPE**

Desk study

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

25,331.27

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The demands of modern economies and societies for mobility present a major environmental challenge. Rising vehicle numbers and increased usage of cars have caused significant traffic congestion and noise in urban areas and have contributed to local air pollution. Increased energy usage in transport is also a major issue in the context of carbon dioxide emissions. Other concerns include the environmental impact of road building on landscapes and habitats. The overall environmental impacts of the transport sector, particularly on the urban environment, is one of the major environmental issues for Ireland as identified in recent EPA reports on environmental indicators and on the state of the environment. The purpose of this study is to review the information available on the environmental impacts of the transport sector in Ireland. The main objective is to identify the information gaps and research needed in order to provide better guidance on the integration of environmental considerations into the transport sector. The issues to be addressed include:

- The environmental implications of improved integration of general land-use planning with that of transport infrastructure;
- The methodologies for developing eco-audits and strategic environmental assessment as primary tools for environmental integration in the sector;
- Potential improvements to the public transport sector;
- Potential benefits from the use of economic instruments;
- Methods for minimising and abatement of noise levels;
- Public awareness;
- Ways of minimising and managing waste arising from the transport sector;
- The impact of information technology,
- Air pollution, and
- The implications of transport demands on natural heritage.

[Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects](#)

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

**Evaluation of REPS - Designing a Protocol  
(2001-EEA-DS10-M2)**

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland

**START DATE**

01/10/2002

**CONTACT**

Dr Brendan Kavanagh

**STATUS**

Completed (**ERTDI Report 25**)

**PROJECT TYPE**

Desk study

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

50,000.00

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The objective of the study is to identify and select quantitative environmental attributes for a monitoring programme which may be integrated into an evaluation of Ireland's agri-environmental scheme. Overall, the work programme will use a desk review to use information on current best practice in monitoring for environmental quality.

A Project Group will advise on the ongoing development of the project. There will be a consultation process with national experts, and with a number of stakeholder organisations with an interest in the monitoring of the environmental impact of the REPS.

The overall co-ordinator of the project will be Dr Brendan Kavanagh, Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland. Drs Brendan Kavanagh and John A. Finn (see Appendix B) will be jointly responsible for editing the technical reports into a consistent report. A research assistant will be appointed to execute the work programme and to write the reports.

The project will be completed in a period of twelve months from the signing of contract and appointment of a research assistant.

[Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects](#)

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

**Material Flow Accounts (MFA) Demonstration for Ireland  
(2001-EEO-DS-1-M1)**

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

Clean Technology Centre

**START DATE**

02/09/2002

**CONTACT**

Ms Eileen O'Leary

**STATUS**

Completed (**ERTDI Report 8**)

**PROJECT TYPE**

Desk study

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

50,477.00

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The main objectives of the study are:

- a. Review existing methodologies for material flow accounts (MFA) and select/tailor the methodology for Ireland;
- b. Demonstrate the methodology for two pilot cases:
  - National fossil fuel flow accounts, together with derived indicators, and
  - Water flow accounts for a region;
- c. Identify data gaps for a complete set of national material flow accounts, and
- d. Evaluate the applicability of MFA in Ireland and any policy implications.

The project will be broken down into 7 tasks, as follows:

1. European MFA methodology review;
2. Select/tailor methodology for Ireland;
3. Demonstrate methodology - Case 1: National fossil fuel flow accounts;
4. Demonstrate methodology - Case 2: Water flow accounts for a region;
5. Indicators and Impacts;
6. Data gap analysis for national material flow accounts, and
7. Evaluation and Recommendations

[Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects](#)

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

*Development of a Strategic Environmental Assessment Methodology for Development Policies, Plans and Programmes: Application for a Desk study  
(2001-EEP/DS-2/5)*

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

Environmental Resources  
Management Ireland Limited (ERM)

**START DATE**

01/07/2002

**CONTACT**

Mr Paul James Scott

**STATUS**

Completed (**ERTDI Report 18**)

**PROJECT TYPE**

Desk study

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

48,535.58

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The objective of this research proposal is: 'to develop a suitable methodology to be applied in strategic environmental assessments (SEAs) of development policies, plans and programmes in Ireland'.

The objective will be met by undertaking the following tasks:

1. Undertaking a review of SEA methodologies currently being developed, established and/or applied in other countries;
2. Identifying the strengths, weaknesses and overall effectiveness of existing SEA methodologies;
3. Categorising the range of SEA policies, plans and programmes which may be applied to in Ireland;
4. Developing an SEA methodology suitable for application in Ireland; and
5. Providing recommended measures on how to successfully integrate SEA into the existing legislative structures.

The proposal is structured to assist the EPA in its statutory role to provide assistance to local authorities and to Government Departments (Section 52 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992), in regard to the adoption of EC Directive 2001/42/EC.

[Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects](#)

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

*Distributive Effects of Carbon Taxes - Which Households Gain or Lose?  
(2001-EEP-DS7-M2)*

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

Economic & Social Research Institute

20/05/2002

**STATUS**

Completed (ERTDI Report 20)

**CONTACT**

Ms Sue Scott

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

41,779.46

**PROJECT TYPE**

Desk study

**START DATE**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The purpose of this project is to analyse the effects of the introduction of a carbon tax in order to see how it would affect different households. The project focuses especially on vulnerable households, that is, households in low-income brackets and this exercise is undertaken with a view to providing suggestions for policies to alleviate any adverse effects.

The starting point is an assumption that the carbon tax would be imposed on fuels according to their emissions of carbon dioxide, and that the tax is levied at the rate of €20/tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>. The tax would be imposed on fuels in the manner of excise taxes currently in operation and the effects of their imposition on the economy as a whole have already been outlined (Bergin, Fitzgerald and Kearney, 2002).

This project proceeds to look into the detail at household level and investigates the first round effects, that is, the effects before taking into consideration the broad impacts on the economy of re-spending the revenues. The first round effects are those which are most 'visible', and along with the effects on competitiveness, are the greatest cause for concern.

*[Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects](#)*

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

**Carbon Taxes - Macro-economic Effects  
(2001-EEP-DS8-M2)**

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

Economic & Social Research Institute

**START DATE**

20/05/2002

**CONTACT**

Prof. John Fitzgerald

**STATUS**

Completed (**ERTDI Report 21**)

**PROJECT TYPE**

Desk study

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

44,330.00

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This study will contribute to the National Climate Change Strategy's stated approach that taxes be introduced in a 'planned and predicted manner by providing information on the likely effects of relevant fiscal measures carbon taxes or tradable emissions permits'.

The study will analyse the impact of a carbon tax (or tradable permits) on the economy as a whole and on broad aggregates of interest, such as GDP, GNP, employment, prices and the balance of payments, that is, the macro-economic effects. To undertake this study the HERMES macro economic model of the Irish economy will be developed to include a module covering the energy sector of the economy.

This will involve a study of the sensitivity of energy demand to the changing economic environment, especially to changes in prices. This new module will be integrated into HERMES so that it can examine simultaneously the impact of different policy scenarios on the Irish economy, on emissions and on energy demand

[Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects](#)

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

**Fertiliser Taxes - Implementation Issues  
(2001-EEP-DS9-M2)**

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

Economic & Social Research Institute

**START DATE**

01/07/2002

**CONTACT**

Ms Sue Scott

**STATUS**

Completed (**ERTDI Report 23**)

**PROJECT TYPE**

Desk study

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

43,000.00

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The main purpose of this study is to remove some of the areas of uncertainty surrounding fertiliser taxes as a support for environmental protection. To further our understanding of the possibilities one needs to ask what is truly feasible and what is not? Is there a way of getting the incentives right, and (in order to give the reform a realistic chance of being adopted) of simultaneously insuring that agriculture as a whole is no worse off as a result of the tax package.

This study's objectives can be broken down into the following headings:

- To discover whether and in what conditions a fertiliser tax might be effective in protecting the environment;
- To investigate the (fiscal) options for encouraging this;
- To see what is administratively feasible and efficient;
- To specify an example of a tax and simulate its direct income effect on farm households, and
- To assess the findings and rank the options.

*[Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects](#)*

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

***Environmental Attitudes, Values and Behaviour in Ireland  
(2001-MS/SE1-M1)***

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

University College Dublin

**START DATE**

07/01/2002

**CONTACT**

Dr Mary Kelly

**STATUS**

Completed (Report Pending)

**PROJECT TYPE**

Medium-scale study

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

302,299.24

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This social research programme has at its core an exploration and analysis of the values, beliefs and behaviour of the Irish population in relation to the environment. The project is grounded in a large-scale representative sample survey of the adult population in Ireland, as well as an in-depth exploration of environmental meanings using qualitative methods.

The project's quantitative research sets out to identify these patterns and to explore the major social and cultural sources of support on which environmental values and behaviour draw. The investigation uses survey research, and explores in particular three major models of environmental values in Ireland. It will thus assess the robustness of the latter as explanatory models of environmental values in Ireland in 2001/2002.

The survey research also has comparative and longitudinal dimensions. These derive from the use of the International Social Survey (ISSP) Module on the Environment. A similar ISSP Module on the Environment was fielded in 1993 in Ireland, allowing longitudinal comparisons to be made. The qualitative aspects of the project will investigate in greater depth some of the more salient environmental attitudes highlighted by the survey research and the theoretical models, which may help to explain them. It will also explore attitudes and mobilisations around other major environmental issues and environmental activism. It will use focus groups and in-depth interview methodologies.

*[Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects](#)*

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

***Environmental Attitudes and Behaviour: Values, Actions and Waste Management  
(2001-MS-SE2-M1)***

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

Trinity College Dublin

**START DATE**

01/07/2002

**CONTACT**

Prof. David Taylor

**STATUS**

Completed (**ERTDI Report 37**)

**PROJECT TYPE**

Medium-scale study

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

143,603.05

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

On the basis of a pilot project (*2000-LS-4.3-M1 Methodologies for the estimation of sustainable settlement size*) undertaken between March and August 2001, initial conclusions were drawn concerning the relationships between settlement size as measured by population and sustainable development, as quantified through indicators. However, major limitations were inherent in this project and the larger project now being undertaken will build on this pilot study. It will provide a more detailed and inclusive analysis of the relationship between Irish settlements and sustainable development.

The study will consider in more detail the functioning and location of settlements, relationships amongst settlements, and the selection of sustainability indicators which are most appropriate for contemporary and future Irish settlements. It will provide a detailed and more comprehensive analysis of contemporary and possible future spatial planning policy and actions in relation to the achievement of sustainability goals.

The project aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of opportunities for the workable integration of planning and sustainability policies. Tools including indicators, GIS, metabolism and simulation modelling will be used to better understand the impacts in both the short- and longer-terms of policy changes on the sustainability of Irish settlements.

The research is based on the assumption that the achievement of sustainability is to be thought of as an ongoing process, subject to revision in accordance with possible future policy changes, incremental in nature and based firmly on what may be achieved in practical terms, given contemporary social and political realities. Eighty settlements of varying size and functionality have been selected and details of these will soon be available on a web site currently being developed.

[Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects](#)

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

***An Economic Assessment of the Determinants of Quality of Life and Attitudes to the Environment (2002-PHD2-11)***

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

University College Dublin

**START DATE**

18/03/2003

**CONTACT**

Dr Peter Clinch

**STATUS**

Completed

**PROJECT TYPE**

Doctorate

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

68,520.00

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The focus of the economics literature on sustainability is on the maintenance or improvement of quality of life. This principal objective of this project is to examine those factors which people perceive as determining the quality of their lives. This will be done using advanced econometric analysis of large stated preference data sets (from surveys) to assess those factors, socio-economic, demographic, macro and microeconomic *etc.*, which are associated with quality of life. The study will focus on Ireland but also involve a comparative study of European countries.

[Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects](#)

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

*Modelling the Impact of Various Policy Options to Control Greenhouse Gas Emissions on Output, Employment and Taxation Using an Applied Computable General Equilibrium Model of the Irish Economy (2002-PHDe-5/5)*

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

Trinity College Dublin

**START DATE**

01/10/2002

**CONTACT**

Dr Alan Matthews

**STATUS**

Completed

**PROJECT TYPE**

Doctorate

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

76,000.00

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This project addresses the economic implications of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Specifically, it would adapt an existing computable general equilibrium model of the Irish economy by incorporating additional detail on energy flows, taxation flows and emission outputs by sector in order to be able to quantify the impact of alternative strategies to reach Ireland's Kyoto Protocol targets.

The project has an important capability-building element and, through the envisaged open access policy to the resulting enhanced model, would make available more generally a modelling tool for climate change and energy policy to the Irish social science research community.

[Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects](#)

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

*Welfare Measures and Optimal Compensation for the Siting of Waste Management Facilities  
(2003-PHD3-2)*

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

University College Dublin

**START DATE**

01/10/2003

**CONTACT**

Prof. Frank Convery

**STATUS**

Ongoing

**PROJECT TYPE**

Doctorate

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

64,836.00

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The objective of the proposed study is to test the hypothesis that if some equitable system of public inclusion in the early stages of the planning process is established and if the issue of community compensation is addressed, the economic costs of locally undesirable development may be reduced considerably. Using landfill and thermal treatment waste facilities as the example, the study aims to generate an economic model for public preference assessment, identify and price waste facility externalities and explore compensation policy options for local communities affected by such infrastructural developments.

*[Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects](#)*

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

*Documenting Variations in Environmental Quality Indicators over the last c. 150 Years in Ireland; A Multi-proxy Approach (2004-PHD4-2-M1)*

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

Trinity College Dublin

**START DATE**

01/10/2004

**CONTACT**

Prof. David Taylor

**STATUS**

Ongoing

**PROJECT TYPE**

Doctorate

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

75,000.00

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Well-established links exist between environmental quality and public health (*e.g.* McGranahan and Murray, 2002; Brown, 2004). This project aims to document variations in indicators of environmental quality in Ireland over the last *ca.* 150 years which are of particular relevance to human health and which are preserved in lake sediments. A broad framework of study will be adopted involving recourse to documentary and lake sediment-based sources of evidence. The time frame considered incorporates the period of significant human-induced modification of environmental conditions in Ireland and, most recently, substantial efforts aimed at improving environmental quality (*e.g.* Air Pollution Act, 1987).

[\*Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects\*](#)

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

***Market-Based Instruments for Sustainable Settlement Patterns;  
Designing More Effective, Efficient and Equitable Policy Instruments  
(2004-PHD4-3-M1)***

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

University College Dublin

**START DATE**

01/10/2004

**CONTACT**

Dr Paula Russell

**STATUS**

Ongoing

**PROJECT TYPE**

Doctorate

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

75,000.00

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The objective of this project is to devise market-based planning instruments which will achieve more environmentally efficient, cost-effective and equitable settlement patterns. Planning is an instrument of environmental policy. However, planning instruments have traditionally comprised blunt command and control instruments which have generated inefficient and expensive settlement patterns and inequitable and unpopular results.

Market-based instruments have been successfully used in environmental policy to achieve environmental objectives and at lower cost than more prescriptive measures. Therefore, market-based planning instruments offer the potential to overcome the inefficiencies and inequities created by traditional planning instruments and also increase the public acceptability of planning.

*[Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects](#)*

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

*A Model of the Prediction of Traffic Flow Variability; its Impact on Congestion and Environmental Emission  
(2004-PHD4-4-M1)*

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

University College Dublin

**START DATE**

01/10/2004

**CONTACT**

Dr William Hynes

**STATUS**

Ongoing

**PROJECT TYPE**

Doctorate

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

75,000.00

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The objective of this project is to test the hypothesis that if traffic-flow variability can be predicted then policy instruments can be established to manipulate the variables affecting congestion and resulting emissions. A primary objective is to assess the extent to which various variables 'explain' traffic flow in order to derive policy instruments to address congestion.

Utilising various SCATS systems and Emission Monitoring Units in Dublin, the study aims to generate a model yielding estimates of the percentage variability in traffic volume/flow/speed on a day-to-day basis, followed by estimates on variations in emission levels caused by variations in congestion. Overall, this information will facilitate the improved prediction of traffic flow, and its potential for various policy instruments (in particular, road-pricing) to influence traffic congestion and associated emissions.

*[Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects](#)*

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

***Sustainable Urban Management and the Inner City: an Investigation of Residential Change and Quality of Life (2004-PHD4-5-M1)***

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

University College Dublin

**START DATE**

01/10/2004

**CONTACT**

Dr Mark Scott

**STATUS**

Ongoing

**PROJECT TYPE**

Doctorate

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

65,400.00

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Throughout Europe, increasing urban densities in inner urban areas is viewed as a key tool and policy instrument for sustainable urban management with the potential to reduce urban sprawl and car dependency. However, in an Irish context, it is questionable whether these new residential communities offer a real alternative to outlying areas in the long-term for new residents, as there is evidence to suggest that the ultimate long-term preference of consumers is a house in suburban areas. This thesis aims to investigate the effectiveness of this policy agenda by assessing contemporary lifestyles and quality of life of 'new' inner urban residents.

[Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects](#)

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

***The Use and Regulation of Environmental Claims as a Tool for Promoting Sustainable Consumption in Ireland (2004-SD-DS-12-M2)***

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

University College Dublin

**START DATE**

01/01/2005

**CONTACT**

Prof. Frank Convery

**STATUS**

Completed (**ERTDI Report 52**)

**PROJECT TYPE**

Desk study

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

21,828.00

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Sustainable consumption fundamentally requires that consumers have the ability to make more sustainable purchasing choices. To do so, they require information to enable them to differentiate between the environmental impacts of competing products (Department of the Environment, 1997). Environmental labels and claims have a key role to play in this regard, as they are a primary source of information for consumers at the point of sale. This proposed study aims to undertake an initial evaluation of the use and regulation of such labels and claims in Ireland, in order to identify how they may be most effectively used as a tool to achieve sustainable consumption.

*[Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects](#)*

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

**Public Participation in the Environmental Field: Models and Prospects  
(2004-SD-DS-13)**

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

University College Cork

**START DATE**

01/12/2004

**CONTACT**

Dr Patrick O'Mahony

**STATUS**

Completed (Report pending)

**PROJECT TYPE**

Desk study

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

53,172.00

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The issue of public participation in policy planning and implementation has emerged as a prominent issue in the last decade or more. Various branches of the social and political sciences, as well as philosophy, have sought to understand, and in some cases to advance, this renewed interest. The academic interest has a number of key dimensions. From the standpoints of political theory and political philosophy, the issue is set in the long-run context of what is right, good and feasible (Bohman and Rehg, 1997; Dryzek, 1990, 2000).

Typically, the manner in which questions of the right and the good are conceived, *i.e.*, what should be done, will influence the question of feasibility, *i.e.*, what is it possible to do. Another dimension of research is empirically orientated in the exploration of the potential of different participation models (Renn, 1995). The recognition of the increased complexity of modern societies is an insight that conditions theory and research into participation in the present climate. Radical theories have scaled back their goals of transformation through participation (Habermas, 1996).

Today, the multiplicity of factors which attend any concrete case of participation has led to a relative scaling back of the ambition of the concept even as the willingness to experiment with it has increased. The emphasis is now on developing participation models which increase the involvement of citizens in decisions which affect their lives in concrete situations and cases, rather than a full-blown participative re-design of political institutions. Tested in concrete cases, participation experiments may be subsequently extended to other societal issues and problems. In conditions of complexity, democratic participation is one more means of social co ordination, along with the market, state bureaucracy, law, public debate, political deliberation, and elections. The emerging questions are, first and foremost, what particular times and places could participation make a positive difference; secondly, what kind of participation options are appropriate; and, thirdly, how would such participation operate amongst multiple modes of social co-ordination?

The environmental field has become a key social sphere for participation experiments. This follows from certain characteristics of contemporary environmental issues and problems.

First, the environment is perceived as a common good issue of the first importance, moreover an endangered common good in the light of present trends.

Secondly, environment-regarding practices are embedded in institutional and life practices and are chronically disorganized. Citizen mobilization may be a requirement to access such deep-rooted practices affecting so many facets of life.

Thirdly, the particular kinds of political commitments which the environment and associated scientific-technical controversies inspire have already led to a profusion of participation experiments from citizens juries to environmental forums to expanded consultation.

If these kinds of issues act as drivers of participation experiments, putting such experiments on the political agenda in the first place, then other kinds of factors determine what form they are likely to take. These factors relate to cultural, structural and prioritization mechanisms outside and inside of political jurisdictions. What sustainable development 'means' in a given political context, for example, vitally depends on the cultural filters which attach importance to some and diminish other elements? Structural factors may determine whether certain experiments can be tried, even in a shifting cultural climate. These factors include questions such as the distribution of legislative responsibility, capacity, the nature and degree of civil societal and interest group organization, and the availability of key personnel. Even where good will exists to experiment with an innovation, and structural factors are conducive, priorities may lie elsewhere as in economic or electoral considerations.

[\*Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects\*](#)

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

***Study of Awareness and Knowledge of Sustainable Procurement among Procurement Professionals and Identification of Education and Training Need (2004-SD-DS-14-M)***

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

University College Cork

**START DATE**

01/01/2005

**CONTACT**

Ms Aveen Henry

**STATUS**

Completed (Report pending)

**PROJECT TYPE**

Desk study

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

29,895.00

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Sustainable procurement is increasingly becoming an essential part of conducting both public and private business worldwide and is an integral part of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). The concept of CSR is linked to sustainable development in that it seeks to enable organisations to manage economic, social and environmental needs in a balanced way. The view that firms should accompany the pursuit of profit with good citizenship is not a new one, but it has intensified in recent times. CSR is being driven by such concerns over the impact of large-scale industrial change and globalisation on society and the environment and by greater access to and availability of information on business activities, especially through the media and the Internet.

To further emphasize the strategic importance of public procurement, the European Economic and Social Committee's opinion, assessing the EU sustainable development strategy - exploratory opinion, states that 'the planning and implementation of public procurement projects which support sustainable development would make its mark, as public procurement accounts for 16% of EU GDP and would certainly also send out a signal to, for instance, businesses or private households.'

In 2002, the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg also recognised the importance of public procurement in taking the lead when it committed local authorities to 'promote public procurement policies that encourage development and diffusion of environmentally sound goods and services' (Implementation Plan, paragraph 18). The Commission's Sixth Environmental Action Programme has also identified public procurement as an area which has considerable potential for 'greening' the market through public purchasers using environmental performance as one of their purchasing criteria. Sustainable procurement is defined as making purchases of goods and services, with the goal of reducing the impact of purchasing choices on the environment. It may also be known by such names as sustainable purchasing, green procurement, eco-procurement, green purchasing, environmentally friendly purchasing and affirmative procurement. A Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) or more commonly a 'Simplified LCA' may be performed to determine the nature of a company's products, what energy and materials have gone into their production and distribution, where these materials come from, what is the end of life management of the product going to be and what are the impacts on the environment of the above factors.

Several international organisations have been promoting sustainable procurement, usually as part of a corporate social responsibility strategy. Recognising the importance of governments in demonstrating leadership towards sustainable development, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) published a document *The Environmental Performance of Public Procurement* in 2003. It lists those steps which governments should take so as to implement sustainable procurement. Governments are urged to introduce appropriate policies; establish procedures for product identification; provide relevant information and technical support; and evaluate progress.

Public bodies in Ireland are beginning to show interest in sustainable procurement, for example the Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment's *Sustainable Development Strategy* (2003-2006) recognises the importance of sustainable procurement and the department is committed to implementing an environmental management plan which will include 'green purchasing'. In Ireland, the professional Institute for purchasing and supply executives is the Irish Institute of Purchasing and Materials Management (IIPMM) which has some 1,500 members nationally and internationally.

[\*Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects\*](#)

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

***Envisioning a Sustainable Ireland from an Energy Availability Perspective  
(2004-SD-DS-15-M2)***

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

Feasta

**START DATE**

01/01/2005

**CONTACT**

Mr Richard Douthwaite

**STATUS**

Completed (Report pending)

**PROJECT TYPE**

Desk study

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

49,960.80

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

At least until recently, if more money was put into circulation internationally, more oil could be produced and the level of activity in the global economy could increase. Today, however, this might no longer be the case. There are signs that world oil production may have reached its peak. If so, now, when more money in circulation increases the demand for oil, the price of oil will rise rather than oil output. Work by Colin Campbell (Campbell, 2003) and others (Illum, 2004) shows that world supplies of gas may soon reach their peak too, leaving only coal as a major fossil energy source.

As the use of coal is likely to be limited by both the high level of energy required to produce it (producing electricity from coal gives an output of only four or five times the input energy (Hore-Lacy, 2003)) and fears about climate change, Feasta believes that humanity may be moving into a world in which energy flows and energy availability will do far more to shape the economy and society than will their monetary counterparts. Accordingly in 2002, Feasta commissioned Dr David Crane of Sunwheel Technologies in Bristol and Larry Staudt of the Centre for Renewable Energy at the Dundalk Institute of Technology to develop an ECCO model of the Irish economy.

An ECCO model tracks resource and energy flows rather than those of money and Dr Crane was one of the developers of the technique. The model which they produced showed that on the assumptions they made, only around 20% of Irish energy needs was likely to come from renewable resources by 2050, even if the rate at which the economy grew averaged only 1%. The results of their work were presented at a Feasta conference in November 2002 and published in *Before the Wells Run Dry* in November 2003. The CD of the ECCO model has been requested by a number of researchers, including the Department of Finance, and efforts are being made to establish a user group. Feasta now wants to use the Irish ECCO model to guide and inform a collective envisioning process into Ireland's energy future and the possible future shape of the Irish economy.

Our aim is to help people from various sectors to think through how their sectors might develop in an energy-constrained world. The price of energy fell very considerably during the 20th century in terms of the length of time the average person in an OECD country had to work to buy, say, a kWh. The more limited availability of fossil fuels this century is likely to reverse that trend and make energy more costly in terms of labour. The project will therefore ask people to

forecast how their sectors might respond to changes in the relative price of the two main factors of production. We will then use the ECCO model to enable the changes forecasted for one sector to feed through into changes in the others. After a series of iterations, it should be possible to develop a picture showing the interactions between the various sectors and their relative sizes in an economy in which all energy needs are met from renewable sources.

[Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects](#)

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

***The Regional Distribution of Economic Resources in Ireland has Created Winners and Losers in Environmental Quality? Is Government Policy Addressing this Quality of Life Problem? (2004-SD-DS-16-M2)***

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

University College Dublin

**START DATE**

01/01/2005

**CONTACT**

Prof. Peter Clinch

**STATUS**

Completed (Report pending)

**PROJECT TYPE**

Desk study

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

58,741.20

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The major economic growth and development of the Irish national economy has been accompanied by the development of regional disparities within Ireland, namely the creation of a dominant core comprising the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) and periphery. On average, the GDA has higher incomes *per capita* compared to peripheral regions where income declines with distance from Dublin. A variety of regional policies have been implemented over the decades in an attempt to reduce regional income disparities which have persisted with Ireland's economic development.

These approaches have encompassed various applications of regional policy, from the development of regional growth centres to seeking economic convergence with the Regions of Europe. The most recent initiative is the National Spatial Strategy (NSS), which is intended to offer a means to ensure balanced regional development and reduce income disparities (GVA *per capita*) between the regions (Government of Ireland, 2002). Most income measures suggest the existence of regional disparities in Ireland, but there are a number of problems using income as the sole measure of regional disparities, firstly, pure income measures are not linked with the cost of living, and secondly, income measures do not capture quality of life disparities, which include environmental quality disparities, between regions.

Objective and subjective measures of environmental quality of life in Ireland suggest that environmental quality of life in Dublin is lower than other regional locations in Ireland and environmental quality of life may in fact improve with distance from Dublin (Clinch, 2002; Meredith and Commins, 2004). With so much population and economic activity concentrated in Dublin and the GDA, 'the environmental impact of increased development and enhanced prosperity is not without some cost in terms of increased commuting times, chronic time shortages, noise, air quality and encroachment of urban areas into the countryside' (EPA, 2004:261).

Not alone are there disparities in terms of income, there are also disparities in terms of the cost of living and environmental quality of life, in essence there are regional disparities in quality of life in Ireland. The stated objectives of the NSS are to achieve a better quality of life for people, a strong, competitive economic position and an environment of the highest quality (Government of Ireland, 2002). However, most of the justifications and rationale for adopting the NSS by the Government are based on measuring showing regional income disparities and very little reference is made to environmental quality of life or other important

components of quality of life. Regional policy such as the NSS should be seeking to equalise potential quality of life between the regions.

Increasingly, quality of life is cited as one of the objectives of government policy interventions, yet information about quality of life and most of its components/domains with the exception of income is lacking. Without the necessary information required to inform policy decisions, it is necessary to question whether current policy intervention is properly addressing Quality of Life and improving national welfare.

[\*Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects\*](#)

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

*The Contribution of Energy Crops to a Sustainable Future in Ireland: A Foresight Study  
(2004-SD-DS-17-M2)*

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

Trinity College Dublin

**START DATE**

01/01/2005

**CONTACT**

Prof. Mike Jones

**STATUS**

Completed (Report pending)

**PROJECT TYPE**

Desk study

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

51,565.63

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This is a foresight study on the longer-term sustainability impacts for the agricultural, energy and transport sectors of adapting to greater energy crop production and use. It is in response to topic 4 (Foresight, Visions and Scenarios) listed under theme 1 (Implementing sustainable development in Ireland) in the current call for research proposals under the ERTDI-Sustainable Development Program.

The outlined study would also be of relevance to Policy Integration in the National Development Plan - listed under topic 5 - and integrated environmental, social and economic evaluations of the sustainability impacts of the CAP – listed under topic 6. The main objective of this study would be to generate feasible scenarios of energy crop dependence within Ireland, and assess the sustainability impacts from a multidisciplinary perspective (in accordance with the three fundamental imperatives of sustainability: economic, social and environmental).

Additionally, the institutional imperative would be explored, with particular emphasis on how different departments could coordinate policy to efficiently promote greater energy crop dependence in the agricultural, energy and transport sectors.

*[Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects](#)*

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

**Scenarios of Household Waste Streams: Composition and Management in Cork to 2010 (2004-SD-FS-21)**

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

University College Cork

**START DATE**

01/12/2004

**CONTACT**

Dr Colin Sage

**STATUS**

Ongoing

**PROJECT TYPE**

Fellowship

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

126,477.02

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

A primary goal of the EU Landfill Directive (1999) is to reduce dependence on landfill in favour of more environmentally sound alternatives. *Changing Our Ways* (DOELG, 1998) provided national targets and set the framework for regional waste management planning. The Cork Region is now faced with the immediate difficulty of meeting these targets. The latest data shows that the arising of municipal waste in 2001 had already exceeded the projected targets for 2004 (EPA, 2001). Furthermore, the *National Overview of Waste Management Plans* (2004) projects that domestic waste arising in the Cork Region will increase by 30.9% over the period 2001-2010.

Disparity between projections and the current situation has been caused by a number of factors:

- substantial increases in the quantity of waste;
- changes in the nature of the waste stream, and
- changes in public and private sector attitudes to waste.

In light of projected economic and population growth, and expected changes in household size over the coming decade, the quantity and composition of household waste which will need to be diverted from landfill represents a huge challenge. This challenge cannot be met unless the Local Authority and the public act co-responsibly to drive the waste strategy forward.

The objective of the project is to build a series of scenarios of the household waste stream for the Cork region up to 2010. This exercise will involve an analysis of:

- the overall policy context, comprising EU and national targets which establish the parameters for the regional waste strategy;
- current and prospective waste management practices in Cork;
- compositional profiles of the household waste stream;
- local level consultation to elicit perceptions and motivation for participation, and
- a review of waste management strategies in other local authority regions.

The purpose is to create scenarios (or models) through which to test the effectiveness of different waste management instruments which can contribute to achieving national targets while ensuring increased public participation in civic schemes. These scenarios will be recommended for use as practical guidelines for

local authority activities.

This project is timely because, first, the *Waste Management: Taking Stock and Moving Forward* (2004) report highlights that a huge challenge remains for Ireland in meeting EU and National waste targets. Second, the Region is currently drawing up a new waste management strategy (2004-2009) which will require analysis of how it intends to progress its household waste management in a sustainable manner. Third, the city is now set to commence its separate dry recyclables collection scheme. Accordingly, this project will provide a valuable contribution to the management of the household waste stream in Cork city and the wider region.

[\*Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects\*](#)

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

*Landscape Heritage Sustainable Development Indicator Assessment using Geographical Information Systems in conjunction with Clare County Council  
(2004-SD-FS-22)*

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

University College Dublin

**START DATE**

01/01/2005

**CONTACT**

Ms Lianda d'Auria

**STATUS**

Ongoing

**PROJECT TYPE**

Fellowship

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

127,999.37

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This project proposes to improve understanding of the way in which natural, cultural and aesthetic heritage is integrated in the dynamic landscape by documenting changes and trends in it, and explaining these changes and their causes.

Indicators have long been identified as 'measuring rods' to assess and monitor progress towards sustainable development. In planning, for example, they support decisions in a number of functions. The hierarchy of potential data sources on the information pyramid is non-exhaustive. Furthermore, condensing information on complex environmental variables into a manageable form is a recurrent assessment problem. The argument for amalgamating (*i.e.* aggregation) information is dependent on the variety and complexity of the information. However, there are also difficulties in using these indicators on an individual basis, thus an overall view is required on a spatial scale that is compatible for effective environmental planning and management.

There is a sizeable amount of information on the development of sustainability indicators within the EU particularly in relation to the European Environment Agency experience, and others including the OECD. In Ireland, the Department of the Environment publications on Sustainable Development outline the importance of developing sustainable development indicators for the various facets of our heritage. Sustainable development is also at the heart of the National Spatial Strategy, and locally within the Clare County Development Plan 2005 (adopted Draft Plan 2004).

This project will follow the Driving Forces, Pressures, State, Impacts, Responses (DPSIR) framework and variations of this framework including Pressure-State-Response (PSR) and Driving Force-State-Response (DSR) adopted for State of the Environment reporting in Europe and Internationally. The methodology will form the template in assessing and evaluating sustainable landscape indicators. A GIS framework will be developed to integrate and amalgamate indicators geographically allowing spatial analysis. This is a fairly new area as some indicators are geographically based but the majority are not. This project will test and validate the theoretical tools developed in a real-world environment allowing real planning at a county level. Furthermore, the project will highlight gaps in information and would be the basis for the identification and development of appropriate landscape

indicators for tracking/monitoring changes in the state of the natural, cultural and aesthetic environment in the future.

Carrying out this research in conjunction with Clare County Council is ideal as Co. Clare holds a unique position due to the close association between its environmental heritage and its tourism industry. More importantly much of the economy is dependent on tourism. Therefore, it is imperative that planning tools are developed to take account of environmental heritage within the county. Furthermore, the resultant theoretical and tried tools will be applicable to other part of the country, *e.g.* Boyne Valley, Co. Meath.

[\*Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects\*](#)

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

***Galway 21 – Implementing the Principles and Practices of Sustainable Development in Galway City Council (2004-SD-FS-23)***

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

NUI Galway

**START DATE**

01/01/2005

**CONTACT**

Prof. Mícheál Ó Cinnéide

**STATUS**

Ongoing

**PROJECT TYPE**

Fellowship

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

146,169.77

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Since the late 1990's, major strides have been taken in developing local strategies for sustainable development – Local Agenda 21. The year 1997 saw the publication of 'Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland provided for the development of Local Agenda 21 plans and the appointment of a designated Local Agenda 21 officer for each local authority'.

There are many difficulties involved in giving practical effect to sustainable development concepts at a local level. This project addresses the difficulties by

- Seeking to integrate sustainable development into all sectors;
- Promoting public participation and feedback including the involvement of underrepresented groups;
- Developing practical tools for use by local authorities (*e.g.* sustainability indicators, green maps), and
- Developing a framework for continuous evaluation and dissemination of sustainable practices.

**Integration**

Europe's environment: the third assessment highlighted the need to integrate environmental considerations into all decision-making processes (2003). However, developing a holistic policy goal is difficult given the compartmentalised structures of local authorities. This project aims to integrate sustainable development into all sectors of the local authority. It intends to work with existing structures, *e.g.* Community Forum, City Development Board, *etc.*, to integrate sustainability into the local authorities existing and future plans.

**Public Participation**

'A central trust of Local Agenda 21 is that all the main stakeholders in a city, or a locality, need to be involved in the decision making processes in order to achieve policy consistency, shared ownership and commitment' (Barton 2000).

Developing greater public participation in decisions about local places is not unproblematic. For example, previous research has identified that when a lack of trust in the local authorities exists public involvement in environmental activities may be reduced (Fahy, 2004). Other authors agree that people are more likely to participate if they feel that their engagement will make a difference (O Cinnéide, 1999, Buckingham-Hatfield and Percy 1999). By utilising deliberative tools for public consultation such as focus groups, this project aims to promote public

participation and feedback including the involvement of underrepresented groups *e.g.* youth. An essential part of this project is to communicate methods and techniques about working with the public to other local authorities with the objective of developing improved environmental policies.

[\*Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects\*](#)

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

***Establishing an Eco-Industrial Network for SMEs within the Mid-West Region  
(2004-SD-MS-18)***

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

University of Limerick

**START DATE**

01/12/2004

**CONTACT**

Dr Bernadette O'Regan

**STATUS**

Ongoing

**PROJECT TYPE**

Medium-scale study

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

164,687.00

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This research will develop and commence implementation of a plan for an Eco-Industrial Network of 16 rural and urban-based SMEs in the Mid-West region, which will result in the greening of the supply chains of a cluster of companies and provide a best practice blue print for more sustainable procurement in the SMEs.

The objectives and targets of this project are to

- Develop a plan for an Eco-Industrial Network of 16 rural and urban based SMEs in the Mid West region;
- Provide a framework to help solve problems faced by SMEs in implementing innovative sustainability measures to improve environmental performance based in the principles of industrial ecology;
- Provide support for SMEs, so as to enhance competitiveness, maintain present, and create additional opportunities for, rural and urban based employment in this sector;
- Provide a best practice guide for sustainable procurement and greening of supply chains and waste management;
- Demonstrate the practicality of the framework through implementation with a view to providing a platform for the eventual set up of an Industrial Ecology Park. and
- Make all findings available initially via a website and eventually through EPA reports.

[Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects](#)

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

**Action Research on Sustainable Development Indicators: Stakeholder Participation and Indicator Development (2004-SD-MS-19)**

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

University of Limerick

**START DATE**

01/12/2004

**CONTACT**

Dr Bernadette O'Regan

**STATUS**

Ongoing

**PROJECT TYPE**

Medium-scale study

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

164,740.80

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This project will create, and demonstrate the effectiveness of, a methodology for effective stakeholder participation in sustainability indicator selection, and develop those indicators considered most important by stakeholders within selected Irish settlements.

The objectives and targets of this project are:

- Within the context of EU and national policy, to develop an action-orientated methodology for enabling stakeholders (including business, industry, agriculture, communities, NGOs, policy makers, *etc.*) to play a more significant role in the selection of sustainability indicators;
- To demonstrate the effectiveness of this methodology within a city and village and identify appropriate modes of adapting it to local circumstances;
- To identify stakeholder groups often excluded from the participation process, and employ means of encouraging their participation in future;
- From this stakeholder participation, to identify and develop indicators of sustainability deemed important by local communities and to highlight similarities and differences between the issues considered important by urban- and rural-based stakeholder groups;
- To increase community and stakeholder awareness and understanding of issues central to sustainable development, and improve the chances of future participation, so as to enhance opportunities for successful implementation of existing policy and the introduction of fresh policy initiatives towards sustainability goals;
- To focus community rising on the inter-relatedness among sustainable development, quality of life and industrial/business competitiveness;
- To analyse ways in which stakeholders articulate their own understanding of sustainable development and to integrate these with policy-making and presentation, so as to develop more effective stakeholder commitment to the sustainable development strategy, and
- To aid in the development of collaboration between research centres in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

[Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects](#)

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

**Sustainable Development Evaluation of Road Infrastructure Programmes and Project (2004-SD-MS-20-M2)**

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

Feasta

**START DATE**

01/01/2005

**CONTACT**

Mr David Healy

**STATUS**

Ongoing

**PROJECT TYPE**

Medium-scale study

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

100,851.60

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The purpose of the project is to assess the existing processes for the evaluation of major road transport investment proposals, to carry out an independent assessment of the impact on sustainable development of the road transport investment undertaken and to look at the impact on future transport scenarios of oil price rises and greenhouse gas emissions limitation with an end result of separate sectoral reports and an integrated report to be produced.

[Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects](#)

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

***Sustainable Tourism Development: Towards the Mitigation of Tourism Destination Impacts  
(2004-SD-MS-21)***

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

Dublin Institute of Technology

**START DATE**

01/01/2005

**CONTACT**

Ms Elizabeth Kennedy

**STATUS**

Ongoing

**PROJECT TYPE**

Medium-scale study

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

319,862.72

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The final outcome of this project is the development of a carrying capacity framework, leading to the evolution of an environmentally integrated tourism destination management model.

Strand 1: Characterisation of Quantifiable Dimensions - Inventory and Analysis  
Detailed inventories will be carried out of the principal attributes and activities in the study area. The inventories will give an assessment of the present state of the landscape and current strategies for its protection and management. Key elements will identify the quantifiable dimensions of the capacity web under the following headings: Ecology; Economic Structure; Physical Structure.

Strand 2: Qualitative Perspectives This strand will identify the processes of change. The qualitative perspectives concern the real and perceived influence of tourism activity on the interrelationship between hosts and guests (visitor satisfaction and community tolerance) and regional manager's willingness to control the same (political administration).

This will be undertaken through a three-phase approach examining Community/Social Tolerance, Visitor Satisfaction and Analysis of Political Structures.

The six (6) elements of the 'capacity web' will be considered in establishing the overall carrying capacity of any destination. Tourism Carrying Capacity (TCC) will be defined as a function of these qualitative perspectives of the capacity web. The proposal has emerged from a prioritisation process at the Faculty of Tourism and Food at the Dublin Institute of Technology. Development of techniques to implement carrying capacity indicators will be of considerable benefit to both government agencies and tourist interests, in the determination of area potential and sustainability. Given the diversity of factors inherent in tourism, it not surprising that such a task has proved elusive both globally and within Ireland.

[Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects](#)

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

*A Resource Flow Analysis and Ecological Footprint of Ireland  
(2004-SD-MS-22)*

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

EnviroCentre Limited

**START DATE**

01/01/2005

**CONTACT**

Dr Robin Curry

**STATUS**

Ongoing

**PROJECT TYPE**

Medium-scale study

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

237,725.25

[Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects](#)

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

***Sustainable Participation? Evaluating the Role of City and County Development Boards in Local Sustainable Development (2004-SD-MS-23-M2)***

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

University College Cork

**START DATE**

01/12/2004

**CONTACT**

Dr Gerard Mulally

**STATUS**

Ongoing

**PROJECT TYPE**

Medium-scale study

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

138,022.80

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project will evaluate the role of City and County Development Boards in facilitating stakeholder participation in local sustainable development. The objectives and targets of the research are:

1. To update the state of the art in relation to local sustainable development in Ireland;
2. To assess City and County Development Strategies with regard to the goals of sustainable development established at the Earth Summit;
3. To establish the state of the art in relation to both theories of deliberative and participative democracy and examples of enhanced democratic participation in environment and sustainable development issues;
4. To evaluate community participation in the City and County Development Boards and conduct a case study on an example of good practice;
5. To compare the experience at local level in Ireland with the Norwegian experience;
6. To provide the EPA Local Authority Fellows with information on existing practice in relation to local sustainable development, and
7. To contribute to knowledge on local sustainable development among both the academic and practitioner communities on the challenges and opportunities associated with participation in decision-making and implementation of local sustainable development

The targets are specified in terms of outputs and timeframes as deliverables in the description of the research work

[Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects](#)

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

*Environmental Technology, Dynamic Environmental Capabilities and Competitiveness  
(2004-SD-MS-24-M2)*

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

NUI Galway

**START DATE**

01/06/2005

**CONTACT**

Dr Rachel Hilliard

**STATUS**

Ongoing

**PROJECT TYPE**

Medium-scale study

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

193,647.68

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

1. This project will develop new analytical tools for modelling the environmental and economic performance of companies in Irish industry, testing those tools using statistical and case study analysis of firms in two industry sectors, and inferring policy measures with potential for encouraging business development along a sustainable path.
2. Objectives and targets
  - To collect data and develop an integrated database on the environmental performance, environmental management, environmental technology and financial performance of firms in two industrial sectors;
  - To develop indicators of environmental performance, environmental management, environmental technology and financial performance;
  - To develop a quantitative model to explore the set of relationships between environmental performance, competitiveness, environmental technology take-up and effective environmental management;
  - To develop an understanding, through qualitative research, of the role of dynamic environmental capabilities in mediating the ability of industry to meet higher environmental standards without compromising competitiveness, and
  - To develop recommendations on the most effective role and nature of policy interventions in the regulation of the environmental impact of industrial activity.

[Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects](#)

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

***A Resource Flow Analysis and Ecological Footprint of Ireland – GIS Application  
(2005-FS-34-M1)***

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

Queen's University Belfast

**START DATE**

03/01/2006

**CONTACT**

Dr Manoj Kumar Roy

**STATUS**

Ongoing

**PROJECT TYPE**

Fellowship

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

129,155.56

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The research is part of a wider project entitled *A Resource Flow Analysis and Ecological Footprint of Ireland*. The GIS component of this research project is concerned with the generation of an appropriate spatial scale and its application to the Resource Flow/ Ecological Footprint Analysis of Ireland. The research will also contribute to the development of the University of Limerick (UoL) Ecological Footprint Model through incorporating GIS functionalities in order to generate various interactive sustainability scenarios for Ireland. As such, the research is set to add value to the growing number of sustainability appraisal and evaluation tools in general, and for Ireland in particular.

[Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects](#)

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

***Spatial modelling of Sustainability Indicators and Policy Implications for Sustainable Development Across Three Regions of Ireland (2005-PHD5-GIS-5)***

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

University of Limerick

**START DATE**

01/09/2005

**CONTACT**

Dr Bernadette O'Regan

**STATUS**

Ongoing

**PROJECT TYPE**

Doctorate

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

75,000.00

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This research will spatially reference 175 sustainability indicators using GIS, for 80 settlements across three regions of Ireland. Data already generated by an EPA project for the regions of Sligo, Limerick, and the Midlands on environmental and socio-economic indicators will be analysed. By spatially referencing these data, we will be able to identify sustainability 'blackspots' where policy and resources would be most effectively targeted at multiple spatial scales across the study areas. The resultant interactive GIS will allow visual comparison of sustainability across regions, identification of regional tradeoffs between certain indicators, highlight sustainability issues at local scale and by using an iterative approach, provide policy makers with a powerful tool to examine the likely implications of alternative policies.

[\*Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects\*](#)

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

***A Web-Based GIS to Support Decision-Making in Strategic Environmental Assessment for County Development Plans (2005-PHD5-GIS-17)***

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

NUI Maynooth

**START DATE**

01/12/2005

**CONTACT**

Prof. Stewart Fotheringham

**STATUS**

Ongoing

**PROJECT TYPE**

Doctorate

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

75,000.00

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has many implications for how environmental assessment is conducted. The proposed research will explore opportunities to increase the effectiveness and quality of SEA for County Development Plans (CDP) through the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

The research will concentrate on establishing:

- the availability of datasets, their quality and knowledge gaps for SEA;
- a institution-spanning, SEA specific information retrieval system, and
- suitable (spatial) analysis techniques and methods for SEA.

The principal product will be a web-based GIS application for SEA on CDP. Benchmark testing and evaluation will be performed on a selected CDP.

[Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects](#)

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

***Participative Democracy and the EU Water Framework Directive: A Sociological Study (2005-PHD5-SPI-4)***

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

University College Dublin

**START DATE**

01/11/2005

**CONTACT**

Dr Mary Kelly

**STATUS**

Ongoing

**PROJECT TYPE**

Doctorate

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

73,800.00

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This research project will undertake a sociological analysis of how the public consultative and participative processes required by the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) (2000/60/EC) are being organised and practiced in the Republic of Ireland.

The project will explore three interrelated research questions regarding:

1. The social, economic, political and institutional contexts which influence the consultative and participative organisational forms and practices;
2. The cultural and discursive resources of the participants, and how these are used strategically both in interaction within the consultative group and with relevant interests and publics outside the group, and
3. The consequences of these participative organisational forms and practices in term of promoting participative and inclusive democracy and the related societal and institutional learning necessary to support the attainment of environmental sustainability objectives.

[\*Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects\*](#)

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

***The Potential for Competitive Gains in the Irish Agriculture Sector from Emissions Trading (2005-PHD5-SPI-5)***

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

University College Cork

**START DATE**

01/10/2005

**CONTACT**

Dr Nick Chisholm

**STATUS**

Ongoing

**PROJECT TYPE**

Doctorate

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

75,000.00

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This study will explore the opportunities presented by emissions trading to the Irish agricultural sector in the context of the new EU emissions trading regime and the implementation of the Nitrates Directive. It will analyse the new policy environment in terms of challenges and opportunities presented to the agricultural sector, and will identify potential institutional and technical innovations which can simultaneously ensure compliance with the environmental policy framework and provide a competitive advantage to the sector and farmers therein. The unique potential of the co-operative structure to capture benefits from emissions trading will be a major component of the research.

[\*Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects\*](#)

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

*Integrating Environmental Policies into the Tourism Product –  
Developing a Model of Best Practice  
(2005-PHD5-SPI-8)*

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

NUI Galway

**START DATE**

01/09/2005

**CONTACT**

Dr John McDonagh

**STATUS**

Ongoing

**PROJECT TYPE**

Doctorate

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

75,000.00

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Considerable debate exists over whether nature-based tourism can be sustainable and what management regimes can be employed to minimise the negative impacts associated with anthropogenic influences on natural ecosystems. Maintaining the balance between attracting tourists to threatened environments while simultaneously conserving, protecting and implementing sustainable tourism practices has proved difficult. This project aims to address this challenge by developing a transferable model of best practice for integrating environmental policies into the tourism product. This model will be developed through critical assessment and a rethinking of the role played by visitor centres in the management, conservation, utilisation, and exploitation of the landscape.

[Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects](#)

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

***Expanding the National Accounts in Ireland: Towards Measuring Sustainability  
(2005-PHD5-SPI-13)***

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

University College Dublin

**START DATE**

01/09/2005

**CONTACT**

Dr Susana Ferreira

**STATUS**

Ongoing

**PROJECT TYPE**

Doctorate

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

75,000.00

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This project will undertake the construction and maintenance of a data set of truly comprehensive national accounts for Ireland during 1970-2001. In order to perform the necessary adjustments to the conventional national accounts will include

- i) Resource depletion, environmental degradation and human capital accumulation;
- ii) Existing methodologies will be refined to reflect the specific Irish circumstances, and
- iii) New methodologies will be developed when non-existent.

The expanded savings measures generated in this exercise can be used to assess the sustainability of Ireland's development path.

In addition, the methodological improvements required for their construction can inform the World Bank and other practitioners interested in performing the same kind of adjustments in Ireland and worldwide.

[Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects](#)

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

*Island limits - North-South Integration  
(2005-SD-DS-20-M2)*

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

EnviroCentre Limited

**START DATE**

01/12/2005

**CONTACT**

Dr Robin Curry

**STATUS**

Ongoing

**PROJECT TYPE**

Desk study

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

22,860.00

[Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects](#)

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

***Rural Sustainable Development: Managing Housing in the Countryside  
(2005-SD-MS-41-M2)***

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

University College Dublin

**START DATE**

03/01/2006

**CONTACT**

Dr Mark Scott

**STATUS**

Ongoing

**PROJECT TYPE**

Medium-scale study

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

338,816.80

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This proposal is submitted by the Department of Regional and Urban Planning at University College Dublin (UCD) in collaboration with the Environmental Institute, the Energy Research Group and the Department of Crop Science, Horticulture and Forestry, all of UCD. The proposed project addresses the issue of rural sustainability in contemporary Ireland, in particular focusing on the interface of managing the built and natural environment in rural areas. Although considerable literature and research exists examining sustainable development in cities, at present, there is currently a dearth of research examining sustainability in a rural context. To address this deficit, this proposal aims to examine rural sustainability through an inter-disciplinary team, involving researchers with a background in: environmental planning, spatial and land-use planning, economics, environmental studies, landscape architecture, rural development, sociology, geography, transport studies, architecture, and building technology.

[\*Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects\*](#)

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

**Assessing Access to Information, Participation, and Justice in Environmental Decision Making  
(2005-SD-MS-42-M2)**

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

Institute of Technology, Sligo

**START DATE**

06/03/2006

**CONTACT**

Dr John Bartlett

**STATUS**

Ongoing

**PROJECT TYPE**

Medium-scale study

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

258,285.20

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Public participation in environmental decision-making is an essential part of sustainable development, and this project will, over the course of 18 months and at a cost of €297,050.00, give a clear picture of the extent to which Principle 10 of the Rio Summit, 1992, has been incorporated into environmental governance in Ireland, thus enabling informed debate and effective targeted capacity-building measures to be initiated, and the fulfilment of the National Development Plan and international commitments.

(a) Objectives

- (i) To assess and stimulate progress in implementing the three pillars of Principle 10, as incorporated into the Aarhus Convention, by looking at the status of:
  - a. The legal framework for access;
  - b. The dissemination of information;
  - c. The practice of participation;
  - d. The accessibility of justice, and
  - e. The efforts to build the capacity of the public to gain access to decision-making;
- (ii) To provide The Government with the information it needs in order to fulfil its international obligations under the Aarhus Convention, and its resultant European Directives;
- (iii) To highlight the strengths and weaknesses in all aspects of Environmental Governance in Ireland, in order to recommend capacity building measures which lead to participatory and sustainable development. This research is an essential part of the groundwork needed to implement National Sustainable Development Policy;
- (iv) To include as many representative stakeholder organisations, as is possible, in the review panel, in order to attain a balanced understanding of the priorities of the wider community in analysing the research findings, whilst simultaneously creating a higher profile for the outcomes.

(b) Targets.

- (i) To establish an effective research coalition, incorporating a research group, a core expert review panel, and a civil society review panel, with a view to repeating this assessment, in a refined format, on a biennial basis.

- (ii) To produce an assessment of environmental governance in Ireland, as it relates to public participation, under the following headings.

Category 1 Access to information

- Subcategory A: General legal framework supporting access to information;
- Subcategory B: Information about environmental emergencies;
- Subcategory C: Information from regular monitoring;
- Subcategory D: State of the environment reporting, and
- Subcategory E: Facility level information.

Category 2 Assessing Participation

- Subcategory A: General legal framework supporting participation;
- Subcategory B: Participation in decisions on national or sub-national policies, strategies, plans, programmes, or legislation, and
- Subcategory C: Participation in project-level decisions.

Category 3 Assessing Access to Justice

- Subcategory A: Access to justice in the denial of rights to information;
- Subcategory B: Access to justice in the denial of rights of participation in decision-making relating to the environment, and
- Subcategory C: Access to justice in cases of environmental harm to humans or the environment

Category 4 Assessing Capacity building efforts for informed participation

- Subcategory A: General legal framework supporting capacity building;
- Subcategory B: Efforts to build the capacity of the government, and
- Subcategory C: Efforts by the government to build the capacity of the public.

Capacity building – In the context of this project, ‘capacity building’ refers to efforts to improve a country’s human, scientific, technological, organizational, institutional, and resource capabilities. According to Agenda 21, capacity building consists of mechanisms, efforts or conditions which enhance effective and meaningful public participation in decisions affecting the environment. Types of capacity building include educating civil servants to implement access rights, creating a supportive legal and administrative situation for Non-Governmental Organisations, and ensuring Internet access for the general public.

[\*Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects\*](#)

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

**Sustainable Development Research Model  
(2006-SDM-LS-11)**

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

Economic and Social Research  
Institute (ESRI)

**START DATE**

01/09/2006

**CONTACT**

Prof. John Fitzgerald

**STATUS**

Ongoing

**PROJECT TYPE**

Large-scale study

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

899,028.00

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This project will develop a sustainable development research model which quantifies the effects of economic and social activity in Ireland on important environmental pressure points. The model will be based on the full range of available data and research. It will consist of a series of sub-models, each dealing with a specific area of environmental concern. It will be driven by a core macro-economic model – HERMES - the ESRI's model of the Irish economy. Each environmental sub-model will determine the level of emissions and wider environmental effects as a function of driving economic and social variables.

The modelling framework will:

1. Provide an integrating framework for research into the effect of economic and social activity on the environment;
2. Be a tool to forecast the environmental impact of economic and social activity, and
3. Allow policy makers to examine the potential effects of social, economic and environmental policies on the wider environment, facilitating the development of policy on sustainable development.

The model will be delivered in a usable and accessible format. The results of the research will be communicated to the wider academic and policy-making community by seminars, conferences and publications.

[Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects](#)

**Contributory Scholarships:**

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

*Urban Conservation in Ireland  
(2001-CS-12-M1)*

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

Trinity College Dublin

**CONTACT**

Ms Elene Neguissie

**PROJECT TYPE**

Contributory scholarship

**START DATE**

17/12/2001

**STATUS**

Completed

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

3,809.21

---

**PROJECT TITLE**

*Person and Environmental Health - Developing Links between  
Environmental Threat Perception as a Predictor of Environmental  
Behaviour  
(2001-CS-16-M2)*

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

Trinity College Dublin

**CONTACT**

Ms Anne Walsh-Daneshmandi

**PROJECT TYPE**

Contributory scholarship

**START DATE**

12/09/2001

**STATUS**

Ongoing

**TOTAL BUDGET (€)**

6,350.00

[Back to EPA-Funded Research: Socio-Economic Projects](#)

**END OF EPA SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROJECTS (2000-2006)**