

assuring a legacy



COMMISSION FOR A
SUSTAINABLE LONDON 2012

assuring a sustainable london 2012 olympic games and paralympic games

The Commission for a Sustainable London 2012 was announced in January 2007 to monitor London's 2012 pledge to host the 'most sustainable Games ever'.

With sustainable development a centrepiece of London's successful bid to stage the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, the commission aims to make sure the most is made out of the social, economic, environmental and legacy opportunities that the Games will bring.

The commission will monitor sustainability across delivery, staging and legacy.

It is a groundbreaking role: the commission is the first independent assurance body set up in association with any Olympic Games and Paralympic Games and the first known body of its kind created to assure a major infrastructure programme of this size, in the world.



making the most of 2012

The London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games is the largest single infrastructure, sporting and legacy project in the world.

Hosting the Games will bring new sporting and community facilities, training and employment opportunities, improved public transport, more affordable housing, cultural benefits, tourism and the regeneration of part of East London into a vibrant new city quarter.

Creating a stage for the world's elite athletes and millions of spectators in London and other parts of the United Kingdom in 2012 will impact on the local and global environment and surrounding communities.

The commission recognises that while there will be some negative impacts, the Games presents an extraordinary opportunity to showcase sustainable development, to make the most of the social, economic, environmental and legacy opportunities.

The commission will drive the sustainability assurance agenda to help ensure that the impacts are limited, risks are reduced and the benefits of the Games remain, long after the closing ceremony.

sustainable development and london 2012, what does it really mean?

Sustainable development and the London Games is about much more than being green. Environmental policies are extremely important, but the 2012 Games and sustainability are also about delivering long term social and economic benefits.

A win-win-win approach to sustainable development recognises that all things are interconnected and should not be viewed in isolation. It recognises that multiple benefits can be derived from activities which simultaneously address social, economics and environmental impacts.

By utilising the key principles of sustainable development and aspiring to world's best practice, the Commission for a Sustainable London 2012 is focussed on assuring a legacy that ultimately means:

- A better standard of living for Londoners in the host boroughs
- Disabled people able to freely access services, jobs, homes and community activities
- New and affordable housing
- Sites ready for future sustainable, low impact development
- An increase in the skills base of UK residents
- Residents adopting good environmental practices such as recycling and waste reduction
- A culturally diverse society that engages positively in work, community and in cultural institutions
- Minimal impact on climate change and
- People adopting healthier ways of living through sport and better lifestyle choices
- Public spaces and facilities that are accessible and will continue to be used.
- Long term job prospects for Londoners and other UK residents



monitoring sustainability

The Commission for a Sustainable London 2012 will provide the Olympic Board with an independent and objective view on the sustainability of the London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

The commission has been tasked to probe the sustainability work of the Olympic Delivery Authority, the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, the Greater London Authority group and HM Government. And its role will cover all Games facilities in the United Kingdom.

Essentially, the new commission will report openly and transparently to assure the Olympic Board that:

- robust plans and processes are in place to deliver sustainable development objectives
- sustainable development objectives are being achieved and
- the sustainable development work being undertaken will support a sustainable legacy.

In carrying out its assurance tasks, the commission will be dynamic, going beyond simply providing feedback on annual reports.

By assessing the sustainability of the 2012 programme policies, procedures and performance, the commission will identify good practice and areas for improvement, assess risks and make recommendations to the Olympic Board.

It will also provide a valuable source of expertise to help the delivery bodies meet their objectives.

The Commission for a Sustainable London 2012 will consult with stakeholders such as the London Sustainable Development Commission, the UK Sustainable Development Commission, regional sustainable development groups, host boroughs and professional bodies to identify key issues and priorities and provide the best possible independent assurance programme.



the commission

Shaun McCarthy has been appointed Chair to lead the new commission. Shaun is a leading advocate of sustainable business practices. He has more than 20 years experience in commercial business and has spent the past 10 years as a senior manager specialising in sustainable procurement and construction and assessing the impact of major infrastructure business on climate change. He has been a member of the London Sustainable Development Commission since 2005.

Acting in honorary roles, commission members include Core Commissioners or Co-opted Expert Commissioners. Core Commissioners attend regular meetings and provide overall governance and commentary to the Olympic Board, while Co-opted Expert Commissioners are part of a register, willing to be on-call to address specific areas and investigations.

The commissioners are respected and acknowledged leaders in their fields and represent a range of areas, reflecting the five sustainability themes of the 2012 Games: waste, climate change, biodiversity, inclusion and healthy living. Many have been pioneers in driving sustainability in their own areas of expertise.

As directed by the commission, a small team of senior officials carries out the operational assurance work, engaging with the relevant Olympic bodies and providing secretariat support.

building on london's bid

The Commission for a Sustainable London 2012 has emerged from the work initially undertaken by the Mayor's London Sustainable Development Commission (LSDC).

In 2003, the LSDC undertook a comprehensive assessment of the 2012 bid using its Sustainable Development Framework for London.

The key message provided to the bid team was the need to address the social, economic and environmental issues in a joined-up way and to look at how these benefits could be secured after the Games across London, the United Kingdom and particularly East London.

In 2004, the LSDC formed a 2012 Sub Group to focus its attention on the Games bid. After London won the right to host the Games the Sub Group has continued to provide guidance and direction. The new commission will build on this good work to help make sure the sustainability goals in the bid become a reality.

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Funding and other support has been provided jointly by members of the 'Olympic family' to maximise the commission's independence.