

green light

Sustainability
Appraisal Toolkit



The Simple and Effective Method of Meeting Sustainability Targets

Be one of the growing number of organisations to benefit from Green Light

In response to a request from a Regional Development Agency, UK CEED in association with Professor Peter James, University of Bradford, developed the Green Light toolkit in 2003 to aid in assessing funding applications, plans and strategy against the increasingly complex background of EU, national and regional policies across the wide range of topics that comprise sustainability.

Since then toolkits have been developed for other Regional Development Agencies, Regional Assemblies and Local Authorities and have been used to assess almost 3000 projects. Significant improvements have been made to the toolkit to streamline user interface and simplify the functionality, resulting in the launch of this latest version, under the new 'Green Light' brand name.

What is the Green Light Sustainability Toolkit?

The toolkit is an online, open source decision support tool. The user is guided through various sets of questions and provided with prompts to all the relevant areas that should be taken into account. A 'traffic light' system provides an immediate and clear visual indication of whether sustainability targets are being met. At the end of the process a report in a PDF format is generated with the results of the appraisal.

Green Light toolkits also pull together all the relevant documents and data into one place and act as a library.

Customised to meet your specific needs and always relevant

Green Light toolkits are customised to a high level to meet the specific objectives of the commissioning organisation. This means that you can specify exactly what policies you wish to assess against, for example a Regional Economic Strategy or Local Authority Agreement.

Due to the dynamic nature of sustainability policy, the toolkits have been developed online, so they can be regularly updated by the team at UK CEED, to incorporate the latest changes in policy and to reflect changes in government departments etc. This means your toolkit will always be up to date.



Green Light toolkits are customised to each client's specific needs.

Guaranteeing the best sustainable outcomes

There are a number of features of the toolkits designed to give the best possible outcome. For example being open source means it is easily accessible to all stakeholders, creating collective agreement and providing a clear and transparent framework for assessment. And as the assessment doesn't involve any third party, it allows for a direct dialogue, for example between the city and the developer, so the optimum sustainable solutions can be found.

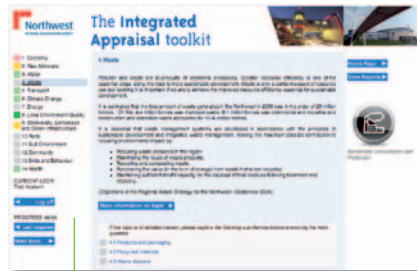
Relevant and useful at every stage of project and policy development

Green Light toolkits have been developed to be relevant at all stages of both project and planning development, from concept, design, approval and implementation to evaluation. Its use can be generic or specific to formal processes, depending on the requirement of the commissioning organisation.

Benefits

The Green Light toolkit delivers the following benefits:

- **Simplification** of a complicated process, resulting in increased **resource efficiency** and **effectiveness**
- A **time efficient** means of structuring and recording discussion
- It is an **open source** toolkit which aids **transparency and consistency**
- A high degree of **customisation** and **flexibility**
- A **tried and tested** tool
- A **well established process** to create a customised toolkit
- No third party involvement – the direct relationship allows for **increased dialogue** and **greater understanding**
- **Full support and training** is provided and it is **regularly updated**



Green Light toolkits are clear and easy to use.

Appraisal of Stockport Core Strategy

The toolkit assisted us to identify social, economic and environmental weaknesses within the strategy. It identified areas which needed consideration on employment, access to services, housing, environmental protection and transport. We found the toolkit particularly helpful on emerging policy directions and the PDF report useful to circulate to policy writers to foster discussion. We found Green Light's ability to foster engagement through flexible online use one of its strongest features.

Angie Jukes,
Health & Environment Advisor
(Planning), Stockport Council

Supported by a complimentary range of tools

There are a range of products in development that are complimentary to Green Light, such as a carbon calculator to provide a 'carbon cost' of a project; a Carbon Methodology toolkit to allow local authorities to calculate the carbon output of a city; and the Scenarios toolkit, that enables calculation of emission reduction strategies and measures to achieve varying reduction targets.

To find out more about how your organisation could benefit from Green Light toolkits:

email: greenlight@ukceed.org
telephone: 01733 311644
visit: www.ukceed.org

The Integrated Appraisal Toolkit is an invaluable resource for developing or reviewing policies and strategies. It provides a framework of issues, case studies and links which allows anyone to complete a solid sustainability appraisal without needing previous experience. The toolkit has a flexibility which enables it to be used as a quick checklist or a tool for producing detailed reports. It is a complete package which ensures all aspects of sustainability are addressed and aligned with current legislation and best practice.

Linda Stevenson,
Senior Advisor, Environment for
the Royal Melbourne Institute of
Technology



Who are UK CEED?

UK CEED (the UK Centre for Economic and Environmental Development) is a not for profit organisation that promotes the economic advantage of good environmental practice. UK CEED was founded in 1984 by a group of far sighted leaders from the business, environment and science sectors, such as Sir David Attenborough.

