

Environmental Statistics

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Environmental Data

Purpose

Produce objective, reliable and comparable environmental statistics at international level to support the work of the Environmental Policy Committee, and in particular OECD work on environmental indicators, environmental performance reviews, environmental outlooks and environmentally sustainable development. Collect the best available environmental data in OECD member and partner countries and promote international harmonisation of these data (Core set of environmental data).

Contribute to the biennial publication of the OECD Compendium of environmental data and to the update of the OECD System of Information on Resources and the Environment (SIREN) database.

Objectives and outputs

Provide a strong factual knowledge and quantitative basis for the OECD's analytical work on environment and sustainable development (e.g. outlook and strategy, sustainable development, environmental performance reviews, indicators). Strengthen the capacity of member and selected non-member countries in the field of information management concerning the environment and sustainable development.

Contribute to the international harmonisation of environmental data, definitions and concepts, and the cost-effectiveness of related international work.

The biennial process of data collection and treatment will produce the 2003 issue of the "Compendium of Environmental Data".

Review of the OECD questionnaires on the state of the environment and on environmental expenditure and revenues (joint work with Eurostat for European Union, EFTA and EU candidate accession countries; co-operation with UNSD for non-OECD countries): review of definitions and classifications, consistency with European and other international developments, prioritisation of data requests; use of new international data sources.

Publications

Environmental Expenditure in OECD Countries

OECD Environmental Data Compendium

Databases

SIREN (System of Information on Resources and the Environment)

Main Developments for 2003

General aspects:

Development of a Collaborative Plan of Action on Environmental Data Quality, linked to "OECD Quality Framework". Improved data quality in selected areas (continued work).

Draft revision of questionnaire for air (2003), wild life and biodiversity (2004), marine environment (2005).

Greater use of other international data sources that became recently available, in particular at European level, focousing on "data efficiency", "coherence among countries" and "interpretation".

Data collection:

Ongoing revision of the questionnaire sections (joint work with Eurostat). In 2003, revision of the section on air.

Data management:

Project to facilitate the transfer of selected environmental reference series to the new OECD statistical information system OECD.stat.

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Environmental Indicators

Purpose

Develop core sets of reliable, measurable and policy-relevant environmental indicators to contribute to: measuring environmental performance, with respect to environmental quality, environmental goals and international agreements; integrating environmental concerns in economic and sectoral policies; monitoring progress towards environmentally sustainable development, including decoupling of environmental pressure from economic growth.

Objectives and outputs

Provide sound, measurable and policy-relevant tools for OECD's work on environment and sustainable development (e.g. outlook and strategy, environmental performance reviews, sustainable development, economic analysis) and support related member and selected non-member countries efforts: indicators to support policy and performance efforts; indicators to support communication efforts.

Further development of sectoral indicators: agri-environmental indicators (see related activity description), and development of a set of tourism-environment indicators (co-operation with the Tourism Committee and Working Group on Statistics).

Development of waste prevention indicators and further development and refinement of indicators to measure decoupling of environmental pressure from economic growth (link to sustainable development).

Expanded use of environmental indicators in the second cycle of country environmental performance reviews, with a focus on environmental decoupling indicators.

Publications

Indicators for the integration of environmental concerns into energy policies

Indicators for the integration of environmental concerns into transport policies

Indicators to measure progress towards more sustainable household consumption

Key Environmental Indicators

OECD Environmental Indicators

Databases

Environmental indicators

Main Developments for 2003

General aspects:

OECD key environmental indicators; new set of sectoral environmental indicators for tourism; development of waste prevention indicators; development of environmental de-coupling indicators; further development of biodiversity indicators (subject to funding).

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Environmentally Related Taxes

Purpose

To provide harmonised information on environmentally related taxes in support of the OECD work on economic and environment policy integration; to monitor and assess the use of economic instruments, draw policy conclusions and develop practical guidelines for their implementation.

Objectives and outputs

The OECD/EU database on environmentally-related taxes provides many details concerning environmentally-related taxes, fees and charges levied in OECD Member countries. The primary focus of the database is on pollution-oriented levies and tax-bases, but levies related to certain categories of resource management have also been included. The tax-bases covered include energy products, transport equipment and transport services, as well as measured or estimated emissions to air and water, ozone depleting substances, certain non-point sources of water pollution, waste management and noise, in addition to the management of water, land, soil, forests, biodiversity, wildlife and fish stocks.

Through co-operation with the European Environment Agency, the coverage of the database has been broadened to include 10 non-OECD Member countries affiliated to EEA.

Databases

Environmentally related taxes

Main Developments for 2003

General aspects:

A complementary database on the use of other economic instruments (tradable permits, deposit-refund systems and environmentally motivated subsidies) and voluntary approaches used in environmental policy has been prepared in co-operation with the European Environment Agency.

This database will also be available on Internet and users will be able to make queries into both databases simultaneously.

Information on environmentally related taxes, fees and charges in 13 countries being members or otherwise related to the European Environment Agency, but not being OECD members, will be added.