

Environmental Statistics

Environmental Statistics

Environmental Data

Purpose

Produce objective, reliable and comparable environmental statistics at international level as a factual basis for the OECD's policy and analytical work on environment and sustainable development (environmental indicators, environmental country peer reviews, environmental outlooks and environmentally sustainable development).

Collect the best available environmental data in OECD member and partner countries, promote international harmonisation of these data (core set of environmental data) and strengthen the capacity of member and selected non-member countries in the field of information production and management concerning the environment and sustainable development.

Objectives and outputs

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.

Data collection from member countries via the OECD questionnaire on the state of the environment (joint work with Eurostat for European Union, EFTA and EU candidate countries; co-operation with UNSD and UNEP for non-member economies).

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

Databases

SIREN (System of Information on Resources and the Environment)

Main Developments for 2008

General aspects:

Implementation of the Collaborative Plan of Action on Environmental Data Quality, linked to the "OECD Quality Framework" and improved data quality in selected areas (continued work) with a focus on key reference series and on "data efficiency", "coherence among countries" and "interpretation", through simplified annual updates and improved country documentation.

Improved international co-operation on land use and land cover statistics (as part of the work of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics).

Publication of a series of guidance documents on the measurement of material flows and resource productivity with a focus on accounts and indicators (as part of the implementation of the OECD Council recommendation on material flows and resource productivity adopted in April 2004). The work is carried out jointly with Eurostat and in co-operation with the UN Committee of Experts on integrated Environmental Economic Accounting and the London Group on Environmental Accounting.

Data collection:

OECD Statistical Programme of Work 2008, Part II

Ongoing revision and simplification of the questionnaire sections (joint work with Eurostat and in co-operation with UNSD).

Data management:

Facilitate the transfer of selected environmental reference series to the corporate data warehouse OECD.Stat.

Environmental Statistics

Environmental Indicators

Purpose

Provide sound, measurable and policy-relevant indicators for the OECD's policy and analytical work on environment and sustainable development (e.g. environmental outlook, environmental country reviews, sustainable development, economic analysis) and support related member and selected non-member countries' efforts.

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; measuring material flows and resource productivity (link to the OECD Council recommendation on material flows and resource productivity adopted in April 2004); informing the public about major environmental trends and conditions.

Objectives and outputs

Support the work of the OECD Environmental Policy Committee and its subsidiary bodies, in particular country peer reviews.

Further develop sets of sectoral indicators, i.e. agri-environmental indicators (see related activity description) and develop a balanced set of material flow and resource productivity indicators for international use at various levels of detail/aggregation. Prepare guidance on the interpretation and use of material flow and resource productivity indicators (link to sustainable development and to work on sustainable materials management).

Databases

Environmental indicators

Main Developments for 2008

General aspects:

Updated OECD key environmental indicators (KEI) and major environmental indicators for use in country peer reviews.

Proposed set of material flow and resource productivity indicators for OECD use.

Environmental Statistics

Instruments Used for Environmental Policy

Purpose

To provide harmonised information on environmentally related taxes and on a number of other instruments used for environmental policy, in support of the OECD work on the use of economic instruments, draw policy conclusions and develop practical guidelines for their implementation.

Objectives and outputs

The OECD/EEA database on environmentally related taxes provides many details concerning environmentally related taxes, fees and charges levied in OECD member countries. The original focus of the database was on pollution-oriented levies and tax-bases, but levies related to 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 country coverage of the database has been broadened to include a number of OECD non-member countries affiliated to EEA.

In addition, Israel and South Africa have provided information on their environmentally related taxes in 2007 -- and China is expected to provide information in the coming years.

The instrument coverage has also been broadened, and now includes tradable permit systems, environmentally motivated subsidies, deposit-refund systems and voluntary approaches used for environmental policy.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Israel, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, South Africa

Databases

ENV\NP\Ecolnst under Projects on WebDev2

Main Developments for 2008

General aspects:

A further broadening of both country and instrument coverage is expected.