

Environmental Statistics

Environmental Statistics

Agri-Environmental Indicators

Purpose

To provide information to policy makers on the current state and changes of the environment in agriculture to better understand the linkages between agricultural policies and environmental impacts.

Objectives and outputs

"Environmental Indicators for Agriculture" includes the complete list of agricultural indicators, which covers a range of issues, such as agricultural impacts on soil, water, air, biodiversity and landscape.

Databases

Nitrogen Balance Database

Main Developments for 2011

General aspects:

No major changes.

Environmental Statistics

Environmental Data

Purpose

Produce objective, reliable and comparable environmental statistics at the 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, resource productivity, 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, management and use concerning the environment and sustainable development.

Objectives and outputs

Contribute to the update and 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.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Russian Federation

Databases

SIREN (System of Information on Resources and the Environment)

Main Developments for 2011

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 *annual quality assurance). Continued review and simplification of questionnaire. Improved access to environmental information and migration of reference series to the OECD's statistical platform.

Review of information needs for OECD policy analysis and evaluation. Identification of main gaps in OECD data collection and treatment. Identification of priority issues for data quality efforts in the next years. Inventory of available national and international data sources.

Continued work on the measurement of material flows and resource productivity (as part of the implementation of the OECD Council recommendations on material flows and resource productivity adopted in 2004 and 2008). Preparation of a fact-based report on the state of resources in OECD countries and beyond. Co-operation with the UNCEEA and the London Group on Environmental Accounting.

Data collection:

Ongoing revision and simplification of the questionnaire sections (joint work with Eurostat and in co-operation with UNSD/UNEP). Data collection in 2011 to focus on key environmental reference data (annual quality assurance process).

Data management:

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

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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, green growth, 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 and green growth, including decoupling of environmental pressure from economic growth; measuring material flows and resource productivity (link to the OECD Council recommendations on material flows and resource productivity adopted in 2004 and 2008); 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: agri-environmental indicators (see related activity description); material flow and resource productivity indicators for international use at various levels of detail/aggregation. Prepare and publish a set of indicators to monitor progress with green growth (report to be published at the occasion of the 2011 MCM as a companion volume to the OECD Green Growth Strategy Synthesis Report).

Databases

Environmental indicators

Main Developments for 2011

General aspects:

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

Set of indicators to monitor progress with green growth (link to the development of the OECD Green Growth Strategy). Publication of report for the 2011 MCM.

Improved set of urban environmental indicators to support environmental country reviews and work on Green Cities (GOV).

Proposed set of indicators on environmental quality of life (link to the recommendation of the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi commission and to the publication "How's Life").

New and improved indicators on biological diversity (in support of environmental performance review and the environmental outlook).

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.

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.

All the tax information for old and new OECD member countries was updated in 2010, in relation to the preparation of the book on Taxation, Innovation and the Environment. The new member countries are also in the process of providing more information on non-tax instruments that they apply.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

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

Databases

ENV\NP\Ecolnst under Projects on WebDev2

Main Developments for 2011

General aspects:

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