

# Environmental Statistics

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## 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. This will assist in the monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of policies to promote sustainable agriculture and enhance agricultural policy reform.

### 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 2009

#### 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:

Chile, China, Estonia, Israel, Russian Federation, Slovenia

### Databases

SIREN (System of Information on Resources and the Environment)

### Main Developments for 2009

#### 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. Review of questionnaire and of collection process (collection frequency, data sources, data hierarchy).

Continued work on the measurement of material flows and resource productivity with a focus on accounts, data and indicators (as part of the implementation of the OECD Council recommendations on material flows and resource productivity adopted in 2004 and 2008). Production of an implementation guide for national material flow accounts jointly with Eurostat (Volume IV of the series of OECD guidance documents). Co-

operation with the UNCEEA and the London Group on Environmental Accounting to ensure coherence with the revision of the SEEA and the production of sectoral manuals.

OECD assessment of the environmental information system of China (2009-2010)

**Data collection:**

Ongoing revision and simplification of the questionnaire sections; review of collection frequency (joint work with Eurostat and in co-operation with UNSD/UNEP).

**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, 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 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, 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 in decision making (link to sustainable development, to work on sustainable materials management and on sustainable manufacturing).

### Databases

Environmental indicators

### Main Developments for 2009

#### 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.

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## 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 provided information on some of their environmentally related taxes in 2007. Other accession countries and enhanced engagement countries are 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 2009

#### General aspects:

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