



The Scottish Government

Scottish Experiences of Strategic Environmental Assessment

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The Scottish Government

Scottish SEA Context

- Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005
- SEA Gateway
- SEA Consultation Authorities

How do we know what's going on?

- SEA Gateway overview
- Consultation Authorities' perspectives
- Research
 - Pathfinder project
 - Work to inform guidance
- Scottish Government as a Responsible Authority

What are the challenges?

- Continuing need for awareness raising
- Continuing 'image problem'
 - Perceived as complex and technical
 - Uncomfortable fit with policy making
 - Low public response to outputs
- Defensive approach to SEA?
- Lack of evidence of benefits

What are the opportunities?

- Stimulating policy context
 - Climate change
 - Sustainable economic growth
 - Planning modernisation
- Fuller coverage of PPS within hierarchy
- Rapidly growing expertise and confidence
- Improving information base

What are we doing about it?

- Scottish Government SEA Unit (incorporating SEA Gateway)
 - Close working with Consultation Authorities
 - Expanded team – procedural and technical advice
 - Supporting public sector as a whole
 - Building capacity to undertake SEAs
 - Innovative resourcing solutions
 - Advice on proportionality, defining and focusing on significance, relevant information
 - Online tools and resources
 - Links with EIA and AA

What's happening in 2009?

- Dissemination of new guidance
 - Introductory guide to SEA (linking into the Toolkit)
 - New guidance on SEA of Scottish development plans
 - Links with wider sector / topic based guidance
- Taking forward the recommendations of the pathfinder project
- Launch of SEA Database
 - More scope to reflect on ongoing cases and proactively monitor compliance
- Scotland-wide SEA Forum

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