

# Executive Summary

## Chairman's Statement

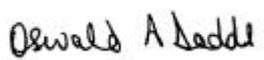
The main aim of this project was to research and analyse resource use data for London. Resource flow and ecological footprint analyses served to provide information on which to make evidence-based policy. The results show that changes are necessary if London is to become a sustainable city. Scenario results indicate that a combination of consumption reduction and technological innovation can achieve the resource efficiency improvements required to realise a sustainable London by 2050.

Deciding the detail of how we might achieve the necessary changes needs to involve society as a whole. This is essentially a political process and the report does not, therefore, make specific policy recommendations. It is hoped however that the findings of this study will assist in the formation of effective policies and help all of us understand the action needed to achieve ecological sustainability.

Another aim of the project was to assess the availability and quality of data necessary for this type of analysis. While more research and better datasets would greatly assist in assessing and monitoring our progress towards sustainability, the report shows that there is already enough data in the public domain to reliably indicate that London lifestyles are not currently sustainable. We therefore hope that this study both stimulates further data research and inspires future analyses.

On behalf of IWM (EB) I would like to thank all involved in the project - the funders, the project team and all those who provided data or otherwise helped.

I commend the report to you and hope that it stimulates real debate and change.



**Oswald A. Dodds MBE**  
**Chairman IWM (EB)**  
**September 2002**

The *City Limits* project set out to achieve the following objectives:

- **To quantify and catalogue the energy and materials consumed by London and Londoners, and where possible map the flows of these resources.**
- **To calculate the ecological footprint of the citizens of London.**
- **To compare the ecological footprint of Londoners with other regions.**
- **To compare the ecological footprint of Londoners with the globally available 'earth share' to estimate ecological sustainability.**
- **To quantify the ecological sustainability of a range of improvement scenarios.**
- **To assess the availability and quality of data required to carry out this type of analysis, and in certain instances make recommendations to improve data requirements for resource flow and ecological footprint analyses.**

## The main findings of the project were:

- The population of Greater London in 2000 was 7.4 million.
- Londoners consumed 154,400 GigaWatt hours (GWh) of energy (or 13,276,000 tonnes of oil equivalent), which produced 41 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.
- Londoners consumed 49 million tonnes of materials. On a per capita basis, this represents 6.7 tonnes.
- 27.8 million tonnes of materials were used by the construction sector.
- 26 million tonnes of waste was generated, of which 15 million tonnes was generated by the construction and demolition sector, 7.9 million tonnes by the commercial and industrial sector and 3.4 million tonnes by households.
- 6.9 million tonnes of food was consumed, of which 81% was imported from outside the UK.
- Londoners travelled 64 billion passenger-kilometres (pass-km), of which 69% was by car.
- Water consumption reached 876,000,000,000 litres, of which 28% was leakage.
- The ecological footprint of Londoners was 49 million global hectares (gha), which was 42 times its biocapacity and 293 times its geographical area. This is twice the size of the UK, and roughly the same size as Spain.
- The ecological footprint per London resident was 6.63 gha. This compares with the UK average ecological footprint of 6.3 gha, and exceeds the global 'earthshare' of 2.18 gha.
- The ecological footprint of London tourists was estimated at 2.4 million gha, which equates to an additional 0.32 gha per Londoner.
- The predicted 'earthshare' in 2050 is estimated at 1.44 gha per capita. For Londoners to be ecologically sustainable by 2050, a 35% reduction by 2020 and an 80% reduction by 2050, of their ecological footprint will be needed.
- Ranges of 'business as usual' and 'evolutionary' scenarios were prepared to reflect current practice and existing improvement targets.

'Revolutionary' scenarios were prepared to demonstrate that a combination of technological and behavioural changes could achieve interim sustainability targets for 2020.

Ecological footprint of Londoners, by component, showing actual size and the UK.

