

# GREENING THE ECONOMY: making Anguilla sustainable

## Issue papers for the national consultation

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### **Issue 1: Strengthening mechanisms for decision making**

**Context:** There are various mechanisms for decision making in Anguilla. At the policy level, theoretically, decision making is guided by national development policies, strategies and plans. There are several policies drafted and adopted over the past ten years that speak to integrating environmental issues into decision making, including the UK White Paper on Partnership for Progress and Prosperity in 1999 (specifically Chapter Eight) to the 2009 Trade in Endangered Species Act. The current policy framework also includes the much anticipated Draft Environmental Protection Act 2008, which is viewed by many as a comprehensive response to improving environmental management in Anguilla.

These policy and plans are translated and interpreted largely by committees such as the Tourism and Investment Committee (TIC), Inter-ministerial Committee on Environment (ICE), Land Development Control Committee and the various departments engaged in managing natural resources, for example the Department of Environment, Department of Fisheries and Marine Affairs and the Public Health Department. There is ambiguity about the process and criteria for selection of members to serve on these national committees. These committees should have members with the capacity, the required philosophy, knowledge, skill and time to adequately ensure environmental mainstreaming is integrated into the decision-making process. Further, within the operation of the business of the committee, national policies and plans should be effected with screening and scoping instruments that include the consideration of environmental issues into decision making. Each of the departments engaged in environmental management have documented strategic business plans which guide their annual work plans. However, there are no established institutional arrangements among the departments to contribute to strengthening environmental mainstreaming in decision making through information exchange.

#### **Questions:**

1. Are environmental considerations included in your decision making in your work?
2. How familiar are you with the policies that address environmental mainstreaming? Which of the policies have you used to guide your decisions?
3. How can we strengthen the capacity for environmental mainstreaming on national committees?
4. How can we strengthen the instruments for decision making on national committees?

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### **Issue 2: Improving development planning**

**Context:** The Physical Planning Act 2005 was repealed in 2011. The Department of Physical Planning now implements development control through enforcement of the Land Development Control Act 2008 and regulations (2002) and the Building Act 2000 and regulations (2002). There are several constraints in operating using these laws- the main issue being the inadequate enforcement.

Currently all applications for land development are reviewed by the Land Development Control Committee as legislated by law. On average the committee reviews about 300 applications per year. The committee is made up of five members of which one space is available for a member of the public. Applications for large developments with pre-negotiated MOUs are also subject to review by the committee. The Department of Environment as well as other departments involved in environmental management are consulted on some applications. The response rate is high, however there are concerns about the relevance and detail forwarded and their contribution to decision making on a particular case.

#### **Questions:**

1. How are members selected for the Land Development Control Committee? Who makes the decisions and how can this process be improved to strengthen the approach to environmental mainstreaming?
2. Is the Land Development Control Committee the best structure to lead on environmental mainstreaming at the management control level?
3. Is there any other structure/process needed?
4. What do you consider to be the areas requiring increased capacity (resources, skills, knowledge, personnel etc.)?
5. Does the development planning process adequately take into consideration critical environmental issues (waste management, water conservation and energy use)?

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### **Issue 3: Management of potable water**

**Context:** The scarcity of fresh water has been a long standing problem in Anguilla. Traditionally, most homes in Anguilla supplied their own water. During the 1970s, entrepreneurs began to supply water to homes whose cisterns had run dry. Eventually, the demand exceeded the supply and various companies began to import their own water processing equipment. Some of them processed water and sold it to the public; others, such as the hotels, processed water for their own use.

Recent initiatives to increase the supply of potable water on the island included the operation of a desalination plant. It is reported that the plant was originally set up to supply potable water to households and businesses but eventually also provided water for sanitation and food production. Other exploration initiatives include drawing water from wells on the island. The Water Corporation of Anguilla Act 2008 outlines the role and functions of the Water Corporation, which has overall responsibility for the supply and distribution of potable water for public consumption in Anguilla. Water quality monitoring is the responsibility of the Environmental Health Department of Anguilla.

#### **Questions:**

1. How are decisions made concerning the supply and use of potable water?
2. Is there a need to improve water conservation practices in Anguilla?
3. Who/ which organisation should lead water conservation initiatives?
4. How should the tourism industry input into the management of potable water on the island?
5. What arrangements are in place for the supply of water for agriculture?

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### **Issue 4: Improving approaches to waste management**

**Context:** The Environmental Health Department is responsible for waste management. The Department collects refuse from government institutions, public roads, and beaches. Domestic solid waste is collected twice weekly, free of charge. No provision is made for the removal of construction waste, old appliances, and derelict vehicles. Hotels and other commercial establishments are required to make their own arrangements for collection of waste.

The total metric tonnage of solid waste increased from 10,452.85 in 2006 to 13,442.36 in 2010. Household waste increased from 3,429.98 metric tons in 2006 to 6,031.24 in 2010. Industrial waste also increased, from 523.74 metric tons in 2006 to 1,059 in 2010. All garbage is disposed of daily at the 10-acre landfill, where waste is placed in pre-excavated trenches and covered with fill.

The Anguilla National Environment Strategy and Action Plan (NEMA) 2005 – 2009, Principle 10, refers to the prevention and control of pollution and the management of waste. One of the suggested strategies to implement this principle is to “adopt and implement appropriate measures to adequately manage solid and liquid waste, including hazardous waste, and atmospheric pollutants”. NEAM also outlines specific activities for recycling and the development of a litter programme, among others.

**Questions:**

1. How are plans made about waste management?
2. Who is involved?
3. How are these plans promoted?