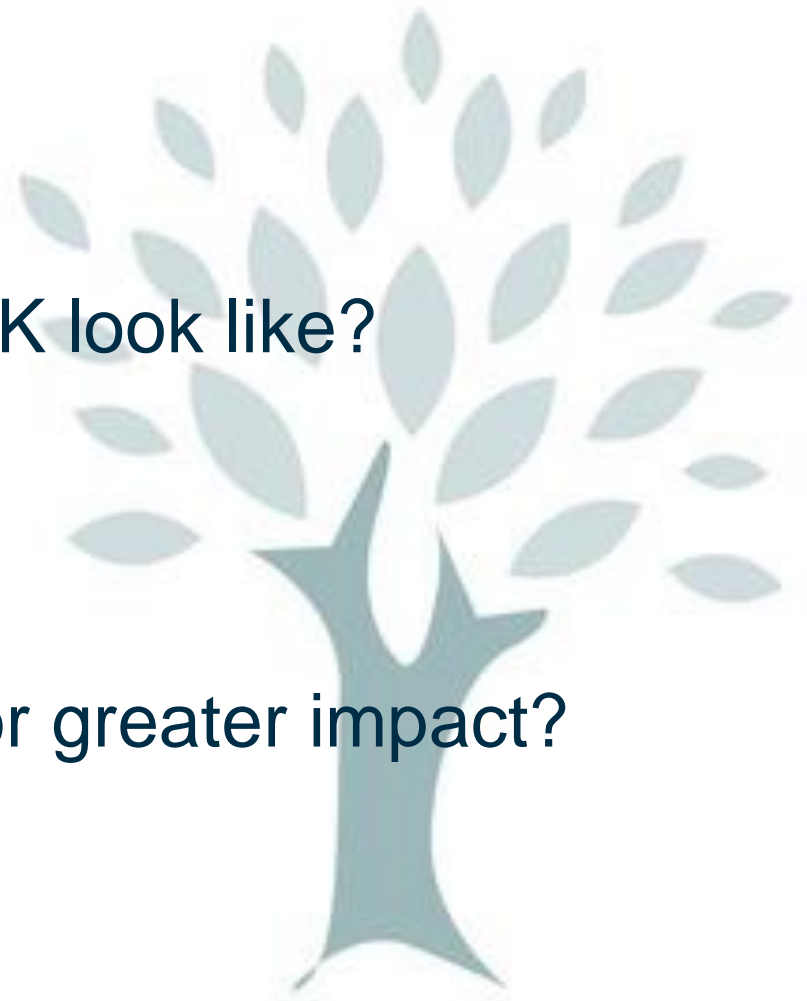

UK Policy Applications of the Environmental Accounts

Emily Connors, Office for National
Statistics (UK)

Contents

- The data we produce
- What do policies in the UK look like?
- Examples of policies
- What might be needed for greater impact?



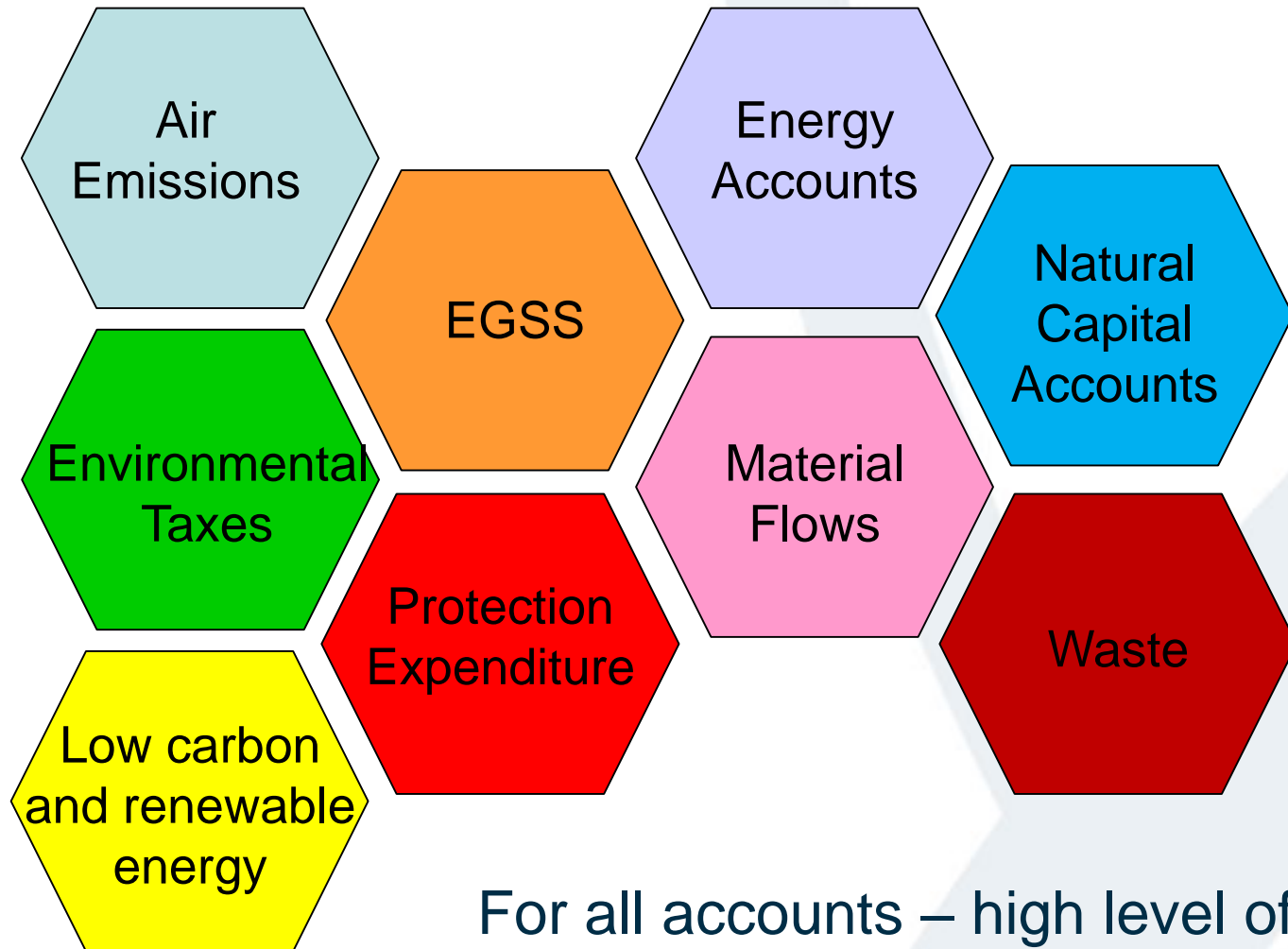
Introduction

Environmental Accounting is used in the UK to inform sustainable consumption and production policies.

The Environmental Accounts inform four key policy areas:

- Sustainable production and resource efficiency
- Sustainable consumption and consumer behaviours
- Sustainable products
- Government leadership in sustainability

What data do we have to base policies on?



For all accounts – high level of detail at industry level is key

What do Sustainable Policies in the UK look like?

Production based:

- Regulatory and fiscal measures to reduce pollution and consumption of natural resources
- Encourage recycling and reducing waste
- Develop Environmental Goods and Services sector
- Encourage sustainable development strategies and commitments
- Advise businesses about opportunities for resource efficiency

What do Sustainable Policies in the UK look like?

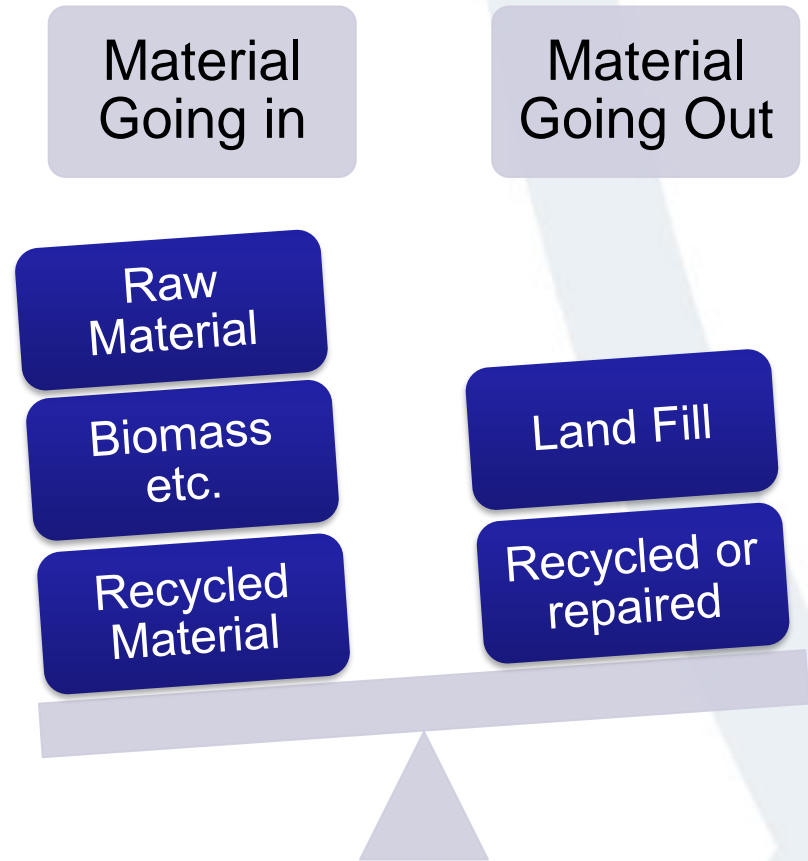
Consumption based:

- Raise awareness, through publicity campaigns and mandatory metering

Supported by policies to:

- Restrict availability of certain less sustainable products
- Reduce price differentials between sustainable and less sustainable products
- Action taken to provide recycling facilities and support market for recycled goods

Circular Economy



Direct policies mainly
focused on what is going out

Circular Economy Examples

Develop and monitor progress against:

- Waste Framework Plan
- Waste Prevention Metrics
- Landfill Taxation
- Biodegradable Waste Reduction Targets

EU Targets

- Recycling 'waste from households' - 50% by 2020 **44.9%**
- Recycle or recover packaging waste – 60% in 2013 **72.7%**
- Recover non-hazardous construction and demolition waste – 70% by 2020 **86.5%**



Emissions and EPE Examples

Air emission accounts used by Committee on Climate Change (CCC)

Independent statutory body who advise UK government on emissions targets

CCC undertakes detailed sectoral analysis to make key recommendations regarding energy and climate policy

Environmental Protection Expenditure Accounts

Provides barometer for how much money companies are spending on protecting the environment and types of activities

Government showing leadership

Government showing Sustainability Leadership

- Managing it's own operation in a sustainable manor
- Ensure sustainability of it's own supply chains

e.g. examine CO2 emissions from public sector
share of energy used in production

Data painting a picture

Data might not have a target use but still used to inform

Often it is about providing data which together provides a picture of what is changing in the environment

Our developmental measures are not robust enough for direct policy, but still informing—e.g. natural capital accounting

Conclusion

- Environmental Accounts data generally used to provide broad strategic direction
- Very useful for sustainable production policy
- The data could be more useful if it had:
 - More disaggregation and industry detail
 - A longer time series to understand the change over time