

Foreword from Vince Cable

Wealth Creation without Pollution – Designing for Industry, Ecobusiness Parks and Industrial Estates

Industrialisation has featured in the transformation of economies and societies, generating wealth as well as products, stimulating trade, and developing relationships between source areas of raw materials and consumers of manufactured products. Increasingly, the patterns of economic activity are now more evenly spread as most countries are developing manufacturing capacity. Globalisation favours an economic ‘level playing field’ for free trade between nations; environmental best practice needs to be the same.

Whilst helping to provide many basic attributes of modern life as well as luxuries, industrial and commercial activities have also caused environmental degradation and pollution. Clean, safe water supplies are a basic commodity, as are clean air and safe, high quality food. When one industry pollutes a river, it is not just an ecological problem. There are economic impacts on communities and other businesses dependent on good water quality. Economic impacts may be widespread if a country or region becomes known as polluted, unsafe or unhealthy.

There are lessons to be learned and shared. There is already a wealth of experience and expertise in developing industrial and commercial practices which do not create pollution problems. Cleaner production processes and intelligent site design are opportunities for all producers in the interests not just of health and environmental protection, but for sustaining viable businesses, without wasting resources or risking accidents, and without constraining others who need clean unpolluted water.

Globalisation has sometimes led to the ‘export’ of polluting industries to other countries, rather than the export of clean technology and expertise. In a free trade world, it is increasingly difficult for one country to stand alone in developing cleaner technologies and practices which may not always pay back over a short-term period, but still require concerted action in the long-term interests of everyone, including business.

This joint publication by scientists and engineers from many countries is to be welcomed as a contribution to a more sustainable business future for the benefit of all countries, and people everywhere.

Vince Cable

The Right Honourable Sir Vince Cable MP

Dr Cable was Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, and President of the Board of Trade in the UK Government from 12th May 2010–11th May 2015. Dr Cable was Member of Parliament for Twickenham from May 1997 to May 2015, and re-elected on 8th June 2017. An economics graduate from Cambridge University, Dr Cable got his PhD from Glasgow University, and worked as a professional economist in Kenya and then advising the Commonwealth Office before returning to lecture at Glasgow University. He was Chief Economist for Shell from 1995–1997 prior to being elected for the Liberal Democrats as MP for Twickenham in 1997. Dr Cable continues to be an active and respected figure in politics in Britain and internationally.

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