

FORUM FOR THE FUTURE – SUSTAINABLE CITIES INDEX 2009

(Extract from Forum for the Future Sustainable Cities Index)

Definitions:

The indicators, in their groups, provide a snapshot of sustainability in each of the cities assessed. The “basket” entitled “Quality of Life” has not been included as it covers health, education and employment which, although having strong links to Environment Capital, are covered by other policies and strategies.

Environmental Impact Basket

This basket gives an indication of the cities’ environmental performance through the inclusion of data on air and water quality, resource use and ecological footprint:-

- air quality – the annual mean of Nitrogen Oxides as NO₂
- river water quality – the percentage of rivers where biological and chemical quality was deemed to be good or fair
- ecological footprint – the impact of services, food, housing, transport and consumables on the environment
- household waste collected per head.

Future-Proofing Basket:

The indicators in this basket aim to reflect the preparedness of the city for the future and readiness to respond to the challenge of sustainability:-

- local authority commitments on climate change – local authorities were given points based on three criteria
- green business per capita – the number of green businesses listed on yell.com
- biodiversity – percentage of land deemed to favour biodiversity
- recycling – per cent of household waste recycled or composted.

Environmental Impact	Rank
Air Quality	1st
Biodiversity	1st
Waste	21st
Ecological Footprint	18th
Overall Rank	11th

Future-Proofing	Rank
Climate Change	11th
Food	2nd
Economy	6th
Recycling	1st
Overall Rank	3rd

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