

in car advertisements on speed and acceleration, by extending vehicle testing to cover emissions and so improve the tuning of engines, and where appropriate by encouraging provision and use of public transport);

- reviewing its policy on renewable energy technologies relevant to the UK, with a view to working towards a ten-fold increase over present capacity (excluding Scottish hydro-electricity) by 2000; and
- reviewing the prospects for nuclear power in the next century, taking full account of environmental issues.

In addition, in view of the role of trees, woods and forests as sinks, the Government will continue to encourage tree planting in the UK and the sustained management and regeneration of existing forests.

Even after these measures are taken, the Government believes further action will be necessary; in the longer term this will inevitably have to include increases, achieved by taxation or other means, in the relative prices of energy and fuel. But these further measures can only be taken when competitor countries are prepared to take similar action. In view of the time it is likely to take to achieve international consensus, tax or other measures directly raising the relative price of energy outside the transport sector will not be introduced in the next few years.

Government action already in hand in view of the UK Government will help to keep emissions down. For example, the competition stemming from the privatisation of the electricity industry will give a strong incentive to generate electricity more efficiently, and encourage generation from non-fossil fuels. Indeed, the two major non-nuclear electricity generating companies in England and Wales believe that their intended installation of high efficiency gas-fired plant, and greater use of renewable energy, will hold their CO₂ emissions approximately constant for the foreseeable future, whereas the Government's earlier projections assumed some growth.

2. Factors Influencing Decisions

The starting point for the UK Government's policies and proposals, as set out in the White Paper, is responsibility to future generations to preserve and enhance the environment of the country and the planet.

The fulfilment of this responsibility is based on a number of supporting principles, such as:

- policies must be based on and use the best scientific evidence and economic analysis available;