



**ECOSOC • Integration Segment (27–29 May, 2014)**  
**SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION**

**BUILDING  
THE FUTURE**  
**we WANT**

## **UNITED KINGDOM**

### **Contribution to the 2014 United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Integration Segment**

## London Olympic and Paralympic Games 2012

In 2005, the regeneration of East London was at the heart of the bid to host the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The London 2012 Games and the development of the Olympic Park would be a catalyst for the revitalisation of the Lower Lee Valley – an area of complex regeneration challenges at the heart of some of the UK's most deprived communities.

Sustainability was one of the key bid promises of London 2012. Making the Games the most sustainable of modern times and helping to provide a healthy lasting legacy part of the package that differentiated the London Games proposition from other bids. Subsequent reviews of the sustainability of the Games have endorsed its success, showcasing as it did a sustainable approach to site design, construction and operations. Partnership working was essential to deliver all aspects of London 2012: success was achieved by commitment from the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA), London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG), Government, partner organisations and contractors working together to deliver the Games sustainability aspirations.

Sustainability was built into London 2012 from the start, and was embedded into the systems, processes, tools and the culture of the project. The sustainability aspirations of the Games went wider than simply considering the green elements and included areas such as transport, accessibility and local employment. Successes include the green infrastructure legacy of Queen Elizabeth II Olympic Park and other Olympic and Paralympic sites. The sustainable approach to construction, procurement and implementation saw a number of innovations, such as:

- heavily contaminated soil being remediated on site rather than being sent to landfill, saving approximately £68 million; and
- ambitious zero waste targets, demonstrating that events can be delivered more sustainably than is current normal practice.

Queen Elizabeth II Olympic Park was the biggest park to be built in Europe in more than 150 years and the first Olympic Park to have a Biodiversity Action Plan. Work on the Games has helped to illustrate the range of benefits that can come from green infrastructure, including amenity and tourism opportunities, enhanced well-being and other ecosystem services such as flood risk management and biodiversity gains.

Building on the achievements and lessons of London 2012, the Legacy Corporation has published *Your Sustainability Guide for Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park 2030*, setting out the standards that will be achieved in new construction, park and venue management, and event management. These include long-term commitments to zero waste to landfill, cycling facilities, preservation of wildlife habitat, and water efficiency.

More detail on the work to make London 2012 the most sustainable Games of modern times can be found at

<http://learninglegacy.independent.gov.uk/themes/sustainability/index.php> and further information about the future sustainability plans for the former Olympic site (now the Queen Elizabeth II Park) can be found at <http://www.londonlegacy.co.uk/the-park/sustainability/>.