



**THE TIMES 100**

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# Taking a long-term view – developing fuels for the future



## Introduction

Businesses need to respond to changes in the external environment such as increased sensitivity to environmental issues. There has been growing concern about society's dependence on oil, in particular issues of pollution and climate change. Large energy companies need to research into alternatives. A number of international bodies have met to discuss the problem. James Smith, Shell UK Country Chairman hosted the International Climate Change Taskforce. This brought together leaders of politics, business, science and non-governmental experts. Its purpose is to address the issue of climate change, especially sustainable technologies.

## The long-term view

Shell is a global group of energy and oil companies. In response to the world's increasing demand for energy and concerns around climate change Shell is developing 'future fuels' that minimise environmental impact. Shell needs to be profitable and grow but also takes a long-term view of what constitutes 'best possible use' of the resources available to it. It recognises the complexity and importance of making energy systems more sustainable.

## Research and Development (R&D)

R&D furthers the aims of a company by developing better products or processes. Shell's R&D looks at making the best possible use of resources and taking maximum care of the environment.

## Sustainable development

This means meeting the needs of society today without compromising the needs of future societies. Shell contributes by:

- ▶ Meeting the global energy challenge. This includes helping to provide the extra energy required to sustain world economic development and improving access to modern energy for the two billion people who currently live without. It also includes developing cleaner products and alternative products that will help shift the world economy towards a low-carbon energy system.
- ▶ Working to improve the environmental performance of Shell operations.
- ▶ Acting to improve social performance: treating people and communities sensitively.

All these actions benefit Shell by reducing risks, cutting costs and helping the company meet customer needs.

## Future fuels

Shell has invested over £1 billion to produce fuels that are more efficient. It has also developed new fuels such as hydrogen and Gas to Liquids (GtL is sulphur free fuel produced from natural gas). There are two priorities:

- ▶ Making existing fuels more eco friendly.
- ▶ Making new fuels that don't involve burning hydrocarbons.

Shell has other future fuel products being developed around the world including one that uses waste wood and straw.

## Conclusion

Technology using hydrocarbon fuels has driven economic growth for over 100 years. Today it is necessary to look at alternatives. Shell is looking to make existing products cleaner or produce new fuels.

