



SOLUTIONS

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Comments on the sustainability assessment

- Earlier comments 2005
- Additional comments 2007

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Comments 2005 with regard to sustainability appraisal: approach

- The general approach can easily be supported: best practice in SEA-SA analyses and checking the applicability of SEA-SA stages to SOLUTIONS
- Principles:
 - » Intergenerational equity not mentioned explicitly (weak or strong sustainability?)
 - » SEA-SA practice outside the UK?
 - » The earlier aim for assessment of overall sustainability has been omitted?
 - » No explicit discussion of handling of uncertainties
- Framework:
 - » Suggests LT→E approach rather than integrated LTE modelling of spatial designs!

Comments 2005 with regard to sustainability appraisal: criteria

- Criteria based on survey of indicators suggested in UK planning guidance and comparisons with PROPOLIS. Why not a broader survey of criteria for sustainable development?
- Transportation bias in criteria selection? This is a common feature of many international proposals for sustainability indicators. Did you search for comprehensive sets of sustainability indicators?
- A comparison of the PROPOLIS, PROSPECTS and SOLUTIONS (2004, 2005) indicator lists shows a growing similarity between PROPOLIS and SOLUTIONS (cf. transportation bias above), although there are still some added features in SOLUTIONS pointing in the direction of SEA-SA guidance.
- Are equity and health indicators (e.g. noise and exposure to poor air) best viewed as strategic scale indicators (cf. PROPOLIS)?

Comments 2005 with regard to sustainability appraisal: overall sustainability performance

My opinion:

- The performance matrix is not enough
- The ambition should be to say something on the overall sustainability performance by either:
 - » partial aggregation (cf. PROPOLIS) combined with graphical techniques and qualitative judgement
 - » developing a combination of sustainability objectives and constraints (cf. PROSPECTS)
 - » using MCA techniques with stakeholder involvement
- A major issue is how to handle intergenerational equity (cf. PROSPECTS)

Comments on later work:

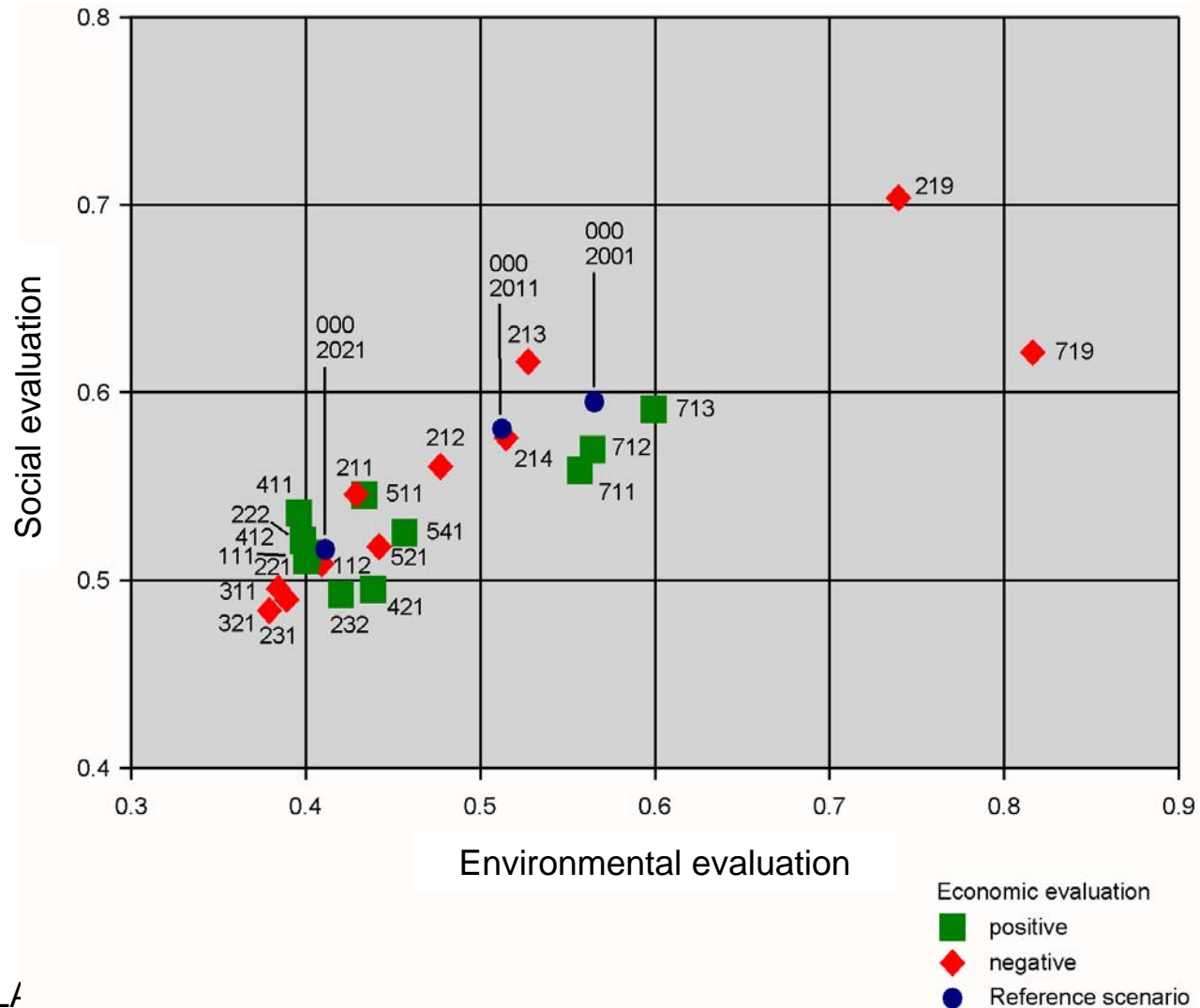
Post-processing for criteria evaluation

- Clear explanation of post-processing methods
- Strong focus on resource criteria (new construction, energy, land-take) and other criteria building on these (impermeability, biodiversity, CO₂). Why?
- Lack of dynamics in choice of heating technologies and vehicle technologies?
- Emissions from production and consumption activities (other than space heating and land transport)?

Comments on later work: Integrative assessment

- Basically, I have no problem with the proposed approach.
- Good summary of integration options.
- Ambitious: all options represented in the framework.
- MCA not necessarily aiming for selection of one preferred alternative (cf PROPOLIS/Dortmund plot based on partial aggregation or efficiency frontier analysis).

MCA of aggregate sustainability dimension indicators in PROPOLIS/Dortmund



Other concerns raised in 2005

- Handling of intergenerational equity (building construction seen as resource use rather than increase of the long term man-made capital stock – weak sustainability!)
- Robustness: Handling of internal model uncertainties (very little room for sensitivity analysis!)
- Robustness: Handling of uncertain influences from global developments in view of the few scenario options (social, economic, technological, energy and environmental systems: oil prices, climate change, vehicle technology, energy technology). It is likely that the sustainability of the scenario options will be strongly affected by such developments.