



Protecting our climate

JOHN MURLIS PhD DIC FRES FRMS A complete resumé

A highly experienced environmental scientist with well-honed skills in leadership, communication, motivation and presentation. Dr Murlis has a broad background and national and international networks in environmental policy and sustainability, with a particular interest in climate change and air quality. He has considerable experience of government, strategy development and the application of scientific and technical knowledge to practical problems.

Career to date

October 2001 to date

Independent Environment Strategy Advisor

Providing professional services to national and international clients in the public and private sector on environmental strategy and sustainable development.

University College London - Honorary Visiting Professor in Environmental Policy

Providing UCL with support in developing interdisciplinary research on environmental policy, supervising graduate students and delivering research seminars for postgraduate courses.

Recent Commissions:

- Defra: Support for Regulation Task Force, research on Governance in the Regulatory System
- The Royal Society: Development of an environmental portfolio for European Academies Science Advisory Council
- Environment Agency: Review of Vehicle Emissions Model
- SEAA and BP Marine: Strategic options for managing emissions from ships
- Defra: Support for the production of the handbook on charging for regulatory services
- Defra: Support for the development of a public and stakeholder dialogue on radioactive waste
- European Economic and Social Committee: review of the European Environmental Technology Action Plan
- Defra: Support for the development of the Defra Evidence on Innovation Strategy, analysis of opportunities for innovation and gaps in innovation capacity in Defra (as ADL Associate).
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Prepare Guides to Protocols for controlling Transboundary Air Pollution.

June 2000 – October 2001. The Environment Agency, Director of Strategy and Chief Scientist

Responsible for the Agency's strategic policy, scientific reputation and programmes, including reporting the state of the environment to government and the public, research and development, economics, and knowledge management. 175 staff. Budget £12 million p.a. Reporting to Chief Executive Officer.

- Delivered a major public statement of the Agency's future strategy and published it as the Agency's ***Vision for the Environment***, following public consultation.
- Produced high profile reports on the state of the environment of England and Wales, including a strategic overview, published as ***Environment 2000 and Beyond***.
- Launched the Agency Intranet as a major development of knowledge management infrastructure.
- Produced a Science and Innovation strategy for the future development of the Agency's R&D and Centres of Expertise.

July 1996 - June 2000. University College London, Director of Research, Jackson Environment Institute and, subsequently, from July 1999, Director, Institute for Environmental Policy (IEP)

Responsible for developing a College unit for applied environmental sciences, translating academic data and information into knowledge to support policy or operations for external clients, including government and its agencies. Staff of 20 in Institute, 8 graduate students and 11 associates in College. Budget £1 million p.a.

- Developed the vision, strategy and business plan for the Institute. Secured funding for IEP
- Built a portfolio of high quality research projects, published in 20 reports and over 120 articles and papers.
- Achieved public profile for the institute, including more than 40 press and TV interviews.
- Developed research networks and partnerships with research users including central government departments, environmental agencies and business.

1996. The Environment Agency, Head of Sustainable Development

Reporting to the Chief Scientist, responsible for the Agency's Sustainable Development policy, for a National Centre of Expertise and for the Agency's economics policy.

- Recruited and developed a professional team for this new function
- Developed the function's vision and strategy
- Produced initial guidance notes on major Agency duties in the area of sustainable development

1994 - 1995. HM Inspectorate of Pollution, Head of Business Development

Responsible for environmental Assessments, R&D and specification of business systems. Staff of 57. Annual budget of £5 million (1995/96 value). Reporting to Head of Business Strategy.

- Developed and implemented strategic framework for HMIP Research and Development and programme of over 200 projects.
- Improved cost effectiveness of research programme by developing and implementing budgetary and financial control mechanisms.
- Contributed to business efficiency in HMIP through the specification of 4 major information systems.
- Delivered science support to field inspectors for regulation based on desired environmental outcomes.

1987 – 1994. HM Government, Department of the Environment, Head of Response Strategy Branch, Air Quality Division

Responsible for research programme on causes of air pollution and counter-measures. Policy responsibility for vehicle emissions. Led team controlling 10 major contractors and annual budget of £6.8 million (1994/95 value).

- Co-ordinated the UK Government's unleaded petrol initiative, 1987-1989.
- Provided technical policy support for negotiations on the European Community (EC) Large Combustion Plant Directive, 1989-1990.
- Supported successful negotiations on EC vehicle emissions Directives, 1987-1991.
- Co-ordinated scientific input to UK negotiations on United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Protocols on Volatile Organic Compounds, Acid Rain and Toxic Air Pollutants 1988-1994
- Chairman of Air Management Policy Group, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Paris, 1990-1993

1974 to 1987. Centre for Overseas Pest Research (COPR), UK Foreign Office. Micrometeorologist, Insect Pheromone Group

Responsible for research and development work on Insect Behaviour and Pheromone Plume Structure.

- Initiated COPR's work on pheromone plumes. Developed methods for quantifying the fine-scale structure of odour plumes and demonstrated its importance to understanding insect flight behaviour in field trials in Crete, Egypt and Pakistan.
- Led COPR's work on population monitoring for East African Armyworm. Secured European Commission funding for work and led fieldwork in Kenya and Malawi.

1970 to 1974 Imperial College, University of London, Science Research Council Research Student

Experimental investigations in turbulent fluid mechanics. Completed PhD in 1974.

1963 to 1970 British Aircraft Corporation, Weybridge Engineer Apprentice (1963-69) and subsequently Systems Engineer

Working on autoland systems for BAC 1-11 passenger aircraft.

EDUCATION:

1970-1974: Imperial College of Science and Technology, London University, London SW7

- Ph.D., Aeronautics.

1965-1969: Kingston Polytechnic, Kingston Upon Thames, Surrey

- BSc Hons. Aeronautical Engineering (2-1).

PROFESSIONAL BODIES:

- Royal Meteorological Society, Elected Fellow April 1994
- Royal Entomological Society, London, Elected Fellow 1976

NATIONAL COMMITTEES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES:

- Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). Atmospheric Science and Technology Board.
- Natural Environment Research Council. Environmental Diagnostics Programme Steering Committee.
- Natural Environment Research Council. Review Board for Centre for Ecology and Hydrology.
- Environmental Industries Commission. Vice Chair of Transportation Working Group
- National Society for Clean Air. Vice Chair of Environmental Management Forum
- Tyndall Centre (Climate Change Research) Chairman of Advisory Board and External Assessor for Research
- Chairman, National Forum on Emission from Of f-Road Vehicles and Equipment
- External Examiner, MSc Environmental Technology UMIST
- Scientific and Technical Advisory Group. NERC UK Environmental Change Network
- Shipping Emissions Abatement and Trading. (International Shipping interests consortium) Steering Committee member and environmental advisor.
- Environmental Industries Commission. Transport Working Group Deputy Chair.

PUBLICATIONS:

Author or co-author of over 30 articles and papers on public policy, environment, atmospheric dispersion and insect behaviour.

OTHER INTERESTS:

Continued research on Atmospheric Dispersion and Animal Orientation (collaboration with University of California Riverside funded by a US National Science Foundation Competitive Award, Insect Sciences).

Travel, natural history, oriental and middle-eastern textiles, locks and metalwork, music, theatre, swimming and sailing, good food and wine, and my family.