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This document reports on a pilot study on how the Central London district of Soho and Chinatown could become more sustainable in the face of global environmental change.

The study is a contribution to the ongoing debate on key issue of reducing energy and resource use in existing buildings, which account for 44% of carbon dioxide emissions, 62% of waste generate and 60% of water used in the UK. The report suggests the ways that the key challenge of retrofitting sustainability measures in historically and culturally significant areas can be addressed. It highlights the central importance of changing user behaviour and overcoming conflicts of interest between landlords and tenants.

Areas like Soho and Chinatown are intensive users of energy and emitters of carbon dioxide, in particular through their high concentration of commercial and leisure activities. At the same time they represent a huge concentration of value in economic and cultural terms and offer a particular opportunity to achieve both resource and building conservation objectives.

The report shows ways in which Soho and Chinatown could become a very visible exemplar, demonstrating how greater sustainability can be achieved and put into practice in London's West End, and in historic, mixed use city core areas in general.

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Front cover:

Aerial view of West of Soho Square

(Source: www.ukaerialphotos.com)

**The full report, appendices and background papers
can be downloaded from www.maxlockcentre.org**