

impact on the environment. There are several ways in which logistics can affect the environment:

- Transport management
- Materials handling
- Warehousing
- Management of human resources.

Companies must develop coordinated greener logistics strategies for the short, medium and longer term. The emphasis in the short term is to maximize the efficiency of the existing logistics system, while in the long term companies should plan to adopt more efficient and less environmentally damaging logistics operations as technology develops (see figure 1).

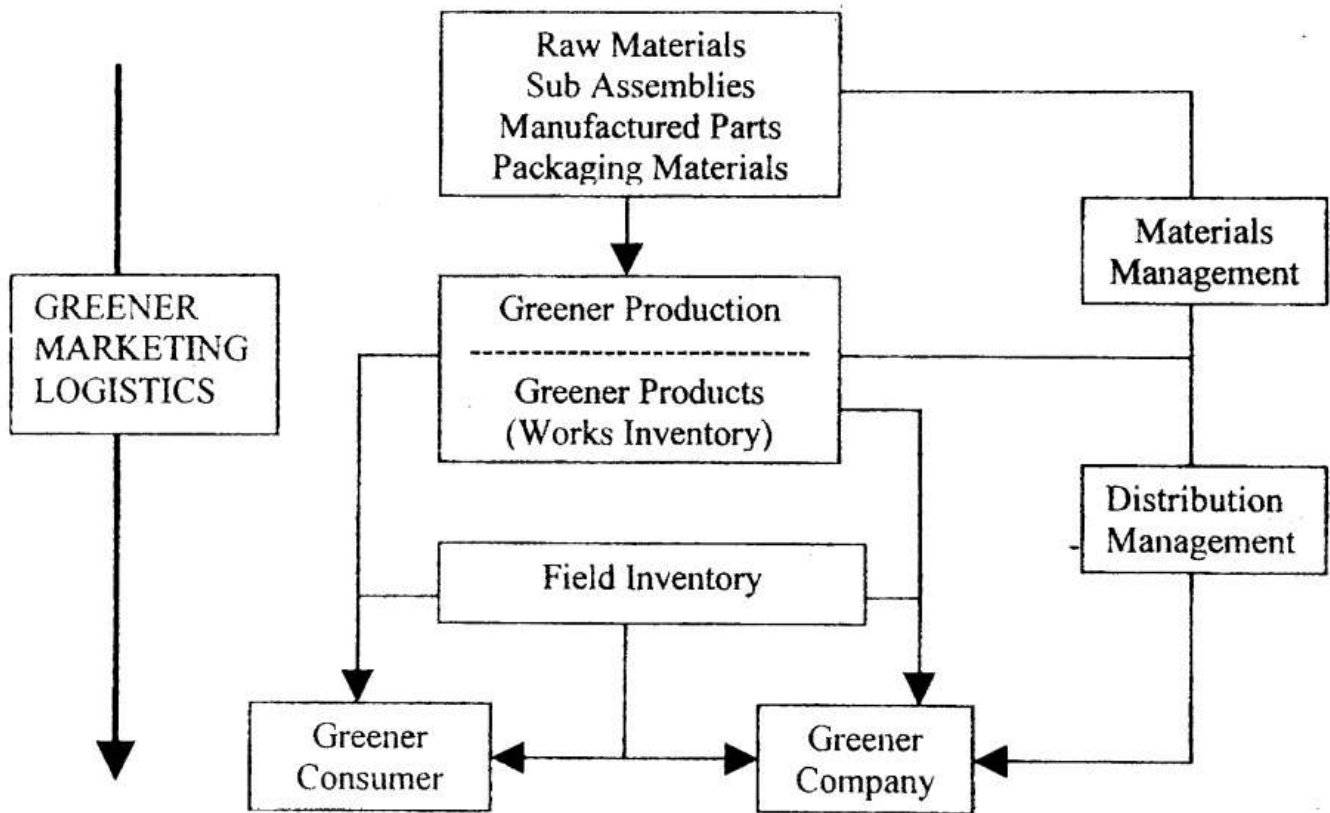


Figure 1 - The Greener Logistics System

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (FOREIGN EXPERIENCE)

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The Earth is the only planet in the solar system where there is life. If you look down at the Earth from a plane you will see how

wonderful our planet is. You will see blue seas and oceans, rivers and lakes, high snow-capped mountains, green forests and fields. For centuries man lived in harmony with nature until industrialization brought human society into conflict with the natural environment.

Today, the contradictions between man and nature have acquired a dramatic character. With the development of civilization man's interference in nature has increased. Every year the world's industry pollutes the atmosphere with millions of tons of dust and other harmful substances. The seas and rivers are poisoned with industrial waste, chemical and sewage discharge. People who live in big cities are badly affected by harmful discharge from plants and city transport and by the increasing noise level which is as bad for human health as lack of fresh air and clean water.

Among the most urgent problems are the ozone layer, acid rains, global warming, toxic pollution of atmosphere, disappearance of forests, contamination of underground waters by chemical elements, destruction of soil in some areas, threat to some flora and fauna representatives, etc.

Ecological problems have no borders. European states solve these problems together: the necessary measures are taken, congresses and conferences on these questions are organized, and these questions have already the reflection in the legislation of many countries.

The activity of many public organizations is directed to protect environment. One of the most known organizations is "WTO".

A number of the WTO agreements include provisions dealing with environmental concerns. The objectives of sustainable development and environmental protection are stated in the preamble to the Agreement Establishing the WTO.

The increased emphasis on environmental policies is relatively recent. At the end of the Uruguay Round in 1994, trade ministers from participating countries decided to begin a comprehensive work programme on trade and environment in the WTO. They created the **Trade and Environment Committee**. This has brought environmental and sustainable development issues into the mainstream of WTO work.

There are about 200 international agreements dealing with various environmental issues currently in force. They are called multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).

About 20 of these include provisions that can affect trade: for example they ban trade in certain products, or allow countries to restrict trade in certain circumstances. Among them are the Montreal Protocol for the protection of the ozone layer, the Basel Convention on the trade or transportation of hazardous waste across international borders, and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

Another of the most known organizations is "Greenpeace", whose purpose is prevention of environment degradation. "Greenpeace" acts against nuclear tests, radiating threat, pollution of the environment by waste industrial products, to protect the animal world, etc. This organization influences public opinion through mass media, under its aegis manifestations and protest actions are carried solutions for concrete ecological problems.

I believe that environment disasters can be avoided if people broaden ecological education and every person understands that the beauty of nature is extremely fragile and people must obey the unwritten laws of nature. Governments must be prepared to take action against pollution. Air pollution could be reduced if plants and factories were made to fit effective filters on chimneys and car exhausts. Green zones around big cities must be protected and extended. Natural resources should be used economically because their stocks are not unlimited.

PUBLIC ECONOMIC CHOICE: POLICY AND DEMOCRACY

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The theory of public choice consists in that economic subjects carrying on political activity (participate in making and realization of state decisions in an economic sphere) use political institutes for achieving the individual aims, and that a clear verge is not between business and policy.