

## **11.0 ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES**

- 11.1 Environmental technologies, though a small sector, comprise one of the fastest growing sectors in the region, employment growing by a fifth in the 1990s.
- 11.2 At present the sector employs around 21,000 people and contributes £656 million to regional output.
- 11.3 The sector is comprised of companies involved in pollution control, water supply, waste management, environmental services and renewable energy with the largest sub sectors being
  - ◆ Sewage and refuse disposal;
  - ◆ Collection and purification of water;
  - ◆ Manufacture of electricity distribution apparatus;
  - ◆ Manufacture of ventilation equipment.
- 11.4 As with the biotechnology sector, environmental technologies are viewed as an emerging sector with strong potential for further growth given the continued political and public focus on the development of clean energy sources, on the minimisation of pollution, and the concept of sustainable growth.
- 11.5 However, the sector is currently the subject of in-depth regional research, commissioned through the RDA's Skills Development Fund. As with biotechnology, it was determined that relatively brief treatment of skills issues in this report was not necessary given that a major study would shortly become available.