



Department for Education

Sustainable Operations Policy Statement

The Department for Education is committed to sustainable development and believes it is important to prepare young people for the future. Our approach is based on the belief that schools perform better when they take responsibility for their own improvement. We want schools to make their own judgements on how sustainable development should be reflected in their ethos, day-to-day operations and through education for sustainable development. Those judgements should be based on sound knowledge and local needs.

We are also committed to reducing the environmental impact of our own operations. We will conduct these to reflect, as far as practicable, best environmental, social and economic sustainability.

In particular, we shall:

- comply with all applicable legislation, regulations and with other government requirements;
- review our activities and operations regularly to identify environmental aspects and prioritise action to address the impacts of these;
- maintain an Environmental Management System to pursue sustainability, continual improvement and the prevention of pollution. We will keep this under regular review to ensure its robustness and fitness for purpose;
- monitor and review performance and progress of government estate sustainability targets and any other locally set targets;
- specifically, we will work towards reducing our carbon emissions from our properties and travel, reducing our waste and increase recycling, reducing water consumption and reducing our impact on the surrounding environment;
- raise awareness of the sustainable operations agenda across the department through specific training, performance information, and publication of this policy statement;
- share our experiences and expertise to assist others in the development of their own sustainable development improvement plans;
- ensure that procurement of goods and services supports our Sustainable Operations Policy, and encourage suppliers and contractors to improve their own environmental performance;
- report performance publicly in line with Cabinet Office and HM Treasury requirements.

This statement applies to the Department and its Executive Agencies, except where a local policy statement has been agreed, and to all individuals working for, or on behalf of the Department.

The Department's overarching Environmental Management System will be managed in line with ISO14001:2004 principles, and maintained by the Department's Sustainable Operations team. This policy statement and other relevant documents will be made available on the Department's external website and Intranet.

Chris Wormald
Permanent Secretary
July 2012

Andy Mills
Property Asset Management Unit
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