



Department for Communities and Local Government

The Department for Communities and Local Government is the ministerial department responsible for moving decision-making power from central government to local councils. This helps put communities in charge of planning, increases accountability and helps citizens to see how their money is being spent.

We are responsible for:

- Supporting local government by giving them the power to act for their community – without interference from central government
- Helping communities and neighbourhoods to solve their own problems so neighbourhoods are strong, attractive and thriving
- Working with local enterprise partnerships and enterprise zones to help the private sector grow
- Making the planning system work more efficiently and effectively
- Supporting local fire and rescue authorities so that they're able to respond to emergencies and reduce the number and impact of fires

The Department's sustainable operations delivery plans and targets are fully aligned to ['Greening Government Commitment'](#) (GGC) targets, which require us to:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions across our whole estate and business-related transport by 25% by 2015, from a 2009/10 baseline;
- Provide quarterly progress reports for meeting these commitments, along with forecasts for future reductions, to Defra and the Cabinet Office.

The most significant contributors to the Department's greenhouse gas emissions are from electricity use, particularly for ICT, and gas boilers within our offices. Our delivery plans have focused on these areas.

In recent years, we have undertaken the following initiatives:

- Enhancing building management systems
- Draught-proofing and pipework insulation
- Updating office lighting and controls
- Heating/cooling buildings only during core occupancy times
- Aligning heating temperatures to Cabinet Office Guidance
- Behavioural change campaigns

We also continually monitor our sustainability performance with monthly reports produced as part of our management reporting regime. Quarterly dashboards are produced for Senior Management, which include performance updates based upon our Green Government Commitments, and highlight risks and any mitigating actions required.

As a result of these initiatives, we have:

- reduced our greenhouse gas emissions by 41% against a 2009/10 baseline;
- successfully lowered the DEC score of Eland House (HQ Building) over four consecutive years from F (127) to D (93);
- achieved the Carbon Saver Gold Standard in 2012-13, which provides an independent certification of the Department's commitment to carbon management and carbon reduction.

Our reduction in energy consumption is largely attributable to better building management, estate rationalisation and co-location, and adopting more efficient behaviours.

The Department has also achieved year-on-year financial savings since 2009/10, despite an increase in the unit price of electricity and gas. In 2012/13, we saved over £1.2m in energy costs against a 2009/10 baseline.

After the success and savings of current and past initiatives, the Department will continue to implement new and existing initiatives going forward. These will include:

- Replacing kit with more energy efficient equipment, rather than on a like-for-like basis;
- Ensuring that new build or major refurbishment projects (valued at over £500,000) are carried out in accordance with Government Buying Standards, to ensure that all new builds achieve an 'excellent' rating and major refurbishments achieve a 'very good' rating;
- Ensuring that all estate projects at the initiation stage undertake an assessment using our Project Sustainability Toolkit, to ensure sustainability is integrated into the project from the start.