

Sustainability policy

Purpose

This policy sets out HS2 Ltd's ambition to build the most sustainable high speed railway of its kind in the world. We want a high speed railway network which changes the mode of choice for inter-city journeys, reinvigorates the rail network, supports the economy, creates jobs, reduces carbon emissions and provides reliable travel in a changing climate throughout the 21st century and beyond.

Principles

Sustainability at HS2 is about delivering social, environmental and economic benefits. This includes delivering value to the UK taxpayer and passenger through taking decisions that seek to get the best value for money through the whole operating life of the railway.

Our sustainability approach at HS2 groups our work into five themes reflecting the economic, environmental and social aspects of sustainability. These themes support the HS2 vision of being a catalyst for growth across Britain and our mission, which includes being an exemplar project in our approach to engagement with communities, sustainability and respecting the environment.

Our five sustainability themes are:



**Spreading the benefits:
Economic growth and community regeneration**

Being a nationwide catalyst for regeneration and economic growth through development of an integrated transport system, maximising the benefits to communities and individuals and minimising negative impacts.



**Opportunities for all:
employment and education**

Providing rewarding jobs and careers that are open to all in society, setting new standards for equality, diversity and inclusion and providing a legacy of skills, learning, expertise, and experience.



**Safe at heart:
Health, safety and wellbeing**

Creating a world-class 'safe at heart' culture where no one gets hurt, and which prioritises the health and wellbeing of those who build, operate, use and host HS2 services and infrastructure.



**Respecting our surroundings:
Environmental protection and management**

Breaking new ground wherever possible on environmental standards including resource use, waste, carbon minimisation, the protection of the natural and historic environment and safeguarding communities.



**Standing the test of time:
Design that is future-proof**

Building a network that is resilient to climate change in the long term, adaptable to future trends and demands, and built around the needs of the people who will use it, in line with our Design vision.

We will only be successful in this huge undertaking if sustainability is embedded in our DNA. Sustainability is a way of working within the HS2 culture, alongside innovation and collaboration. We will promote innovation to find sustainable solutions focusing on ideas and technologies for improving sustainability. We cannot deliver our ambition alone; we will work with our contractors to engender a collaborative culture to ensure we get the innovation we need to deliver a sustainable railway.

Executive Owner:

The Infrastructure Director is the Executive Owner of this policy and is responsible for maintaining the accuracy and relevance of its contents and for periodic review and update to reflect changing circumstances.



Approved on: 22nd August 2019

Mark Thurston
Chief Executive Officer
HS2 Ltd