

Sustainable Operations Policy Statement

Communities and Local Government's aim is to create thriving, sustainable, vibrant communities that improve everyone's quality of life.

We are committed to sustainable development and, as part of this, to reducing the environmental impact of our operations and we will conduct our own activities and operations to reflect best environmental, social and economic practice.

In particular, we shall:

- Comply with all applicable legislation, regulation and with other relevant requirements relating to environmental impacts
- Review our activities and operations regularly to identify environmental aspects and prioritise action to address the impacts of these
- Maintain an Environmental Management System (EMS) to pursue sustainability, continual improvement and the prevention of pollution. We will keep this under regular review to assess its robustness and ensure continuing fitness for purpose
- Monitor and review performance and progress of government 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
- This statement applies to all property centres and individuals who contribute to our sustainable operations performance, except where a local policy statement is adopted
- 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; and
- Produce an annual report on our progress and performance, making this available both within the Department and externally.

The Communities and Local Government overarching ISO14001:4004 accredited certified EMS will be managed and maintained by our sustainable operations team and copies of this policy statement and other relevant documents will be made available on the Department's website and the Intranet.



Peter Housden
Permanent Secretary