

Department for Children, Schools and Families Environmental Policy Statement on Operations

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) new Sustainable Development Action Plan (SDAP) called *Brighter Futures – Greener Lives* covers the period April 2008 to March 2010. This follows, and builds on, the work outlined in the earlier SDAP *Learning for the Future* (2006) from the Department for Education and Skills (DFES). The SDAP is about how we deliver our core business to support the Government's commitment to sustainable global development.

We are determined that all aspects of the Department's operations are managed well. Environmental consideration must be at the heart of the way DCSF is run. We will support the Government's goal to promote a low carbon, high growth global economy through the way we operate the estate and aim to meet our legal obligations and wider government targets on the sustainability of the government estate. We are therefore committed to continual improvement in our environmental performance, preventing pollution and minimising adverse environmental impacts.

We will work to fulfil these commitments by:

- Operating an Environmental Management System (known as the Sustainable Operations Management System) to the standard of ISO14001:2004 throughout our HQ buildings;
- Understanding and regularly reviewing the environmental impact of our activities;
- Complying with all applicable UK, European and international environmental legislation;
- Putting in place environmental objectives towards achieving Government targets set out in the "Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate" targets. These targets cover carbon emissions, energy efficiency, waste management, recycling, water consumption and utilisation of low-carbon or renewable sources of energy;
- Reducing energy and resource consumption in line with current best practice;
- Implementing DCSF policy on sustainable procurement and complying with HMG Sustainable Procurement Task Force guidance;
- Avoiding the use of toxic and environmentally damaging materials where possible and preventing the accidental release of polluting substances;
- Fully integrating environmental factors into the design and management of our new buildings;
- Ensuring this policy is understood, implemented and advocated at all levels in the organisation and is supported by appropriate guidance and training;
- Openly communicating our progress in reducing environmental impact to internal and external parties and responding appropriately to reasonable requests to information (including Environmental Information Regulation requests);
- Regularly reviewing this Environmental Policy to achieve continuous improvement in our performance.

Signed:



DCSF Permanent Secretary

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Explanatory note on Scope: The term "operations" can be defined as activities associated with the ongoing management of the DCSF estate which have an impact or potential impact on the environment. The ISO14001:2004 Sustainable Operations Management System (SOMS) covers the DCSF HQ offices in Darlington, London, Runcorn and Sheffield. It covers: Estates and Facilities Management, Energy use, waste management and on-site supervision of contract work. This policy statement forms part of the documentation for DCSF SOMS.