

## Sustainable Operations Policy Statement

At the Department for Communities and Local Government, we are helping to end big government and create a free, fair and responsible Big Society by decentralising power as far as possible, meeting people's housing aspirations, putting communities in charge of planning, increasing accountability and letting people see how their money is being spent.

We are also committed to sustainable development and, as part of this, 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 requirements.

This statement applies to the DCLG Group estate, 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 to ISO14001:2004, and maintained by DCLG's Sustainable Operations team. This policy statement and other relevant documents will be made available on the Department's external website and Intranet.



Sir Bob Kerslake  
Permanent Secretary  
**February 2011**