

Cabinet Office Environmental Policy Statement

In April 2013, the Government published its “Making sustainable development a part of all government policy and operations” policy statement¹ which stated:

“The government is committed to sustainable development. This means making the necessary decisions now to realise our vision of stimulating economic growth and tackling the deficit, maximizing wellbeing and protecting our environment, without affecting the ability of future generations to do the same.

The government takes account of sustainable development as a part of how it develops its policies, how it runs its buildings and how it buys its goods and services.”

The Cabinet Office fully supports the above and indeed aims to lead by example on this issue. This policy sets out how this aspiration will be achieved.

Aims and Objectives

The Cabinet Office is aware that its activities and the service it provides, either directly or indirectly via its third party suppliers, contractors etc., may have an impact on the environment, so it must be able to accurately and comprehensively measure and understand the impacts and their drivers across the department.

To meet the Policy, the overall aim of the Department is to reduce the impacts associated with day-to-day operations while complying with applicable environmental legislation, accepted best practice, all incumbent government commitments and the need to maintain value for money in all that we do and procure.

To meet this aim, environmental performance will be measured and reported against the Greening Government Commitments² (and any successors). The department sets local targets for its freehold buildings and those where it is the major leaseholder. This information is monitored and managed proactively and the performance data made publicly available on the Cabinet Office website.

To achieve and maintain these objectives, robust management reporting arrangements are vital and to this end the department has decided to integrate an Environmental Management System (EMS) in compliance with ISO 14001 and to also conduct regular and independent audits of all building covered by the EMS against the Standard's requirements.

The above is supported by:

- Strong governance arrangements with roles and responsibilities of key staff clearly documented and agreed (please see separate “Sustainable Development; Roles and Responsibilities” document for more information.
- Information, instruction and training upon induction and throughout employment is provided to those staff who are directly responsible for Sustainable Development operational matters and whose work may have a significant workplace environmental impact, with a view to enhancing their capability to understand and manage the impact of their activity.
- In addition, all staff are provided upon induction with information etc. as to how they can help reduce any workplace environmental impacts along with ad hoc information provided via the department's intranet site.

¹ Available here: Sustainable Development Policy

² Available here: Greening Government Commitment targets - GOV.UK

³ Available here: Sustainable procurement: the Government Buying Standards (GBS)

How the Aims of the Sustainable Development Policy will be delivered

In order to meet Aims of its Policy, the Cabinet Office will:

1. Aim to meet the Government's Greening Government Commitments (GGC) and any successors;
2. Comply with all applicable environmental legislation and regulations and to conduct regular reviews and audits to ensure compliance;
3. Continue maintenance of an Environmental Management System in compliance with ISO 14001 and to review results of all associated audits etc.;
4. Reduce as far as possible and practical any pollution resulting from its activities and service;
5. Reduce, as far as possible and practical, its carbon footprint;
6. Ensure that, in its procurement of products and services, all suppliers and sub-contractors operate to environmental standards that do not conflict with government and Cabinet Office policy through careful selection and monitoring. Wherever possible, the department will make use of the Crown Commercial Service's framework contracts; where SD requirements have already been negotiated and agreed; and pursue the mandatory requirements for meeting the Government Buying Standards³
7. Reduce waste through reusing, recycling and recovering materials wherever possible by adhering to the "Greener Cabinet Office" document. (Available upon request)
8. Make the most efficient use of natural resources and similarly advise contractors etc.as appropriate;
9. Continually improve environmental performance through the regular and ongoing review of its Policy; environmental aims and objectives.

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Intelligent Client Function August 2017

1 Available here: Sustainable Development Policy

2 Available here: Greening Government Commitment targets - GOV.UK

3 Available here: Sustainable procurement: the Government Buying Standards (GBS)