

# Sustainable Development Vision and Action Plan Summary 2009-10





[Securing the Future](#),<sup>1</sup> the UK Government's Sustainable Development Strategy requires all Central Departments and their Executive Agencies to produce Sustainable Development Action Plans (SDAPs).

Through our SDAPs we highlight how we will contribute to the Government's sustainable development goals and provide our staff and supply chain with a consistent understanding of sustainable development and how we all have a role to play in achieving it.

This, the Highways Agency's third annual Sustainable Development Action Plan covers the financial year 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010.

Our sustainability vision remains:

“To be a responsible organisation, committed to fulfilling our aims and objectives. To provide a national network that allows safe, efficient movement of goods and people, in a cost effective manner which minimises environmental and social harm, and seeks enhancements wherever possible”.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.defra.gov.uk/sustainable/government/publications/uk-strategy/>

Our main focus for this year is people

- It is essential we understand the diverse needs of everyone affected by our work, whether Highways Agency employees, road users, those neighbouring our network, or people in the wider community. Our services must provide equality of opportunity and accessibility for all
- We need to ensure our employees are engaged and recognise the important role we all have in contributing to sustainable development

We will however continue to focus on and contribute to the Government's wider sustainable development priorities for immediate action which are:

- Sustainable consumption and production
- Climate change and energy
- Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement
- Sustainable communities



# How can you contribute ?



# Sustainable Consumption and Production

Agency staff and our suppliers can challenge the way we deliver our work and therefore need to ask the question:

“How is sustainability relevant to the work I do and what positive changes can I make?”

We would like staff and suppliers to take a fresh look at delivery, to see if we can further improve what we deliver and how, to maximise the economic, social, and environmental benefits. These do not have to be big decisions to make an impact; small positive changes play a part in enhancing the sustainability performance of the Agency.



Being able to achieve more with less is a necessity. We are taking a wider focus across the whole life cycle of the goods, services and materials we procure and seek to reduce inefficient use of resources.

Last year

- Updated [Procurement Strategy](#)<sup>2</sup> to include a sustainability section
- Workshops and conferences and working/action groups developed with suppliers and stakeholders
- New approaches for waste, energy efficiency and road lighting
- Commenced first phase of midnight to 5am motorway lighting switch off

This year

- Continue to raise awareness through workshops and conferences
- Continue to stimulate ideas and innovation at working/action groups
- Delivery of Sustainable Operations of the Government Estate (SOG E) and Agency targets
- Analyse and share best practice

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.highways.gov.uk/business/13042.aspx>



# Climate Change and Energy



We are addressing two distinct aspects associated with a changing climate: how we adapt to a changing climate and, how we reduce our contribution to the causes of climate change.

Last year

- Introduction of our carbon calculation framework
- Established our first carbon footprint for construction/maintenance work and internal business delivery
- Development of carbon reduction targets for 2009-10
- Applied our climate change adaptation strategy to the high priority risk areas of our business and assigned management actions

This year

- Ensure more areas of our business consider the possible risks associated with a changing climate
- Achieve carbon reduction targets
- Develop and understand how the carbon story applies across major project decision making
- Implement calculation to show relationship between greenhouse gas emissions and journey time reliability

# Natural Resource Protection and Environmental Enhancement

We are committed to understanding and controlling the environmental impact of our activities, and undertaking a range of work designed to improve performance in this area.

Last year

- Guidance produced for environmental assessment of waste, material resources and energy usage
- Sustainability guidance produced for development and publication of standards and specifications

This year

- Review good environmental design advice
- Development of a new environmental strategy
- A number of environmental aspects will be modified to include best practice in environmental assessment



# Sustainable Communities



# Sustainable Procurement

We understand that how we operate and improve the network has an impact on people and surrounding communities, so we are working hard to ensure that this impact is positive wherever possible.

Last year

- More Driver Information Programme's (DIPs) produced
- Continued development of travel plans
- Opportunities for projects to provide environmental and Disability Discrimination Act enhancements
- Road worker safety briefings introduced

This year

- DIPs will continue to be produced and updated
- Equality training will be delivered to leaders, managers and staff
- Provide regular communication to Agency staff and suppliers on the sustainability agenda
- Publication of Road Worker Safety Strategy
- Update guidance to incorporate best practice relating to disabled customers
- Review opportunities across our suite of publications to include focussed sustainability messages to customers

We procure large quantities of goods and services so it is important that our supply chain understand and support our sustainability aspirations, and that we demonstrate genuine leadership and commitment to our supply chain. This means encouraging change and innovation in both technologies and behaviours, and maintaining effective working relationships where we can positively learn from each other.

The goods and services we buy all have sustainability implications associated with them, and we need to work with our supply chain to ensure that all parties understand these implications and how we can work together to minimise any adverse impacts and seek enhancements where ever possible.

The actions in this year's SDAP are challenging but through greater staff awareness and involvement in all our business areas as well as support from the supply chain we will continue to make positive steps towards becoming a more sustainable organisation.

**For more information view our full [SDAP for 2009-10](#)<sup>3</sup> or visit our [website](#)<sup>4</sup>**

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.highways.gov.uk/aboutus/19318.aspx>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.highways.gov.uk/aboutus/24172.aspx>



For more information:

Visit the Highways Agency [website](http://www.highways.gov.uk/aboutus/24172.aspx)  
<http://www.highways.gov.uk/aboutus/24172.aspx>

Visit the Highways Agency [PartnerNET](http://www.ha-partnernet.org.uk/)  
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