

Sustainable Development Action Plan – Progress Report Summary 2008

Organisation: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Department Non-Ministerial Department Executive Agency NDPB Other

Report of progress against: Defra, Sustainable Development Action Plan, November 2007 - March 2009.

Progress Against Actions

Percentage of actions complete or on target: 71.0%

Average impact rating* of all the actions which are complete or on target: 2.7

*The Impact rating (1-4) is a self-assessment of the contribution to SD priority areas, and is not an indication of performance.

Embedding Sustainability

Self assessment ratings against four themes: To what extent is sustainable development embedded?

Policies	People	Operations	Governance, Monitoring and Reporting
On Course	On Course	On Course	On Course

Sustainable Procurement

Self assessment ratings against five themes of the Flexible Framework: What level has the organisation already reached? (Where an alternative sustainable procurement tool has been used, please provide an appropriate summary.)

People	Policy, Strategy & Communications	Procurement Process	Engaging Suppliers	Measurements and Results
Level 4 - Enhance	Level 3 - Practice	Level 3 - Practice	Level 4 - Enhance	Level 2 - Embed

Taking Stock

What have been the **highlights** of your organisation's sustainable development progress over the past year?

- Getting Ministerial agreement to the SDC's status change
- Successful roll out of Defra's Act of CO2 campaign.
- Roll out of the single device Vista laptops and performance on reducing our carbon emissions.
- Roll out of 'Bin the Bin' in London, April 08 (i.e. binless offices) - plan to roll out further across the estate
- Good representation of the three pillars of sustainable development in the national indicator set and a much better take-up of environmental measures than in earlier Local Area Agreements.
- Brokered fuller coverage of SD in RDA Corporate Plans
- International SD dialogues developing well supported by strong relationships built across government.
- The relaunch of revised 'Buy Sustainable - Quick Wins'.

What are the key **challenges** for the future?

- To make sure that the lessons learned from the delivery of this SDAP, and the SDC's assessment of our SDAP are fed into the development of our next SDAP due to be published in April 2009.
- To ensure that the next SDAP aligns the newly scoped Sustainable Development Programme.
- To ensure that strong and effective working relationships are established with DECC
- To appoint of new Chair of the Sustainable Development Commission.
- To have a clear delivery plan for meeting the targets for the Sustainable Operations of the Government Estate.

What are the key things which have **helped and hindered** progress towards sustainable development?

Helps:

- Staff enthusiasm in key areas

Hinders:

- Resource pressures.

What **lessons have been learnt** from the progress report? How will these be taken forward in the next SDAP?

- That regular monitoring of progress is essential for driving delivery; this is something that we will try and embed in our next SDAP. That the development and monitoring of the next SDAP needs to consider how to manage actions that may need to be amended to take account of changes to the Department's priorities.

Please summarise how the SDAP is aligned with and has helped your organisation to deliver its high level strategic objectives, including any Public Service Agreements (PSAs) and Departmental Strategic Objectives (DSOs).

The SDAP clearly relates each action to at least one of the four priorities in Securing the Future (StF) so that we can monitor our contributions to the priority areas of StF, and we have also demonstrated how key policy areas (pg 15) link to the four priority areas under the strategy principles. This section links clearly with our departmental Public Service Agreements and our Departmental Strategic Objectives's, in particular on Championing Sustainable Development, it and also explains Defra's role in Government's delivery of the Sustainable Development Strategy. Defra is undertaking a 'strategy refresh' as a result of the creating of the Department for Energy and Climate Change. The new SDAP will align with Defra's refreshed strategy

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