

SDC Sustainable Development Action Plan (SDAP) assessment

Organisation: Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA)
Title of SDAP: Sustainable Development Action Plan for 2008-2009

SDAP Publication date: May 2008
SDC Assessment date: 08/01/2009

Please see "SDAP assessment methodology paper" for background to the assessment process, and for full details of how the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) has assessed, scored and rated this SDAP at the following webpage: <http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/sdap-tracker.html>.

SUMMARY

| | Score | Rating |
|---|--------------|--------|
| Coverage | 1/4 | |
| Strategic planning | 4/12 | |
| Actions | 3/12 | |
| Ownership, engagement and delivery | 4/6 | |
| Monitoring, review and reporting | 2/6 | |
| OVERALL | 14/40 | |

ISSUES AND RISKS

The VCA has an important role in raising public awareness of vehicle efficiencies and making fuel economy a higher priority in consumer purchasing decisions. There is potential for VCA to build upon the SD initiatives it has already started, in particular the SD Focus Group it has created. Ownership, engagement and delivery of this SDAP are its strongest points.

Unfortunately this SDAP did not tell the whole story of how SD is going to be embedded into the Agency. The actions provided are almost exclusively focused on operations. The SDAP should also contain the actions relating to VCA's policy and decision-making, procurement activity and its people to ensure SD is embedded across the breadth of the organisation. All of these actions should be placed in the wider context of what VCA is trying to achieve in this SDAP period.

The SDC looks forward to seeing a stronger SDAP next year and would welcome the chance to work with VCA in its development.

| COVERAGE | | | | |
|---|--------------|---|---|---|
| | <i>Score</i> | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| 1. Does the SDAP state clearly the period of time that it covers? | | | X | |
| 2. Is it clear how the SDAP relates to the wider departmental family, and is SDAP coverage of the departmental family adequate? | | X | | |

| STRATEGIC PLANNING | | | | |
|---|--------------|---|---|---|
| | <i>Score</i> | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| 3. Does the SDAP set out the organisation's strategy for contributing to the aims, objectives and commitments of the UK Sustainable Development Strategy? | | | X | |
| 4. Does the SDAP articulate the relevance of the five sustainable development principles to its core business, and set out how they are/will be mainstreamed and inform work? | | X | | |
| 5. Is it clear how the SDAP will contribute to the organisation's high-level strategic objectives, including any Public Service Agreements (PSAs) and Departmental Strategic Objectives (DSOs)? | | | X | |
| 6. Does the SDAP have clear objectives, and does it articulate clearly how these objectives were selected and provide a rationale for any gaps e.g. in the coverage of core business areas? | | X | | |
| 7. Does the SDAP link to other corporate plans or strategies? | | | X | |
| 8. Does the SDAP include any commitment to work with other organisations or government bodies to deliver joint commitments, actions or initiatives? | | | X | |

| ACTIONS | | | | |
|---|--------------|---|---|---|
| | <i>Score</i> | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| 9. Does the SDAP articulate how the sustainable development principles and priorities are/will be integrated into its policy and decision making, set out specific actions to achieve this, and explain how these actions have been selected? | | X | | |
| 10. Does the SDAP include explicit actions to improve the sustainability of the organisation's procurement activity (linking to SPAP commitments where relevant), and explain how they have been selected? | | X | | |
| 11. Does the SDAP contain specific actions which demonstrate how the organisation will drive forward the sustainability of its operations (linking to SOGE commitments where relevant), and explain how they have been selected? | | | X | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| 12. Does the SDAP contain actions relating to people, such as actions to engage staff in sustainable development, develop their skills and capability to support delivery of the SDAP, and to improve their general well-being in the work place? | | X | |
| 13. Are the actions outcome-focused? | X | | |
| 14. Are the actions SMART? | | X | |

OWNERSHIP, ENGAGEMENT AND DELIVERY

| | <i>Score</i> | | |
|--|--------------|---|---|
| | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| 15. Is it clear how the SDAP will be communicated to staff and stakeholders, and how the organisation will ensure they have the capability to put the SDAP's key messages to work? | | X | |
| 16. Are the governance arrangements for supporting delivery of the SDAP clearly identified (e.g. boards, working groups), and is it clear who has overall responsibility for its delivery? | | X | |
| 17. Has the SDAP been signed off by a Minister, Permanent Secretary or Chief Executive, and has s/he provided a foreword? | | | X |

MONITORING, REVIEW AND REPORTING

| | <i>Score</i> | | |
|---|--------------|---|---|
| | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| 18. Does the SDAP present links to the previous SDAP (where relevant) or to the historical context of sustainable development in the organisation (if this is the first SDAP that the organisation has produced)? | | X | |
| 19. Are the methods and structures for monitoring and reviewing the SDAP clearly identified (e.g. boards, working groups, stakeholder engagement), and is it clear who the findings will be reported to? | | X | |
| 20. Is it clear how the outcomes of internal SDAP monitoring/review will feed back into the SDAP process, including a commitment to update the SDAP within its period of coverage, where required? | X | | |