

Estate management

Land Securities Trillium (LST) provide fully serviced accommodation to the vast majority of the Department's 1,700 buildings, under the PRIME Private Finance Initiative contract. Key successes include :

- procuring 45% of the Department's entire electricity requirements from renewable sources such as wind power, and a further 15% from Combined Heat and Power, at no additional cost, reducing total carbon emissions by 28%, or 57,000 tonnes
- last year, recycling 51% of office waste (including 15,000 tonnes of paper), refurbishing or recycling 30,000 items of furniture, and recycling 74,000 litres of waste cooking oil into biodiesel
- specifying timber from sources certified as sustainable (eg by the Forestry Stewardship Council - an international forest management scheme, independently audited, which assures the legality and sustainability of logged timber)
- introducing Fair Trade, healthy options and organic food into the Department's 157 staff restaurants and catering outlets in accordance with the DWP Food Procurement Action Plan – proving very popular with staff
- requiring that newly constructed sites achieved a BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) rating of 'excellent'
- LST's certification to ISO14001-2004 for its Environmental Management System

Key plans for this year include the introduction of automatic meter reading facilities across our 600 largest sites, providing half-hourly consumption data for 85% of DWP's total electricity usage and linked to gas and water meters wherever practicable. This will enable proactive monitoring of consumption trends, and 'day plus one' identification and resolution of issues (eg water leaks and out-of-hours consumption).

Travel

In the review of DWP's travel framework, suppliers were evaluated against a range of sustainability criteria, and account was taken of issues such as: waste management, energy and water efficiency, noise pollution and air quality emissions. Additionally, internal policy has been updated to reflect more sustainable modes of travel, encouraging:

- the use of rail in preference to car travel, where practicable
- the development of car share schemes for staff travelling to same locations
- the consideration of alternatives to meetings, such as video conferencing.

This has been supported by a campaign of awareness roadshows around all areas of DWP, raising staff awareness of sustainability issues, and helping them to consider their actions in terms of wider social responsibility as well as business need and value for money.

Fleet

With 2,700 cars, DWP has one of the largest fleet of vehicles in Government. The Department uses its purchasing power to ensure that the environmental impact of this fleet continues to reduce. 600 of these cars (22%) are alternatively fuelled, mainly LPG but including 22 petrol/electric hybrids. A further 68% are diesels, and only 10% are petrol. EuroIV diesel is now the standard for newly procured DWP vehicles.

In both the cross-government Vehicle Purchase Framework and the Leasing contract currently being let by the DWP, one of the criteria against which tenderers will be evaluated is their ability to comply with the Government's Sustainability Policy. We shall be looking in particular at how they propose to deal with Pollution (for example how manufacturers are developing methods to deal with emissions from exhausts and air-conditioning systems), and Waste (for example how contract hire suppliers deal with end-of-life vehicles).

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