

## **- ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY STATEMENT**

### **Introduction**

Both Houses are committed to improving the sustainability of their activities and operations and leading by example, for the benefit of the environment and society as a whole.

This policy statement applies to the activities of both Houses of Parliament and Parliamentary ICT. It outlines Parliament's priority actions to deliver sustainability. Sustainability and environmental improvements are to be integrated into business planning and decision making to ensure that sustainability is not separate from core business but forms part of a balanced overall strategy to achieve Parliament's goals and objectives.

Parliament already seeks to observe the wider principles of corporate responsibility, of which environmental sustainability is one aspect; for example maintaining the heritage and integrity of the Parliamentary estate, ensuring the highest levels of staff and Member welfare, ensuring people are treated fairly and inclusively, promoting public understanding of the work and role of Parliament and procuring goods and services in a fair manner within procurement rules, including fair trade products where appropriate. Parliament will focus on environmental improvement in the immediate future as the area of greatest opportunity and potential impact.

The Clerk of the House of Commons and the Clerk of the Parliaments are responsible for environmental management by their respective House Services. Strategic environmental management and responsibility for the implementation of this policy has been delegated, through the Director General of Facilities in the House of Commons and the Reading Clerk in the House of Lords, to the Head of Fire Safety and Environment in the Parliamentary Estates Directorate.

All managers are responsible for environmental management in their area of responsibility. All staff shall follow the principles of the policy statement to assist in meeting the sustainability commitments identified in the policy statement.

The policy statement will be communicated to all staff, Members and Members' staff. The current version of the policy statement and associated environmental strategy documents detailing Parliament's environmental arrangements will be posted on the environmental pages on the intranet. The policy statement will be made available to the public.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY STATEMENT**



Both House Services and Parliamentary ICT are committed to working together to achieve continuous improvement of the sustainability performance of Parliamentary activities and that of their supply chains. This is wholly consistent with achieving value for money and will benefit Members, Members' staff, House staff, visitors and other members of society. Parliament aims to comply with all applicable legislation, codes and good practice pertaining to sustainability. In particular, Parliament will focus on:

- Maintaining a system and framework to manage and improve environmental sustainability performance
- Implementing an annual environmental sustainability improvement plan
- Ensuring provision of adequate resources to deliver sustainability improvements
- Securing the co-operation and involvement of staff, Members, Members' staff and the Trade Union Side in environmental management
- Improving employee environmental awareness, engagement and competency
- Reducing Parliament's environmental impacts by:
  - Reducing carbon emissions and the consumption of energy and water
  - Conserving natural resources and minimising the use of harmful substances
  - Minimising waste generation, and disposal to landfill by reuse and recycling
  - Preventing pollution and reducing emissions
  - Managing wildlife for the benefit of the Parliamentary Estate
- Addressing climate change through adaptation and mitigation

Parliament will produce an action plan and set targets to ensure these commitments are turned into results.

Sustainability performance and effectiveness of management arrangements will be regularly monitored and reviewed. Independent assurance of annual environmental performance data will be obtained. An annual management review will be provided to the Management Boards and performance information made publicly available. Revisions to the policy statement will be submitted to the Clerks of the two Houses for their approval.

Clerk of the House of Commons

Clerk of the Parliaments

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Date:

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Date:

This policy is endorsed and supported by the House of Commons Commission and the House Committee of the House of Lords.