

Waste Strategy For DCMS - January 2006

Waste minimisation is about being efficient. It is good management practice to use a methodical approach to identify, cost and reduce waste.

DCMS is committed to a waste minimisation programme as part of general efficiency measures. We will obtain a figure for the amount of waste arisings from all our sites and put in place a monitoring programme incorporating comprehensive data collection methods for identifying and quantifying waste arisings. Our aim is to reduce the amount of waste overall and report against the following categories:

- re-use
- recycling and composting
- incineration, including energy recovery with heat and power
- landfill
- special and hazardous wastes (where appropriate)

The aims of the strategy are as follows:

1. provide formal recognition that the department is committed to waste management programme
2. identify those parts of the estate which are relevant
3. set out how we intend to record and monitor progress by means of our Environmental Management System (EMS)
4. how we intend to collect data
5. highlight opportunities for improvements in waste management
6. identify waste impacts in supply chains
7. identify partners who can provide expertise

DCMS is an office-based estate. It covers four premises: 2-4 Cockspur Street, 1a Oceanic House, 2-4 Orange Street and 178a Tottenham Court Road.

DCMS has one Executive Agency, The Royal Parks, and sponsors a number of Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs). Our Departmental sustainable development strategy seeks to encourage more of our NDPBs to adopt good waste management practices through the action plan published in spring 2006.

The Royal Parks has a detailed waste management action plan in place as part of ISO1401 certification. It also has a quarterly waste and recycling data monitoring programme. All Parks submit data which is summarised in a quarterly report. A sub-committee of the Green Housekeeping committee has been set up to drive the agenda and implement the waste management action plan. The action plan is reviewed and updated annually.

We have estimated that 70% of our waste comes from paper. We have also identified the following other waste streams across the Estate:

- waste packaging
- glass
- kitchen waste, including vegetable oil
- fluorescent tubes
- sanitary waste
- confidential waste
- batteries
- water
- aluminium cans
- general waste
- furniture
- computers and other electrical equipment
- toner cartridges
- heat/energy losses
- Kitchen grease traps

Waste management uses a methodical approach to identify, cost and reduce waste. It is part of our EMS and a waste management company helps us collect data. We are currently exploring the option of using a “one-stop” waste management company who will facilitate disposal record data and ensure compliance with all environmental legislation.

Through our facilities management company MITIE we have identified the following sub contractors who are responsible for waste streams:

- Holroyd Howe
- Pitney Bowes
- Mitie Engineering
- Mitie Cleaning

We have already identified areas where significant waste reduction can be made (for example, kitchen waste.) We used the recent re-let of the facilities management contract as an opportunity to include contract clauses relating to sustainable development issues.

The Department has a group of environmental champions who support the EMS and the waste strategy. They work with outside organisations like London Remade to raise awareness through initiatives such as road shows.