

**NHS Supply Chain's  
Sustainable Operations Policy  
November 2008**

**NHS Supply Chain**

### **Introduction**

NHS Supply Chain recognises the wider importance of sustainable development in creating a better quality of life now and for generations to come. As part of its overall Sustainable Development Strategy it recognises that a key area of impact is the environmental impact of our Operations. This policy sets to outline our key aims and objectives within this area and how we will measure our success.

NHS Supply Chain acknowledges its responsibility to the environment and for every aspect of its business it is committed to preserving and protecting the environment.

### **Aim**

NHS Supply Chain aims to be a leading supply chain organisation, recognised as striving for excellence in our environmental performance and demonstrating continual improvement. We will listen to our customers, suppliers and employees and work with them to develop environmental best practice and improvement to the healthcare supply chain.

This policy aims to ensure that we will minimise adverse impact on the environment by:

- reducing the use of natural resources and raw materials in all activities
- improving water, energy and fuel efficiency
- reducing emissions, waste and pollution.

We will continuously improve environmental performance by:

- raising awareness, educating and informing of the effects of actions on the environment to employees
- engaging with internal and external stakeholders around our efforts
- benchmarking against other similar organisations.

### **Objectives**

NHS Supply Chain's key objectives are to as follows:

- comply with relevant environmental legislation, regulations, codes of practice and industry standards
- adopt Government targets on sustainable development where appropriate
- implement and maintain an environmental management system certified to ISO14001
- consider the environmental aspects of significant policy decisions
- set and review annual environmental objectives and targets
- reduce, re-use and recycle materials and packaging
- use renewable energy and alternative fuel sources wherever appropriate
- implement no-polluting techniques and practices and plan for emergency situations
- assess and seek to improve the environmental impacts associated with the purchase and supply of products and services
- provide internal training and information sharing on the environment
- support research and participate in discussions with stakeholders to improve environmental performance, both upstream and downstream in the NHS supply chain
- communicate this policy to all stakeholders
- report on environmental performance on a regular basis.

### **Implementation**

This policy is supported by a Sustainable Operations Action Plan, focused on the following areas:

#### **Waste Management**

We will increase the % of waste recycled from the total waste arising from our distribution centres. We will also work to reuse more boxes rather than recycle.

**Energy Management**

We will reduce the kilowatt hour of energy (gas and electricity) use from our distribution centres per 1000 lines supplier. We will engage internal service providers to conduct energy audits at each location to understand opportunities to reduce our consumption.

**Water Management**

We will reduce water consumption per employee across our distribution centres.

**Carbon Management**

We will establish our Scope 1 and 2 carbon footprint in 2008. With effect from 2009, carbon reduction targets will be implemented.

**Transport**

We will reduce carbon emissions from our vehicle fleet by vehicle type. We will monitor our progress through establishing tonne : kilometre reporting. We will also work to reduce the environmental impacts from staff business travel.

**Communication**

We will communicate with stakeholders and work with them where appropriate. A copy of this policy will be made available to all employees through site notice boards.

**Training & Development**

We will establish a programme to improve environment awareness of employees.

**Biodiversity**

We will ensure that the SSSI at the Maidstone Distribution Centre is managed according to Natural England Standards

**Environmental Performance**

We will ensure continued registration to ISO14001

**Monitoring and Reporting**

Progress against the Sustainable Operations Policy and Action Plan will be monitored on an ongoing basis and reports will be submitted quarterly to the NHS Business Services Authority.

**Review**

The NHS Supply Chain Sustainable Operations Policy and Action Plan will be reviewed annually and in line with any relevant legislation or new initiatives launched either within NHS Supply Chain or within DHL.