

## Sector impact assessment

Name of policy/initiative/project	<b>Carbon reduction in HE</b>
1. What are the aims of this policy/initiative/project?	To reduce carbon emissions in higher education (HE) by linking carbon to capital funding and setting a sector target/s for carbon emissions.
2. At what stage of the development process is this SIA being undertaken?	At its inception.
3. Do existing data sources enable us to provide evidence of impact? If not, how should we best gather evidence?	Yes, through estate management statistics but research being commissioned will consider how the evidence base needs to be extended and improved.
<b>Regulatory impact assessment</b>	
4. Will this policy/initiative/project require higher education institutions (HEIs) to pay for or carry out additional work in the context of what a well-managed HEI would already be expected to have in place, both now and when the policy has been implemented	Institutions will be required to produce carbon plans and to demonstrate progress against those plans. Some are doing this already through the HE Carbon Management Programme run by the Carbon Trust. Institutions that do not satisfy the requirements of the Capital Investment Framework are likely to have to undertake BREEAM assessments and to justify the need for any additional space.
5. If so, do the benefits of doing this to the delivery of HEFCE strategy, the HE sector, the HEI itself and others outweigh what we have asked HEIs to do? If yes please describe the benefits	There will be a range of benefits to institutions directly – particularly financial and reputational – and to the sector as a whole from taking a lead in this area.
6. How have you arrived at this judgement? Please refer to the results of consultation and other supporting evidence.	The additional requirements will benefit institutions in a variety of ways and help us to meet KPT 15 relating to carbon reduction. The 2008 sustainable development consultation indicates strong support in the sector for this work.
<b>Equality and diversity</b>	
7. Which individuals or groups are likely to be affected by this policy/initiative/project?	Estate directors and environment managers. The drive for efficiency in lighting, transport, space, heating and waste may have impacts on elderly people and disabled groups. It will be necessary to keep these under review as individual projects progress and weigh any adverse implications against carbon reductions.
8. What is the likely impact on these groups (is it positive, negative or neutral)? How have you arrived at this judgement?	Many estates and environment managers will see this as supporting their existing work. The impact on disabled groups will depend on the nature of specific proposals.
9. If negative, what actions have been taken to mitigate the effect?	We expect to publish good practice guidance on producing carbon plans in order to make the process easier for institutions and will include coverage of equality and diversity issues. We will consult with the sector as the work progresses.
10. Can this policy/initiative/project be used to ensure and promote both equality and diversity? If so, how?	At the fringes of this there may be opportunities to support ethical purchasing. There is a perception that deprived ethnic minority communities have not been included in the sustainable development agenda and HE may be able to address this.

**Sustainable development**

11. What is the likely impact of this policy/ initiative/project on sustainable development? Is it positive, negative or neutral? How have you arrived at this judgement?	It should be highly positive, leading to increased focus on the need for carbon reduction and progress in achieving it.
12. If negative, what actions have been taken to mitigate the impact?	We will try to ensure that the work is undertaken in as sustainable manner as possible, for example making use of video conferencing and using public transport where possible.
13. How can this policy/initiative/project be used to create opportunities to support sustainable development? Please indicate how you have exploited these opportunities or why you have been unable to do so.	Sustainable development is the central objective of this work. Further opportunities will be considered as they arise with potential funding through the LGM Fund.

**Certification by Director**

This is a fair assessment of the impact of this policy/initiative/project on the HE sector, taking into account the regulatory burden imposed. The policy/initiative/project has been appropriately designed to meet our equality obligations and promote equality and diversity and sustainable development. This assessment is ready for publication.

**Signed****Date 29 September 2008****Summary**

This policy is explicitly concerned with sustainable development and we are committed to taking this forward in a manner which keeps the accountability burden to a minimum.