

## 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 developing a carbon reduction strategy including setting target(s).
2. At what stage of the development process is this SIA being undertaken?	We are currently developing the policy following a period of consultation.
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.  We have also gathered evidence through our consultation on a carbon reduction target and strategy for HE in England (HEFCE 2009/27).
<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. Many are doing this already through the HE Carbon Management Programme run by the Carbon Trust. Institutions that do not satisfy the requirements of the next Capital Investment Framework (CIF2) will have restrictions placed on their funding. CIF2 is being developed alongside this policy and will be consulted on in early 2010. Respondents to the consultation on a carbon reduction strategy indicated that there is preference for good performers to be rewarded and there are mixed views on setting requirements for BREEAM assessments.
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 key performance target 15 relating to carbon reduction. The 2008 sustainable development consultation (HEFCE 2008/18) indicates strong support in the sector for this work (almost 70 per cent of respondents agreed that there should be a HE strategy for carbon emission reductions). The consultation on a carbon reduction strategy indicated strong support for setting sector-level targets that are inline with government targets, and for linking capital funding to carbon.
<b>Equality and diversity</b>	
7. Which individuals or groups are likely to be affected by this policy/initiative/project?	The strategy will affect principally estates directors and environment managers. The drive for efficiency in lighting, transport, space, heating and waste may have impacts on elderly people and disabled groups.
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. We will remind institutions of their equality duties through good practice guidance on carbon management plans and CIF2.

<p>9. If negative, what actions have been taken to mitigate the effect?</p>	<p>We will publish good practice guidance on producing carbon plans in order to make the process easier for institutions. This will include coverage of equality and diversity issues. The consultation asked for comments on good practice guidance on development carbon management plans (CMPs). This document complements existing guidance, and sets out what our requirements may be in relation to CMPs. Overall, the majority of respondents support the draft guidance, and it received mainly positive comment. We will update the guidance in the light of these comments.</p>
<p>10. Can this policy/initiative/project be used to ensure and promote both equality and diversity? If so, how?</p>	<p>Yes, the strategy will remind institutions of their equality duties.</p> <p>The strategy will include work to promote sustainable procurement and to monitor carbon emissions from procurement. 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.</p>
<p><b>Sustainable development</b></p>	
<p>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?</p>	<p>It should be highly positive, leading to increased focus on the need for carbon reduction and progress in achieving it.</p>
<p>12. If negative, what actions have been taken to mitigate the impact?</p>	<p>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).</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Sustainable development is the central objective of this work. Further opportunities will be considered as they arise with potential funding through the LGM Fund.</p>

**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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Egan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.**Signed****Date** 3 November 2009**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.