

# SOMERSET HOUSE

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

OCTOBER 2008

## Somerset House Trust (SHT) – Sustainability Policy

This Sustainability Policy applies to all of those operations and activities which form part of Somerset House Trust, including subsidiary companies. The principles of this policy shall be used to form the basis for establishing future business strategies, planning and operational practice.

Somerset House Trust will implement and maintain an action plan that is consistent with that of its sector and in doing so it will embrace best practice in delivering a sustainable future. Continuous improvement in its sustainable performance shall be achieved by:

1. Introducing initiatives that communicate and involve the Trusts tenants and visitors with sustainable development, using exhibitions and events as a means of promoting awareness;
2. Reducing the levels of direct and indirect pollution associated with the Trusts activities, targeting travel policy and procurement practices to minimise the impact of transportation;
3. Including sustainable development as a key feature in the Trusts decision-making, establishing an Advisory Group to oversee implementation of the Policy and Action Plan;
4. Incorporating sustainability training within the staff induction and development process; actively encouraging them to play a full part in developing new ideas and initiatives;
5. Setting and recording relevant, measurable sustainability objectives and targets, reporting on progress regularly;
6. Implementing an Environmental Management System (EMS) that:
  - a) monitors the use of utilities and sets targets to reduce consumption and increase the use of renewable resources;
  - b) promotes continual improvement in the maintenance, development and operation of the estate;
  - c) ensures compliance with environmental legislation;
7. Promoting awareness of all legislative, economic, technical and market developments that will contribute towards sustainable best practice;
8. Actively reducing waste generation by encouraging re-use, repair and re-cycling ahead of responsible waste disposal;

9. Ensuring that as part of the procurement process specifiers, designers and suppliers develop the Estate in a sustainable manner using environmentally preferable materials and practices;
10. Openly collaborating with other sector organisations to share sustainable experiences and knowledge;
11. Promoting social inclusion and equity through the education, exhibitions and events programmes;

This Policy is supported by the Trust's Management Board and is consistent with the Governments commitment to sustainable development and the requirements of the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Estate.

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