

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY POLICY (REVISED DRAFT)**SUSTAINABLE DRAINAGE SYSTEMS (SUDS)****Policy Number:** EAS/0102/1/3**Policy Statement:**

The Environment Agency will promote Sustainable Drainage Systems (**SUDS**) as a technique to manage surface and groundwater regimes sustainably.

Sustainable drainage is the practice of controlling surface water runoff as close to its origin as possible, before it is discharged to a watercourse or to ground. This involves moving away from traditional piped drainage systems to softer engineering solutions that are closer to their natural drainage regimes and help to promote wider environmental objectives. Sustainable drainage is a process for achieving integrated surface water drainage design with the objectives of:-

- reducing the flood risk from development within a river catchment;
- minimising diffuse pollution arising from surface water runoff;
- minimising environmental damage, eg bank erosion, and damage to habitats;
- maintaining or restoring the natural flow regime of the receiving watercourse;
- maintaining recharge to groundwater subject to minimising the risk of pollution to groundwater;
- achieving environmental enhancements, including improvement to wildlife habitats, amenity and landscape quality;
- minimising the amount of surface water runoff and infiltration entering foul and surface water sewerage systems.

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**Signature of authorisation
by Policy Sponsors:**

Version: 3 (*PP*)**Date:** 27 August 2002**Available from:** Intranet: Solutions

EXPLANATORY NOTE

SUDS Policy

Policy Number: EAS/0102/1/3

1. Objectives

Primary objective: to establish Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) as normal drainage practice where appropriate for all new developments in England and Wales.

Secondary objective: retrofitting SUDS on those existing surface water drainage systems which have an adverse effect on the environment.

2. Policy drivers

The Environment Act 1995 imposes on the Agency a duty to promote sustainable development, and to promote the conservation and enhancement of inland waters. When applied to surface water drainage this requires the development and promotion of SUDS.

3. References

- Technical guidance on SUDS is available from CIRIA in the form of a PowerPoint presentation training pack (on Intranet: Solutions), a Design Manual for England and Wales, and a Best Practice Manual.
- The Government's Planning Policy Guidance Note 25, Development and Flood Risk, promotes the use of SUDS.

4. Audience

Internally this policy is of relevance to all Agency staff whose work relates to the water environment. Externally the policy will be of particular interest to Government, local planning authorities, highway authorities, statutory sewerage undertakers, developers, conservation bodies and other organisations.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN	
SUDS Policy	Policy Number: EAS/0102/1/3
1. Who are main target audiences?	Internal: Agency staff whose work relates to the water environment: Environment Protection, Groundwater Protection, Planning Liaison, Development Control, Flood Defence, Water Resources, Conservation, partnership officers, and Landscape Architects. External: local authorities, highway authorities, statutory sewerage undertakers, developers, conservation bodies, and other organisations.
2. What do they need to know?	Content and scope of the policy. SUDS techniques, how and where to apply them, in the CIRIA documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems: Design Manual for England and Wales • Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems: Best Practice Manual
3. When do they need to know it?	Ongoing: periodic cascade training to Areas
4. How will they be told?	Internal staff via training courses, cascaded to all technical staff. External organisations via contact with Agency staff, (co-ordinated through Steering Group), via strategic and local plans, general awareness via presentations, conferences, meetings, and liaison over individual development proposals.
5. Who will tell them?	Training courses held in November 2000 for selected trainers in each Region, cascaded (see 3.)
6. What supporting documentation must be developed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SUDS leaflet due 2002. • Identification and adaptation of relevant Agency procedures (ongoing).
7. What resources are required?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial training courses (completed). • Periodic cascade training via half day internal seminars. • Establish national post of SUDS Manager. • Promoting SUDS to local authorities, Sewerage Undertakers, and developers, (replaces other work, as it represents a better way of working). • Within each Area aim for two SUDS presentations, workshops or seminars to professional bodies annually.
8. Current initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National SUDS working group with ODPM, DEFRA, NAW, OFWAT, Water UK and water industry, Local Government Association, highway authorities, House Builders Federation, and a number of other key organisations, to resolve the obstacles which are preventing SUDS from being implemented in new development in England and Wales. • SUDS academic Science Group in England and Wales to share scientific knowledge of SUDS R&D and to consider and recommend suggestions for new R&D; • CIRIA web site reviewing published material on the performance of various SUDS devices [http://www.ciria.org.uk/suds/pdf/suds_review_jan02.pdf] • Web site to list SUDS sites in UK [http://www.suds-sites.net] • SUDS design accreditation courses (being piloted in Thames 2002) • R&D projects to develop best practice [http://www.ciria.org.uk/suds/suds_projects.htm] • Identification of all Agency practices and procedures which should be adapted to incorporate SUDS policy and practices, including Land Drainage Consents, Discharge Consents, and consultation on local plans, planning applications and development proposals. • Liaison locally with individual local authorities and statutory sewerage undertakers. • Retrofitting (a few cases). • Dialogue with OFWAT's Periodic Review 04 process to ensure that new

	and redevelopment initiatives and sewerage remediation schemes evaluate and adopt SUDS solutions as far as practicable within Asset Management Plan No.4.	
9. Future progress and initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • influence legislation to remove barriers to SUDS; • influence national and Regional Planning Guidance so as to promote SUDS in appropriate circumstances; • persuade all local authorities to adopt suitable policies for SUDS in their development plans, produce supplementary planning guidance, and suitable guidance in development briefs, in accordance with PPG25; • work with highway authorities to incorporate SUDS into road drainage where practicable; • encourage developers both directly and through national organisations to incorporate SUDS as part of all future development where practicable; • develop joint policies on SUDS, or Memoranda of Understanding, with the statutory sewerage undertakers; • develop a national framework agreement that will enable SUDS to be adopted, operated, and maintained; • • develop guidance to quantify cost benefits to society and to developers resulting from SUDS; • establish national SUDS manager post to promote SUDS initiatives • promote awareness of SUDS to professional institutions, educational establishments, developers and to the public in general; • seek out and learn from examples of global best practice; • promote SUDS in Agency's Local Contributions; • establish regional or Area groups to promote SUDS; • incorporate Agency's pollution prevention requirements into SUDS. 	
10. Success criteria:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term improvement of surface and ground water quality and protection • Reduced pollution impact from highways, both chronic and acute • Reduced frequency of CSO operation • Implementation plan is proceeding as intended. • Everyone who should be aware of the policy has received it, and clearly understands it. • Everyone who is operating the policy is doing so correctly and promoting the concept. • Dissemination of SUDS material internally to staff who need it and externally to local authorities, statutory sewerage undertakers, developers and other key organisations, when requested. • Feedback from local and highway authorities, and developers. • Regions or Areas to develop and maintain lists of significant development sites where SUDS are being implemented, have been implemented, or retrofitted. • Long term (five years) monitoring to establish suitability of chosen techniques and maintenance regime. 	
11. Authorisation	<u>Policy Sponsor</u> Sign: _____ Name: _____ Title: _____ Date: _____	<u>Chair approval body</u> _____ _____ _____ _____
12. Review date:	<i>March 2003</i>	
13. Version 3 (PP)	<i>August 2002</i>	