



Proud

Proud

to be.. 

Introduction

I am delighted to introduce the first in a series of Public Information Leaflets describing AWE's commitment to establishing and delivering long term goals for sustainable development. AWE recognises that it can contribute to developing a sustainable future, particularly for our employees and local communities. We view our commitment to sustainable development as a key element of our corporate social responsibility.



opportunity to build sustainability into our business for the future. Our aim is to run our business in a way that reduces our environmental impact, but that also provides social and economic progress in the communities in which we operate.

When we perform well as a company, our neighbours recognise that we are a valuable addition to the community. There is still much to do, but I am encouraged by all the work going on in this area. We have a great foundation to build on, but we cannot achieve our goals in isolation. Working together, we can turn our vision of sustainable development into reality and in this way contribute to this global imperative.

Don Cook
Managing Director
December 2007

This is an important document, as it will guide our decisions over the next decade on a number of issues and opportunities. This document will also enable us to be more systematic and consistent about how we address sustainability issues in the years ahead. For some, the nature of our business is controversial. We acknowledge that, but also believe that we have a vital contribution to make. Our work in maintaining the UK's nuclear deterrent makes a significant contribution to the nation's security and overall economy. Safety and security remain of paramount importance to us, not only that of our employees but also the community at large.

We have a number of major development projects on our sites, and the challenge for AWE is to manage these effectively whilst minimising the impact on our local communities. But these changes also present us with an

"The Corporate Sustainability Plan outlines AWE's commitment to establishing and delivering long term goals for sustainable development"

Key Sustainability Theme 1: Climate Change and Energy

Vision: AWE is contributing to a low carbon future

AWE recognises that climate change is the greatest environmental challenge facing the world today and that, as a responsible business, we must act on cost effective opportunities for cutting our greenhouse gas emissions. This means increasing the understanding of our total carbon footprint in terms of total energy use, travel-related and process emissions. This improved understanding will allow us to more easily identify areas where reductions can be achieved.

We have a long-term plan for redeveloping our Aldermaston and Burghfield sites. We recognise

that this redevelopment poses a challenge in terms of managing our energy demand and our overall carbon emissions. Part of the response to this challenge will be to make our sites and buildings more energy efficient and to consider renewables as part of a viable mix of low carbon supply solutions. We will identify any potential for on-site renewable energy generation and, where on-site options are not achievable, we will source renewable energy from certified external sources.

Our commitments are to:

- Create a baseline carbon footprint for our sites which will be reviewed on an annual basis
- Achieve reductions in energy use per square metre in our buildings and facilities
- Reduce our carbon footprint through energy efficiency measures and changing our energy supply mix to include renewable energy
- Ensure that energy and water efficiency is comprehensively addressed throughout all stages of the process for designing and constructing new developments
- Implement an integrated energy management system which may include combined heat and power, site gasification and heat recovery
- Reduce that part of our carbon footprint associated with staff travel
- Develop and deploy an energy awareness campaign to all staff and contractors
- Support energy conservation initiatives in local communities and schools

“Changing our supply mix to include renewable energy”



We believe we will have succeeded when:

- AWE positively contributes to the UK Government and MOD carbon reduction commitments by 2020
- We achieve a reduction in operational energy use per square metre of buildings
- Renewables are established as part of the energy mix on our sites
- An increasing number of staff use car share and public transport
- Annual staff surveys indicate high awareness of and engagement with energy management principles

Key Sustainability Theme 2: Waste Management

Vision: AWE is implementing a targeted drive towards zero waste

AWE currently sends the majority of its general waste (i.e. neither radioactive nor explosive) to landfill. With increasing costs and pressures on landfill space, we recognise that this is the least preferred option. We have therefore adopted a strategy based on the principles of the waste hierarchy: avoid, reduce, reuse, recycle, recover.

Construction waste is our biggest challenge over the next decade. We will be exploring ways to minimise the amount of waste generated by these activities. We also recognise that some of this

waste can be used as a resource in further construction and development activities, and also as a potential fuel for on-site energy generation. These initiatives will also have benefits for local communities, with fewer vehicles on roads around our sites and less pressure on waste management facilities in the region.

The disposal of radioactive and explosives waste is strictly regulated and we will continue to perform to the very highest standards in managing these waste streams.

“Send no waste to landfill where there is a viable alternative”

Our commitments are to:

- Understand the full implications of how we manage and dispose of our waste
- Develop and implement a holistic site-wide approach to waste management
- Send no waste to landfill where there is a viable alternative
- Work towards generating zero waste in design and construction, and develop targets for waste minimisation on major projects
- Ensure that on-site re-use of surplus construction materials is considered as a first option
- Ensure the waste hierarchy is a key consideration in the procurement process
- Investigate and support the development of new waste treatment technologies
- Support waste minimisation and recycling in local communities and schools
- Develop and deploy a waste awareness campaign to all staff and contractors



We believe we will have succeeded when:

- We have achieved a progressive reduction of waste disposed to landfill to contribute to MOD targets for waste reduction and recycling
- Surplus construction materials such as spoil and concrete are being used as a resource in major construction projects
- All staff have easy access to waste recycling facilities
- Annual staff surveys indicate high awareness of and engagement with waste management principles
- AWE is developing and using innovative waste management technologies and this is recognised by external stakeholders

Key Sustainability Theme 3: Construction and the Built Environment

Vision: AWE is transforming its sites into world class built environments

For AWE this means creating vibrant working environments that are consistent with the organisation's world class reputation for science and technology. Sustainability principles are fundamental to the design of our new built assets, for example through addressing life cycle costs and material choices to promote energy efficiency, low maintenance and waste minimisation. These assets are also delivered in a responsible way, in line with environmental best practice. In particular, care is taken to minimise impacts of our construction activities on local communities.



"Care is taken to minimise the impacts of our construction activities on local communities"

Our commitments are to:

- Enhance our sites in line with a long range development framework based on sustainability principles
- Protect, and where possible, enhance the built heritage, landscape and nature conservation value of our sites
- Create an environment that is easily accessible, and complementary to local amenities
- Ensure standards for sustainable procurement are developed and consistently applied on all development projects
- Integrate sustainability principles at the earliest concept stage of the project process
- Ensure environmental and sustainability appraisals are used in all construction projects
- Eliminate toxic materials that can damage human health or the environment from all our construction and asset maintenance programmes
- Ensure our construction sites achieve world class safety performance
- Develop arrangements to encourage dialogue with our local communities and raise awareness of our contribution to the UK defence industry

We believe we will have succeeded when:

- Our world class sites attract and retain high calibre employees
- We have created a vibrant working environment through provision of well-utilised buildings on a modern, high tech campus
- Our sites are perceived as attractive by our local communities
- Our supply chain demonstrates transparency and commitment to sustainable procurement without compromising quality and safety
- We have successfully implemented mitigation measures to ensure that environmental effects of developments are kept to a minimum
- Safety and security are designed into the built environment rather than 'bolted on'
- New buildings on our sites attain an 'excellent' standard and major refurbishments attain a 'very good' standard using the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Methodology (BREEAM) (or equivalent) to assess the environmental impacts of buildings

Key Sustainability Theme 4: Travel and Transport

Vision: AWE is promoting more sustainable transport choices

AWE recognises that as a major employer on a rapidly changing site, we face a massive challenge in terms of our transport requirements. We are determined to face this challenge, and reduce the impacts associated with our travel and transport activities, focussing both on how employees get to and from work, and on our on-site transport requirements. We will manage traffic associated with our construction activities to minimise environmental impacts and nuisance issues for our neighbours. Doing all this will have multiple benefits including lower CO2 emissions, reduced emissions impacting on local air quality, reduced congestion on roads surrounding our sites

and associated impacts on local communities, and also in terms of improved safety and employee health.

The main tool for achieving these improvements will be our travel plan, which sets out targeted changes in how employees get to work, including significant reductions in single occupancy vehicle trips, and increases in public transport use, cycling, walking and car sharing. Reductions in business travel are also being targeted, focussing particularly on the use of technology to reduce the need to travel. We believe that these changes will have major benefits for the company, our employees and our local communities, and that they will help achieve our long-term vision of building a modern campus with no personal vehicles in our secure areas.

Our commitments are to:

- Provide safe and viable alternatives to car use on-site, including improved bus networks, pedestrian access and cycle provision
- Ensure our travel plan is successfully implemented, and monitor and report on progress on an annual basis
- Reduce the need for business travel by exploiting new technologies such as video and conferencing
- Improve the management of our construction related traffic, ensuring that vehicle movements are minimised and restricted to certain routes
- Make ongoing improvements to local transport infrastructure, to make our sites safe and accessible for people adopting alternative modes of travel
- Explore options for developing better public transport links in partnership with local transport providers and other employers in the area
- Reduce the number of business flights and offset the carbon emissions associated with those trips that are unavoidable
- Achieve behavioural changes through the use of incentives to reward our employees for using public transport, car sharing and other sustainable transport choices
- Implement a high profile travel awareness campaign for all staff and contractors

We believe we will have succeeded when:

- We have met our travel plan targets and have set new ones by 2012
- We can measure the contribution of our travel initiatives to reduced congestion and traffic noise on roads around our sites
- Walking, cycling and bussing are the only options for on-site travel
- Our safety record is improved through reduced vehicle related incidents

“Provide safe and viable alternatives to on-site car use”



Conclusion

We hope you have enjoyed reading 'Shaping the Vision' and that it has given you an insight into our sustainable development ambitions.



Our business continues to move forward, presenting us with both challenges and opportunities in terms of managing our social and environmental impacts. We remain committed to the sustainable management of our sites and also acknowledge the importance of protecting our historic and natural resources.

Along with the contribution we make to the UK defence industry, we also play an important role as a local employer and within our community. We believe that we are developing a good relationship with our local communities, and recognise that our development plans have the potential to create impacts for local people. We continue to be committed to proactive management of nuisance issues. It is vital that we continue to build trust and engage in a dialogue with our neighbours - strong relationships are vital to our future success.

Sustainability is not a 'nice to have' – it is essential to running a successful business. We will continue to embed measurement and improvement into our management processes. We set defined targets and have benchmarked ourselves to ensure we have the right level of ambition in this area. And although this document has focussed on our vision in a number of priority areas, there are a number of other sustainability themes, such as nature conservation and air quality, which are relevant to our operations. We will be reporting on how we manage these and our performance targets in the future. Indeed, there is a good deal of interaction between our priority themes, and we will identify opportunities to leverage opportunities in one area to assist our progress on other topics.

Please let us know what you think of our vision and where you think we could do more. We welcome your feedback. Please email us at:

community.relations@awe.co.uk

Andrew Jupp

Director Infrastructure and executive sponsor for sustainability

“Sustainability is not a ‘nice to have’ – it is essential to running a successful business”

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