

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.

Policy Author: Prosper Paul, Regional Technical Officer, Thames Region, 7-25 5699**Policy Sponsors:** Andrew Skinner, Head of Environmental Quality
David King, Director of Water Management
Paul Leinster, Director of Environmental Protection
Archie Robertson, Director of Operations**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.