

Environmental Policy

This policy has been produced to address and control any impacts on the environment that are due to our activities.



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Introduction

The Scottish Information Commissioner (the Commissioner) recognises that the work of his office staff can have positive and negative environmental impacts in Scotland and further afield. This policy seeks to address and control any impacts on the environment that are due to the activities of the organisation

Aspiration

We aspire to attain high environmental standards, minimising the effects on the environment and where possible making a positive contribution to enhancing the environment. The actions and targets set out in the Climate Change (Emissions Reductions Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 (the 2019 Act) present a considerable challenge to be achieved over the long term and we will work progressively towards achieving these targets, as far as possible, by setting objectives in the short and medium term, in compliance with the relevant planning and reporting duties (as enacted)

The 2019 Act should be read together with the 2009 Act with most of the provisions of the 2019 Act inserting, amending or repealing text in the principal 2009 Act, the 2009.

The 2019 Act:

- amends the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 (“the 2009 Act”) to make provision for
 - the setting of ambitious targets in Scotland for emissions reductions to net zero by 2045 of greenhouse gases
 - revising interim and annual emissions reduction targets
 - advice, plans and reports in relation to those targets.
- increases the ambition of Scotland’s emissions reduction targets to net zero by 2045 and.
- updates arrangements for Climate Change Plans to meet the targets and includes new measures, such as creation of a Citizens Assembly and a Scottish Nitrogen Balance Sheet.

Aim

Our aim is continually to improve our environmental performance, to protect the environment by reducing pollution and resource consumption and to operate in a manner that supports and encourages the natural diversity of plant and animal life.

Objectives

We will:

- Minimise carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions which result from energy use, through in-house energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy where possible
- Reduce the consumption of resources, in particular office consumables and packaging
- Minimise waste production by identifying ways to reduce, reuse and recycle materials
- Purchase in an environmentally responsible manner

- Reduce the impact of travel and transport to and from his office, by encouraging the use of more sustainable transport and reducing the need to travel where appropriate
- Support and encourage a natural diversity of plant and animal life within its grounds and premises
- Reduce its impact on local, national and global plant and animal life
- Seek to positively influence those who use and visit the building through communication and by demonstrating good environmental practice
- Identify and comply with legal and other requirements that relate to the environment
- Promote best practice
- Develop and implement management systems that will allow us to continually monitor and improve our performance with respect to the stated aims of this policy

The environmental policy has been agreed by the Scottish Information Commissioner and his Senior Management Team, and is dependent on the support and co-operation of all those working in, using and visiting his office to ensure its effective implementation.

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