

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

Executive summary

1. The purpose of this paper is to seek approval of the revised environmental policy and to provide a brief overview of the Parliament's environmental performance and future challenges in the years ahead.

Environmental Policy

2. The environmental policy was previously approved by the SPCB in May 2009. The Environmental Management Steering Group has revised the policy to bring the wording and commitments in line with the duties placed on the public sector by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 (CCA) and the Zero Waste Regulations. Annex 1 contains the revised policy.
3. Clear statements are made within the policy's vision and objectives to implement the duties contained within the Act. In summary these duties are to:
 - a. contribute to climate change mitigation by reducing the Parliament's carbon footprint;
 - b. plan and prepare for a changing climate;
 - c. act sustainability through careful decision making, responsible procurement and the careful use of resources such as water.
4. The policy objective in relation to waste has been updated to reflect the Zero Waste Regulations to safeguard resources and minimise waste.

Environmental Performance

5. Environmental performance to the end of March 2012 will be published in the Environmental & Sustainability Annual Report 11/12. By the end of the reporting 2011-2012 the carbon footprint had been reduced by 24%.
6. A target has been set to reduce our carbon footprint by 42% from the 2005/06 total by 2020, with an interim target of 21% for March 2013. At the end of September 2012, this target was on course to be achieved with emissions down by over 25% compared to the same period in 2005/06.
7. Annex 2 contains further details on environmental performance.
8. Improving our environmental performance led to annual savings during 2011-2012 in excess of £130,000 compared to the expenditure which would have been incurred if 2005-2006 quantities of gas and electricity had been consumed.

9. Further savings are expected during 2012/13. Electricity expenditure is currently £40,000 below budget for the current year.

Future Environmental Challenges

Reducing Emissions

10. Excellent progress has been made towards the 2020 target. However, reducing emissions further remains a significant challenge.
11. In 2010/11, electricity and gas accounted for 93% of the carbon footprint (electricity 81% and gas 12%) and therefore remain a focus of activity for the carbon management plan.
12. Building energy will be reduced over the coming years by:
 - a. improving the responsiveness to levels of occupancy of the buildings heating, ventilation, cooling and lighting;
 - b. taking advantage of improvements in the efficiency and controllability of new equipment and plant;
 - c. continuing to engage with building users to ensure they contribute to the environmental policy and targets.

Climate Change Adaptation

13. The Scottish and global climate is changing and the SPCB will need to plan and prepare for the potential risks that this presents. In addition, the CCA places a duty on the SPCB to contribute to any statutory adaptation programmes. The Environmental Management Steering Group has started to consider this issue and at the appropriate time will present its findings to LG and the Business Continuity Advisory Panel Board.

Sustainability Reporting

14. There is an increasing emphasis on sustainability and carbon reporting with the scope and the requirements for third party verification of these reports continually increasing.
15. To help demonstrate compliance with the CCA, the Scottish Government has issued guidance which encourages all public sector bodies to produce annual sustainability reports. The SPCB has for the last 4 years produced an annual environmental report. The 2011/12 report has been modified in response to this guidance and now includes costs of utilities, total waste arising and water consumption.

Resource Implications

16. The resources required for the work detailed above will be retained within the Carbon Management Plan budget.

Governance issues

17. Any projects or actions resulting from the implementation of the environmental policy will be assessed on a case by case basis for any equalities and health and safety implications.

Publication Scheme

18. This paper will be published in line with the SPCB's Publications Scheme.

Decision

19. SPCB is invited to consider and approve the revisions to the environmental policy.

Facilities Management (David Fairhurst)
November 2012

Annex 1 - Environmental Policy

The policy is endorsed by the SPCB and the Leadership Group. It is communicated to all SPCB employees, MSPs and their staff and is available on the Parliament's [website](#) where it can also be viewed by all other building users and the general public. The policy is reviewed periodically as part of the management review process by the Environmental Management Steering Group and may be changed in response to significant changes in the SPCB's activities.

Vision

The SPCB is committed to being a role model for best practice in environmental performance and to acting sustainably.

(Changed from - The SPCB is committed to being a role model for best practice in environmental performance and to contributing to sustainable development.)

Aim

The SPCB is committed to continual improvement of its environmental performance and to protecting the environment by reducing pollution and resource consumption, and by supporting and encouraging biodiversity.

Objectives

The SPCB will:

- Improve environmental performance through its strategic planning, risk management and decision making.

(Changed from - Approach all of its strategic planning, risk management and decision making with the aim of minimising negative environmental impact.)

- Ensure all members of staff, Members of the Scottish Parliament and other building users fully understand the contribution they can make to improve environmental performance.
- Contribute to climate change mitigation by reducing the Parliament's carbon footprint.

(Changed from - Reduce the Parliament's carbon footprint;)

- Plan and prepare for a changing climate.

(New objective)

- Improve the energy efficiency of the building and use renewable energy where appropriate.

(Changed from - Reduce energy use in the building and maximise the use of renewable energy;)

- Improve the water efficiency of the building.

(New objective)

- Safeguard resources by minimising waste and identifying ways to reduce, reuse, repair and recycle materials.

(Changed from - Minimise waste by identifying ways to reduce, reuse, repair and recycle materials;)

- Purchase in an environmentally responsible manner in line with the Responsible Purchasing Policy and Strategy; - *(No change)*
- Reduce the need to travel - where appropriate - and promote the use of sustainable travel by people working in and visiting the building; - *(No change)*
- Support and encourage biodiversity within the parliamentary grounds; *(No change)*
- Comply with - and where possible exceed - all relevant legal and other requirements that relate to the environment; *(No change)*
- Promote best practice internally - on an on-going basis - and externally where possible.

(Changed from - Promote best practice;)

- Maintain an environmental management system (EMS) which complies with the International Standard for Environmental Management (ISO 14001). The EMS will cover the Parliament complex and surrounding grounds.

The Environmental Policy has been agreed by the SPCB and the Parliament's Leadership Group, but its effective implementation is the responsibility of all those working in and using the Parliament.

Tricia Marwick
Presiding Officer

Paul Grice
Chief Executive

2012

Annex 2: Environmental Performance

Target Area	Target March 2013	Progress September 2012	March 2015 targets
CARBON FOOTPRINT	21% REDUCTION ON 05-06	29%	24%
ELECTRICITY	24% REDUCTION ON 05-06	25%	26%
LANDFILL WASTE	70% REDUCTION ON 05-06	0.2% OVER TARGET	75%
RECYCLING	INCREASE RECYCLING RATES TO 80%	83%	TBC
GAS USE	NOT TO EXCEED 3,000 MWH	8% OVER TARGET	TBC
PAPER	35% REDUCTION ON SESSION 2	40%	35% REDUCTION ON SESSION 2