

Statement on sustainable growth

2023 – 24



Scottish Information
Commissioner

Sustainable growth

Introduction

1. The Commissioner is committed to improving efficiency in how we function as an organisation and in how the office is managed. Under our [Environmental Policy](#) we aspire to improve our environmental performance and to protect the environment by reducing pollution and resource consumption and operating in a manner that supports and encourages biodiversity.
2. Under the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010, Section 32(1)(a), as soon as practicable after the end of each financial year, we must publish a statement of the steps we have taken during that financial year to promote and increase sustainable growth through the exercise of our functions. This document is the Commissioner's published statement on sustainable growth for 2023-24.

Sustainable Growth

3. The Commissioner's primary function is to enforce and promote Scotland's freedom of information legislation. Promoting and increasing sustainable growth is a challenge as we are a small, single site organisation. However, our office can make a direct contribution to sustainability through the management of its carbon footprint.

Carbon footprint

4. Our CO₂ emissions have reduced by 64.7% since we established our baseline figure in 2007-08.
5. As we are a small, single-site organisation, these figures illustrate the limited scope available to us to promote and increase sustainable growth. We remain committed to managing and, where possible, reducing further our carbon footprint and will continue to seek ways to do so, for example:
 - maintain our flexible approach to hybrid working to allow staff to work remotely
 - continue the no-paper policy
 - continue the use of telephone and video conferencing to replace in person face to face meetings where appropriate
 - select the most environmentally friendly products for cleaning where possible

Summary of Performance 2023-24

Area	Performance 2022/23
Total CO ₂ Emissions	There has been a 64.7% reduction in CO ₂ emissions from the 2007/08 baseline.
Building Energy	Emissions from energy consumption have stayed relatively the same from 2022-23. We continue to manage heating using a time controlled boiler control which is adjusted according to the current weather forecasts.
Transport and Travel	Business travel emissions have started to increase post COVID, as meetings and events are increasingly taking place in-person. We aim to travel by public transport as much as possible to ensure carbon emissions are as low as possible.
Recycling	As most of our work is digital the need for paper has reduced. Moving forward we will be able to reduce the number of visits to the office premises for on-site shredding. This not only reduces the amount of waste paper we are sending for recycling but contributes to the reduction in emissions resulting from less shredding contractor travel.

Performance Breakdown 2023-24

Area	Actual Performance 2023-24	Target Performance 2023-24
Total CO2 emissions	20.67 tonnes CO2	40.5 tonnes CO2
Building Utilities (gas & electricity)	17.4 tonnes CO2	n/a
Business travel	2.52 tonnes CO2	n/a
Paper waste sent for recycling	0.63 tonnes CO2	n/a
Other	0.12 tonnes CO2	n/a

Core Sustainability Report 2023-24

Greenhouse Gas: Energy in building			2007-08 Baseline	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Non-financial indicators	Emissions (tonnes CO2)	Gas	31.20	17.76	14.45	13.92
		Electricity	17.10	2.97	3.04	3.48
	Energy consumption (kWh)	Gas	151214	8462	6887	6632
		Electricity	32772	12751	13064	14922
Financial Indicators	Cost per financial year	Gas	£5,329	£3,044	£6,771	£6,442
		Electricity	£5,815	£2,017	£2,792	£5,811

Greenhouse Gas: Business Travel			2007-08 Baseline	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Non-financial indicators	Emissions (tonnes CO2)	Flights	7.23	0	0	2.16
		Bus	0.00	0	0.03	0
		Car	1.33	0.03	0.09	0.18
		Train	0.88	0.01	0.11	0.18
		Taxi	0.041	0	0	0
	Mileage (Miles)	Flights	38024	0	0	17,382
		Bus	0	0	132	29
		Car	4101	0	393	600
		Train	9169	0	2042	3092
		Taxi	0	0	0	20
Financial Indicators	Cost per financial year	All Business Travel	£11,884	£0	£740	£4,121

Greenhouse Gas: Paper Waste Recycling			2007-08 Baseline	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Non-financial indicators	Emissions (tonnes CO2)	Paper waste	0.59	0.38	0.38	0.63
	Paper Weight (kg)	Paper waste	465	300	500	500
Financial Indicators	Cost per financial year		£227	£179	£390	£797

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