

Statement on sustainable growth

2020-21



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)(b), 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 2020-21.





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 68.62% 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.

Summary of Performance 2020-21

Area	Performance 2020/21	Status
Total CO ₂ Emissions	There has been a 68.62% reduction in CO ₂ emissions from the 2007/08 baseline	
Building Energy	Emissions from energy consumption from gas and electricity in the building have reduced by 63.17% from the 2007/08 baseline	
Transport and Travel	Business travel emissions have reduced by almost 100% since the 2007/08 baseline. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our business mileage as all meetings have been held online via videoconferencing.	
Recycling	Due to remote working during the COVID-19 pandemic all our work has been online, therefore reducing the need for paper. These changes in working practices have therefore reduced our carbon footprint by 1.13 tonnes of CO ₂ e.	

Performance Breakdown 2020-21

Area	Actual Performance 2020-21	Target Performance 2020-21
Total CO2 emissions	18.36 tonnes CO2	40.5 tonnes CO2
Building Utilities (gas & electricity)	17.79 tonnes CO2	n/a
Business travel	0.07 tonnes CO2	n/a
Paper waste sent for recycling	0.38 tonnes CO2	n/a
Other	0.12 tonnes CO2	n/a

Core Sustainability Report 2020-21

Greenhouse Gas: Energy in building			2007-08 Baseline	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Non-financial indicators	Emissions (tonnes CO2)	Gas	31.20	18.52	18.94	14.84
		Electricity	17.10	8.00	8.00	2.95
	Energy consumption (kWh)	Gas	151214	90588	92638	7074
		Electricity	32772	19421	19415	12635
Financial Indicators	Cost per financial year	Gas	£5,329	£3,331	£3,900	£2,916
		Electricity	£5,815	£3,267	£3,433	£2,825

Greenhouse Gas: Business Travel			2007-08 Baseline	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Non-financial indicators	Emissions (tonnes CO2)	Flights	7.23	2.86	2.44	0
		Bus	0.00	0.01	0.01	0
		Car	1.33	0.40	0.37	0.07
		Train	0.88	1.13	1.04	0
		Taxi	0.041	0.01	0.01	0
	Mileage (Miles)	Flights	38024	22469	18948	0
		Bus	0	76	76.5	0
		Car	4101	1312	1159	244
		Train	9169	14473	13344	0
		Taxi	155	30	30	0
Financial Indicators	Cost per financial year	All Business Travel	£11,884	£8,266	£7,731	£0

Greenhouse Gas: Paper Waste Recycling			2007-08 Baseline	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Non-financial indicators	Emissions (tonnes CO2)	Paper waste	0.59	1.51	1.51	0.38
	Paper Weight (kg)	Paper waste	465	1200	1200	300
Financial Indicators	Cost per financial year		£227	£2,005	£2,150	£169

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