

Environment, sustainability and climate change Year ended 31 March 2020

Environment, sustainability and climate change

Background

The Agency is committed to improving environmental performance as part of the wider commitment to sustainable development. SPPA recognises that it has a legal and ethical responsibility to protect and enhance the environment and is working towards sustainable practices in the use and disposal of materials, energy, and transport and landscape management.

Summary of progress against environmental performance targets 2019-20

Objective – use energy efficiently to minimise greenhouse gas emissions

Energy and emissions targets

Targets are set in two areas:

- emissions of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide (CO₂e)
- kilowatt energy consumption for gas and electricity.

Corporate target – carbon emissions

Maintain carbon emissions from energy consumption to within +/- 3% of 2018-19 totals by March 2020

2018-19	Actual	147.57	tonnes CO ₂ e
2019-20	Target	143.14 – 152.00	tonnes CO ₂ e
2019-20	Actual	137.96	tonnes CO ₂ e

Progress

Exceeded. The decrease in overall carbon emissions in 2019-20 was 7% compared to 2018-19 (decrease of 12% for electricity and increase of 3% for gas).

It should be noted that energy usage during 2019-20 of 137.96 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent was also below the level of 204.79 tonnes registered in 2009-10.

Target No 1 – electricity

Maintain kilowatt-hour consumption of electricity used per full time equivalent employee (FTE) to within +/- 3% of 2018-19 levels by March 2020

2018-19	Actual	1,057.06	kWh per FTE
2019-20	Target	1,025.35–1,088.77	kWh per FTE
2019-20	Actual	1,037.34	kWh per FTE

Progress

Achieved. The decrease in electricity consumption in 2019-20 was 2% compared to 2018-19.

Target No 2 – gas

Maintain kilowatt-hour consumption of gas used per m² to within +/- 3% of 2018-19 levels by March 2020

2018-19	Actual	105.73 per m ²	total usage 302,809 kWh
2019-20	Target	102.56 – 108.90 per m ²	total usage 293,725 – 311,893 kWh
2019-20	Actual	108.58 per m ²	total usage 310,965 kWh

Progress

Achieved. The decrease in gas consumption in 2019-20 was 3% compared to 2018-19.

Objective – use natural resources efficiently to minimise environmental impact

Target No 1 - natural resources target

Maintain water consumption (m³ per full-time equivalent member of staff - FTE) to within +/- 3% of 2018-19 totals by March 2020

2018-19	Actual	6.71	m ³ per FTE
2019-20	Target	6.51 – 6.91	m ³ per FTE
2019-20	Actual	6.23	m ³ per FTE

Progress

Exceeded. The decrease in water consumption in 2019-20 was 7% compared to 2018-19.

Scottish Public Pensions Agency sustainability report for the year ended 31 March 2020			
Greenhouse gas emissions		2019-20	2018-19
Non-Financial Indicators	Total gross emissions for scope 1 (direct emissions from consuming gas) & scope 2 (indirect emissions from electricity consumption)	137.96 tonnes CO ² equivalent	147.57 tonnes CO ² equivalent
	Gross emissions scope 3 (business travel and overnight hotel stays)	23.04 tonnes CO ² equivalent	23.25 tonnes CO ² equivalent
Related Energy Consumption	Electricity	294,061 KWh	301,726 KWh
	Gas	310,965 KWh	302,809 KWh
Financial Indicators	Expenditure on energy	£57,000	£52,000
	Expenditure on official business travel and overnight hotel stays	£36,000	£40,000
Performance commentary			
<p>The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 requires Scotland to reduce its emissions by 42% by 2020 and by 80% by 2050. SPPA, as an agency of the Scottish Government, needs to ensure it plays a full and leading part in its delivery and improving Scotland's overall sustainability/environmental performance.</p> <p>Total CO₂ emissions from energy use fell by 7% from the previous year's level due to an overall fall in carbon emissions relating to electricity and gas consumption.</p> <p>The Agency's electricity and gas meters are compliant with the Scottish Government's carbon reduction commitment requirement to allow for automated reading.</p>			
Controllable impacts commentary			

Electricity usage can be directly related to staff numbers and to the number of PCs in operation. Automatic shutdown systems are in place for IT equipment not in use. Good use is made of natural light, and the sensor controlled lighting system to provide energy efficiency savings. The car park was upgraded to LED lighting during the 4th quarter of 2019/20, which will provide energy efficiency savings going forward.

SPPA also complies with the Scottish Governments travel policies and promotes the use of video conferencing to reduce travel requirements.

Overview of influenced impacts

The Agency occupies a modern building designed to have a low impact on the environment. The building is well insulated and includes features such as a sedum roof, which in addition to retaining heat in the winter, helps to keep the building cool during the summer. The air conditioning units, used only in the server room to maintain lower temperatures, were renewed in 2019/20 and are more energy efficient.

Although designed as an energy-efficient building, the open plan environment and large expanse of windows present disadvantages during exceptionally cold weather. It is important to maintain a comfortable temperature for staff as we strive to control our CO₂ emissions.

Waste			2019-20	2018-19
Non-Financial Indicators	Total waste		23.66 tonnes	23.86 tonnes
	Non hazardous waste	Landfill	5.9 tonnes	10.4 tonnes
		Reused/recycled	17.76 tonnes	13.46 tonnes
		Percentage of waste reused/recycled	75%	56%
Financial Indicators	Total disposal cost		£4,000	£8,000
	Non hazardous waste	Landfill	*	*
		Reused/recycled	*	*

* = absorbed in total waste figure. Disaggregation of costs for individual waste streams identified for future development by our waste contractors.

Performance commentary

SPPA is committed to ensuring all staff know the organisation's policies and work practices that embed sustainability into day-to-day working practices regarding our environmental impact.

Controllable impacts commentary

The Agency aims to be a paperless office, and holds most data electronically. Print levels are monitored, and staff are discouraged from printing documents unnecessarily and encouraged to re-use any misprints as scrap paper. Paper and envelopes are procured from environmentally-friendly sources. The waste sent to landfill has been reduced by implementing a new waste strategy for separating waste so more is recycled. New recycling stations have been introduced including bins for crisp and sweet packets, used stationery and a food waste collection service.

Finite resource consumption - water			2019-20	2018-19
Non-Financial Indicators	Water consumption	Supplied	1,767 cubic meters	1,916 cubic meters

		Disposed	1,679 cubic meters	1,821 cubic meters
Financial Indicators	Water supply costs		£8k	£11k
Performance commentary				
Toilets are fitted with water reduction flushers and taps have an automatic shut off.				
Notes:				

1. The above report has been prepared in accordance with guidelines laid down by HM Treasury published at [Sustainability Reporting Guidance 2019-20](#)
2. The above report has been prepared using factors published by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy in August 2019.
3. Emissions accounting includes all Scope 1 and 2 emissions along with separately identified emissions related to official travel.

SPPA
December 2020