

# Environment, sustainability and climate change Year ended 31 March 2022



Scottish Public  
Pensions Agency  
Buidheann Peinneanan  
Poblach na h-Alba

## **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 2021-22**

#### **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 (CO<sub>2</sub>e)
- kilowatt energy consumption for gas and electricity.

#### **Corporate target – carbon emissions**

#### **Maintain carbon emissions from energy consumption to within +/- 3% of 2020-21 totals by March 2022**

2020-21 Actual 124.51 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e

2021-22 Target 120.77 – 128.24 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e

2021-22 Actual 124.71 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e

#### **Progress**

Achieved. The decrease in overall carbon emissions in 2021-22 was 1.46% compared to 2020-21 (decrease of -5.51% for electricity and an increase of 6.93% for gas).

It should be noted that energy usage during 2020-21 of 124.71 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> 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 2020-21 levels by March 2022**

2020-21 Actual 745.48 kWh per FTE

2021-22 Target 723.11– 767.84 kWh per FTE

2021-22 Actual 704.39 kWh per FTE

#### **Progress**

Exceeded. The decrease in electricity consumption in 2021-22 was -5.51% compared to 2020-21.

### **Target No 2 – gas**

#### **Maintain kilowatt-hour consumption of gas used per m<sup>2</sup> to within +/- 3% of 2020-21 levels by March 2022**

2020-21 Actual 133.48 per m<sup>2</sup> total usage 382,301 kWh

2021-22 Target 129.48 – 137.49 per m<sup>2</sup> total usage 370,832 – 393,770 kWh

2021-22 Actual 145.97 per m<sup>2</sup> total usage 418,053 kWh

## Progress

Not Achieved. The increase in gas consumption in 2021-22 was 9.35% compared to 2020-21.

## Objective – use natural resources efficiently to minimise environmental impact

Target No 1 - natural resources target

Maintain water consumption (m<sup>3</sup> per full-time equivalent member of staff - FTE) to within +/- 3% of 2020-21 totals by March 2022

2020-21	Actual	0.35	m <sup>3</sup> per FTE
2021-22	Target	0.34 – 0.36	m <sup>3</sup> per FTE
2021-22	Actual	0.35	m <sup>3</sup> per FTE

## Progress

Not Achieved. The increase in water consumption in 2021-22 was 45.99% compared to 2020-21.

Scottish Public Pensions Agency sustainability report for the year ended 31 March 2022			
Greenhouse gas emissions		2021-22	2020-21
Non-Financial Indicators	Total gross emissions for scope 1 (direct emissions from consuming gas) & scope 2 (indirect emissions from electricity consumption)	124.71 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> equivalent	122.92 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> equivalent
	Gross emissions scope 3 (business travel and overnight hotel stays)	tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> equivalent*	tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> equivalent

Related Energy Consumption	Electricity	211,070 KWh	210,259 KWh
	Gas	418,053 KWh	382,301 KWh
Financial Indicators	Expenditure on energy	£50,000	£49,000
	Expenditure on official business travel and overnight hotel stays	£3,500	£2,000

### **Performance commentary**

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019 requires Scotland to reduce its emissions by 75% by 2030 and achieve net zero emissions by 2045. 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.

Total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from energy use fell by 1.46% from the previous year's level due to a fall in carbon emissions relating to electricity and gas consumption.

The Agency's electricity and gas meters are compliant with the Scottish Government's carbon reduction commitment requirement to allow for automated reading.

### **Controllable impacts commentary**

Electricity usage can be directly related to staff numbers and to the number of PCs in operation. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic 95% of staff have been working from home this has resulted in a reduction in Electricity Consumption. Automatic shutdown systems are in place for IT equipment not in use. Effective use is made of natural light, and the sensor-controlled lighting system to provide energy efficiency savings. The Car Park Lighting was upgraded to LED Lighting during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of year 2019/20. These are more energy efficient and will bring further efficiency savings going forward.

The reason for the increase in Gas consumption for 21/22, is that office space was provided to staff from NHS Borders. This was to setup a Vaccination Coordination Hub which was running for 12 hours 7 days a week. Also, with Covid Safety Protocols, open windows were providing ventilation. To counter the temperature changes in the Autumn & Winter the Heating System was running for longer periods of time. This was to provide a more comfortable balanced temperature for staff and visitors to work in.

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 were renewed in 2019/20 and are more energy efficient than the ones that they replaced; they are used only in the computer server room to maintain a low temperature.

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 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Waste		2021-22	2020-21	
Non-Financial Indicators	Total waste	28 tonnes	21.80 tonnes	
	Non hazardous waste	Landfill	8 tonnes	6.3 tonnes
		Reused/recycled	17.96 tonnes	15.47 tonnes
		Percentage of waste reused/recycled	64%	71%
	Total disposal cost	£5,000	£5,000	

Financial Indicators	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 being sent to landfill has reduced by implementing a new waste strategy for separating waste so more is recycled. We have introduced new recycling stations including bins for crisp and sweet packets, used stationery and a food waste collection service. This all contributes to the reduction in waste being sent to landfill.

Finite resource consumption - water			2021-22	2020-21
Non-Financial Indicators	Water consumption	Supplied	152 cubic meters	98 cubic meters
		Disposed	144 cubic meters	93 cubic meters
Financial Indicators	Water supply costs		£9k	£9k

### Performance commentary

The reason for the increase in Water consumption is that with the office reopening to staff there has been an increase in staff attending the office. As a result, consumption has increased in comparison to last year where the office was only open to

minimal key staff. 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 in "Public Sector Sustainability Reporting" published at Sustainability Reporting Guidance 2021-22
2. The above report has been prepared using factors published by the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy in June 2021.
3. Emissions accounting includes all Scope 1 and 2 emissions along with separately identified emissions related to official travel.