

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Introduction

The Met Office is a world leading provider of weather, climate and environmental information to the public, government, and business. This helps us to stay safe, thrive and take better decisions about the environment. Equally, as a force for good, we take our own environmental impact seriously and are committed to continual improvement of our own environmental performance.

As a Trading Fund within the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, the Met Office provides public services and also operates on a commercial basis. The organisation employs approximately 2,000 people, the majority in Exeter, where our supercomputing capability is located, but we also have a network of offices and weather observing sites across the country.

Commitments

We recognise the effects upon the environment that our operations may have and set ourselves clear commitments to minimise these by:

- Committing to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 aligning with Government policy and our own Net Zero road map.
- Committing to the protection of the environment including the prevention of pollution to land, air or watercourse through an uncontrolled event or discharge.
- Complying with applicable environmental legislation, including those relevant to biodiversity, and (any) other compliance obligations or requirements as appropriate to our business.
- Committing to continual improvement through minimising the environmental impacts associated with all the activities, products and services of the business, in particular reducing the carbon emissions from our energy consumption and staff business travel.
- Setting and reviewing our environmental targets and monitoring our progress against these through our Responsible Business Committee (RBC).
- Encouraging environmental awareness amongst those working for, or on behalf of, the Met Office through effective training, communication and commissioning.
- Promoting the efficient use of resources through the minimisation of waste, whilst encouraging recycling and re-use of materials.
- Sharing of environmental information with interested parties and adopting environmental best practice, where found to be relevant to our business.

In addition, we understand the importance of biodiversity within the environment and will seek to conserve, and where possible, enhance biodiversity performance through responsible stewardship of those landholdings over which the Met Office has effective control and/or influence including the elimination of unjustified pesticide use.

These commitments are achieved through the implementation of an Environmental Management System (EMS), which enables the identification, assessment and subsequent management of the environmental impacts associated with our activities. The scope of our certified EMS comprises our Exeter site (including our IT Halls and Collaboration Building) and our Frontline sites in the UK where we have environmental aspects and control of their management. Our other Frontline sites within the UK and abroad also adhere to the principles of good environmental management and comply with all applicable legislation. Our Environmental objectives and targets are reviewed quarterly by the RBC which reports to the Executive Board. The Environmental component of our Corporate Key Performance Indicators is reviewed monthly by the Executive Board.

This Environmental Policy is available to all staff, stakeholders and interested parties via both our internal and external Met Office websites.

Penny Endersby, Chief Executive, Met Office

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