

Environmental Policy

Introduction

The Met Office is a world leading provider of weather and environmental information to the public, government, civil aviation and industry. This helps them to stay safe, prosper and manage their impact on the environment. Closer to home, we too are committed to enhancing the environment by continually improving our own environmental performance.

As a Trading Fund within the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, the Met Office operates on a commercial basis under set targets. The organisation employs approximately 1,800 people, the majority at our Exeter headquarters, where our high performance supercomputer 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 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.
- Monitoring CO₂ emissions from our energy consumption and ensuring that our IT infrastructure remains as efficient as possible.
- Committing to continual improvement through minimising the environmental impacts associated with all activities, products and services of the business.
- Setting and reviewing our environmental targets and monitoring our progress against these via our Corporate Business Performance process.
- Encouraging environmental awareness amongst those working for, or on behalf of, the Met Office through effective training and communication.
- Promoting the efficient use of resources through the minimisation of waste, whilst encouraging recycling and re-use of materials.
- Seeking to work with the community in a socially responsible manner.
- 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.

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 HQ (including our IT Hall and Collaboration Building at the Exeter Science Park) 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 our Operations Committee which reports to the Executive Board. The Environment element of our Sustainability Corporate Key Performance Indicator 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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