
CPP031 Environmental Policy

Our vision: “Sustainability is at the heart of what we do”.

To help the UK meet international commitments in relation to environmental targets, Cefas recognises the important role it has in managing the impact of its day-to-day operations on the environment and in promoting the principles of sustainability across all operations. We will demonstrate our commitment by integration of sustainability principles into business decisions, the systematic prioritisation and setting of objectives in an environmental plan, and the celebration of sustainability practices. We will set and publish our limits and targets in relation to the law and the UK Government’s Greening Government Commitments, with a view to going beyond them if possible.

What we aim to do:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, overall energy use and increase the proportion of energy that is provided from renewable sources. Our aim is to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.
- Reduce domestic water use.
- Minimise production of waste through reduction, reuse, and recycling, following the principles of a circular economy.
- Prevent ground and water pollution and minimise emissions of airborne pollutants.
- Embed sustainability considerations into travel and procurement policies to minimise our organisational impacts.
- Minimise environmental risks from accidents, incidents, and emergencies, and help others to do so through our scientific expertise.
- Manage risks to Cefas from climate change and natural resource depletion and maximise opportunities for climate adaption where possible.
- Enable our staff to work as sustainably as possible, by supporting environmentally responsible working and commuting practices.
- Manage our sites and operations so as to preserve biodiversity



How we will do it:

- Communicate our policy to all colleagues and partners, highlight the best sustainable practice, and offer pathways for gathering and managing ideas and feedback.
- Comply with applicable environmental compliance obligations and environmental commitments (e.g., GGC).
- Develop accounting procedures to identify and measure our environmental impacts, working with partners and suppliers to develop appropriate limits and targets.
- Manage our environmental performance in line with ISO 14001, pursuing a programme of continuous improvement by reviewing our Environmental Management System and related objectives and targets, policies, and practices.
- Develop procedures, documentation, guidance, and training, to enable our people to be environmentally responsible in their approach to work, and to deliver their environmental responsibilities as easily as possible.
- Continually review available technology, innovation, and methods to mitigate our environmental impact.
- Work with Defra Group and across Government to share best practice and achieve common goals.
- Promote a culture of sustainability and environmental responsibility.

Who will be responsible:

Cefas aims to nurture a positive culture in which proactive and effective management of environmental performance at all levels within Cefas. All our people have responsibility to ensure that their work is compliant with aims and objectives of the policy, and in contributing to improvements in Cefas environmental performance.

Cefas Sustainability Committee, which reports annually to Cefas Management Board, and leads implementation of this environmental policy, will bring together colleague and trade union representation from across Cefas to review environmental performance against agreed limits and targets. Cefas will work closely with Defra to ensure that environmental performance and sustainability policy is consistent, and that experience and best practice is shared.

I give my full backing to this policy and will support all those who endeavour to carry it out.

Neil Hornby
Chief Executive