



Forestry and  
Land Scotland  
Coilltearachd agus  
Fearann Alba

# Annual Sustainability Report

**Financial Year 2019-2020**

# Introduction

On 1st April 2019 the Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018 came into effect, devolving full responsibility for forestry matters in Scotland to Scottish Ministers.

Two new Scottish Government agencies were also established to carry out Scottish Ministers' functions under the new Act: Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) took on the roles and responsibilities formerly held by Forest Enterprise Scotland, while Scottish Forestry assumed the role of Forestry Commission Scotland.

FLS is part of that group of public bodies that are considered by the Scottish Government to have specific climate change duties under PART 4 OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2009.

These 'Major Players' generally have large estates and/or staff numbers, have a high impact and influence, and are therefore required to contribute to climate change mitigation and to climate change adaptation, and to act sustainably.

In line with this – and ahead of its reporting duties coming in to effect from July 2022 - FLS will continue to develop its action plan and its climate change objectives and commitments, and will also continue to embed climate change into business planning processes.

In the interim, this Sustainability Report for 2019-20, summarise FLS's environmental performance during 2019-20 in line with existing Scottish Government guidance and establishes a baseline against which to measure future performance.

## Overview

With no year on year comparisons yet available, we have developed an accurate set of baseline performance data.

In line with our addition to the Major Players list and the formal recognition of our climate change mitigation activities, we will in 2021 commit to becoming a zero emissions organisation – across our buildings and fleet - by 2045 or sooner.

As we continue to develop relevant, appropriate and proportionate strategies and plans we have collated details of some of the things we have delivered in the last twelve months, including our work in the areas of adaptation and procurement sustainability.

(Appendix 1 details the baseline data that will be used for comparison in future years.)

# Evaluation, Performance Monitoring and Reporting

As part of our ongoing effort to improve the accuracy and recording of vital environmental data, our staff regularly gather data on travel, waste, energy, water use and recycling.

This information is then applied to the way we manage business sustainability in ways that comply with the relevant environmental legislation. *Details of baseline performance in Appendix 1.*

However, the COVID-19 lockdown prevented us from accessing the meters to gather the collected data so we have in some cases used estimated end-of-year readings.

# Actions taken during 2019/20 to improve sustainability

## Energy Efficiency and carbon reduction

Adapting our organisation to maximise our contribution towards achieving zero emissions will be an essential but challenging task in the years ahead.

Ways of working are changing for everyone and in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will also need to more closely manage our available resources.

We have made a small start on some of the simpler, easier to achieve measures to help us set out a list of baseline achievements.

For example, in the pre-pandemic year '19/'20 our Buildings team oversaw:

The introduction of energy efficient measures – such as the fitting of energy efficient double glazing or lighting units - at ten of the buildings we manage, including the Glentress Peel Visitor Centre and car park.

## Ultralow Emission Vehicles

We currently have an admin fleet of 327 cars and light commercial vans, most of which are diesel fuelled.

It is our intention - over time and where-ever possible - to transition to the use of ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEVs).

In the past year we have trialled 13 of these vehicles and have recently ordered a further 11, thanks to a Transport Scotland's *'Switched on Fleet'* funding.

However, before we can fully focus on fleet transition, we are laying down the necessary network of charging points, both at our own sites and at locations – such as shared office sites - where there might be partnership opportunities with other organisations.

In the past year, we have installed charging points at 12 locations across Scotland and will look to expand on this as resources allow.

It will not happen overnight but we aim to increase to 10% the proportion of electric vehicles in the fleet by 2021 and up to 50% by 2025. We are committed to making this transition and anticipate that by 2030, all of our vehicle replacements will be ULEVs.

# Sustainable Procurement

Sustainability is a fundamental principle of Scottish Government climate policy. One of the key organisational areas which can enable this is through procurement by building responsible supply chains and promoting a collaborative approach to tackling the Climate Emergency.

Our [Procurement Strategy 2019-22](#), developed in consultation with staff and stakeholders, seeks to optimise economic, social and environmental outcomes for the areas in which our contracts operate and our tenders always consider community benefits.

We award contracts based on a mixture of cost, quality and sustainability criteria, our tenders are written to encourage Small and Medium Enterprises to bid.

Our contracts contain conditions that take into consideration pollution prevention, bio-security precautions and Historic Environment and Conservation protection, ensuring suppliers contribute to our adherence of environmental standards and legislation and reducing negative impacts that FLS's work has on the environment and communities.

## **Some examples of best practice within FLS are highlighted below:**

1. A new contract brought narrower shrub shelters into use which contain half as much plastic as the product previously used, while another contract saw us switch from PVC vole-guards to an easier to recycle, polypropylene based product. These innovations are environmentally beneficial – and cheaper – and demonstrate our positive action to reduce the impact of plastics on the environment.
2. As part of our fleet transition plan, we purchased 11 electric or ULEV vehicles ('19/'20) with funding assistance from Transport Scotland, bringing our fleet to 13 electric vehicles. We also installed additional electric vehicle charging points as part of another contract.
3. We staged a web conferencing event to support bidders for a corporate work wear tender. This helped reduce supplier costs and reduce carbon emissions from travel. This approach will help us to increase our market and reach and engage with a wider range of potential suppliers.

Further reading about our sustainable procurement activity is available in our [Annual Procurement Report 2019-20](#)

# Climate Change Adaptation

This is the first year that we are reporting on the actions we are taking to adapt to a changing climate and to ensure that the work we do will be robust in the face of changing weather, extreme events, tree health impacts and sea level rises.

To determine where we were starting from, a benchmarking assessment (October 2019) classified our state of organisational maturity against the four sections of the Adaptation Scotland's 'Public Sector Climate Change Adaptation Framework' as follows: [TABLE HERE]

We then used the Adaptation Capability Framework to help us identify the actions that we need to take, both to be climate change ready and to be aligned with the National Performance Framework, Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Plan and the Scottish Forestry Strategy.

This has helped to:

1. Put in place new co-ordination arrangements for climate change adaptation work.
2. Commit to climate change adaptation being mainstreamed into our work and integrated into systems, processes and guidance to ensure that we are confidently able to adapt to a changing climate.
3. Identify that the key strategic adaptation outcomes for us are :
  - that staff understand how the climate is changing and work proactively to identify and mitigate impacts;
  - that Scotland's national forests and land are able to withstand changes to the climate;
  - that land management policy and practice is adapted to support resilience of the forests and land, and Scotland's society and wider economy; and
  - our management systems enable us to prepare for and respond to climate-related impacts.
4. Develop a network of adaptation champions to help promote an understanding of the climate change risks to - and opportunities arising from - our land management activities
5. Continue to work with Adaptation Scotland and Forest Research to further develop our thinking on and understanding of adaptation.

We will also continue activities that support adaptation, including dealing with several significant tree diseases – including *Phytophthora ramorum*, and *Chalara* – taking in to account flood risk in 'at risk' catchments in our land management processes and working with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to develop a shared approach to dealing with wildfires.

# Measuring, Monitoring and Management Information

In using the systems previously operated by Forestry Commission Scotland, which had looked to improve the accuracy and availability of key environmental management data to cost centres, we continue to measure and monitor travel emissions, energy, waste and water consumption.

# Appendix 1: Summary of Performance

Area	Actual Performance 2019 - 20
<b>Green House Gas emissions (Scope 1 ,2 &amp; 3 Emissions)</b>	<b>2,308 tonnes Co2</b> [1,476t Co2 travel + 832t Co2 energy use]
<b>Total travel emissions</b>	<b>1,476 tonnes Co2</b>
<b>Total travel expenditure</b>	<b>£3,603 k</b>
<b>Total energy consumption</b>	<b>3,801 kWh</b>
<b>Total energy expenditure</b>	<b>£484 k</b>
<b>Total waste tonnage</b>	<b>645.4 tonnes</b>
<b>Office waste recycling</b>	<b>67% recycling rate</b>
<b>Total waste expenditure</b>	<b>Estimated at £87 k</b>
<b>Water consumption</b>	<b>Total estimated at 20,352 m<sup>3</sup></b>
<b>Water expenditure</b>	<b>Estimated at £38k</b>



# Appendix 2: Core Sustainability Information 2019-20

Greenhouse Gas Emissions & Energy		2019/20
<b>Non-Financial Indicators (tonnes Co2)</b>	Total Gross Emissions	2,308
	Total Net Emissions	2,308
	Gross Emissions Scope 1	1,059
	Gross Emissions Scope 2 & 3 (indirect impacts)	1,249
<b>Related energy consumption (kWh)</b>	Electricity non-renewable	n/a
	Electricity Renewable	2,548k
	Gas	351k
	LPG	55k
	Other (Gas Oil)	847k
<b>Financial indicators (£k)</b>	Expenditure on Energy	£484k
	CRC license Expenditure	n/a
	Expenditure on business travel – official travel & fleet costs	£3,603k

Waste			2019/20
<b>Non Financial Indicators (tonnes)</b>	Total volume of waste		645.4
	Hazardous/ Special waste	Total	54.62
	Non-Hazardous waste	Landfill	160.45
		Re-used / recycled	431.86
		Incinerated / energy from waste	53.04
<b>Financial indicators (£k)</b>	Total waste disposal cost		£86.8
	Hazardous/special waste disposal cost		£11.59
	Non- Hazardous Waste – total disposal cost	Landfill	£29.66
		Re-used / recycled	£49.94
		Incinerated / energy from waste	£7.21

Water		2019/20
<b>Non Financial Indicators (m<sup>3</sup>)</b>	Supplied	20,352
	Disposed	*
<b>Financial indicators (£k)</b>	Water supply costs	£38

\* *Unknown*