
Safety, Health and Environment

Carbon Reduction Plan & Environmental Policy Statement

Public

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1. Policy

NFER seeks to protect our local environment and minimise the impact of our activities on the wider environment. As part of this, NFER is working towards achieving Net Zero by 2050 at the latest. In 2022, we will be updating this plan to include a measure of our carbon footprint at baseline, to cover Scope 1 (direct), Scope 2 (indirect owned) and Scope 3 emissions (business travel, employee commuting, transportation, distribution and waste). The next update of this plan will also specify our carbon reductions target and plans for how we will achieve these. From 2023 we will conduct annual monitoring to measure our progress in reducing our carbon output.

Our approach to environmental issues is included within our SHE (Safety, Health and Environment) plans and monitored by our SHE Committee on a regular basis.

2. Recycling

NFER has well established recycling procedures for paper products, cardboard, fluorescent tubes, batteries and toner cartridges. Other items which are not produced in sufficient quantities to warrant a regular recycling scheme are arranged on a campaign basis. This includes metals and glass.

We also recycle office furniture by using community groups, schools and other end users to whom we may be able to offer unwanted equipment and extended life.

Where staff have difficulty in accessing recycling streams at home such as for batteries we invite them to recycle via our existing streams.

3. Energy Management

NFER seeks, where possible, to reduce consumption of energy. This is achieved by a combination of the application of technical solutions, principally by exploiting our building management system to control environmental conditions within our buildings, and good consumer practice (i.e. switch it off campaigns). When energy contracts come up for renewal, renewable energy options are selected.

4. Purchasing

NFER actively seeks to appoint suppliers with a good track record in sustainability. We seek to use products that have lower overall environmental impact such as cleaning products which use recycled paper or minimise transport impact through the use of concentrated products.

5. Landscape and Biodiversity

There has been a major investment to improve the gardens of the Slough site involving planting trees and shrubs and embarking upon a landscape management programme. This is of benefit to

employees but also has improved the neighbourhood for local residents and attracts a wide variety of wildlife, including Muntjac deer and birds of prey.

We have partnered with Slough Borough Council to develop the public park adjacent to our Slough site by providing a visitors centre which encourages the local community to visit the park and participate in the organised activities.

6. Products and Services

NFER uses a carbon balanced supplier for printing all paper-based tests and this is promoted by the inclusion of a World Land Trust logo on all printed materials. NFER is investing significantly in developing e-assessment capabilities to reduce or remove the reliance on paper and also undertakes research with schools on their uses of technology. We offer remote training for contingent workers contributing to contract delivery. Reducing reliance on plastics for holding and packing materials is being explored. All wrapping plastic used is 100% recyclable.

7. Travel

NFER seeks to reduce the impact of travel and transport. This includes the use of tele/video conferencing to eliminate some journeys, encouraging working from home where appropriate and the use of public transport as our preferred mode to travel to business appointments. We also seek to procure goods in a way which minimises transport including sourcing locally where possible and using larger batch sizes to reduce the number of repeat visits by suppliers.

NFER also promotes walking and cycling to work and provides facilities to encourage wider participation on both a regular and a casual basis.

Carole Willis, Chief Executive, 16/12/21

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