

2017/18 Statement on Efficiency, Effectiveness and Economy

2017-18 has seen further improvement in Forestry Commission Scotland's (FCS) Environmental Management System (EMS) and drive to minimise the impact of our activities. In line with FCS's Public Bodies Duties, annual targets will continue to be applied in key areas such as reducing emissions resulting from travel and energy use, and minimising the organisations water consumption and waste generation.

Building on from our Business Sustainability work in 2016/17, there has been a noticeable development in staff awareness of the Environmental Management System (EMS) over the past year.

The FC Scotland Business Sustainability intranet site is maintained by a designated member of staff ensuring any recent developments are publicised. The website provides up-to-date relevant information for staff across Scotland. Business Sustainability support roles are well defined and employees have an awareness of who to contact, in relation to a specific enquiry. A Business Sustainability Yammer group was set up in October 2017 as a useful discussion tool for those who input data at Forest Districts and Conservancies. The Business Sustainability Enquiries Outlook mailbox is not as busy as previous, due to the improved capabilities of staff in inputting to the Business Sustainability database. Local Business Sustainability teams ask for advice from the Business Sustainability Co-ordinator, increasing their knowledge across the organisation.

A series of three workshops were held in the autumn at Dumfries, Battleby and FESHO with a final wash-up in Dunkeld. This was an excellent opportunity for staff to network with their colleagues, providing an opportunity to share information and experiences.

Forestry Commission Scotland has improved the accuracy of recording vital environmental data by issuing monthly reports to Forest Districts and Conservancies for monitoring by experienced staff, ensuring any discrepancies are actioned. These reports give a detailed breakdown of the data input to the Business Sustainability database by staff at a range of locations across the National Forest Estate. Discrepancies are highlighted and designated staff in Forestry Commission Scotland National Office and Forest Enterprise Scotland Head Office ensures they are followed up. It is recommended that Staff input data quarterly, in line with the financial periods which ensure the reports generated are more accurate. Our approach to Business Sustainability ensures that impacts of energy use, travel, waste and procurement are effectively managed and that we comply with relevant environmental legislation.

Forestry Commission Scotland has continued to make improvements in the accuracy and availability of key environmental management data to cost centres.

Alongside monitoring travel emissions and energy use, new reporting and metering systems for waste and water management are enabling more reliable information to be reported on waste generation and water consumption. Water meters were installed at a number of new sites and we have been collating better information on our water usage.

Work has continued in 2017/18 on the value-added use of Automatic Meter Readers (AMR's) ensuring they are installed where possible.

The standardising of recycling procedures and the review of waste categories within Forestry Commission Scotland has made recording more accurate, ensuring that the information collated is now comparable across the organisation.

Aerosol cans are now collected by local councils and recycling companies, removing the need for specialist collections, reducing costs significantly.

In 2017/18 Forestry Commission Scotland managers have continued to make the CO2 and other emissions a key part of the decision making process when deciding on replacement vehicles.