

Energy and Carbon Policy

Background

1. The Scottish Seabird Centre (SSC) is a conservation and education charity (Registered Scottish Charity no. SC025837). Our purpose is to conserve seabirds and the environment, inspire and educate people about the Scottish marine environment, and to motivate people to care for it. Our work is underpinned by a not-for-profit visitor experience - the Scottish Seabird Centre Trading Limited (registered Company no. SC183214) - and net income generated is re-invested in the Charitable objectives.
2. We recognise that in delivering our charitable activities we may also have some adverse impacts on the environment. Our main environmental impacts arise from greenhouse gas emissions from energy use and travel, waste generation, water use, and the use of non-renewable resources. We are committed to continual improvement in our own environmental performance, to meeting our statutory environmental obligations and to reducing our environmental impacts.
3. Climate change, driven by human activity and greenhouse gas emissions, is having profound effects on our oceans and seabirds. Rising sea levels, sea temperatures, ocean acidification and loss of marine biodiversity are all impacting on the entire marine food web. Habitat loss, food availability and extreme weather events are directly harming seabird populations, impacting on migration patterns and affecting seabirds' ability to find food and suitable breeding sites.

Principles

4. Tackling climate change is essential to our charitable goal of conserving seabirds and the marine environment. We are therefore committed to reducing emissions in line with government targets and to playing a leadership role by pioneering and demonstrating climate solutions.
5. We have robust principles, practices and policies in place to reduce our energy use and carbon emissions to protect our coastal ecosystems and ensure that Scotland's marine environment remains healthy and wildlife rich.
6. To achieve our aims of reducing our energy consumption and carbon footprint, we strive to meet the following principles and approaches:
 - i. Maximising our energy efficiency.
 - ii. Implementing behavioural changes and improvement to the way we use and maintain our buildings, systems and appliances.
 - iii. Encouraging the use of sustainable and low emissions transport.
 - iv. Implementing energy monitoring and management systems.
 - v. Embracing the use of renewable technologies.
 - vi. Engaging our visitors, stakeholders and the local community in energy and carbon reduction dialogue, education and initiatives.

- vii. Ensuring that projects are carried out in an environmentally responsible way.
- viii. Engaging with government policy and regulations where appropriate.
- ix. Setting and reviewing our performance against objectives annually.

Energy use and carbon emissions reductions

7. To meet our objectives and achieve energy and carbon reductions we are guided by the principles and approaches set out above. We aim to:
 - a. **Improve and maximise our Energy Efficiency:** Implementing measures to reduce energy consumption in our buildings. This includes using energy-efficient appliances and systems (See SSC's "Ethical and Sustainable Purchasing Policy" for further information), carrying out Planned Preventative Maintenance (PPM) and reviewing controls to ensure systems are operating efficiently and improving our insulation levels where possible.
 - b. **Implement Behavioural Changes and improvements:** Encouraging staff and visitors to adopt energy-saving behaviours, such as turning off lights when not in use, reducing water heating temperatures, using programmable controls, refining run times and setpoints.
 - c. **Support and encourage Sustainable Transport:** Encouraging walking and cycling to reduce the carbon footprint associated with our operation, staff and visitor travel. Promoting the use of public transportation, electric vehicles, and other low-emission transport options. Where possible influencing our supply chain to do the same. Embracing a digital first approach to meetings offsite. (See SSC's "Sustainable Travel Policy" for further information).
 - d. **Implement Energy Management Systems:** Implement systems to monitor and manage our energy use, allowing us to use energy more efficiently and identify areas for improvement.
 - e. **Support Renewable Energy systems and initiatives:** Utilising renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, wave and heat pumps that are zero carbon. Support the development of new renewable systems and obtain our electricity from providers supplying 100% renewable electricity.
 - f. **Carry out Community Engagement work:** Involve our visitors and the local community in energy and carbon reduction education with initiatives to increase support and participation. This includes educational programs, demonstrating solutions and best practice, displays and community-based projects that we run and support.

- g. **Ensure Environmental Responsibility:** Ensure that projects we are involved in are conducted in an environmentally responsible manner. Minimise negative impacts on the ecosystem, biodiversity and maximise co-benefits.
- h. **Engage with Policy and Regulations:** Advocating and commenting on environmentally responsible government policies and regulations that incentivise renewable energy use, set emissions targets, and provide funding for research and development.

Scope 1 and 2 emissions – Gas and Electricity emissions

- 8. We are committed to reaching net zero, with respect to our scope 1 and 2 emissions, as soon as technically and financially viable, and without the use of offsets.

Scope 3 emissions – Visitor and Supplier emissions

- 9. As a charity carrying out education and conservation work, selling products, running a café and providing tours we will always have a carbon footprint which is based on, and heavily influenced by our visitors, their choices and engagement with us. It will also be influenced by our supply chain.
- 10. We are committed to informing and educating our customers about their choices and environmental impact as consumers to inspire change in their behavior and lives.
- 11. We are committed to sourcing environmentally friendly products and working with our supply chain partners to influence them and minimise our collective carbon impact. (See SSC's "Ethical and Sustainable Purchasing Policy" for further information).

Carbon sequestration and offsetting

- 12. Our prime focus is to reduce those emissions we are in direct control of, our Scope 1 and 2 emissions, that relate to our gas and electrical usage.
- 13. Rather than offsetting Scope 3 emissions in the voluntary market, we focus our investments in reducing our own emissions, and our core education and conservation efforts, which not only educate visitors but also directly benefit the marine environment and seabirds.
- 14. We believe that informing and educating our visitors around sustainability issues, embodied carbon, behaviour and consumer choices will help us reduce our Scope 3 emissions and have a much wider ripple and carbon reduction effect, compared to investing in commercial carbon offsetting schemes.
- 15. We will review and monitor carbon sequestration and offsetting schemes and may invest in these in the future if we consider their benefit outweighs the risks and costs associated with the voluntary carbon market.

Carbon reporting

16. Though it is not a requirement for us, as a small conservation and education charity, to monitor and report our carbon emissions, we feel it is important to lead by example and strive to achieve net zero emissions, Scope 1 and 2, in line with, or prior to, the Scottish government net zero target of 2045.

Commitment and goals

17. Our current commitments are to:

- a. Actively monitor and manage our gas and electrical energy use to reduce our Scope 1 and 2 emissions through energy efficiency, use of renewable energy and systems, and behavioral improvements.
 - I. Our near-term goal is to reduce our Scope 1 and 2 net carbon emissions by 42% by 2030 (from our 2023 baseline).
- b. Monitor and look at ways to reduce our indirect, Scope 3, emissions (i.e. from travel, purchased goods and services etc.) by refining and improving our offer, educating our visitors, working with suppliers, supporting sustainable transport and implementing changes to the way we operate.
 - II. Our long-term goal is to achieve net-zero by 2040 for all our business, including our visitor centre, boats, and conservation and learning programmes.

Further information and Useful Links

- The Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol - <https://ghgprotocol.org/>
- Scottish Governments - [Climate Change plan](#)
- Net Zero Nation - <https://netzeronation.scot/>

Feedback

We are always looking to improve our performance and organisations sustainability, so if you have any thoughts, comments or suggestions on this policy, please get in touch at info@seabird.org stating the name of the policy in the subject line of the email.

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