



Office for  
Nuclear Regulation

# ONR's Statement of intent for an environmental policy



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## Purpose

This statement sets out our intent to develop an ONR environmental policy, and the steps we will take in the meantime to reduce our environmental impact, in line with our Strategy 2020-25 ambition and broader government objectives for net zero. This statement has been endorsed by our Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and Board.

SLT is responsible for ensuring this statement of intent is put into practice, promoting the sustainability agenda in ONR and inspiring advocacy. Our employees have a role to play in helping us ensure the aims and objectives are met, and we will continue to engage with our external stakeholders regarding our aspirations.

## Our commitment

We recognise the responsibility we have to manage and reduce the impact that our activities as a public corporation, and as a regulator, have on the environment. By reducing our consumption of resources, using those we must consume more efficiently, and where possible, balancing unavoidable emissions, we are committed to minimising the environmental impact of our operations. We will also bear in mind the need to seek fit for purpose, cost effective sustainable solutions as we undertake our regulatory activities.

We are committed to our obligations under the Greening Government Commitments (GGCs) and await the new framework for 2021-25 that will ensure the public estate continues to reduce its environmental footprint, align with the government's commitments in the 25 Year Environment Plan, and be consistent with a trajectory to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

## Our impact and focus

We employ approximately 650 staff across three office locations (Bootle, Cheltenham and London), and we share this space with a mix of public and private sector partners. Different working patterns mean a proportion of these staff split their time between working in the office and working at home; they can also work from stakeholders' premises. In addition, we undertake national and international travel.

COVID-19 has been a catalyst for change in how we work, and we will align our environmental policy with our aspirations to enable new ways of working in the future. These include:

- implementation of environmentally aware travel practices (e.g. cycle to work schemes and environment-friendly car hire arrangements); and
- balancing office and home-based work, minimising the negative impact on the environment.

From 2021, we are monitoring our impact by measuring our use of resources, and reporting to government, as far as we are able, on:

- business trips by car, public transport and flights (transport related);
- electricity, gas and water usage (buildings related); and
- waste and paper analysis.

In future, we plan to extend our focus to include:

- greenhouse gas emissions;
- sustainable procurement;
- waste minimisation and management; and
- finite resource consumption.

We will continue to include an environmental and sustainability update in our Annual Report and Accounts.

## Our future ambitions

We intend to develop an ONR environmental policy that will set out our ambition to:

- foster a sense of responsibility for the sustainability agenda and reduce our impact on the environment across the organisation and promote greater awareness of environmental issues;
- limit our carbon emissions by promoting energy efficiency, minimising our travel footprint where appropriate, and using resources responsibly;
- strive for continual improvement in our environmental performance and management system;
- integrate recognised environmental management best practice into our new ways of working in accordance with the principles of the government's waste hierarchy;
- ensure compliance with all relevant environmental legislative requirements and obligations;
- prevent pollution to the environment where practicable;
- pay due consideration to environmental issues and energy performance with our landlords in the acquisition, design, refurbishment and use of our premises;
- work with our staff, and our respective landlords in their efforts, to reduce energy emissions, carbon footprint, and improve waste and utilities management;

- ensure the inclusion of sustainability criteria when procuring goods and services, and use contractors and suppliers who perform their activities in accordance with recognised environmental standards;
- increase the use of the digital communication methods made available to us by the introduction of improved IT hardware;
- take account of the impact of our actions as a regulator on the efforts of our dutyholders to reduce their own carbon emissions (without compromising safety and security);
- enhance awareness and grow our skills, knowledge, capability and confidence in sustainable practices; and
- monitor, review and learn from our actions, measure our efficiency and benchmark our activity to drive positive behaviours and outcomes.

As we develop our policy, we will focus our attention on promoting and embedding these themes, where appropriate and wherever possible, over the coming years. Our policy will include establishing objectives that will focus on our strategic commitment to consider how to reduce our environmental and carbon impact in line with broader government objectives for net zero.