



FSS REPORT ON BIODIVERSITY, 2015-17


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Author	Name:	MIKE HOUSTON
	Position/Role:	FACILITIES MANAGER / HEALTH AND SAFETY ADVISOR
	Signature:	

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	INTRODUCTION.....	3
1.1	FSS.....	3
1.2	FSS AND THE ENVIRONMENT TO DATE	4
1.2.1	FSS' ACTIONS TO DATE	4
1.2.2	FSS' FUTURE PLANS.....	5
1.2.3	WHAT DO 1.2.1 AND 1.2.2 MEAN TO FSS?	6
1.3	OTHER AREAS BEING CONSIDERED	6
2.0	FSS' PARTNERSHIP WORKING AND BIODIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS	7
3.0	FSS' SUCCESSES TO DATE	7

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Food Standards Scotland (FSS) is the public sector food body for Scotland. FSS are here to ensure that information and advice on food safety and standards, nutrition and labelling is independent, consistent, evidence-based and consumer-focused.

The primary concern is consumer protection – making sure that food is safe to eat, ensuring consumers know what they are eating and improving nutrition. With that in mind, the vision is to deliver a food and drink environment in Scotland that benefits, protects and is trusted by consumers.

FSS develops policies, provides policy advice to others, is a trusted source of advice for consumers and protects consumers through delivery of a robust regulatory and enforcement strategy.

FSS was established by the Food (Scotland) Act 2015 as a non-ministerial office, part of the Scottish Administration, alongside, but separate from, the Scottish Government. FSS are mainly funded by government but also charge fees to recover costs for regulatory functions.

1.1 FSS

As an organisation in the public sector and as part of Scottish Government, FSS is required under the Climate Change Public Bodies Duties, Part 4 of the Climate Change Act, 2009 to actively monitor and report on our environmental performance.

Requirements include;

1. Contribution to carbon emissions reduction
2. Contribution to climate change adaption
3. Operate in a sustainable manner

FSS is listed as a 'major player' by the Scottish Government with regard to environmental reporting. A Statutory Order, passed in November 2015, requires 'major players' to submit an annual Climate Change Report which FSS complies with by the submission of the annual report.

FSS is an organisation which has stood in its own right since April 2015. Because of this there are no historic data sets which can be used as a reflective comparison on performance over the years. The baseline figures to measure performance metrics are the year from April 2016 through to March 2017 as this year reflects the first fully robust data set.

1.2 FSS AND THE ENVIRONMENT TO DATE

Annual Climate Change Reports have been submitted since the legislative requirement came into force. This has involved the collection, analysis, interpretation and accreditation of the data along with understanding the organisation's priorities and focus.

1.2.1 FSS' Actions to Date

The following list highlights initiatives or activities which FSS has undertaken in a bid to raise the profile of environmental due diligence and also in a bid to lower our environmental impact with respect to atmospheric CO_{2e}, waste management and water use/treatment;

- A large array of recycling facilities available in both Head Office and outlying sites.
- 'Follow Me' printing to prevent a 'Print and Forget' mentality.
- Printers automatically set to print on both sides in black and white.
- FSS use Scottish Government procurement services where life-cycle assessments and sustainability are pre-requisites for contract specification.
- FSS recycle as much as possible and at the time of writing ~18% of all waste is submitted to landfill. (Aberdeen City Council - No more than 5% of household waste should be landfilled by 2025.)
- FSS publish documents online and through an Electronic Records and Data Management System (eRDM). This further helps reduce the reliance on paper.
- Staff are encouraged to use public transport where possible.

- FSS provides facilities along with financial contributions towards equipment in a bid to encourage cycling to work.
- Video conferencing facilities are readily available across FSS sites and are actively encouraged to reduce the reliance and associated impacts felt through transport.
- Water coolers have been removed from Head Office along with all disposable cups.
- All electronic equipment is routinely tested to ensure performance and energy consumption are optimized.
- Pool cars are routinely monitored to ensure tyre pressure and any additional equipment transported is kept to a minimum to ensure optimum fuel economy.

1.2.2 FSS' Future Plans

FSS has adopted a Carbon Management Plan, signed off at Board Level and this features planned initiatives and activities, from 2017-2022, namely;

- Formation of an Environmental Champion network across FSS
- Continually refresh the need for environmental due diligence across all FSS staff and ensure this is cascaded to contracting parties
- Revision of the Business Travel parameters:
 - Defined maximum limits on fuel consumption for pool cars, hire cars and lease cars
 - Annual revision (or as required) of the relevant documents to ensure all adaption and mitigation is considered in line with newest available technologies
 - Cost/Benefit analysis completed to ensure decisions have quantifiable, auditable levels of justification
 - Collaborative workshops to ensure all aspects available and adopted through other SG organizations are considered
- Presentations and workshops on environmental issues prevalent to both FSS as an organization and individual's personal lives

- Quarterly initiatives with an environmental theme to help environmental concerns remain at the top of agenda items
- FSS' Health, Safety and Environmental Policy to be updated annually to ensure it is reflective of organizational need and targets with CEO as signatory
- Continual review and assessment of energy consumption performance figures at Head Office, responding to any new technologies/techniques as they become available
- Removal of paper as a resource to be ordered without the need for tracking and sign-off
- FSS will encourage staff to adopt an environmental mindset when using equipment, minimizing use and switching off equipment when not in use
- Development of environmental risk assessment against all projects where practicable

1.2.3 What do 1.2.1 and 1.2.2 mean to FSS?

It is hoped by implementing the activities and initiatives highlighted, that FSS can lower its overall annual emissions by 2.5% year on year over the course of the Carbon Management Plan. This covers the years 2017 through 2022.

This, if achieved, will place FSS at the forefront of performance targets and ensure a forward thinking, pragmatic approach is used when tackling environmental issues.

1.3 OTHER AREAS BEING CONSIDERED

On top of those listed above, FSS plans to introduce and embed more practices aimed at reducing our environmental impact. These include, but are not limited to;

- Setting controls on the permissible CO_{2e} performance of any lease or pool cars used on the organisation's behalf
- Trialling any new technologies or practices in-hand with Low Carbon Scotland
- Implementing new procurement targets aimed at considering sustainability alongside delivery standards and value, with appropriate weighting towards environmental due diligence

- Training on environmental topics for all staff using an online computer based training platform
- Working in collaboration with other Directorates and external stakeholders to share knowledge and initiatives aimed at embedding environmental best practice in the organisation
- Adoption of the Individual, Social, Material (ISM) methodology towards project management to ensure environmental considerations remain a high priority

2.0 FSS' PARTNERSHIP WORKING AND BIODIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

FSS has maintained a presence at events organised and hosted by Scottish Government and other stakeholders such as Scottish Natural Heritage and Low Carbon Scotland in a bid to develop contacts and increase our knowledge base.

3.0 FSS' SUCCESSES TO DATE

- In line with the NHS work towards green exercise, FSS runs a weekly running club at head office aimed at improving staff fitness and also engaging with the greenspace through green exercise
- FSS has run Eco-Driving courses across sites and head office where more than thirty staff and contractors have had the chance to reduce their carbon footprint by being introduced to driving with more focus on given on emissions and fuel efficiency
- FSS currently uses all the food waste from head office to make compost, out with the council run scheme, reducing the amount of process required between disposal of waste and use of product
- FSS has developed and operate using a Health, Safety and Environmental Management System aimed at ensuring the environment is considered alongside health and safety as a high profile issue
- The Carbon Management Plan has been peer reviewed and approved by environmental specialists at Resource Efficient Scotland and also Sustainable Scotland Network

- The Climate Change Reports submitted to date have received positive feedback from the assessors at Sustainable Scotland Network
- Head office energy use has been closely monitored throughout the three years of operation to ensure energy use surpasses 'best practice' energy use for air conditioned, standard office, which is 85.0kg CO₂/m². Pilgrim House is currently run at ~23% lower than the figures given for 'best practice'
- FSS has considered the environment in its regulatory procurement contracts with a view to reducing the emissions in relation to awarded contracts and embedding a set of sustainable values across the piece
- FSS is using the framework agreements already in place with Scottish Government to ensure environmental factors are always considered in procurement activities