

Deer Commission for Scotland Environmental Policy

1. Background

Sustainability and sound environmental management are fundamental to all decisions and actions that DCS takes. For DCS as a public body sustainability and environmental good practice will contribute towards:

- Scottish Government's '**Greener Scotland**' outcome
- Scottish Government's target of **reducing Scotland's carbon footprint by 80% by 2050**.

2. Environmental Aims

DCS has two over arching environmental aims:

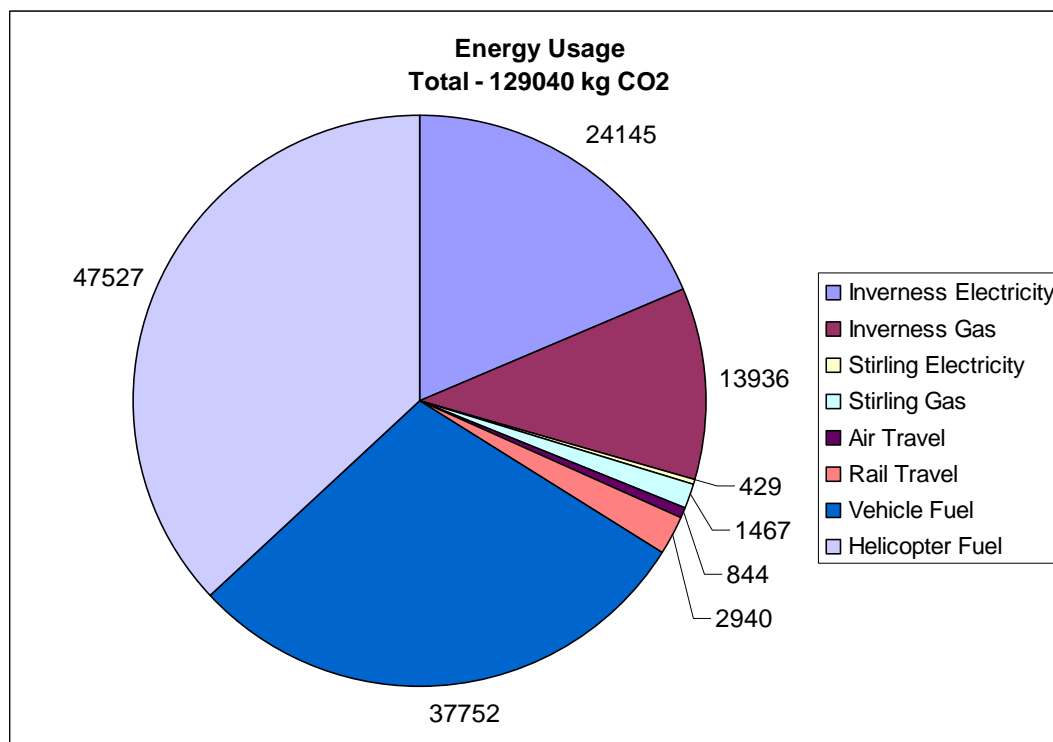
- **To make our business activities and corporate processes more sustainable**
- **To reduce our total carbon footprint**

DCS will achieve these aims by:

- Reducing DCS's 07/08 carbon footprint by 10% by 2011
- Raising staff and member awareness and "buy-in" to environmental responsibility;
- Identifying different working methods that will not divert delivery of core business.

3. DCS's carbon footprint in 2007/08

The diagram below illustrates DCS's 2007/08 baseline carbon footprint:



Deer Commission for Scotland Environmental Policy

DCS has a corporate objective to reduce its 2007/2008 footprint by 10% by 2011. Below are laid out further details on how this will be achieved and on how progress towards this target will be monitored, reviewed and reported on.

4. DCS/SNH Merger Implications

To facilitate a successful integration of DCS/SNH environmental policies areas of overlap and areas with potential to adopt and adapt SNH styles of reporting and setting targets have been identified. These areas have been identified through input into the Great Glen House Green Team and the northern Scotland Greening Group both of which operate within the wider context of the Scottish public sector. These areas of synergy include:

- Data collation spreadsheets
- Green Office Plans
- Development of new 'Travel Plan'

5. Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Enhancement Measures

To achieve a reduction in environmental impacts DCS will target areas where changes can make a real difference. This means adopting a pragmatic, meaningful, responsible and flexible approach to achieving the 10% reduction target.

Below are outlined key areas in which DCS impacts on the environment.

Using helicopters to count deer

In 2007/08 the use of helicopters was the biggest single contributor of carbon emissions in DCS' work. DCS uses helicopters to count deer and the data from these counts informs local deer management and plays an important role in the Joint Agency Sites programme of work by establishing what deer impacts are and working with others to identify appropriate deer numbers in the context of different land management objectives. Clearly there is a big trade off in terms of CO₂ emissions of helicopters and this will be kept under review. However recent research (Daniels, M.J. 2006) concluded that out of all the different methods of counting deer helicopters are the most efficient and effective at minimising errors.

Travel

DCS has a Scotland-wide remit and often requires travel to fairly remote areas where public transport is often not available. DCS staff and members cover over 100,000 miles per annum, mainly by car. In addition, increased DCS activity (e.g. field operations) involves increased use of vehicles (including four wheel drives). Mitigation and enhancement thus needs to focus on the areas of travel where we can make reductions (i.e. travel to meetings etc) rather than those areas of core business need.

Mitigation & Enhancement:

- Strive to use public transport wherever possible;
- Organise meeting times and venues to coincide with public transport links and provide details of public transport times and services;
- Use of public transport / car sharing to work and on official business;

Deer Commission for Scotland Environmental Policy

- Encourage visitors to DCS offices to use public transport (the SG supported journey planner tool has been added to the DCS website);
- Greater use of video, phone and emerging technologies (e.g. sharepoint) as alternatives to travelling to meetings;
- Encourage the implementation by all staff of “Ten tips for safer, greener, stress-free driving”.
- Introduce dual-fuelled or alternative-fuelled vehicles during replacement programme;
- Develop and introduce Travel Plans;
- Encourage Members to car share to meetings

Green Office Plans

DCS staff are currently based in two offices: Great Glen House in Inverness and Innovation Park in Stirling. The environmental impact of these offices can be measured in terms of:

- Energy
- Paper consumption
- Waste
- Recycling

The most effective way to achieve the reduction target in these areas is set out in an annual Green Office Plan for each of the offices. The Great Glen House Green Office Plan will set out the activities for the whole building and DCS' role will be to contribute towards this.

Mitigation and Enhancement:

The full details are available in the Green Office Plans. Examples have been included here:

- Avoid printing emails
- Use mains power instead of battery power (for desk equipment eg calculators)
- Circulate one copy of common documents instead of printing multiple copies
- Set all PCs, printers and copiers to default to double-side printing (where available).

6. Reporting

We will report annually on environmental performance in the DCS Annual Report. At the end of each reporting year performance will be reviewed to help inform activities needed to build on next year's performance. Post merger all reporting and target setting will be integrated into SNH systems.

7. Procedures to Implement and Monitor DCS Environmental Policy and Environmental Management Programme

All DCS staff and members are responsible for considering the environmental impacts of their actions and to change behaviour where there is a clear environmental benefit. Monitoring of performance is essential to identify areas which have been a success and to target and find

Deer Commission for Scotland Environmental Policy

solutions to areas which are struggling. Over and above this the following key roles and responsibilities have been identified:

Roles and Responsibilities:

- DCS Management Team through the Board has overall responsibility for the DCS Environmental Policy and Procedures;
- Implementation relies on joined up staff member buy-in and 'lead by example approach';
- DCS staff and any contractors working for DCS are expected to follow the principles of the DCS Environmental policy and Environmental Management Programme.

Monitoring:

- The Management Team will review progress against targets quarterly and will flag up any issues or targets which are not on course for being met by the end of the year. For any targets that look as if they will not be achieved a way forward will be agreed by staff;
- In the instance that targets are falling seriously behind during the reporting year this will be raised at the DCS Resources & Audit Committee.