

2014/15 Statement on Efficiency, Effectiveness and Economy

2014-15 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 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 2013/14, there has been a noticeable development in staff awareness over the past year. This is due in part to the increase of internal audits and support visits. The internal audit plan is now firmly in place with a rolling programme of audits for the coming year. Over the last year, eight internal audits and three informal visits were completed as well as two LRQA audits at several locations.

During this year an FC Scotland Business Sustainability intranet site has been developed. The website provides up-to-date relevant information for staff across Scotland. A Business Sustainability Enquiries mail box has also been set up. Business Sustainability workshops have been held ensuring staff have a greater understanding of the subject. We have also improved the accuracy of recording vital environmental data. Monthly reports are issued and monitored.

This year we surveyed the condition of our 126 Septic tanks and introduced a framework for Septic Tank emptying and monitoring. The framework has also reduced the number of tanker miles driven by better timing the emptying.

With regards to energy efficiency and carbon reduction we have carried out energy efficiency surveys across the range of the FC building types and are using the findings to benchmark our buildings against best practice and prioritise improvement spending. We are engaging with Business Stream to review the water supplies to our sites which has resulted in a £17k saving on our water bill. Water meters were installed at a number of new sites and we have been collating better information on our water usage.

The standardising of recycling procedures within FCS has made recording more accurate and ensures that information collated is now comparable across the organisation. Local offices have been encouraged to come up with local ideas and ways of reducing waste.

In 2014/15 FCS managers have continued to make CO₂ and other emissions a key part of the decision making process when deciding on replacement vehicles. In addition to considering our vehicles, further video conferencing facilities have been installed and are used with increasing frequency.