



the National Trust
for Scotland

a place for everyone

Climate Change Action Plan 2013–2017

Introduction

The National Trust for Scotland (NTS) adopted its revised [Environmental Policy](#) summary in 2011. The Policy states that in relation to climate change the NTS:

..will take steps to reduce its emissions of greenhouse gases, to identify actions to mitigate the impact of and to adapt to climate change. It will encourage action by others by setting an example at its properties and within the organisation.

To meet these Policy commitments, we have developed a Climate Change Action Plan which sets out how we will mitigate our climate change impact within the organisation and across our directly operated premises¹ for 2013-17. The NTS is committed to playing its part in reaching the Scottish targets set out in the [Climate Change \(Scotland\) Act 2009](#) by reducing our carbon emissions and other environmental impacts.

Building on our role to protect and promote Scotland's natural and cultural heritage for present and future generations to enjoy, we also believe that a significant part of our Climate Change Action Plan should be about education and advocating a change in attitude to adopt low carbon behaviours.

Strategic Objectives

Our impact on climate change is due to the emission of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) and use of non-renewable resources as a result of the NTS's activities. Carbon accounting is the practice of measuring the GHG emissions an organisation generates by expressing them as kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e). CO₂e is a universal unit of measurement that allows the global warming potential of different GHGs to be compared. The NTS will measure its emissions by collecting information on our activities (e.g. litres of fuel used, number of miles driven, tonnes of waste sent to landfill) and using UK Government provided [conversion factors](#) to convert these activities into CO₂e. The NTS's CO₂e emissions are a direct indication of our climate change impact and can be used to track progress towards reducing these emissions.

The NTS Climate Change Action Plan is focused around carbon accounting, specifically:

- Measuring the carbon emissions we are responsible for
- Reducing these emissions
- Reporting these emissions and using our actions to educate and advocate emissions reduction by others

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Specific Actions

To meet the strategic objectives stated above, in the period 2013–2017 the NTS has decided to concentrate its actions in the following areas of activity:

Energy Efficiency and Reduction

- *Establish internal systems to collect energy use data across the NTS*
- *Reduce energy consumption by 20% by 2017 (using 2011/12 levels as the baseline)*
- *Improve the energy efficiency of the NTS building stock*
- *Look into opportunities for increasing the fuel mix at properties and feasibility of generating energy from renewable technologies*

Reduce Travel Emissions and Promote Sustainable Transport

- *Set up internal systems to collect data and set targets to reduce carbon expended on internal business travel*
- *Reduce business travel costs and associated carbon emissions*
- *Investigate opportunities to encourage sustainable visitor and staff travel choices*

Management of Land and Ecosystems with Consideration for Climate Change

- *Plan NTS land management changes (particularly to Moorland) to maximise the contribution to carbon storage and sequestration*
- *Monitor the impacts of climate change on NTS land*
- *Take steps to ensure NTS land and associated natural habitats and species are more resilient to climate change through climate mitigation and adaptation measures*

Increase Resource Efficiency

- *Reduce mains water use by 10% by 2017*
- *Reduce waste going to landfill from properties by 10% by 2017*
- *Ensure compliance with the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012, by end of 2013*
- *Promote recycling at properties through provision of facilities and information*
- *Improve sustainable procurement procedures*

Learning and Sustainable Advocacy

- *Raise awareness amongst staff and visitors of actions in relation to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving environmental sustainability*
- *Develop an advocacy strategy for the NTS's position on climate change*

¹ Note that the Plan relates only to properties that we operate. It includes buildings we lease from others, but excludes buildings we own and let out.

