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Policy Author (s)	Environmental Working Group
Policy Approval	Draft/Approved

Policy Amendment History

Version	Date	Amendment Details	Approved By
1	Mar 2020	Initial Version	Director People & Operations
2	17 Jun 2020	Env Working Group Amendments	Director People & Operations
3	2 Jul 2020	Executive Board Amendments	Director People & Operations; Director Business & Innovation
4	28 Jul 2020	SHE Committee & Science Board Amendments	Director People & Operations
5	26 Aug 2020	Input by Benet Northcote Trustee Director	Director People & Operations
5.1	10 Sept 2020	Para 3.5 amended: EB agreed rewording as proposed by Benet Northcote and EWG	Executive Board
6	03 Nov 2022	Updated strategic goals, removed background details from challenges, added reference to strategic champions and amended environmental advisor to SHE Team with broader reporting remit	Executive Board

1 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this environmental policy is to set out the UKCEH approach to the management of UKCEH environmental impacts in order to:
- improve UKCEH environmental performance with respect to our operational impacts
 - protect and enhance the environment on UKCEH sites, particularly increasing biodiversity and reducing waste;
 - support the achievement of strategic environmental goals.

2 Scope

- 2.1 This policy applies to UKCEH operational sites and all UKCEH People; including employees, post-graduate researchers, contractors and other persons carrying out work on UKCEH premises for, or on behalf of, UKCEH.

3 Policy Statement

- 3.1 The UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology is an independent, not-for-profit research institute carrying out excellent environmental science. We work to understand the environment, how it sustains life, and the human impact on it. We provide the data and insights that governments, businesses and researchers need to create a productive, resilient and healthy environment. Scientific curiosity, integrity and transparency are at the heart of how we work.
- 3.2 We seek to promote the preservation, conservation, protection and improvement of the environment through responsible management of our activities and through the scientific research we undertake. In support of this we implemented an environmental management system in 2010 which is externally certified to ISO 14001:2015. This provides a framework for complying with applicable compliance obligations and setting objectives to continually review and improve our environmental performance.
- 3.3 Our improvement objectives, outlined in Section 4, relate to our charitable objects and research aims, taking into account our significant environmental impacts, and support our core strategic commitments to address three major environmental and societal challenges:

Mitigating and building resilience to climate and environmental change

- 3.4 We are committed to achieving Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions associated with our operational activities. We will seek new ways to reduce our reliance on energy derived from fossil fuels and investigate alternatives to business travel to mitigate our emissions. We recognise some form of emissions offsetting will be required in order to continue providing excellent science to our clients.

Creating and enhancing sustainable ecosystems

- 3.5 We are committed to conserving biodiversity so will continue to develop and implement improvement measures to enable biodiversity to thrive in sites we control, along with supporting the protection and enhancement of ecosystem functions through our scientific research.

Reducing and preventing pollution

- 3.6 We are committed to implementing measures to prevent pollution and minimise environmental impacts from our research and operational activities. We will embed sustainable procurement metrics within our purchasing and finance processes that will consider whole-life costing and prioritising use of consumables with reduced environmental impacts.

4 Strategic Environmental Goals

- Reduce UKCEH reliance on fossil fuels and achieve 'Net Zero' Scope 1 and Scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions by 2040 and associated Scope 3 emissions by 2050
- Demonstrate efficient use of resources and seek to reduce environmental impacts associated with our scientific research, including from business travel
- Embed sustainability considerations within UKCEH financial decision making and procurement processes
- Implement improvement measures across UKCEH sites to support biodiversity, enhance ecosystem services and prevent pollution
- Deliver the sustainability implementation and engagement plan for UKCEH

- 4.1 In order to meet these strategic goals UKCEH has assigned Executive Board Directors as Strategic Champions and developed supporting action plans.

5 Responsibilities

- 5.1 Our environmental management system is regularly reviewed by our Executive, reporting to the UKCEH Board of Trustee Directors, to identify opportunities to continually improve the system in order to enhance our environmental performance. Progress against our goals will be made publicly available within our Annual Report.

- 5.2 The SHE Team is responsible for:

- ensuring this policy aligns with the requirements of ISO 14001:2015
- producing quarterly environmental reports for the Executive and UKCEH Board
- collating environmental reporting information for the UKCEH Annual Report

- 5.3 The Executive Board is responsible for ensuring this policy:

- aligns with UKCEH values
- is implemented, monitored, and communicated within the organisation
- is periodically reviewed to evaluate its continuing effectiveness

- 5.4 All UKCEH People are responsible for seeking ways to minimise any negative environmental impacts from their activities, in line with this Environmental Policy, as supported by UKCEH management.



Professor Mark J Bailey, Executive Director UKCEH

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