



### 3 Policy Statement

The UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH) is an independent, not-for-profit research centre carrying out excellent environmental science with impact. We seek to understand the natural environment, how it sustains life, and the human impact on it so that together, people and nature prosper. Our scientists specialise in investigating, monitoring and modelling environmental change, contributing the evidence-driven solutions needed to create a productive, resilient and healthy environment.

UKCEH is committed to protecting the environment and preventing pollution from our activities. We aim to conserve biodiversity and support the protection and enhancement of ecosystem functions through our scientific research. We ensure that our activities, products and services meet applicable compliance obligations and have implemented a documented Environmental Management System (EMS), certified to ISO14001, committing us to the continual improvement of our environmental performance.

Through the delivery of our independent research, survey, training and knowledge transfer, from our main sites in Wallingford, Bangor, Edinburgh and Lancaster, we have identified the following key activities as having a significant environmental impact:

- **Energy:** UKCEH seeks to minimise the use of non-renewable fuels and to continually seek to reduce energy consumption across our operations. Since 2010 we have reduced energy use at our Wallingford & Edinburgh sites by 29% and moved to 100% green electricity supply.
- **Transport:** UKCEH seeks to reduce the environmental impacts of its travel by the use of alternative communications methods, public transport and a fit-for-purpose, fuel efficient fleet. Since 2015 we have achieved a 49% reduction in CO<sub>2e</sub> emissions from car business travel.
- **Resources & Waste:** UKCEH seeks to reduce total waste generated and the impacts of waste by considering the waste hierarchy throughout its operations and will look to incorporate sustainable procurement measures within purchasing decisions. We consistently send less than 10% of our waste to landfill and have reduced Wallingford & Edinburgh water use by 25% since 2015.

Environmental objectives are set by the UKCEH Executive Board, with oversight from the UKCEH Board, and regularly reviewed to enable us to improve our environmental performance. All staff are made aware of the objectives of the EMS and are expected to adhere to its requirements. Staff are provided with training, education and facilities to help control their environmental impacts in the workplace and to support this policy.

UKCEH displays this policy in reception areas for visitors and communicates this policy to all staff through the Intranet, notice boards and staff induction. Contractors to UKCEH are required to acknowledge and adhere to this policy and the relevant operating procedures. The policy is available on our website.



17/1/20

Mark Bailey, Executive Director UKCEH

December 2019