

NERC ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) is part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and is the UK's main organisation for funding and managing research, training and knowledge in the environmental sciences.

NERC undertakes a diverse range of research projects, tackling major issues such as climate change, environmental influences on human health and the genetic makeup of life. Working internationally, NERC operates from many diverse locations throughout the world, runs a fleet of research ships, aircraft and other infrastructure and invests in satellite technology. NERC operates a number of wholly owned research centres, a number of collaborative centres and also funds research within UK Universities.

NERC recognises the important leadership role it has in managing the impact of its day-to-day operations on the environment and in promoting the principles of sustainability across its investment portfolio.

Through the Environmental Strategy NERC is committed to:

- being a responsible and environmentally conscientious organisation,
- minimising its negative impact on the environment when undertaking its research and operations,
- prevention of pollution,
- continual improvement of its environmental management and performance,
- maintaining ISO14001 certification at all UK wholly owned centres, and
- encouraging our research institutes and partners to adopt best environmental practice.

NERC will achieve best environmental practice by:

- integrating environmental sustainability into strategies, policies and operations,
- complying with applicable environmental legal and other requirements relevant to its operations,
- managing and where possible reducing our carbon emissions in accordance with the NERC Energy Policy,
- promoting the prudent use of natural resources and effective management of waste by adopting the waste hierarchy,
- ensuring adoption of sustainable building practices, construction and operation to ensure we maintain world class research facilities,
- embedding sustainability considerations in travel policies to ensure that the use of sustainable travel options are prioritised,
- working with research partners, other research councils, UKRI, the wider public sector, the higher education sector, all relevant external authorities, environmental bodies and associations to keep up to date with latest developments and to share best practice,
- working with our procurement provider and third parties to ensure adoption of sustainable procurement principles,
- developing staff awareness through training and communication of their impact on the environment and helping them to minimise this,
- managing our sites and facilities to enhance biodiversity in line with the NERC Biodiversity Policy,
- communicating this policy to NERC's community and beyond, and
- setting, reviewing and promoting science based targets and objectives to achieve continual environmental improvement.

NERC will regularly review this policy and ensure that it is fit for purpose and reflects the environmental objectives of the organisation.

Approved by: NERC Operations Group 15th November 2018