

Greening Government Commitments - DECC Performance 2011/12

The Greening Government Commitments (GGCs) are the UK government's commitments for delivering sustainable operations and procurement for the current parliament (to 2014/15). More detail on the GGCs can be found on Defra's Sustainable Development in Government website: <http://sd.defra.gov.uk/gov/green-government/commitments/>

The scope of the department's reporting for the GGCs is the combined data of core DECC and the core Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA). DECC's sustainability performance has been reported in its 2011/12 Annual Report and Accounts at: http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/about/our_goals/annual_reports/annual_reports.aspx

The NDA's organisational sustainability performance has also been reported separately in its 2011/12 Annual Report & Accounts: <https://www.nda.gov.uk/news/arac-2011-2012.cfm>

This document summarises our performance against the GGC targets and transparency commitments for the 2011/12 financial year.

A) Performance against the GGC targets

Target	Baseline (2009/10)	Target	2011/12	% reduction against baseline in 2011/12
GHG Emissions (tonnes)	3,131	2,348	2,319	26%
Number of domestic flights	2,193	1,754	1,171	47%
Water consumption (m ³)	11,108	11,107	11,678	-5%
Water consumption (m ³ /FTE)	6.9	Benchmarks (see below)	7.2	N/A
Waste (tonnes)	228*	171	221	3%
Paper (A4 reams)	7,193	6,474	3,731	48%

* The waste target was rebaselined in August 2012 from 196 tonnes to 228 tonnes to take account of missing data in the baseline year.

GHG Emissions

Target: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25% from a 09/10 baseline from the whole estate and business-related transport.

This year we have achieved a 26% reduction in GHG emissions against the baseline year, which puts us in an excellent position to meet the target, and we have plans in place to ensure that the reductions achieved so far can be maintained, and improved upon where possible.

Domestic Flights

Target: cut domestic business travel flights by 20% by 2015 from a 09/10 baseline.

We have reduced the number of domestic flights by 46.6%, and need to maintain this level.

Water

Target: Reduce water consumption from a 2009/10 baseline, and report on office water use against best practice benchmarks:

- a. $\geq 6 \text{ m}^3$ water consumption per FTE - poor practice
- b. 4 m^3 to 6 m^3 per FTE - good practice
- c. $\leq 4 \text{ m}^3$ per FTE - best practice

Our water use has decreased by 5.5% compared to 2010/11, though it is still up by 5.1% compared to the baseline. This is partially due to some poor efficiency buildings on the NDA estate and an increase in staff numbers in core DECC since the baseline year. The NDA are undertaking estate rationalisation as well as a range of water reduction actions, which should help reduce consumption in 2012/13. Core DECC produced a Water Management Plan this year which aims to bring water use down into the good practice range by 2014/15.

All of our buildings for which we have the data are currently within the poor practice benchmark range of over $6 \text{ m}^3/\text{FTE}$ per year. Three of our buildings are below $7 \text{ m}^3/\text{FTE}$, and so are relatively close to the good practice benchmark. Our overall water use per FTE is $7.2 \text{ m}^3/\text{FTE}$, which is also close to the good practice benchmark.

Waste

Target: Reduce the amount of waste we generate by 25% from a 2009/10 baseline.

Our reported figures show a 3% reduction in waste arising compared to the 2009/10 baseline. This baseline has been adjusted, as we did not have data for confidential waste, toner cartridges or used cooking oil from DECC's London headquarters in the baseline year.

This reduction is mainly as a result of work by the NDA, which undertook a number of waste reduction projects and estate rationalisation projects, which has reduced their total waste generated by 42.5% compared to 2009/10. Core DECC has produced a Waste Management Plan to set out our plans to reduce the amount of waste generated.

Paper Use

Target: Cut paper use by 10% in 2011/12.

DECC have no baseline data for paper use, so our figures for this target only cover the NDA, who have reduced paper use from the equivalent of 7193 reams of A4 in 2009/10 to 3731 reams in 2011/12 – a reduction of 48%.

For more detail on DECC's sustainability performance, please see Annex E of our [Annual Report & Accounts 2011/12](#).

Other Targets and Milestones

Cut emissions from central Government offices by 10% in 2010/11	DECC exceeded this target, achieving a reduction in emissions of more than 21%. NDA were not covered by this target.
Closed loop paper	The majority of copier paper purchased by core DECC is closed loop. All of our confidential waste paper from our London estate feeds into the closed loop process, and we are in the process of moving to this contract for the rest of our paper recycling. NDA are in the process of moving to the Government's closed loop paper contract for supply and disposal.
Sustainable procurement	Whilst it is mandatory in core DECC to use Government Procurement Service frameworks we are exploring the possibility of strengthening our standard terms and conditions, where we procure directly, to include Government Buying Standards. We are also in the process of identifying our greenhouse gas supply chain impacts for 2011/12. The NDA has regard to the Government Procurement Service policy standards and guidance on best practice in procurement, including sustainability. For more detail on DECC's sustainability performance, please see Annex E of our Annual Report & Accounts 2011/12 .

B) Transparency Commitments

Under the GGCs, Government has committed to be open and transparent on the areas below, to increase accountability and to lead by example.

Climate Change Adaptation	Core DECC has a very small estate, mainly comprising two buildings in central London and the main climate change risk to these is from flooding, as both are close to the Thames. Core DECC has a robust Business Continuity Plan to ensure that we can continue to deliver in the face of various interruptions including those presented by environmental incidents. Climate change risks will be will also be considered as part of the development of DECC's longer term accommodation strategy. Please see the Adapting to Climate Change section of the DECC Annual Report & Accounts 2011/12 (pages 49-50) for detail on DECC's work on adapting to climate change. NDA has reported its Climate Change adaptation arrangements in its Annual Report and Accounts 2011/12 .
Biodiversity and Natural Environment	We have no significant direct impact on biodiversity. Neither DECC nor the NDA require a Biodiversity Action Plan as our estate is all office-based.

	<p>However the NDA encourage tenants on their (non-designated) land to participate in environmental stewardship programmes where appropriate. It is also a contractual requirement for the Site Licence Companies managing the NDA's nuclear sites to have in place suitable Biodiversity Action Plans.</p>
Procurement of food and catering services	<p>Core DECC uses Defra's catering contract as a shared service. This contract was awarded on 16 May 2011 and fully complies with the Government Buying Standards for Food and Catering.</p> <p>The NDA catering services provider has a sustainability policy which includes a 'green purchasing policy', incorporating an active effort to find sustainable and responsible suppliers for the sourcing of organic, Fair Trade and sustainable products.</p>
Sustainable Construction	<p>Not applicable. There have been no new builds or major renovations in DECC in 2011/12.</p> <p>When the NDA is involved in small refurbishment works it has regard to relevant government standards and guidance for building works (e.g. from Defra's Sustainable Development Unit).</p>
People	<p>DECC takes the wellbeing of its staff seriously. Core DECC provides a 24-hour confidential counselling and advice. It has established a cycle to work scheme and operates its own gym for staff and has several clubs and societies. Please see the DECC Annual Report & Accounts for further information on Wellbeing (p43) and Health & Safety (p48).</p> <p>DECC has a volunteering policy, allowing staff to undertake up to two days volunteering activity per year. In 2012, London based staff are also permitted to carry over any unused volunteering leave (a maximum of two days) from 2011 for use during the Olympic period.</p> <p>NDA have been promoting the health and well being of their staff as they are one of its critical resources. It has established Health Promotion Campaigns which will be delivered on a quarterly basis promoting health and well being on a variety of topics. Further information can be found in NDA's Annual Report and Accounts (link above). It has also arranged for an Employee Assistance Programme (EAP), which is intended to help employees deal with personal problems that might adversely impact their work performance, health, and wellbeing.</p>