

National Library of Scotland

Sustainable Development Policy

1. Aim

The National Library of Scotland recognises that its operations and practices have an impact on society and on the environment and is fully committed to ensure that its activities take account of the need to support social, economic and environmental sustainable development practices both locally and globally.

The Library operations and activities include but are not restricted to energy usage, water consumption, waste production, travel, work patterns and those of its supply chain.

The Library adopts the following definition of sustainable development:

'to enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations'.

2. Purpose

The purpose of sustainable development is to assist the Library to:

- Meet its statutory compliance obligations and act within the law
- Minimise the impact of its operations and activities on society and the environment
- Protect its assets, resources and its reputation
- Preserve and enhance service delivery
- Perpetuate continuous improvement.

3. Principles

The National Library of Scotland will seek to implement the principles of sustainable development within the following specific areas:

Compliance and environmental legislation

The Library will aim to comply with all relevant and applicable sustainable development legislation, regulations and environmental codes of practices.

Policy development

The Library will endeavour to prioritise sustainable development issues within its policies and practices in relation to their social, economic and environmental impacts.

Reporting

The Library will gather information on the baseline position, monitor performance and report to the Library Leadership Team, its Board, the Government and the public on its progress in meeting targets and on the measures being implemented to enhance sustainable development.

Energy and its resources

The Library will optimise the efficient and effective use of energy, water, natural resources and support the use of energy from sustainable renewable sources.

Waste and water management

The Library will actively promote waste minimisation within its workplaces and encourage reduction, by managing demand, re-use or recycling where practicable.

Transport and travel

The Library will encourage the use of sustainable transport by its employees, users and suppliers. It will seek to minimise unnecessary or environmentally damaging movement of people and goods.

Responsible purchasing

The Library is committed to ensuring, where reasonable, that the procurement of goods, services and construction works, brings improvements to the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the local and wider community.

Communication

The Library will encourage and develop all staff, partners and key stake holders in both the private and public sectors to work in an environmentally responsible manner.

Review

The Library will continually review its practices to minimise its impact on the environment and to identify improved sustainable development ways of working.

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