

OSCR Environmental Strategy 2022-2023



1. Our role

We are the independent regulator and registrar for Scotland's 25,000 charities. We grant charitable status, monitor registered charities, identify and act where we believe misconduct including mismanagement has occurred.

We are a non-ministerial office of the Scottish Administration, operating independently of the Scottish Government and reporting directly to the Scottish Parliament. All charities in Scotland must be registered with us and must meet annual reporting requirements to keep their status. We are an enabling regulator and offer a wide range of services to support and encourage improvement within the Scottish charity sector.

2. Our purpose and values

We hold charities in Scotland to account and help the charity sector to improve so that the public have trust and confidence in them.

Our values drive what we do, how we interact with each other, and how we work together and with others to achieve results. Our values are:

- Independent
- Proportionate
- Accountable
- Transparent
- Consistent
- Fair
- Targeted
- Informed

3. Our Vision

OSCR's vision is for a trusted and respected Scottish charity sector which positively contributes to society.

4. Our strategic outcomes

Our outcomes as set out in our [Corporate Plan 2020-23](#) are:

- The public have confidence in charities
- Charities are well run and thriving
- Charities are at the heart of a vibrant and sustainable Scotland
- The Scottish Charity Regulator is a highly effective organisation

5. New ways of working

Like many other organisations around the world in March 2020 our work was deeply impacted by the global pandemic and staff transitioned from the office to home working while maintaining continuation of business and services for stakeholders.

Covid 19 has had a lasting impact on how we work and where we work. Since April 2022, we have adopted a hybrid approach which involves our colleagues working in the office for a minimum of 2 days per week and working remotely for the remainder of the time. The majority of our events are now delivered online, and meetings are usually virtual via MS Teams. Consequently, our demand for office based commodities such as stationery, ink and printer paper has reduced significantly since 2020, as has the time spent by our staff on travel.

OSCR is a cycle friendly employer and has many facilities including cycle racks, storage areas and showers for colleagues to use. Staff can participate in the Scottish Government's Cycle to Work Scheme which allows staff to hire a bike and safety equipment with an option to purchase at the end of a 12 month period.

6. Our building

Although we are a Scotland-wide regulator, OSCR is a relatively small organisation, based in a single office located on the second floor of Quadrant House, on Dundee's Riverside Drive. Quadrant House is a leased property and is shared between OSCR, the Care Inspectorate (CI) and the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). Heating, lighting, water, and waste collection are provided on a building-wide basis, and are managed through a shared service contract by a facilities manager employed by the Care Inspectorate.

Our small size and consequently our relatively low carbon emissions, together with the shared services we use, mean that opportunities for emissions reductions are limited. Nevertheless, we are keen to demonstrate our commitment as a public body and to take action.

7. Managing this strategy and our public reporting duties

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 is the key driver for our improved environmental and sustainability performance, and as a publicly funded body we

have a responsibility to lead by example, and influence how Scotland performs in terms of reducing carbon emissions.

Overall responsibility for this strategy rests with OSCR's Head of Corporate, but our Board and staff team are committed to delivering the carbon reduction targets set out in this strategy, and will play an integral part in delivery.

We monitor and report on carbon emissions to the Scottish Government, and our data is published on the Sustainable Scotland Network website. You can read our latest report [here](#).

8. Our biodiversity duties

As a Scottish public body, we have a statutory duty to further the conservation of biodiversity:

“It is the duty of every public body and office holder, in exercising any functions, to further the conservation of biodiversity so far as it is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions” The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004

The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011, places a duty on us to make a report publicly available retrospectively, every three years on our compliance with the biodiversity duty. You can read our 2017-20 report [here](#).

Our 2023 report, which will be published next year, will provide information on our latest performance in this area.

9. Environmental objectives

Our objectives reflect our current hybrid operating environment.

We will:

1. Continue to use MS Teams for connecting with stakeholders in the majority of cases
2. Continue to move more services for our stakeholders, online
3. Continue to offer a calendar of online events
4. Encourage energy efficient behaviour in the work place and at home
5. Meet our public reporting duties
6. Look at the most efficient use of our physical workspace by undertaking a planning exercise aimed at optimising accommodation use.

10. How will we know if we have been successful?

We will:

1. Have increased our online services to our stakeholders as a result of the launch of our new OSCR online system, and additional planned improvements
2. Maintained our current level of interactions using MS Teams
3. Maintained our low travel levels
4. Have met our public sector climate change reporting duties reducing need for travel significantly
5. Have increased our staff's awareness of climate change and sustainability, both within the office and at home
6. Made further reductions in the use of paper and office supplies

11. Reviewing this Plan

This plan will be reviewed each year in line with Scottish Government (SG) priorities.