

NOC Policy ISSUE: Final Date 26/02/16 Page 1 of 1	<h1 style="margin: 0;">NOC</h1> <h2 style="margin: 0;">Environment Policy</h2>	
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NOC Environment Policy

The National Oceanography Centre (NOC), is wholly owned by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). This policy covers the activities of NOC at its research sites in Liverpool and Southampton. In addition, this policy covers the research and teaching activities of the University of Southampton at the Southampton site.

NOC is the national focus for oceanography in the UK with a remit to achieve scientific excellence while minimising the negative environmental impact of its research activities. NOC is committed to being an environmentally responsible and environmentally conscientious organisation (Taking the Lead, 2013).

NOC recognises the important role it has in managing the impact of its day-to-day operations on the environment and in promoting the principles of sustainability. The Centre's research and teaching activities have many positive environmental impacts; through provision of a greater understanding to the natural environment and the impact of human interaction.

NOC is committed to:


- Maintaining and enhancing the quality of the Centre's environment, for all who work at the Centre, and for the wider NOC community;
- The prevention of pollution and protection of the environment;
- The continual improvement of its environmental performance and management through the regular setting and review of targets and objectives;
- Complying with applicable environmental legal and other requirements relevant to its operations.
- Maintaining an Environmental Management System certified to ISO14001 standard.

NOC is committed to achieving environmental good practice throughout its activities by:

- Seeking to identify significant environmental aspects and minimisation of negative impact through relevant policies and procedures
- Minimising the negative environmental impact of our research and teaching activities through effective management and planning, including our impact on the marine environment
- Providing ongoing radiation management at the Southampton site
- Active management of energy and water consumption to ensure efficient use
- Promoting the prudent use of natural resources and the minimisation of waste through working with staff, students, visitors, tenants, suppliers and contractors
- Implementing a travel plan that informs and encourages staff, students and visitors to consider their travel options for both commuting and business travel
- Promoting the benefits of wildlife conservation and enhancement of biodiversity onsite
- Working with staff and external partners to keep up to date with latest developments and to share best practice in environmental management;
- Providing appropriate information and training to staff, students, tenants and contractors to ensure they are aware of and competent to control the environmental impact of their activities
- Promoting awareness to its staff and students of the impact they have on the environment and help them to minimise their negative impact;
- Communicating this Policy to the Centre's community and beyond.
- Planning for climate change through Centre adaptation and taking mitigation measures to minimise carbon emissions

All procedures and files associated with the Environmental Management System will be controlled by the associated Document Management System. All documents will be legible, dated and readily available to all staff and students.

The NOC Executive Director will review this policy and its execution annually and ensure that corrective and preventative actions are taken to ensure it is continually improved and updated.



Ed Hill, Executive Director
Version 4, February 2016

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