



Environment Policy

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Version 3.0

All NOC Policies and Procedures apply to NOC Innovations unless otherwise stated.

Document Control

Version	Date	Author(s)	Comment	Approval
1.0	1/10/2019	L Rennison	Final	BOC
2.0	03/12/2020	L Porter	Review	BOC
2.1	13/10/2023	G Heeley	Review, template change, job title changes to include SSR advisor	BOC
2.2	24/014/2024	J Willis	Split statement, adjusted roles and responsibilities and updated associated document links.	BOC
3.0	Sept 2025	Governance Team	Strategy Update	

Policy Owner: Director of Operations

Updates: The effectiveness of policies and procedures is monitored on an ongoing basis. This ensures that regulatory/legal change, incident occurrence and/or stakeholder engagement is considered and incorporated as the policy owner may deem necessary. Additionally, NOC's policy framework and procedure are subject to an effectiveness review every 3 years, records of which will be kept by the Legal & Governance Team. For further information please contact NOC_governance@noc.ac.uk

Deletion Date: When a policy is superseded or no longer required.

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1. Scope

This policy covers the activities of the National Oceanography Centre (NOC) at its research sites in Liverpool and Southampton. In addition, this policy covers the research and teaching activities of the University of Southampton and tenants at the Southampton site.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to demonstrate the NOC's commitment 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.

3. Policy

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

- Seeking to identify significant environmental aspects and minimising the negative environmental impact of our research and teaching activities through effective management and planning, including our impact on the marine environment
- Providing effective 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 minimisation of waste through working with staff, students, visitors, tenants, and contractors
- Seeking to minimise the negative environmental impact of purchasing through the adoption of sustainable procurement principles
- 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 the latest developments and to share the 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 of its staff and students of the impact they have on the environment and helping 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

4. Roles and Responsibilities

4.1 Director of Operations

Leads on Environmental Management within the directorate team. Overall responsibility for the NOC EMS resides with the Chief Executive Officer of NOC.

4.2 Head of Funding Assurance & Corporate Responsibility

Provides leadership and strategic direction for the Environmental Management System (EMS) and reports environmental performance annually to the board via the Environmental Management Review.

4.3 CSR Advisor & Environmental Lead

Responsible for establishing, implementing, maintaining the EMS and legal compliance in accordance with ISO 14001 requirements, leads ISO 14001 re-certification processes and reports environmental performance to the Head of FACR.

4.4 Environmental Assistant

Supports the day-to-day maintenance of the EMS, including administrative tasks, ISO 14001 certification activities, legal compliance monitoring, and continuous improvement initiatives.

4.5 Estates Team

Responsible for embedding sustainability practices in current and future building projects, and to establish, implement and manage NOCs decarbonisation roadmap.

4.6 Internal Auditors

Assess whether the EMS conforms to ISO 14001 requirements and is effectively implemented and maintained.

4.7 Operations Committee, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Committee, and Environment Advisory Group

These groups must be consulted prior to any decisions or actions related to the EMS to ensure appropriate oversight of the EMS.

See [EMS103 RACI Agreement.xlsx](#) for detailed roles and responsibilities.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

5.1 The effectiveness of the Environment Policy will be reviewed by the Operations Committee every 3 years or after any major concern. The Environment Policy is subject to approval by the Operations Committee.

5.2 External audits of EMS effectiveness, including this policy, occur annually by accredited third-party auditors.

6. Associated Documents

6.1 All EMS-related procedures and files will be controlled by the Document Management System. Documents will be legible, dated, and accessible to staff and students.

6.2 These documents are held by the Funding Assurance & Corporate Responsibility (FACR) team and are available via the EMS documentation library.