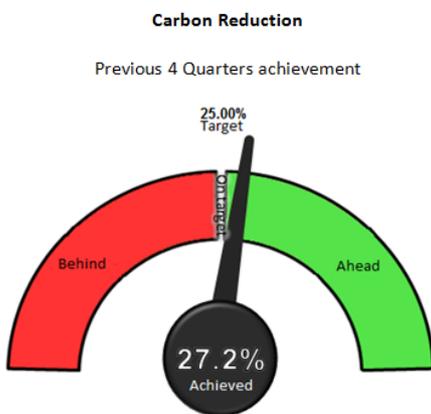




## Greening Government Commitments: Defra's Performance 2015-16 & Baseline

### September 2015

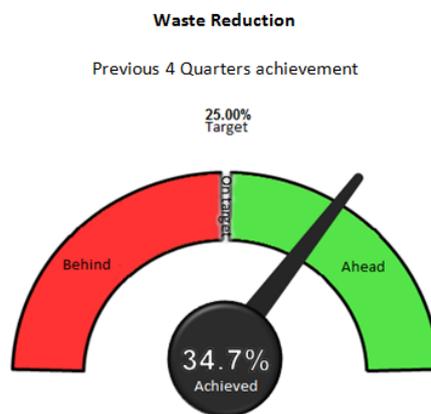
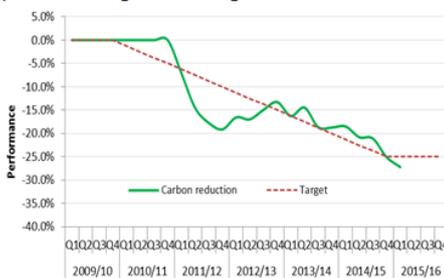
#### Defra's Greening Government Commitment Dashboard



The milestone for measuring achievement in the last 4 quarters was to reduce carbon dioxide by 25% compared to the baseline.

**GGC Target: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25% from baseline from the whole estate and business-related transport**

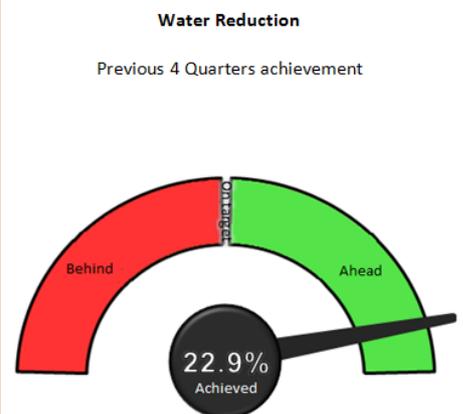
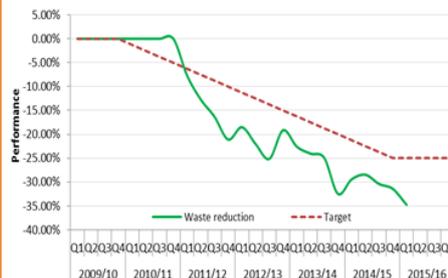
The chart below shows the department's ongoing performance against this target.



The milestone for measuring achievement in the last 4 quarters was to reduce waste arisings by 25% compared to the baseline.

**GGC Target: Reduce the amount of waste we generate by 25% from baseline**

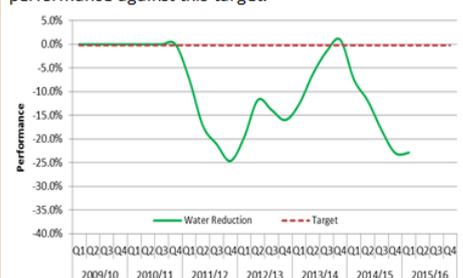
The chart below shows the department's ongoing performance against this target.



The milestone for measuring achievement in the last 4 quarters was to make a reduction in water consumption compared to the baseline.

**GGC Target: Reduce water consumption from baseline**

The chart below shows the department's ongoing performance against this target.



Time period		CO <sub>2</sub> from buildings (Tonnes)	CO <sub>2</sub> from domestic travel (Tonnes)	Waste (Tonnes)	Water from all buildings (m <sup>3</sup> )	Number of Domestic Flights
<b>Total Baseline data</b>		<b>107,521</b>	<b>26,419</b>	<b>8,454</b>	<b>711,610</b>	<b>3,351</b>
2011/12 Q1	<i>Apr - Jun</i>	19,231	4,754	1,464	125,963	Data not available by quarter
2011/12 Q2	<i>Jul - Sep</i>	18,266	5,291	1,687	107,424	
2011/12 Q3	<i>Oct - Dec</i>	23,928	5,224	1,810	150,281	
2011/12 Q4	<i>Jan - Mar</i>	26,344	5,291	1,709	152,729	
2012/13 Q1	<i>Apr – Jun</i>	21,222	5,102	1,716	160,663	Full dataset not available
2012/13 Q2	<i>Jul - Sep</i>	17,247	5,278	1,396	175,488	
2012/13 Q3	<i>Oct - Dec</i>	24,248	6,284	1,545	124,229	
2012/13 Q4	<i>Jan - Mar</i>	25,045	5,639	2,305	137,616	
2013/14 Q1	<i>Apr – Jun</i>	18,376	4,471	1,395	184,927	640
2013/14 Q2	<i>Jul - Sep</i>	19,715	5,111	1,264	208,912	642
2013/14 Q3	<i>Oct - Dec</i>	21,180	4,961	1,474	169,393	920
2013/14 Q4	<i>Jan - Mar</i>	27,884	5,937	1,579	155,135	926
2014/15 Q1	<i>Apr – Jun</i>	19,504	4,247	1,651	124,894	886
2014/15 Q2	<i>Jul – Sep</i>	17,535	4,806	1,345	177,289	736
2014/15 Q3	<i>Oct - Dec</i>	20,316	5,539	1,310	125,732	1,246
2014/15 Q4	<i>Jan - Mar</i>	23,936	4,481	1,492	120,279	544
2015/16 Q1	<i>Apr – Jun</i>	16,761	4,148	1,369	125,481	482

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### **Why is there no data for 2010/11?**

The Greening Government Commitments were only introduced in 2011, the first quarter that departments reported was Quarter one 2011/12

### **Why is the baseline data not split into quarters?**

Most of the baseline data is taken from 2009/10. At this time some data were only being captured on an annual basis. Furthermore, the targets set out in the Greening Government Commitments state that the targets will be measured by comparing the year 2014/15 against the baseline data.

### **Why does output sometimes spike up when it should be going down?**

This is usually due to seasonality, caused by cold weather. However, because Defra's estate incorporates a number of scientific laboratory and research facilities, the changeable workload on these sites can create fluctuations in the data.

### **When was the 'baseline' year?**

The Greening Government Commitments states that the baseline data should come from 2009/10. However, where this was not available, is substituted from a subsequent year, i.e. 2010/11 or 2011/12.

### **Where can I find more information on the greening government commitments?**

<http://sd.defra.gov.uk/gov/green-government/commitments/>

### **Which bodies are included in the scope of Defra's performance?**

This report includes data from the following Defra Network bodies: Core Defra; Animal and Plant Health Agency; Food & Environment Research Agency. Centre for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture Science; Rural Payments Agency; Natural England; Marine Management Organisation; Veterinary Medicines Directorate; RBG Kew; Environment Agency and Forestry Commission. This scope aligns to the Greening Government Commitments requirement for all bodies which occupy 1000m<sup>2</sup> floor space or have 250 employees to report against the targets.

### **Why does travel data only include domestic travel?**

The Greening Government Commitments only requires departments to report on travel within the UK. Therefore, flights and train travel that go to destinations outside the UK are not included here.

### **Have the Greening Government Commitments been extended?**

Yes. The targets have not altered, but the delivery of the targets has been programmed to continue throughout 2015/16.

# Defra Greening Government Commitments: Transparency Commitments

## Overview

Defra comprises a number of Network Bodies which undertake diverse activities ranging from policy development and environmental compliance, land and flood management and research into marine, plant and animal disease. Energy and water usage is by necessity, higher in these specialist areas, which makes management of the Department's estate and operations in these areas more complex.

- The Defra Annual Report and Account contains a sustainability annex outlining the Department's performance and commitment to sustainability. The report can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/search?q=Defra+annual+report+account>
- The Government's sustainable development pages can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/sustainable-development>.
- Defra is a participant in the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme and EU Emissions Trading System. Details of these schemes can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/crc-energy-efficiency-scheme-qualification-and-registration> and <https://www.gov.uk/participating-in-the-eu-ets>.
- Defra also reports on its property performance through the Pan-Government 'State of the Estate' report. Further details can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/state-of-the-estate-2013>.

## Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)

- **The Environment Agency** are continuing to deliver adaptation commitments made in the national adaptation programme and in our 2011 report under the Climate Change Act. We are updating the latter and intend to submit our second report to ministers in autumn 2015. Defra has extended funding for the Climate Ready Support Service and this will continue to provide adaptation advice to local government, infrastructure and other priority national sectors. The service also supports local adaptation through funding Climate UK and local climate change partnerships.

## Biodiversity and Natural Environment

- **Core Defra & Its Executive Agencies** maintain biodiversity at some sites (Worcester (Animal and Plant Health Agency APHA, Natural England NE), Sand Hutton (Food and Environment Research Agency FERA) and Barton Hall (APHA) sites) through a network of colleagues with specialist biodiversity skills who volunteer their time to help manage the grounds around the properties (hedgerows, ponds and meadows) to encourage habitats and local plant species. Core Defra also actively manages the remediation of land used for Foot & Mouth burial sites, working with wildlife trusts to maintain the land as nature reserves, encouraging indigenous species and habitats.
- **The Environment Agency**, operate a principle that landholdings should be managed for maximum environmental benefit, where possible, and environmentally important sites are managed in an appropriate way.  
Parts of 144 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) across England, are owned by the Environment Agency. There are 51 SSSIs where all of the owned land is in a favourable condition. 3,546 ha of SSSI land-holding is in favourable condition which

equates to 77 % of Environment Agency's SSSI land in England. A further 824 ha (18%) is recovering. *Data source: ENSIS (Natural England's SSSI site information system) on 7 April 2015.* In addition, during the construction of flood alleviation schemes opportunities are taken to create habitats and enhance biodiversity.

Examples of remedies for SSSIs in 2014/15 include diffuse water pollution plans for Walmore Common (Gloucestershire), King's Sedgemoor (Somerset) and Tealham and Tadham Moors (Somerset).

## Procurement of Food and Catering Services

- **Core Defra and its Executive Agencies'** catering contract requires the catering provider to comply with a number of clauses which support the Department's commitment to sustainability. These include:
  - Food will be procured from sustainable sources which promote high standards of animal health and welfare, protect food safety and make a significant contribution to rural communities; and
  - The catering provider will support a low carbon food system which uses resources efficiently and ensures that waste is minimised.

This commitment requires the catering provider to ensure that the origins and provenance of main food ingredients, including assurance standards and other sustainability criteria shall be highlighted on menus. The catering provider is also required to report on progress to meet the targets and how it is complying with the minimum standards of the Government Buying standards related to food procurement and how it adheres to the Government Buying standard on Timber where wood products are used.

Defra has also pledged support for the WRAP Hospitality and Food Service Agreement. This is a voluntary agreement to support the sector in reducing waste and recycling more. Targets to reduce food and associated packaging waste by 5% and increase recycling of these waste streams by 5% have been agreed with the Department's catering provider.

- **The Environment Agency** has a single catering supplier, which provides consistent catering and hospitality across our catered sites in England. Four of the sites are zero subsidy, with the remaining receiving a low level of subsidy. Due to a reduction in customer numbers at the restaurants at 2 sites, the catering supplier will sell a reduced offer of food options at those sites, which require fewer kitchen staff/hours to prepare and sell the food.

The Environment Agency's catering supplier works with its supply chain to ensure all UK production standards are met and certification is held wherever applicable. The supplier ensures, when sourcing products of a particular assurance, their supply chain demonstrates a chain of custody and is certified to do so. For example, all eggs are free range and RSPCA Freedom Farm assured.

Over the last year the Environment Agency has worked with its supplier to reduce the environmental impacts of their catering activities. Packaging used for sandwiches is now 100% recyclable.

The catering suppliers serve British meat, including bacon and lamb, supporting the domestic economy and farming. All fish is sustainably sourced and dolphin friendly – tuna is line and pole caught.

To support Environment Agency staff in following a healthy balanced diet the catering

supplier has introduced the 'Less than...' range – foods which stay within a specified calorie band to help inform choices and provide a variety of healthy foods.

- **Natural England** has implemented a number of policies around the procurement of food and catering services which integrate value for money and streamlining procurement with supporting production and environmental standards where this does not lead to an overall increase in costs. These policies range from a moratorium on the use of bottled water, through to a Sustainable Food and Catering Policy which covers both in-house catering, events and functions.

### Sustainable Construction

- **Core Defra and its Executive Agencies** have not undertaken any construction projects in 2014/15 that have been eligible for BREEAM assessment. Any contractors working on Defra properties are required to provide environmental policy statements to affirm their compliance with Environmental legislation. All waste/demolition material is recycled where possible.

- **The Environment Agency** has not undertaken any building refurbishments or new builds which have qualified for BREEAM in 2014/15. The majority of our construction works are civil engineering requirements.

A Workplace Design Guide (WDG) is applied to all office refurbishments and new builds and sets out the design principles of all Environment Agency offices. It includes the environmental standards and design objectives that contribute towards the efficiency and consistency of the design stage and fit out of any refurbishment project. Furthermore, the WDG continues to develop and during 2015/16 additional standards on server and incident rooms will also be added. These will define the corporate approach to cooling and emergency power supplies to these areas, both of which have a significant impact on energy consumption in these areas.

July 2013 saw the launch of the Environment Agency's Water and Environment Management (WEM) Framework to support delivery of the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management capital programme. This Framework has been set up with the aspiration of ensuring suppliers and partners who deliver work on behalf of the Environment Agency share a commitment to sustainability and green construction practices. Clauses incorporated into the WEM Framework to ensure it delivers sustainable and green outcomes include:

- adopting a zero waste principle as far as practicable and following the 'Waste Hierarchy'. Ensuring less than 20% of waste goes to landfill;
- commitment to use recycled or renewable materials and products ahead of virgin;
- commitment to ensure at least 81% of aggregates purchased for Environment Agency Projects are from recycled sources;
- ensuring all timber purchased for Environment Agency projects are from legal and sustainable sources; and
- reducing, monitoring and reporting water usage on sites from abstraction, mains water and bowsers.

The carbon cap for concrete developed in 2012/13 has been introduced through the WEM Framework and a cap of 250kg/m<sup>3</sup> is in place for Framework projects. A decision making flow chart has been developed for suppliers to support their decisions in using concrete.

### People

- **Core Defra and its Executive Agencies** offer a number of support mechanisms and wellbeing activities. These have included:
  - Best Practice across the Department is shared through an active Wellbeing

network;

- Launch of a Break the Stigma employee-led group which offers support and aims to raise awareness on mental health issues;
  - Access to physical activities such as Defra Network Sports Day, the cross Government '6DA' Sports Challenge and subsidised Gyms in some locations. The Department also signed up to the Civil Service Physical Activity Challenge and participated in the Charity for Civil Servants Walking Challenge which encourages people to walk 10,000 steps a day;
  - Flexible working policies allowing a better work-life balance and encouraging and supporting volunteering;
  - All employees have access to Occupational Health Services and an Employee Assistance Programme providing access to advice and counselling;
  - Calendar of wellbeing events based on national and organisational campaigns delivered using comms, events, speakers and workshops;
  - 'Know Your Numbers' health kiosk events touring 15 sites with over 2000 employees attending. Positive feedback received and increased awareness of common health issues; and
  - Workplace Stress Framework to enable managers and employees to carry out simple 'wellbeing reviews' based on the HSE Management Standards for Stress.
- **Natural England** promote a Flexible Working Policy to enable staff to achieve a better work life balance. An annual Staff Survey covers a number of wellbeing issues which are supported by action plans to address particular issues. A Diversity & Equality network of Champions promote equality and diversity across the business. Staff achievements are recognised and rewarded through the annual "Graftas" awards.
  - **Environment Agency's** wellbeing area of focus for the coming year is being *Fit for the future*. Supporting this are a set of 'Big Conversations' across the organisation looking at how we can all be safe and well.

A second stage of the 'Healthy Minds' programme with a phase for all staff will run in July 2015, and a phase specifically for line managers starting in October 2015.

Objectives of the programme are:

- Increasing confidence for all staff to talk about mental health;
- promoting mental health awareness for line managers;
- promoting upcoming workshops for Line Managers' from October onwards; and
- leadership in diversity being visible and allowing all staff to fulfil their potential.

This will lead to:

- More people having the confidence to spot emotional distress in themselves and others;
- More people feeling confident in understanding how to help themselves and others;
- More people having the confidence to talk about mental health without fear of stigma; and
- More people having the confidence to access support.

The Environment Agency are working on the Defra shared framework procurement for eye care, and also for ergonomic assessment and solutions to create further efficiencies in service delivery.

- **Forestry Commission** has support systems to provide advice for those affected by changes and relocations. Processes and procedures are in place to monitor and

report any welfare issues staff may have during transitions across the organisation.