

Document Reference No.	-	A00340-02-030
Document Version No.	-	V1.0
Document Type	-	Policy
Document Title	-	Environmental Policy

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Date of Next Review	-	01.04.14	
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Environmental Policy

1. Purpose

Scottish Canals wish to conserve and enhance the environment of the waterways as an essential part of achieving its vision. It is the quality and sustainability of the waterway environment that will attract people to them and ensure they become increasingly valued as a national asset.

2. Definition

Our environment covers the physical world that is common to everybody including air, water, land, flora and fauna. Our principles address the whole of the environment and our interaction directly or through our business activities with it.

3. A working, living inland waterway network

- 3.1 SC's waterways are used for navigation and general recreation. It therefore seeks to integrate the needs of those who visit and use the network with the actions needed to conserve the wildlife which contributes to the amenity of the waterways.
- 3.2 SC aims to become the acknowledged expert in achieving the most sustainable integration of the competing needs and uses of the waterways. Compliance with legislation and regulation is a minimum requirement. We will always aim to exceed this position, continually improve our performance and consistently achieve good practice.
- 3.3 Where balances and judgements have to be made between competing resources and conflicting activities, we will take the long term and strategic view. In doing so, we will endeavour to favour the conservation of the environment.
- 3.4 Scottish Canals are committed to reducing the use of non-renewable resources by utilising resource efficiency/waste minimisation to ensure the use of raw materials, energy and water are monitored and controlled.
- 3.5 Compliance with Corporate Social Responsibility environmental issues, such as, timber procurement shall be measured through objectives and targets.
- 3.6 Diversion of waste from landfill in compliance with the Scottish Government targets set in the Zero Waste Plan
- 3.7 SC will carefully manage its environmental impact by the prevention of potentially polluting activities.
- 3.8 Regular review of its policies, procedures and systems will ensure that SC's environmental practices and performance reflect any changes in business circumstances, relevant legal requirement and customer expectation. SC will use the principles of environmental management systems. In particular measures taken to ensure high standards of environmental performance will be verifiable and auditable.
- 3.9 We will promote best practices amongst our employees, contractors, suppliers, customers and partners. We will seek suppliers, contractors and partners with standards consistent with our own.
- 4.0 This policy is available to all Scottish Canals employees and is freely available to members of the public.