

Climate Change Duties Report

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform and update members about SEStran's responsibilities, as a public body, in relation to the Climate Change Act (Scotland) 2009.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In 2015, the Reporting on Climate Change Duties (Scotland) Order 2015 came into force, which required specified Public Bodies, including RTPs, to prepare annual reports on compliance with climate change duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.
- 2.2 This legislation is managed and coordinated on behalf of the Scottish Government by the Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN) team at the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation.

3. REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 SEStran has reported annual emissions figures since 2015 and implemented a range of policies to reduce the impact from the workings of the organisation.
- 3.2 For the reporting year 2021/22 SEStran total emissions was 3.39 tCO₂e, due to members of staff mainly working from home as a result of the global pandemic and the hybrid working environment. A breakdown of emissions is detailed within the appended report.
- 3.3 Future reporting will reflect progress in achieving the target outlined in appendix 1.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The Board are invited to note the content of the report.

Hattie James
Project Officer
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Appendix 1: SEStran Carbon Emissions Reporting

Policy Implications	None
Financial Implications	None
Equalities Implications	None
Climate Change Implications	As detailed in Appendix 1 of this report.

The table below summarises the Carbon Emissions produced by SEStran throughout 2021-22.

SEStran Carbon Emissions Reporting 2021-22

Emission Source	Consumption data	Units	Emission Factor	Units	Emissions (tCO ₂ e)
Scope 1 (direct emissions)					0.00
Scope 2 (energy indirect)					0.00
Scope 3 (other indirect)					
Short-haul flights (average passenger)	1984.32	km	0.15353	kgCO ₂ e/km	0.3
Rail (National Rail)	83.69	km	0.03549	kgCO ₂ e/km	0.0
Car - petrol (average)	547.18	km	0.17431	kgCO ₂ e/km	0.12
Car – diesel (average)	151.28	km	0.16843	kgCO ₂ e/km	0.0
Staff Travel to Work	1631.35	km	various	kg CO ₂ e/km	0.27
Working from Home	90.6	Percentage of total FTEs home-based	0.3	tCO ₂ e/FTE/annum	2.7
SEStran TOTAL				Tonnes CO₂e	3.39

The table above illustrates SEStran carbon emissions for 2021-22 against the relevant reportable emission categories. Since the relocation of SEStran to Victoria Quay in 2016, no report is made for scope 1 and 2 emissions that would otherwise be included in the Scottish Government building report.

Due to the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 and Scottish Government restrictions introduced in March 2020, 90.6% of SEStran full time equivalent (FTE) staff was working from home for the duration of the reporting period 2021-22. In light of that, a default emission factor as advised by the SSN Guidance on Completing Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Annual Report 2020/21 has been applied to calculate emissions associated with staff working from home.

The table below details the annual change since relocating to Victoria Quay. Due to the impact of COVID-19 it is hard to see the year-to-year comparisons. The table below shows the emissions purely related to business travel, including European travel but excluding staff travel to work and working from home.

Reporting Year	Tonnes CO2e
2016-17 *	7.138
2017-18	5.241
2018-19	7.227
2019-20	7.312
2020-21	0.062
2021-22	0.42

*SEStran moved to Victoria Quay

In accordance with SNN guidance, it is recommended that a base year and a target is used to monitor reduction of emissions. Accordingly, SEStran aim to reduce emissions by 50% by 2030. SEStran will use 2016-2017 as a base year as that is the first year situated in Victoria Quay. This will be achieved by reducing the km travelled via business travel.

SEStran are setting a target to reduce their total tonnes of CO2e to 3.1 by 2030.

During 2021-22, SEStran staff adopted a hybrid working policy, and 90.6% of work was done from home online, including project meetings using software such as Microsoft Teams. There was minimal business travel that took place in relation to project work that had to be carried out in person. All other business travel, including travelling for EU project meetings, was replaced by remote working and online meetings. It should be noted that European travel has recommenced following the removal of restrictions.

Emission Source	No of Trips	Travel Distance	Difference on 20-21
Domestic flights	0	0 km	0 km
Short-haul flights	1	1233 km	∧ 1233 km
Rail	1	52 km	∧ 52 km
Car	**	698 km	∧ 341 km
Bus	0	0 km	0 km
Taxi	0	0 km	0 km
Cycle	**	0 km	0 km

** Use of personal vehicles and cycles is captured by mileage only and not by trip number.

Staff Travel to Work

Staff travel to work is calculated on assumptions of normal staff travel patterns if working in the office. This takes account of annual leave, periods of absence, and prearranged days working from home. This results in an estimated emission total that will be higher than the actual total emission for this category.

The reporting period saw staff working from home 90.6% of the time, in line with Scottish Government COVID-19 restrictions, resulting in lower emissions associated with staff travel to work for the reporting period compared to previous years. SEStran operates flexible working practices and promotes the sustainable travel hierarchy where appropriate.

TOTALS	Emissions kg CO2e	Distance km
Car	270.96	1554.50
Passenger	0.00	0.00
Rail	0.00	0.00
Bus	0.00	0.00
Cycle	0.00	76.85
Walk	0.00	0.00
TOTALS	270.96	1631.35