Environmental Performance Report

2018
Environmental performance report 2018

As a Professional Institution championing good environmental practice, we are committed to ensuring that our own operations take place in a way which minimises their environmental impacts. This is a priority commitment in the CIWEM Corporate Plan.

Over recent years, we have made sure that our publications and promotional literature and materials are printed on 100% recycled paper, where possible using vegetable-based inks and biodegradable carriers.

Our journal publishers Wiley have accredited environmental management systems in place and have assessed the carbon impact of the transportation of their publications with a view to improving performance.

Our conference venues have ready access to public transport and are making clear progress in improving their own environmental performance. We routinely use electronic marketing for conferences and events in place of mailing paper brochures.

We source stationary and other products from suppliers who specialize in more environmentally friendly and fair-trade products, and we actively manage stock to minimize the number of deliveries we receive. Staff travel is mostly via public transport and locally staff are encouraged to walk. Our waste is recycled wherever possible, achieving 70% recycling.

We ensure that the activities at CIWEM’s offices comply with the requirements of environmental as well as other regulations. We also ask our major contractors to provide us with information on their own environmental performance.

Our Environmental Management System (EMS) is certified to ISO14001:2015 standard, ensuring that the system meets the requirements of the most recognised and up to date international standard and is subject to regular external auditing as well as more frequent internal audits.

The focus of the EMS remains, for the time being, the environmental performance of CIWEM’s offices in London, together with the environmental impacts of CIWEM’s centrally run outputs including publications and conferences. We have defined and prioritised our environmental aspects accordingly.

CIWEM is the leading independent Chartered professional body for water and environmental professionals, promoting excellence within the sector.
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Cover photo: Globalisation by David Cheresna. CIWEM Environmental Photographer of the Year.
**Environmental aspects**

We have defined 21 environmental aspects (those activities of our operations which may, or do, have associated environmental impacts) and have scored and accordingly ranked them as follows. Their ranking reflects the extent of their environmental impact, the risk that they will occur and their impact on the ongoing successful operation of the organisation to the effect that it will be able to sustainably undertake its corporate goals:

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Office energy use

CIWEM Head office has BREEAM UK interim certificate – design stage, achieving Excellent rating. We use smart metering as far as possible and are working to understand in detail the patterns of energy consumption within the building.

Consumption of energy and water can vary significantly depending on the occupancy rate of the building. At the end of 2018 there were 23 full time employees, however with the meeting rooms the maximum occupancy of the building can be up to 189. Our venue booking system provides us with an estimation of room occupancy numbers on any given day which will enable us to understand the major areas of our energy use and identify opportunities for better efficiency.

Electricity

Our electricity is sourced from 100% renewable supplies via our supplier, Good Energy, and we have solar panels on our roof which offset some of our consumption. From the end of 2017 our supplies were smart metered, thus we will be able to more accurately track energy consumption against building occupancy in future.

We are examining sub-metering of our building to understand where notable areas of energy usage lie. However, daily energy consumption patterns indicate that we have an hourly baseline consumption of 4 kWh with a daytime hourly peak typically varying between 10 and 15 kWh. This baseline is likely to be consumption by our server room.

Our annual electricity consumption has reduced by 36% since 2015 despite broadly increasing occupancy. The bulk of this reduction fell between 2015 and 2016, at which time there was ongoing construction work taking place on site which was likely to be quite energy intensive.

The last two years, reduction has been 5% per annum, most likely as a result of increasing efficiency in the use of our servers. However greater interrogation of usage via sub-metering will be necessary to understand this picture in detail and identify further opportunities for savings. These are considered most likely to lie in ongoing, incremental improvements to IT efficiency, a move to cloud-based servers and potential changes in lighting from compact fluorescent to LED lighting.
Gas
We do not have a gas supply to the building, aiding us to be 100% renewable in our energy consumption.

Water
We have standard low flush toilets in our offices, coupled with motion-sensor driven, low flow taps. There is also a shower in the building for staff use and we have dishwashers which are used by cleaners depending on building occupancy. It is difficult to change water use much beyond this, therefore water consumption is not a priority area for focus (reflected in its ranking as an environmental aspect).

Publications
The Environment Magazine continues to be printed on FSC and PEFC certified paper using vegetable inks from renewable sources.

In 2016 we launched online access to The Environment, via an app to our international Members to reduce air miles and we look forward to making this available more widely as soon as we are able. Present VAT rules mean that whilst VAT is charged at 0% for printed publications, it is charged at 20% for online publications which at the present time limits our ability to offer access to our publications online-only.

In 2018 the European Commission ruled that individual member states may now define the VAT treatment for electronic publication in their own country. There is a strong campaign to
treat electronic publication at 0% and there may well be movement in this direction in 2019, enabling us to move towards greater digital publishing.

Water and Environment Journal is printed on 100% post-consumer waste recycled paper and board. Our publisher, Wiley ensures that the text paper and cover board used in all journals have met acceptable environmental accreditation standards.

Following challenges experienced by our members concerning recyclable and compostable plastic wrappers, we have now moved to paper, which is more consistently recyclable in domestic waste streams. Wiley are also members of BSR’s Clean Cargo Group which works with around 30 other major international shippers to model their shipping emissions.

Our Journal of Flood Risk management continues to be regarded well as a leading peer reviewed publication in this sector. This is an online only publication.

**Environmental probity of consumables**

We source office supplies and consumables from a range of companies, ensuring that wherever possible all papers are recycled or from FSC accredited sources, soaps and detergents biodegradable and minimising single use and other plastics.

Our catering supplier provides farm assured food, sustainably sourced fish and source most of their produce locally.
Waste minimisation

At CIWEM we make serious efforts to avoid creating waste through our activities. Our catering supplies utilise minimal packaging wherever possible. Moving onto a digital first publishing remains the likely greatest action we can take to reduce waste associated with our products.

Paper consumption

Over many years we have seen a steady reduction in paper consumption within the CIWEM office as we switched many of our processes onto a digital footing. This has continued in 2018 but we still used 50,000 sheets of A4 paper in the year. There remains significant potential to move to a far less paper-intensive footing in our operations. Aside from our member magazine, we publish other documents almost exclusively in electronic format.

We are prioritising deep reductions in our office paper use for 2019.

Waste disposal

As with other producers of waste, we have a duty of care to ensure that the waste we generate. Our waste contractor, First Mile, confirmed that we recycled 70% of our waste by weight in 2018, up from 49% in 2017.
Recycling Dashboard - Dec 2018

Services ordered over past 12 months

- Mixed Recycling
- Zero to Landfill Waste
- Food Recycling
- Specialist Recycling
- Recycled Products

Results breakdown over 12 months (*monthly average)

- KG's recycled: 9650 / 804*
- KG's waste to energy: 4475 / 373*
- KG's anaerobic digestion: 938 / 78*

- Tonnes CO² saved: 12.82 / 1.07*
- Trees saved: 117 / 10*
- KWH generated: 2,633 / 219*

Your recycling rate: 70%

CIWEM office waste management dashboard. Source: The First Mile
Compliance with Environmental Regulations

We keep a detailed register of environmental and other regulations with which we have to comply, and this is regularly updated. We had no regulatory infringements in 2018.

Membership

In 2018 we registered 683 new Members to the Institution across the range of membership grades, from Student to Fellows, with the Institution’s membership showing net growth of 1.6% in the year. Professional review interviews are now able to be carried out over Skype for international members and those further afield to reduce the carbon footprint associated with their travel.

We are developing increasing presences in other parts of the world, including India and New Zealand in addition to our branch in Hong Kong. In September we announced a relationship with the International Water Association (IWA) which will enable reciprocal membership of both organisations and provide IWA members with the opportunity to become Chartered under our Chartered Water and Environmental Manager qualification. This broadens our reach and influence and places our qualifications on an international footing, helping to build an international community of highly qualified environmental professionals.

Learning and development

Our Learning and Development function is central to our ambitions as an organisation. Our corporate aim is to build a global community of water and environmental professionals dedicated to working for the public benefit, contributing to a safer, sustainable world.

The importance of highly skilled professionals to achieving this aim underlines the importance of this activity to CIWEM and why it is ranked as highly important amongst our environmental aspects.

We currently offer 8 CIWEM online training courses which are run 4 times a year and 3 face-to-face courses that are run at various points in the year. In 2018 there were a total of 164 enrolments broken down as follows:

- 90 online training course enrolments
- 46 fast track to chartership workshop enrolments
- 28 mentor training workshop enrolments.

We are developing new courses around circular economy and catchment-based approach. Discussions are taking place with the University of Brunel Centre for Flood Risk and Resilience
regarding CIWEM facilitating and managing the delivery of three of Brunel’s online training modules.

We are actively looking at ways in which we can reduce our environmental impact through the delivery of our training i.e. reducing the use of paper materials, carefully selected caterers, selecting venues that are located close to public transport links, are based at our client’s offices to reduce the need for travel or using the CIWEM venue so that we are in control of our environmental impact.

The number of Universities that currently have courses accredited by CIWEM stands at 22, of which 17 are in the UK, 1 in the Republic of Ireland, 1 in China, 1 in Saudi Arabia, 1 in Hong Kong and 1 in Malaysia.

In 2018 successful Accreditation visits were carried out at Liverpool John Moores University, Cranfield University, Universiti Kuala Lumpur, Sheffield Hallam University and the University of Exeter (in collaboration with Cardiff, Bristol and Bath). In 2019 there are planned Accreditation visits to the University of Chester, University of Bristol, Bolton University and the University of West London.

The Accreditation of Professional Development Schemes was reinvigorated in 2018 with 3 visits taking place at Arup, Cole Easdon and Sweco. There are discussions ongoing for further visits taking place in 2019.

There are also currently 10 Accredited CPD activities.

**Events**

In 2018 CIWEM held conferences and events at the Coin Street Conference Centre, SCI, 10-11 Carlton House Terrace and Hamilton House in London and also held events were held in Leeds (Cloth Hall Court) and Edinburgh (Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation. All of these are located within a maximum ten minute walk from public transport and we encourage delegates to take public transport in pre-event communications with event locations chosen to minimise potential travel for delegates. Environmental commitment and performance is considered during the venue selection.

Where appropriate (due to event size) events are held at CIWEM Head office which reduces our impact and we are in control of environmental impacts. We encourage our branches to utilise video conferencing technology to allow for events to be broadcast in multiple locations to minimise travel for attendees.

Our Annual Dinner used flowers that could be reused and the menu was selected with its carbon and water footprint in mind. All our event locations are asked to provide filtered water rather than bottled water. We continue to printing all our delegate notes and event materials in house so these are always on recycled paper and packaging is reduced. This also reduces our deliveries. No paper mailings or paper tickets were issued for our events.
Environmental stewardship

We seek to increase the visibility and impact of our members’ expertise in relation to environmental challenges year on year. In 2018 we increased the number of CIWEM employees focused on policy and technical activities from 2 to 3, meaning that we can actively engage with a wider range of subjects at any given time. We engaged actively with Government and Parliament, giving evidence to select committees twice, meeting frequently with Government officials and submitting responses to a wide range of consultations and inquiries.

Our outreach grew and developed during the year, with growth in followers and subscribers across all our social media platforms and we launched a new website in October which showcases our work considerably more effectively. We will continue to hone and refine its functionality to ensure that it is an effective tool for outreach in coming years.

Elsewhere, our awards including the Nick Reeves Award for Art and the Environment, UK Junior Water Prize and Young Environmentalist of the Year attracted increased numbers of entries compared with 2017.