

# Environment policy

Our core business of responding to emergencies and providing fire safety prevention and guidance to the community in London includes our responsibility to protect the environment. 'Environment and climate change' are key themes of our sustainable development framework.

## Governance

- We will achieve and maintain accredited ISO 14001 certification of our environmental management system (EMS) to provide the structure through which we manage our environmental impact.
- We will fulfil our compliance obligations and other requirements to continually improve our EMS to enhance environmental performance.
- We will complete robust monitoring and regularly review our targets, objectives, actions and policies.
- We will maintain a director level champion for our environmental management activities.

## Key impact areas

- We are committed to working with partners to maintain:
  - Our working agreement with the Environment Agency when dealing with environment protection issues, which includes response strategies, resource allocation, emergency planning, equipment, training and contact details.
  - The principles set out by the 'protocol for the disposal of contaminated water and associated wastes at incidents'. This protocol includes guidance for dealing with contaminated water and associated solid wastes arising from wash waters, firewater run-off, spillages and contaminated potable water, which could cause harm to human health, pollute the environment and/or damage the sewage treatment processes.
  - Our memorandum of understanding with Thames Water, which aims to minimise environmental impact at our premises involving, primarily, the disposal of run-off water, contaminated with either detergents, training foam or small residual amounts of operational fire fighting foam to foul and/or combined sewers where appropriate.
- We will take actions to continually reduce our impact on the following issues in accordance with our sustainable development policy:
  - Reduce emissions of air pollutants from our vehicles to improve air quality.
  - Reduce the environmental, social and business impacts associated with travel and support our staff to choose more sustainable travel.

- Reduce our carbon emissions, continually working towards zero carbon by using energy efficiently, maximising the use of low carbon energy and generating energy through on-site renewable energy systems.
- Increase our resilience to extreme weather and adaptation to longer term climate change by avoiding predictable risks wherever possible and seeking to minimise and manage those risks that are unavoidable.
- Protect the environment from harm in the way that we manage incidents, particularly focusing on areas designated as sites of special scientific interest and supporting opportunities to enhance the biodiversity of our sites through gardens and green roofs.
- Aim to send zero waste to landfill, reducing total waste produced by minimising our consumption of resources, increasing reuse and recycling, and by using refurbished, recycled and recyclable equipment, products and materials. Encouraging all waste management facilities to improve their site management practices to reduce the risk of fire.
- Manage our use of hazardous materials where they cannot be avoided, aiming to reduce their use and harm to the environment.
- Use water efficiently and manage it with sustainable drainage systems where possible on our sites; consider options to improve water efficiency in firefighting and training and reduce run-off of polluted fire water.
- We will manage our estate in a responsible and sustainable manner to protect the environment, minimise resource use and prevent pollution.
- We will procure according to Government Buying Standards wherever possible, ensuring that goods and services we procure support our environment policy.

## Communications and training

- We will communicate our activities to Brigade staff, interested parties and the wider community and provide training to empower staff to support our objectives.
- We will maintain and continually review our green champions volunteering scheme.
- We will work with and encourage our suppliers and contractors to continually improve their own environmental performance.