European Environment Agency

EMAS Environmental statement 2015

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This environmental statement provides information to the general public and other interested parties on the environmental performance and activities of the European Environment Agency (EEA) in 2015. It can be found on the EEA website ([see link](#)). The EEA was first validated under the EMAS scheme in 2005. This environmental statement is the sixth to be produced within the EMAS annual validation cycle. It contains updated data for 2015, which are compared with data from the previous four years.

EEA ENVIRONMENT POLICY

The European Environment Agency (EEA) is an agency of the European Union mandated to help achieve significant and measurable improvement in Europe's environment and to support sustainable development. In that role we recognise that we have a special responsibility to act as a role model when it comes to managing our own environmental performance.

Like all organisations we consume natural resources and pollute the environment through our daily operations. In order to minimise our environmental impacts and continually improve our performance, we have in place an environmental management system, which complies with the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS).

Our vision is to be a climate friendly and resource efficient organisation and in that context we are committed to:

- continuously improving our energy and material efficiency
- maintaining staff's awareness and understanding of environmental issues at a high level and encouraging the sharing of ideas for environmental improvement
- making use of own experience and accumulated knowledge in managing environmental performance to influence and inspire sister organisations (other EU bodies and institutions)
- complying with all environmentally relevant legislation and regulations of our host country

This environment policy covers Agency's operations and staff, also when on missions and travelling to and from work. The policy applies also to all other persons working at the Agency's premises.

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Introduction

Environmental management system

The EEA uses an environmental management system, which was registered under the European Eco Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) in 2005. The first EMAS Regulation encompassing public and private sectors was adopted in 2001 ((EC) No 761/2001). It has subsequently been updated with the revised Regulation ((EC) No 1221/2009), which entered into force on 11 January 2010.

Since 2009, the EEA has published an annual environmental statement, which is incorporated into the EEA Annual Report. However, in 2016, the EEA Annual Report was merged into a Consolidated Annual Activity Report (CAAR), whereas the EMAS environmental statement will be published separately as a corporate document on the EEA's website.

EMAS is part of the EEA's Quality Management System (QMS) and is linked to other management processes.

Environmental impacts of the EEA activities

The EEA's activities have both direct and indirect impacts on the environment. The EEA routinely monitors its use of electricity, energy for heating, water and paper, the generation of waste as well as the CO_2 emissions from business travel. It regularly evaluates its activities in order to optimise and improve outputs while limiting the use of resources and minimising negative impacts on the environment.

Environmental management structure

The EEA's environmental management system is an integral part of its management plan and is designed to make environmental responsibilities clear to employees. Staff members are encouraged to actively engage in projects that will lead to positive environmental impacts. New employees receive a 30 minute introduction to the environmental management system, and several complimentary activities exist to further inform staff about EMAS priorities.

The environmental management system is documented in a handbook on the EEA intranet, which explains who is responsible for doing what, when and how.

Environmental performance at the EEA in 2015

Raising environmental awareness

The EEA recognises the important role communications has in sustainable environmental management. An active approach to communicating the EMAS objectives is included in the EEA's outreach activities internally as well as externally.

The EEA website has a section dedicated to EMAS. This section includes information about its commitment to environmental management as well as the annual environmental statement. In 2015, the EMAS section of the EEA website had 3 964 views, which continues to demonstrate the usefulness of the information provided for external audiences.

The EEA also continues to assist other EU bodies in relation to raising awareness of their environmental impacts. The informal inter- agency Greening Network, initiated by the EEA in 2006, was formally recognised by the EU agencies' heads of administration in May 2016. With more than 25 members from EU agencies, the network addresses common environmental topics, with particular focus on implementation and registration under the EMAS Regulation. The Greening Network also is also represented in the informal inter-institutional environmental group (GIME) as part of EU environmental governance.

Internally, EMAS is part of the induction programme for all new employees, who get to know the EMAS quality standard and how the EEA practices EMAS in its environmental management of the organisation. As part of regular biannual internal audits, members of staff are randomly interviewed about the aspects of their work that relate to EMAS.

Furthermore, the EEA organises events and manages a system to solicit and incorporate recommendations from staff for improvements. Through these internal activities, the EEA raises staff awareness for its environmental performance and fosters engagement from staff members.

Finally, to encourage more sustainable consumption and resource efficiency by employees at home as well as at the workplace, regular information is provided in the weekly video loop in the canteen, which includes green tips. During 2015, an EMAS refresher presentation was given at programme level, which focused not only on EMAS objectives and performance indicators for 2015, but also provided information about the 2014 EMAS results and EMAS developments within the EU setting.

Running the EEA offices

The environmental impact of running the EEA offices is detailed below in several time series tables ranging from 2011 to 2015.

The tables cover electricity consumption, energy equivalent for district heating, water consumption, paper consumption and waste generation.
The environmental performance in these areas is defined in relation to the number of persons working at the EEA and the area of the office.

The number of persons working at the EEA is expressed as full time equivalents (FTEs) and is derived from the time recording system that both staff and in-house consultants use. It is based on a 40 hour working week. The change of working hours from 37.5 to 40 hours took place in 2014.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
FTE	219	235	226	211	193

The calculation of performance in terms of impacts per square metre is complicated by the fact that, since 2005, some EEA staff members have been working in buildings other than the main building at KN6. Since 2010, the EEA has been renting an adjacent building (KN8). Initially two floors were rented, but since 2011, three floors have been rented. The size of the two buildings is approximately 10 000 m^2 in total (7 200 m^2 in KN6 and 2 800 m in KN8).

Electricity

Consumption of electricity 2011-2015

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Change 2015/2012(%)
Total KWh	735 148	779 851	762 206	779 251	768 361	1,47
KWh /FTE	3365	3321	3374	3693	3981	18,31
KWh /m^2	102	78	76	78	77	-1,28

The figures for 2011 cover only KN6 (7200m^2) and the 2012-2015 figures cover both buildings (10 000 m^2). So the change in % is

The consumption of electricity can be broadly divided into two approximately equal parts: (1) the electricity needed for central computing (i.e. servers) and data storage (including the electricity used to cool the server room); and (2) the staff-related use of electricity in offices and meeting rooms. The main server room is located in KN6.

As gathering, managing and disseminating environmental data is one of the main objectives of the EEA, the reduction of the overall use of electricity is not a goal per se. This has led to an increase in overall electricity use and use per FTE. However, the installation of more energy efficient computing, new light sensors in corridors and a switch to energy efficient LED lights, as well as higher environmental awareness among staff, have kept the results within range.

Specific improvement has been achieved through the replacement of the server cooling system in July 2015 (third floor, KN6). This new system uses the outside temperature to regulate the cooling system, with the result that the energy consumption went down by almost 20 000 kWh since July.

Furthermore, in 2015, the EEA bought electricity from renewable sources (wind energy) through the renewable energy certificate system (RECS): the agreed quantity of 768 MWh, which corresponds to the EEA's expected annual electricity consumption, was purchased in the form of a RECS certificate.

Heating

Consumption of heating energy 2011-2015

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Change 2015/2011 (%)
m³	969	943	937	845	989	2
KWh[1]	678 300	660 100	655 900	591 500	692 300	2
KWh /FTE	3104	2811	2903	2803	3587	16
KWh /m²	94	92	91	82	98	4

The steam used by the EEA for heating its premises is provided by the grid of the local district heating provider, HOFOR[1]. HOFOR are undertaking a reorganisation of the district heating grid from steam to hot water by 2021. This modification to the existing system will provide energy and environmental benefits not only to the EEA but the inner city of Copenhagen.

Water

Consumption of water 2011-2015

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Change 2015/2011 (%)
m³	2381	1827	2326	1787	1609	-32
m³/ FTE	11	8	10	8,5	8	-24
l/m²	331	254	323	248	223	-32

For all years, the figures cover only KN6 (7 200 m²). FTE includes all staff, but since 2010 an increasing number of staff are located in KN8.

The EEA's consumption of water has decreased in recent years and, in 2015, a further 10 % decrease in water consumption was registered.

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[1] According to HOFOR, the heating supplier for the EEA, it takes about 700 KWh of energy to evaporate 1 m³ of water (http://www.hofor.dk/fjernvarme/).

Paper

Consumption of paper 2011-2015

	2011	2012[b]	2013	2014	2015	Change in % 2015/2012
No of sheets printed in-house	134 500	1 366 570	1 327 381	1 188 345	1 163 454	-15
In-house sheets per FTE	616	5 820	5 876	5 632	6028	4
No of pages in published reports ([a])	10 674 600	10 228 150	12 651 000	4 901 400	15 493 000 ([c])	51 [c]

Note:
(a) Sum of pages per report print run.
(b) Since 2012, the calculation method for in-house printing is based on counters on printers. Data before 2012 are not deemed reliable or comparable.
(c) The SOER alone is responsible for more than 11 000 000 printed pages

The new method that was introduced in 2012 to monitor in-house printing, gives rather accurate and comparable figures. Because of the nature of the EEA's operations, one of which is dissemination of information in the form of written reports, the high consumption of paper per FTE is noteworthy. The use of paper can fluctuate, depending on the type and number of reports published in-house (EEA technical reports are printed on demand in-house, while reports in the series 'EEA reports' and some other publications are printed externally). Since 2014, the EEA has attempted to increase its dissemination of outputs electronically to further reduce paper consumption, but printed publication of SOER 2015 led to a significant increase in paper consumption.

Waste

Generation of waste (in kg) 2011-2015

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Change 2015/2011 (%)
Household	23735	21095	25910	23995	18050	-24
Cardboard	2510	2210	2055	2400	2215	-12
Paper	6400	5410	3405	10865	5583	-13
Organic	1 050[a]	No data [b]	No data[c]	No data	No data	
Electronic	1904	1237	1306	2046	1290	-32
Glass	470	No data	600	200	600	28
Total	36069	29573	33276	39506	27738	-23
Total/FTE	165	126	147	187	144	-15

Note:

(a) *The data series covers only January to March 2011.*
(b) *The weighing of glass was suspended in 2012 because of collector-related logistics.*
(c) *The weighing of organic waste was suspended because of collector-related logistics in 2012 and, hence, these data are no longer included in the overall total.*

Waste generated by EEA activities is sorted into the following categories: glass, electronic, organic, paper, cardboard and household. Compared to 2011 data, significant a reduction was achieved in 2015. Glass waste has not reduced, which might be due to the replacement of plastic with glass and the introduction of bottled soft drinks in the canteen since 2012.

It is not possible to provide data on organic waste due to technical limitations in the current waste collection process. The lorry collecting the organic waste has no built-in scale and thus is unable to provide figures.

Carbon dioxide emissions related to travelling

CO_2 emissions (in tonnes) 2011–2015

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
CO_2 emissions related to staff missions	351	259	287	238	430
CO_2 emissions for meeting participants	301	375	330	247	552
Total	652	634	617	922 [a] (485)	982

Emissions related to staff travel activities have been reported since 2006. During this year, a carbon offsetting scheme was introduced and the EEA became well known for limiting the carbon footprint of its business travel. The carbon offsetting scheme is managed by the EEA's travel agent Business Travel Specialist, and the offsets are used to support Gold Standard energy efficiency projects in Africa (2). Every quarter, diplomas are issued to confirm the offsetting of CO_2.

Note:

(a)   The apparently large increase in CO_2 emissions between 2013 and 2014 is due to a change in the calculation method to one based on the radiative forcing index. This method uses a multiplier of 1.9, which accounts for other greenhouse gases, such as nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and water vapour, and is added to the emissions factor to take into account the effects of greenhouse gas emissions at high altitude caused by aviation. The EEA chose to begin applying this index in 2014.

Procurement

Building environmental considerations into procurement is a standard practice at the EEA. Our green procurement cycle includes an 'environmental impact statement' in the initial proposal for procurement, as well as specific, robust environmental criteria and 'environmental considerations' in the tender specifications.

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[2]   http://www.co2balance.com/

Environmental targets for 2015 with performance indicators

Environmental issue	Source of impact	Action plan	Performance indicator	Performance in 2015
1. Electricity consumption	1. Central computing and data storage by servers	Introducing more energy efficient servers and related technology	Zero growth in 2012–2015 (base year 2011)	2011: 239 622 KWh 2012- 2015: 266 659 KWh
	2. Cooling in server room	Ensuring optimal temperature at all times	**Zero growth in 2012–2015 (base year 2011)** NB: Only until June 2015 as new cooling system has no separate meter and hence cannot be compared to 2014	2011: 87 228 KWh 2012- 2015: 83 679 KWh
	3. 'Staff-related' use of electricity in offices and meeting rooms (personal computers, printers, copy machines, faxes, lights, etc.)	Increasing awareness among staff about this aspect	3 % reduction in 2012–2015 (base year 2011) Absolute and per-FTE figures	2011: 408 258 KWh 2011: 1 863 KWh/FTE 2012-2015: 422 079 KWh 2015: 2 120 KWh/FTE
2. Paper consumption	4. Printing documents and emails	Raising awareness about printing habits	3 % reduction (base year 2013) in absolute and per-FTE figures	2013: 1 327 381 (A4) 2013: 5 876 (A4)/FTE 2015: 1 163 454 (A4) 2015: 6 028 (A4)/FTE
	5. Printing publications at external printers	Reducing the number of paper publications through more targeted dissemination and electronic publishing	Zero growth (base year 2013) 11 000 000 pages linked to SOER reports	2013: 12 651 000 (A4) 2014: 4 901 400 (A4) 2015: 15 493 000 (A4)
3. Sustainable resource use	6. Electricity, paper, heat and water consumption	Devise suitable campaigns throughout the year aimed at achieving measurable reductions	Reporting on the results	See ´Raising environmental awareness'
4. Waste production	7. Elimination of unnecessary waste, such as the use of plastic bags in office bins	Devise a suitable campaign and identify actions to reduce waste	Reporting on the results	Total waste reduction of 23% compared to 2011. Per FTE a waste reduction of

				15%
5. Greenhouse gas emissions	8. Staff going on missions	Using videoconferencing and Skype conferencing if possible, including for meetings with ETCs, except for one meeting annually	CO_2 tonnes (t), 3 % reduction (base year 2013) in absolute and per-FTE figures Since 2014 Radiative forcing index included.	2013: 286.9 t 2013: 1 269 t/FTE 2015: 430* t 2015: 2 228 t/FTE *with RFI
	9. External participants coming to EEA-organised meetings by plane	Using videoconferencing and Skype conferencing if applicable	CO_2 tonnes, zero growth (base year 2013)	2013: 330.4 t 2015: 552 t
6. Various negative environmental impacts of the EEA	10. All procurement	Calls for tender have to have an environmental criteria specification according to the type of goods purchased. All purchases are carried out against best-available environmental criteria	New EU directives requiring new certifications are taken into account	Fully implemented
7. Various positive environmental impacts of the EEA — awareness raising	11. Green communication/awareness-raising activities	Continue developing and implementing an integrated approach to awareness raising	Communication plan progress report	Internal communication activities carried out 1) Announcements regarding EMAS included posters, a video loop in the canteen, a refresher in programme meetings, introduction of EMAS to new staff

8. Environmental, economic and social impacts	12. All EEA activities	Integration of EMAS and health and safety issues (reference EU standards, OHSAS 18001 standard) into a Total Quality and Environmental Management System (TQMS)	Reporting on the results	In 01/2016 the ED merged the function of EMAS coordinator with a new staff well-being coordinator under ADS1/HRM
9. Internal environment	13. Environment in buildings	Improving insulation of window frames and doors	Communication of the results of the projects	No real progress as this would require a replacement of the windows

Annex A: Environmental Management Programme 2016

Environmental issue	Source of impact	Action plan	Performance indicator
1. Electricity consumption	1. Central computing and data storage by servers	Introducing more energy efficient technology.	Zero growth in 2016-2018 (based on the average of years 2011-2013)
	2. Cooling in server room	Installing a separate meter to monitor consumption (no meter since July 2015)	Zero growth in 2016-2018 (based on the average of years 2011-2013)
	3. 'Staff-related' use of electricity in offices and meeting rooms (PCs, printers, copy machines, faxes, lights etc.)	Increasing awareness among staff about these aspects. Bending the trend of staff related electricity consumption.	Zero growth in 2016-2018 (based on the average of years 2011-2013) per FTE
2. Paper consumption	4. Printing documents and emails	Introduction of 'follow-me' printing to reduce paper consumption.	3 % reduction (base year 2013) in absolute and per FTE figures
	5. Printing publications at external printers	Reducing the number of paper publications through more print on demand and web publishing as well as targeted dissemination and electronic publishing.	Zero growth in 2016-2018 (base year 2013)
3. Sustainable resource use	6. Electricity, paper, heat and water consumption	Devise suitable campaigns throughout the year aimed at achieving measurable reductions.	Reporting on the results
4. Waste production	7. Elimination of unnecessary waste such as the use of plastic bags in office bins	Introduce waste separation bins for glass, plastic and paper on corridors or kitchens.	Reporting on the results
5. Greenhouse gas emissions	8. Staff going on missions	Register number of videoconferencing and Skype conferencing; when possible replace missions including meetings with ETCs, except for one meeting annually.	tCO_2 e: 3 % reduction (base year 2013)
	9. External participants coming to EEA-organised meetings by plane	Using videoconferencing/Skype conferencing when applicable.	tCO_2 e zero growth (base year 2013)

6. Various negative environmental impacts of the EEA	11. All procurement	Calls for tender have to have an environmental criteria specification according to the type of goods purchased. All purchases are carried out against best available environmental criteria.	All procurement aligned to EU directives.
7. Various positive environmental impacts of the EEA - Awareness raising	12. Green communication/awareness-raising activities	Continue developing and implementing an integrated approach to awareness-raising.	Communication plan progress report
8. Environmental economic and social impacts	13. All EEA activities	Using synergies between EMAS and staff health and well-being aspects (e.g. reduce meat consumption, exercise)	Reporting on the results
9. Internal environment	14. Environment in buildings	Complete the installation of LED lightning on the remaining floors.	Reporting on the results