

UHI | SHETLAND

Risk 13 – Climate Change

September 2023

Risk Description

Failure to act appropriately and timeously to reduce emissions and develop climate resilience in all UHI Shetland activities and operations

Causes

- Climate change is widely accepted as inevitable and some major effects are now broadly accepted to be certain and these may influence many of our activities from delivery of teaching, research and examinations to student recruitment, supply chains, insurance premiums and the profitability of investments.
- Following its declaration of a climate emergency in 2019, the Scottish Government has set ambitious legislative targets to reduce carbon emissions to net-zero by 2045. Emissions in 2030 are intended to be at least 75% lower than the 1990 baseline, with 2040 emissions at least 90% lower than baseline.
- Shetland UHI is classified as a relevant public authority for the purposes of this legislation and specific duties and obligations exist that require proactive actions to reduce emissions, adapt to changing climate and routinely report on progress.

Owner

- Activities of the GHG Emissions Reduction Plan, including implementation, monitoring and reporting, are embedded across existing governance structures, committees and procedures of UHI Shetland.
- Overall responsibility for achieving the statutory requirements for emission reductions lies with the Shetland UHI Board of Management. The Principal and Senior Management Team are accountable for delivering progress on plan implementation and key performance indicators. The Senior Management Group is responsible for annual operational plans, which prioritise activities and inform the workplans of relevant staff. The annual carbon audit is the responsibility of the Head of Facilities, with support of the Finance Manager.

Actions to minimise risk in place:

- Feed into relevant UHI strategic groups (Net Zero Acceleration Planning Group; Net Zero Estates Working Group) to shape UHI strategy and ensure local alignment
- Raise awareness of wider net zero agenda and UHI Shetland emissions/strategic planning at Staff Development Days
- Participate in local partnerships to contribute to Shetland net zero ambitions (Shetland Energy Skills Transition Group; Shetland Climate Strategy; Shetland Net Zero Energy Forum)
- Undertake comprehensive emissions reporting as part of public Bodies Climate Change Duties reporting
- Engage with sectoral best practice via EAUC Smaller Institutions working group

Action Plan 1

- Ensure UHI Shetland has clear plans and associated targets in place to reduce carbon emissions
 - Climate Change Assessment Tool March 2023
 - Emissions Reduction Plan (approved by UHI Shetland Board June 2023)
 - Priorities include decarbonising heat at Scalloway campus and eliminating propane use at Lerwick campus by 2030
 - Assessment of estate (inc. space utilisation) to identify efficiencies
 - Encourage staff to take action to reduce energy use and, therefore, emissions – e.g. car usage, turning off lights and computers

Action Plan

2

- Ensure UHI Shetland has clear plans in place to adapt to climate change
- Climate Adaptation planning Autumn 2023
- Risk-based approach to ensuring climate resilience and business continuity

Action Plan

3

- Ensure UHI Shetland has embedded sustainability within all activities and is making a clear contribution to local and national efforts to enhance sustainability
- CDN project to embed sustainability within the curriculum September – December 2023
- Green Skills Funding to expand range of courses offered by UHI Shetland relevant to the transition to net zero
- Promotion and marketing of UHI Shetland as a green skills provider
- Alignment with Corporate Responsibility Strategy