

Environmental report
(including biodiversity and resilience of
ecosystems duty reporting)
November 2020

This report is also available in Welsh.

Who we are

Estyn is Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales. Our mission is to support excellence for all learners in Wales. We do this by providing an independent, high-quality inspection and advice service to the Welsh Government and the citizens of Wales. We are independent of, but funded by, the Welsh Government (section 104 of the Government of Wales Act 1998).

[Our priorities](#) setting out our mission and vision, strategic objectives and values is available on our website. The [about us](#) section on our website further explains the work we do.

Sustainability report and biodiversity duty reporting

We are required to comply with the section 6 duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. This Act introduced an enhanced biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty (the section 6 duty) for public authorities in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales. The section 6 duty requires that public authorities 'must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as consistent with the proper exercise of their functions and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems'.

To comply with the s6 duty we should embed the consideration of biodiversity and ecosystems into our early thinking and business planning, including any policies, plans, programmes and projects, as well as our day to day activities.

We must publish a plan setting out what we propose to do to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote resilience. We must also, before the end of 2019 and before the end of every third year after 2019, publish a report on what we have done to comply with the s6 duty. The reporting duty should form part of our ordinary reporting systems. The reporting duty should not be burdensome and should be proportionate to the size and type of organisation we are, with regard to the action for biodiversity we can carry out.

At Estyn, we have included our plan setting out what we propose to do to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote resilience within our Environmental Policy. We also annually produce this Environmental report which includes our compliance with the section 6 duty.

Environmental objectives

We have identified that our main impacts on the environment arise from: transport, the consumption of energy, and the generation of waste.

We will seek to minimise our impact on the environment, including seeking to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems through a commitment to a comprehensive set of environmental objectives:

- 1 To continue to use energy efficiently and to monitor CO₂ generation with the aim of a 10% reduction over the next five years (based on 2017-2018 figures).
- 2 In line with the Welsh Government (WG) “Towards Zero Waste” commitment, to maintain zero waste going to landfill.
- 3 In line with the WG “Towards Zero Waste” commitment, to reduce waste arisings by 1.2% year on year until 2050 (based on 2013-2014 figures).
- 4 To minimise the organisation’s transport impact contributing to the CO₂ reduction target (objective 1).
- 5 Communicate environmental initiatives and our commitment to wider sustainability to the public and staff.
- 6 Continue to embed environmental considerations into purchasing procedures.

Links to the Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales (NRAP) objectives

As recommended in the guidance on the section 6 duty, our activities are aligned with the relevant objectives in the Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales (NRAP). These reflect the strategic goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is the key international agreement on biodiversity to which the UK Government is a signatory. The guidance indicates that organisations that occupy an office building only and whose functions are not directly connected to biodiversity and/or land management should link with objectives 1, 4 and 6.

- Objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels
- Objective 4: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats
- Objective 6: Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery

We have indicated in our reporting where our actions contribute to the relevant NRAP objective.

Mainstreaming biodiversity activity has tended to focus on tackling the pressure on species and habitats, for example by climate change mitigation / decarbonisation and reducing, reusing and recycling resources.

Our performance 2019-2020

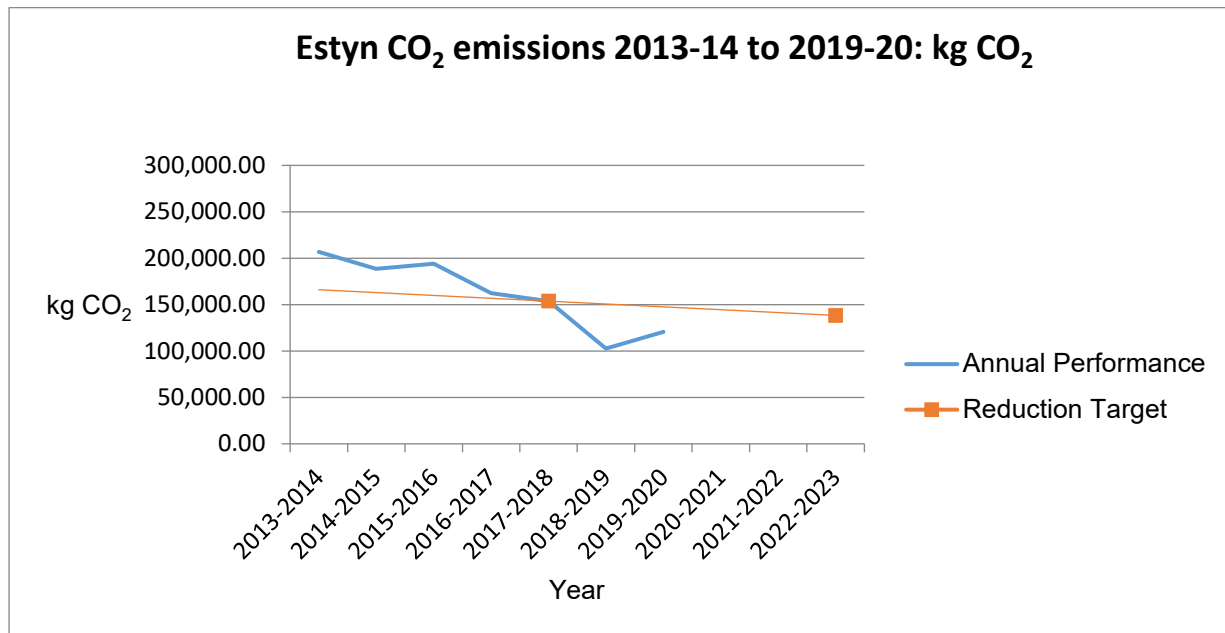
- 1. To continue to use energy efficiently and to monitor CO₂ generation¹ with the aim of a 10% reduction over the next five years (based on 2017-2018 figures).**

CO₂ emissions:

Estyn Baseline	2017 - 2018	153,727 kg CO ₂
Target by	2022 - 2023	138,354 kg CO₂
Actual	2018 - 2019	102,660 kg CO ₂
	2019 - 2020	120,709 kg CO ₂

This objective, introduced in 2018-19, resulted from a review of Estyn’s successful reduction in emissions over the previous target period, along with consideration of the likely positive impact of process and supplier innovations. Total overall CO₂ emission in 2019-2020 was 120,709 kg. Whilst this represents an increase of 17.6% over the last 12 months, this result is still well within our target.

The graph below illustrates the emissions trend over the last 7 years:

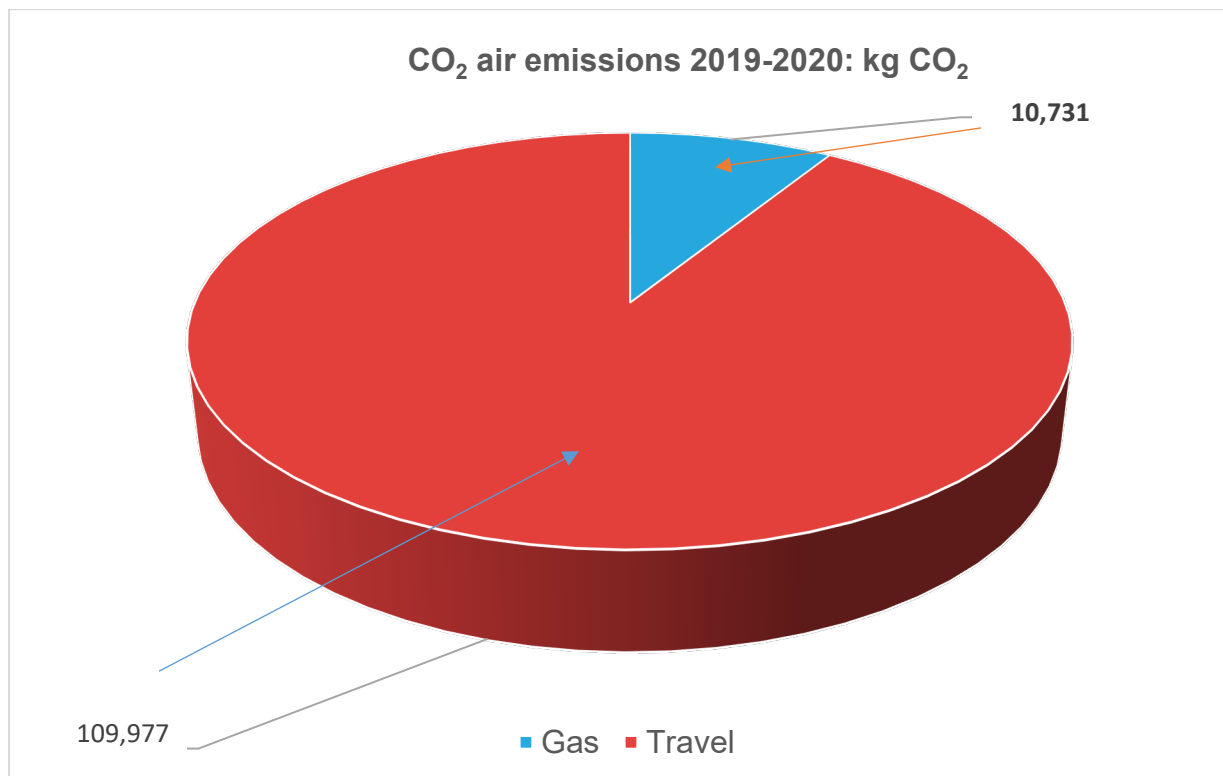


¹ Annual Defra conversion factors have been used to calculate CO₂ emissions throughout this report.

On a positive note, gas emissions reduced by 18.8% in 2019-2020, possibly due to less reliance on radiators over the winter period with the air conditioning sensors working efficiently as anticipated. Turning to electricity, this is our second year of using clean energy and as confirmed by the Green Energy Centre, our scope 2 emissions for electricity drawn from the national grid can be reported as zero. Estyn's 100% renewable energy tariff is backed by Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin (REGO).

Due to the nature of our business, the highest proportion of CO₂ emissions continues to be that generated by our transport use; emissions from transport increased by 23% to 109,977kg in 2019-2020 in contrast with the previous year's emissions of 89,488. This is attributed to emissions from petrol and diesel, which increased by 27.7% and 26.6% respectively. Rail and air emissions meanwhile, reduced by 28.7% and 16.4% respectively.

The proportion of CO₂ emissions generated from gas and travel for the period is illustrated below:

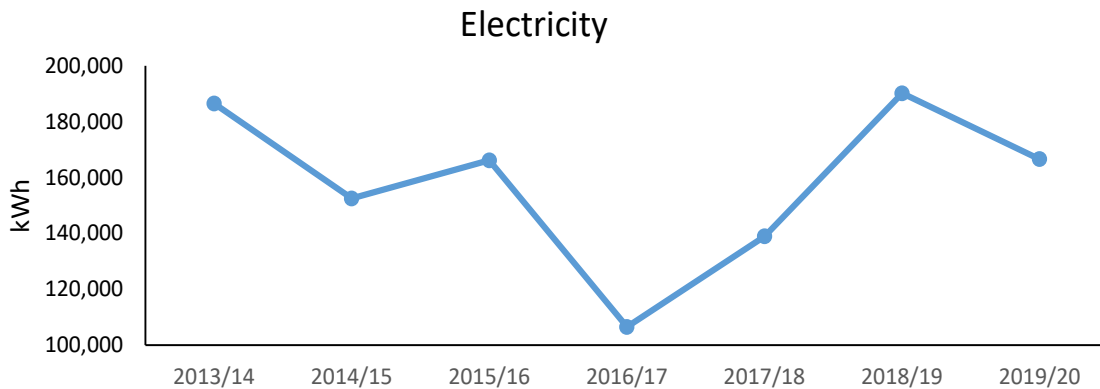


The initiatives we promote to support a reduction in our transport CO₂ emissions are noted in further detail in section 4 below.

Energy consumption:

Gas consumption reduced by 18.8% during this reporting period. It should be noted that costs for gas usage are paid directly to the landlord in the form of a quarterly service charge, calculated proportionately in line with our occupancy of the building.

As noted above, emissions from electricity are now zero, and this year our consumption reduced by 12.4% (shown in the graph below). It appears that the motion detectors installed in all meeting rooms to work in tandem with the air conditioning system at the beginning of 2019 are now demonstrating their effectiveness. We will continue to review consumption regularly to monitor this.



This activity relates to NRAP objective 4.

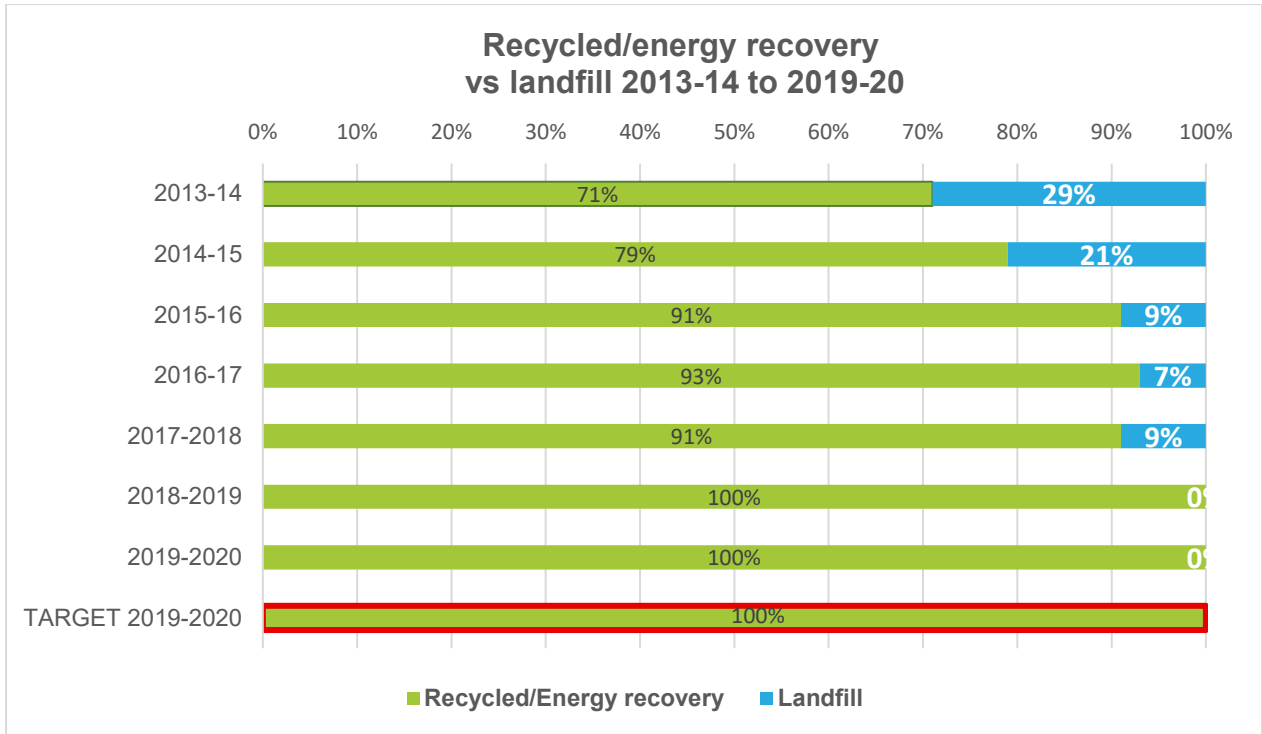
2. In line with the Welsh Government (WG) “Towards Zero Waste” commitment, to maintain zero waste going to landfill.

We are pleased to confirm that with effect from 2018-19, we have zero waste going to landfill. Our new target for 2019-2020 onwards is to maintain recycling/energy recovery levels at 100%.

We have in place a number of recycling/energy recovery² disposal channels for its varied range of waste streams:

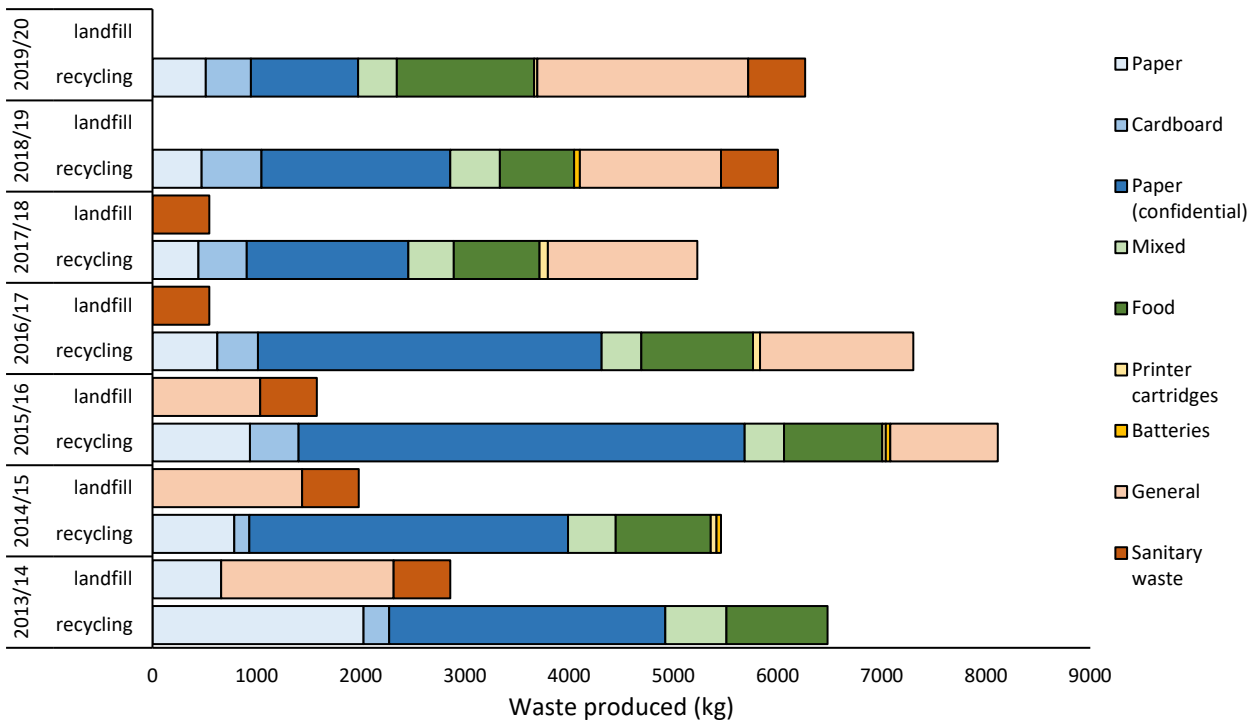
- paper, aluminium cans, plastic bottles and food waste is recycled using council services
- IT equipment is recycled using local small enterprise, ECycle
- Our ‘black bag waste’ is incinerated at the Viridor Trident Park incinerator, with energy recovery
- sanitary waste – in 2017-18 we reported that sanitary waste was our last remaining waste stream going to landfill and that during that year, our service provider, PHS, had introduced their patented sustainable waste management process whereby energy is recovered from the waste in the form of Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF).

² Estyn recycling/energy recovery based on weight in kg of waste



The chart below illustrates in more detail the proportion of waste going to landfill versus each of our recycled waste streams over the seven year period:

Proportion of each waste stream recycled vs landfill 2013-14 to 2019-20



The above graph illustrates:

- an increase in general waste by 49% this year. This was in part due to a major house-keeping exercise involving clearing of store rooms and server room at various points in the year
- an increase of 42% in food waste generated, possibly due to an increase in the number of events held on site, in addition to on site catering for a Corporate Services all staff event in 2019-2020.
- a decrease of 43% in confidential waste generated this year (last year's waste volume was largely due to GDPR compliance)

This activity relates to NRAP objective 4.

3. In line with the WG “Towards Zero Waste” commitment, to reduce waste arisings by 1.2% year on year until 2050 (based on 2013-2014 figures).

Baseline 2013-2014: 8,080 kg of annual waste arising (R-5,767 kg/L-2,313 kg)

Target: 1.2% reduction year on year until 2050.

2014-2015:	6,891 kg (R-5,456 kg/L-1,435 kg)
2015-2016:	9,175 kg (R/ER-8,319 kg/L-856 kg)
2016-2017	7,847 kg (R/ER 7,301 kg/L 546 kg)
2017-2018	5,774 kg (R/ER 5,228 kg/L 546 kg)
2018-2019	6,003 kg (R/ER)
2019-2020	6,263 kg (R/ER)



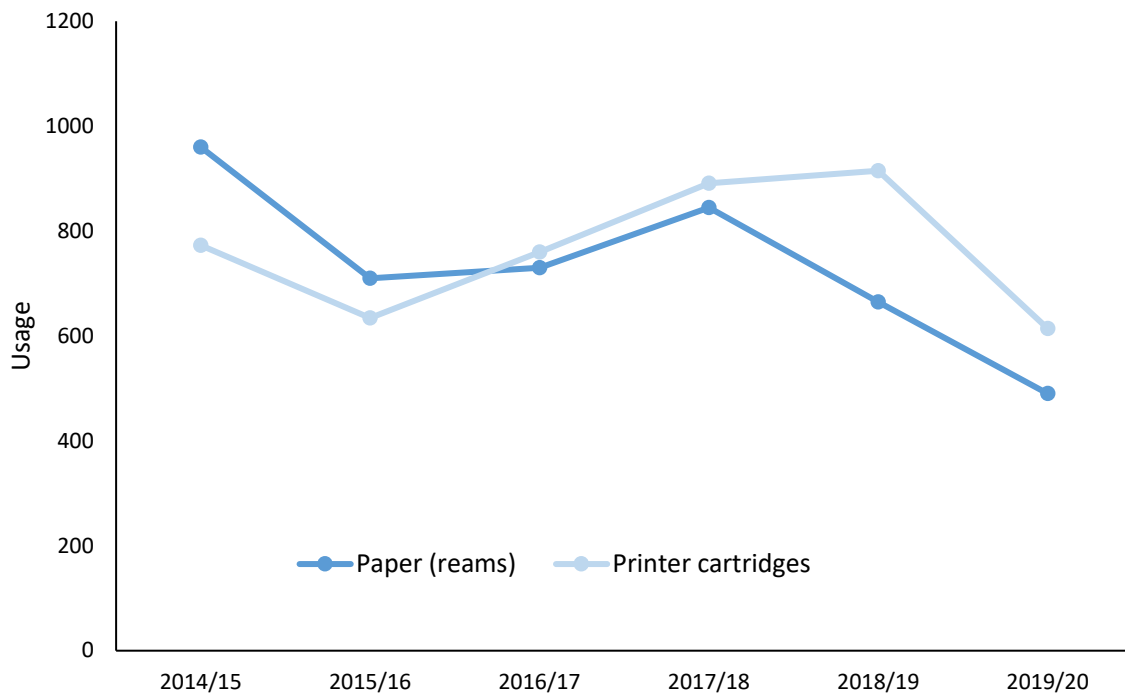
Whilst we can successfully report that all waste is now recycled, there was an overall increase of 4% in total waste generated once again in 2019- 2020.

We have evidenced consistent commitment to waste reduction in our recruitment and procurement processes; conducting all campaigns electronically; and have further increased our use of electronic communication on external publications and in the provision of training materials to external inspectors.

Our other embedded initiatives include:

- Microsoft SharePoint, a platform for our ICT that supports collaborative working and includes a virtual inspection room for sharing inspection information between providers and Estyn
- electronic distribution of inspection reports to Members of the Senedd and providers
- electronic distribution of online internal and external newsletters; and
- electronic issue of our corporate documents and remit reports instead of printing hard copies

The chart below illustrates the historical fluctuation in paper and print cartridge use over the period:



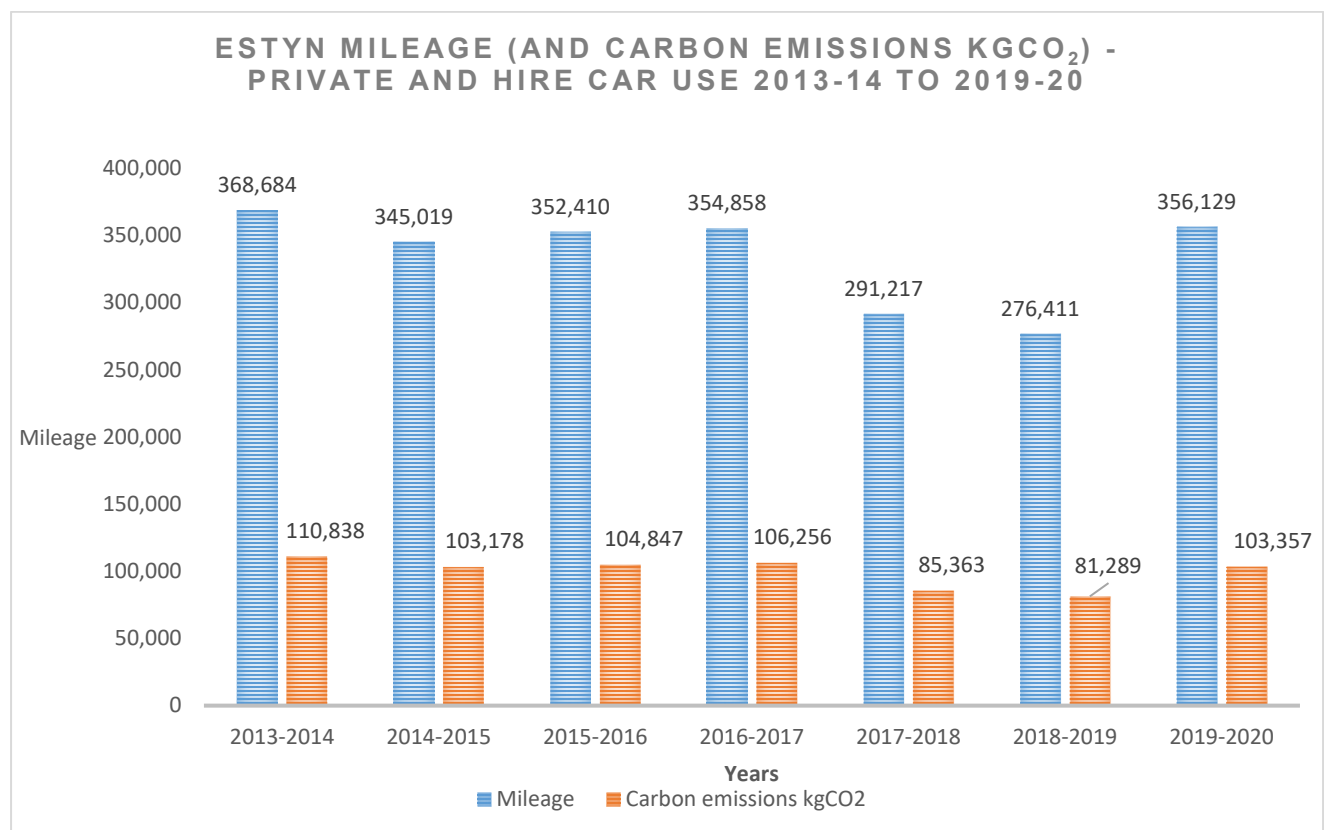
Our total expenditure on waste in 2019-2020 was £2,918.00 made up of local council services and specialist 'off-site sensitive waste' recycling services.

This activity relates to NRAP objective 4.

4. To minimise the organisation’s transport impact contributing to the CO₂ reduction target (objective 1).

We encourage colleagues to car share when travelling on official business. This, along with increased use of our interactive conference calling facilities, such as Starleaf and Microsoft Teams positively support the organisation in its aim of minimising travel to meetings. However, the inspectorate’s annual mileage for private and car hire use recorded at the end of 2019-2020 showed a 28% increase on the previous year. In line with this, carbon emissions also increased during this period. See the chart below.

Compared to 2018-2019, we had around 6% more inspection staff in 2019-2020, and the number of claims for mileage expenses increased by around 8%. Our core business activities (inspections) were similar year-to-year and therefore a reasonable assumption could be that inspectors were required to travel greater distances to providers, on average. Other factors that might have contributed to the increase in mileage might include a higher number of non-inspection journeys, for example, engagement visits. We will be implementing a new travel and subsistence systems in 2021 and will build-in a facility to provide more detailed reporting and analysis.



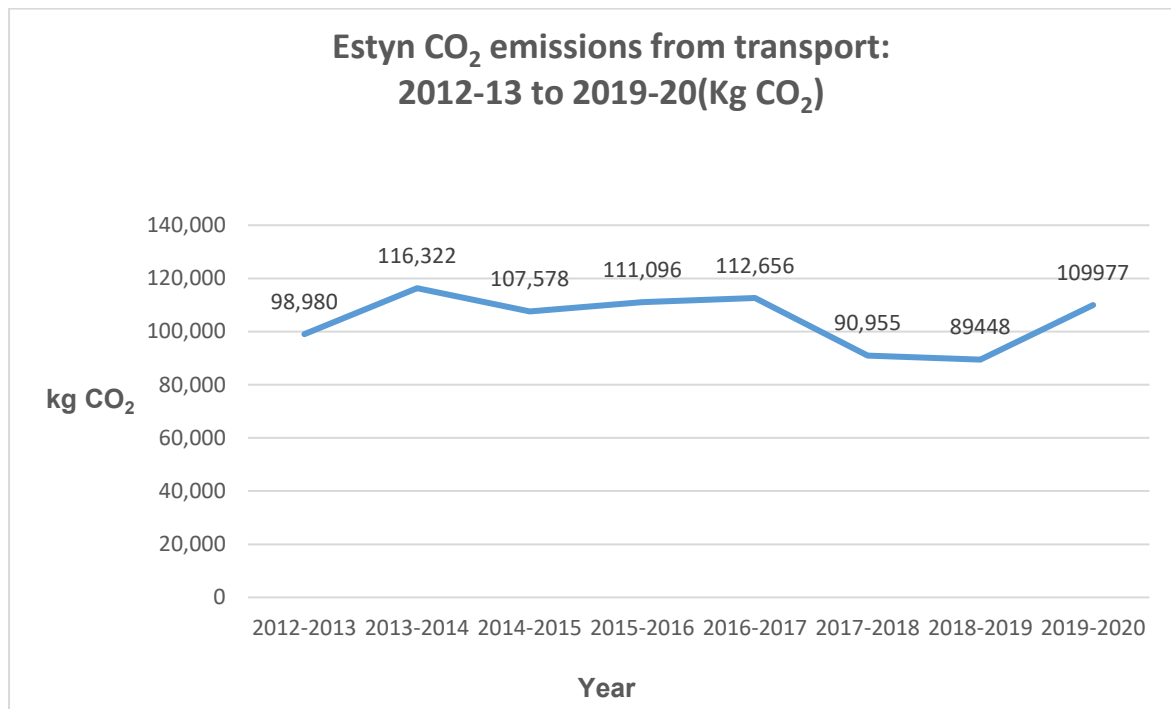
In terms of the activities we do to minimise our transport impact, we hire cars through a contract endorsed by the National Procurement Service where suppliers regularly update their fleet of vehicles to make sure that cars available have the lowest emissions; further supporting our aim of minimising the impact of CO₂ emissions from transport.

We encourage staff who drive as part of their role, to drive safely and fuel efficiently with courses offered to new starters and existing staff. We also endeavour to arrange courses and events geographically to minimise travel to an event – our policy for driving as part of official duties sets out our approach to driving whilst on official business.

We are also planning to introduce a Green Car Scheme (electric vehicle leases). Welsh Government are currently establishing such a scheme which will allow their staff and Estyn staff (as part of our payroll arrangements with Welsh Government) to make use of the scheme.

Our core business involves travel throughout Wales to visit providers across all sectors of education. During 2019-2020, total CO₂ emissions from transport (car, rail* and air) increased by 20,529kg CO₂ compared to the previous year.

Annual transport emissions (car, rail and air) for the inspectorate over the last few years is shown below.



*Note: From 2018-2019, actual rail emissions have been calculated for each rail journey; prior to this, rail emissions reported are an average for all journeys.

As noted above, transport emissions account for the greatest proportion of our CO₂ emissions - this was 91% of total emissions in this period.

The proportion of CO₂ emissions across all transport streams over the last seven years was as follows:

	<u>Diesel</u>	<u>Petrol</u>	<u>Rail</u>	<u>Air</u>
2013-14	53.5%	41.8%	1.6%	3.1%
2014-15	58.2%	37.8%	1.8%	2.2%
2015-16	54.6%	39.7%	1.4%	4.3%
2016-17	56.0%	38.3%	1.8%	3.9%
2017-18	54.2%	39.7%	1.8%	4.4%
2018-19	47.2%	43.6%	1.8%	7.3%
2019-20	49.0%	44.9%	1.0%	5.0%

We continually aim to reduce CO₂ emissions from transport as outlined above but as an inspectorate covering the whole of Wales, our transport impact is a key aspect of our work.

This activity relates to NRAP objective 4.

5. Communicate environmental initiatives and our commitment to wider sustainability to the public and staff.

Governance and support

Our Executive Board, chaired by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales, is responsible for sustainability and compliance with the biodiversity duty. The Director of Corporate Services is a member of the Board and is the Director with responsibility for sustainability, including the biodiversity duty. He is supported by the Head of Stakeholder Engagement who is the Lead Officer: Sustainability.

Our Procurement Manager works with the Lead Officer: Sustainability to oversee our environmental management systems. The Office Services team maintain Estyn's environmental management systems on a day to day basis, for example waste logs, paper and stationery logs and energy consumption logs. In addition, the Procurement team manage staff travel logs and continue to embed sustainability considerations into purchasing procedures.

The Service Delivery Group is a regular forum for discussing operational business issues. The Group monitor progress against environmental improvement objectives and targets on a regular basis; this will include any actions identified under the section 6 duty. The group is chaired by the Director of Corporate Services and membership includes the Assistant Directors (Inspection) and corporate services staff at HEO grade and above.

This activity relates to NRAP objective 6.

Awareness raising

Inspection processes continue to ensure that pupils' understanding of sustainable development and global citizenship develops appropriately. Many schools are beginning to strengthen this aspect of a pupil's education as they respond to the 4 purposes in the Curriculum for Wales and particularly as they aim to develop learners as 'ethical informed citizens'.

In inspections during 2019-2020, strong practice was identified across the full range of settings including non-maintained nurseries, primary, secondary and special schools, work based learning and adult learning. Where strong features were identified they include:

- modelling good practice in nursery settings, encouraging pupils to turn off taps and rewarding the 'recycler of the week'.
- teaching primary pupils about their carbon footprint and how to make sustainable choices, developing cross curricular projects for example a maths activity calculating the school's daily water use and involving the wider community, for example involving grandparents in a tree planting project.
- supporting pupils in secondary schools to lead their own environmental projects and encouraging them to raise money for those less fortunate than themselves.
- promoting the importance of sustainability and encouraging learners to consider ways to recycle and save energy in their job role in work based learning and,
- educating adult learners about budgeting and reducing food waste.

Also during 2019-2020, Estyn's effective practice publication, [Taking Teaching Outdoors](#), highlighted how outdoor learning at a school on the Gower peninsula has not only encouraged skills such as problem solving and negotiating, but also had a positive impact on pupil wellbeing and attitudes to learning.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act places a duty on certain organisations to have sustainable development (SD) as their central organising principle. Although this duty does not apply to Estyn, we have gone some way to build the necessary sustainable development components into our strategic objectives and delivery principles. Annex 2 of our latest [Annual Report and Accounts](#) is published on Estyn's website and includes how Estyn is working to achieve the vision for Wales set out in the well-being goals and the five ways of working (SD principle). The Annex includes many examples of improvement resources including thematic reports and effective practice studies that contribute to the well-being goals.

We have also worked to communicate appropriate information and support to assist staff in exercising their environmental responsibility during the year. For example, our Environmental Policy and this Environmental report is published on our website, environmental articles have been included in our staff newsletter, our Service Delivery Group is a bi-monthly forum for operational issues and has included progress against environmental objectives and targets, and impact assessments, conducted for each Estyn policy, have included consideration of environmental performance.

This activity relates to NRAP objective 1.

6. Continue to embed environmental considerations into purchasing procedures.

All goods and services are procured using electronic processes.

When procuring goods and non-inspection related services, we request that suppliers make every effort to support our commitment to minimise our impact on the environment and provided them a website link to our Environmental policy for guidance.

When sourcing goods and non inspection services, suppliers are invited to evidence how they will support us in meeting our environmental objectives as part of meeting our tender evaluation criteria; suppliers are also instructed to provide links to their website, and to scan relevant certification to evidence this, in place of sending detailed documents with their bid.

Turning to the procurement of inspection related services, Contracted Additional Inspectors (CAIs) submit their inspection tender rates to us electronically via a secure portal. CAIs can also accept or decline contract offers through this secure portal. This system also acts as an effective tool for managing the resourcing and deployment of CAIs and has removed the need to issue contract offer letters, reducing printing requirements for both parties.

Suppliers sourced via government frameworks will have already demonstrated their commitment to improving the environment to qualify for inclusion in tender lots. Where there is no suitable government framework, or on occasions where the cost of goods/services does not require a full tender, suppliers are sourced via the Sell2Wales database; also supporting small and medium enterprises in Wales. Using this route has enabled us to engage with local suppliers, and where possible minimise emissions and reduce the carbon footprint, for example, local companies are used for all in-house catering events; filming services for our best practice/training material, graphic design and digital photography services for HMCI's Annual report.

This activity relates to NRAP objective 4.

Environmental statement / Report validation

The information contained within this Environmental Statement/Report has been sampled and validated by the Green Dragon auditor and found to be a fair and accurate assessment of the organisations activities and environmental performance over the past year within the organisations defined scope.

Lead Auditor	Bethan Harries
Auditing Organisation	Green Business Centre <i>(on behalf of Groundwork Wales)</i>
Date of Audit	12/01/2021
Valid until	11/01/2022

Validation of the Environmental Statement/Report does not confirm certification of the organisations Environmental Management System to the Green Dragon Standard. Confirmation of certification can be made by obtaining a copy of the organisations valid Green Dragon certificate or visiting the Green Dragon website at www.greendragonems.com