

STFC Green Group Network

- Report on GGN
- PPD sustainability key areas and targets for 2026 (discussion)

Environmental Sustainability (ES) in STFC

Why ES matters:

- STFC accounts for ~ **38% of UKRI's carbon emissions**.
- We spent ~ **£32M on electricity last year** – reducing energy use saves cost and carbon.
- Sustainability is a **legal and strategic requirement** under Government and UKRI commitments.
- Aligns with the **STFC Transformation Programme** – efficiency and cost reduction.

Everyone's role is essential for supporting sustainable practices in labs and offices.

What STFC ES team expects from Green Group representatives?

- Champion and drive sustainability in their Department
- Embed environmental considerations into **key areas**
- Encourage staff to **engage with Green Group and/or take practical actions**
- Provide a **half yearly update** on actions to the ES Team and report on opportunities to Department director

STFC Green Groups Network (GGN)

Informal and collaborative space for Green Groups.

Started to meet fall 2025

Main objectives

1. Connect with others to share best practice and knowledge
 - Discuss ideas and challenges faced with environmental sustainability within STFC
2. Create a communication path between Green Groups and the STFC ES Team.
 - Support the alignment of Green Group activities with STFC's environmental goals
 - Report and discuss progress of Green Group activities.
 - Foster alignment around shared objectives to build momentum and minimise duplication of effort.

Resources and budget

- The Green Group Network can collaborate on projects and apply for funding from UKRI.
- The Environmental Sustainability Team will discuss in a meeting if there is any potential for budget for any Green Group projects

GGN responsibilities

Environmental Sustainability Team

- Organise Green Groups Network meetings, fostering open dialogue on environmental sustainability.
- Gain insight into Green Group initiatives including projects, proposals, and actions that can be included into annual reports and opportunities lists.
- Incorporate feedback from the network into key strategic initiatives.
- Engage senior leadership to align Green Group efforts with organisational goals.
- Maintain a central hub (WEST) for sharing best practices and resources.
- Encourage cross-site collaboration by connecting groups with shared interests or challenges.

Green Groups

- Attend and contribute to bi-monthly meetings, ensuring representation even when the main contact is unavailable.
- Share updates, best practices, ideas, and project progress with the network.
- Provide feedback on challenges to support peer awareness and continuous improvement.
- **Develop and maintain a high-level group action plan aligned with STFC's sustainability strategy**, to be completed and shared with GGN in Q4 FY 25/26
- Track and report progress on local sustainability initiatives.
- Identify opportunities for operational or behavioural improvements.
- Collaborate with other groups to exchange resources and ideas.
- Feedback from the network meetings will be cascaded to the rest of their local Green Group ensuring key communication is shared.

STFC Environmental Sustainability Team

Directed by Jo Colwell. GGN conveners:

- James Orme, Environmental Sustainability Officer
- Emma Wright, Head of Net Zero Strategy and Change



Emma Wright



James Orme

STFC Environmental Sustainability Delivery Plan (2025–2027)

- Endorsed by STFC Executive Board in Nov 2025
- Sets out actions to deliver ES strategy
- Plan looks at ensuring ES is embedded into all areas of STFC, in light of the financial challenges we are facing
- Aim is identify where “invest to save” opportunities exist and *encourage a culture of efficiencies, to reduce carbon, cut costs, and enable responsible world-class science*
- **GGs have been asked to explore the document and consider how their department can help** – PPD does not appear yet in the version that we were given [linked to the agenda]

STFC ES Delivery Plan- Areas of action

Blue = opportunities for PPD?

1. Governance and decision making

2. Measurement and monitoring

e.g., Deliver an electricity monitoring trial in the CLF R92 building and learn from the process, to develop best practices for monitoring equipment/area/laboratories

3. Lead by example

4. Cultural and behavioural changes

e.g., Life Cycle Analysis Training and other resources to support sustainable design [SPADE]

5. Energy

STFC ES Delivery Plan- Areas of action

6. Biodiverse and efficient Estate

7. Resource efficiency and waste

- e.g., lab efficiency tool created to be rolled out [WEST]

8. Business Travel

- ES to monitor and report on carbon emissions from business travel. Aim is to identify trends and opportunities for carbon reduction.
- Action plan to be created by ES to improve the sustainability of travel and commuting .

9. Procurement

10. Research Funding and Investment that encourages Sustainability

PPD ES targets

Areas [volunteers]:

- **Travel**
 - PPD CO2 emission for business travel
 - Web page on how to travel by train to CERN
- **PPD Labs @ RAL** [Kristian]
 - Electricity consumption
 - WEST
- **Boulby** [Kevin Lester, Joel Manton]
- **Computing** [Katy Ellis]
- **Operations and Exploitation**

PPD targets should align with UKRI/STFC ES strategy and delivery plan, evolving from PPD ideas, needs and enthusiasm

Round Table discussion on targets for 2026

- Shall we focus on few key areas?
 - Who wants to take ownership?
 - Action plan
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- **Training and early career**
 - LCA training
 - **Procurement/Administration** [Terry]
 - **Project office** [Lei Zhang]
 - **Awareness and behavioural change**
 - ES Seminars
 - Hospitality