

WATER MANAGEMENT ALLIANCE

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

OPERATIONS

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Version 3

To be reviewed every 5 years

Next review date: December 2030

Reviewed by: WMA Consortium Management Committee

Adopted by:

Broads Internal Drainage Board
East Suffolk Water Management Board
King's Lynn Internal Drainage Board
Norfolk Rivers Internal Drainage Board
South Holland Internal Drainage Board
Waveney, Lower Yare and Lothingland Internal Drainage Board
Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Water Management Alliance is a non-profit making consortium of seven Internal Drainage Boards committed to being a responsible business; conducting ourselves according to thorough ethical, professional, and legal standards.

2. PRINCIPLES

- 2.1. The Water Management Alliance has a vision to deliver appropriate water level management in a sustainable, carbon efficient and cost-effective manner to the communities served within its catchments. We will do this in a way that minimises impact to the environment and will protect and enhance ecological diversity for future generations.

3. COMMITMENT TO THESE PRINCIPLES

- 3.1. The WMA Members Boards will do the following to comply with these principles:

3.2. **People:**

Stakeholders

We strive to work in partnership with ratepayers and other organisations to deliver watercourse maintenance and Capital projects efficiently, safely and with due regard to the environment. We endeavour to provide low carbon options where we can and to choose sustainable design, material and construction methods where it is possible to do so.

Society

We aim to carry out our maintenance, construction and refurbishment practices in a manner designed to minimise disruption to our neighbours and minimise any impact on the local environment, end users, the wider community and society.

Supply Chain

We treat our supply chain partners fairly and responsibly and work with our contractors and suppliers to ensure they operate in a safe and environmentally responsible way. We will prioritise working with local suppliers, through our approved supplier framework, to invest in local people and businesses.

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Employees

We create a safe and inspiring environment for our employees, enabling them to develop skills and contribute to the success of the business. The commitments to our staff and workforce are as follows:

- Health and Safety - Health and Safety is our top priority. We are committed to continually improving the Health and Safety of our employees, contractors and those affected by our activities, including members of the public.
- Learning and Development – We promote training and learning opportunities for our staff to ensure they are equipped with the appropriate knowledge and skill-set. This helps the business to run smoothly and allows the individual the scope for personal development and growth.
- Equality and Diversity – We will provide an inclusive working environment where everyone feels valued and respected. We are committed to equal opportunities and do not discriminate against anyone on the grounds of gender, race, colour, marital status, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability or age.

3.3. The Planet:

Energy

We are committed to the UK governments target of carbon Net Zero by 2050 with the aim of reducing 50% of WMA greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 2030. We report annually on emissions by individual IDBs and have a Carbon Management Plan in which we consider our long, medium and short-term goals for carbon and GHG reductions. This is reviewed on a 5 year programme. We are determined that our activities and supply chains are aligned with these carbon reducing principals and toward the attainment of these targets. We strive to improve our energy efficiency, reduce our emissions and work with our stakeholders and suppliers to provide low carbon solutions to capital projects and maintenance activities. We also look to support projects researching or enabling carbon sequestration.

Resources

We promote measures to recycle and minimise waste and reduce the consumption of natural resources during our business activities.

Environment

We will take all reasonable steps to ensure that our operations are conducted in a manner that minimises our impact on the local environment, whilst also considering the targets of the UK Governments 25 year plan for the Environment.

We promote good environmental practice and seek opportunities to promote and enhance our biodiversity duties during our day-to-day activities and whilst undertaking our water management and land drainage responsibilities.

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3.4. Economic Viability:

Balanced sustainable solutions

We aim to work with ratepayers, our partners and stakeholders to provide sustainable solutions, as part of our daily operations and special projects that balance environmental, economic and social interests. We aim to ensure the effective use of resources and achieve value for money whilst undertaking our activities.

Transparency and Good Governance

As a public authority we are open and transparent about our income, expenditure, operations and activities. Such information is published regularly and is accessible to the public on our website or can be sought at source via a Freedom of Information Act request.

Quality Management

We are committed to the use the accredited ISO 9001 and 14001 Quality Management Systems to continually monitor and identify areas for improvement within the social, economic and environmental aspects of the business model, in line with the WMA's Environmental Statement.

3.5. Sustainable Development:

Section 27 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 requires Internal Drainage Boards to aim to contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development when exercising their flood and coastal erosion risk management functions.

Resultantly, the WMA Member Boards have adopted a joint Planning and Byelaw Strategy. This document provides guidance on how the WMA Member Boards will engage with their regulatory functions as well as the wider planning process with the aim of promoting sustainable development in sustainable locations.