One Planet Prosperity

The most successful businesses, societies and nations in the 21st century will be those that prosper by embedding the principles of the circular economy and operate within our planet’s capacity to support them.

As Scotland’s environment protection agency, we are creating a world class approach to environmental regulation that is underpinned by our unique statutory purpose; to protect and improve the environment in ways that create economic and social success.

Our innovative approach creates transformative changes that reduce Scotland’s use of resources from three planets to one.

One Planet Prosperity – Our Regulatory Strategy, builds on our statutory purpose and recognises that the most prosperous businesses will be purpose driven and the opportunity for profitability could be created through environmental innovation.

Creating success for Scotland

A regulator that views compliance as non-negotiable and drives business towards operating beyond compliance is what Scotland needs to be successful internationally.

SEPA is structured around a sectoral approach to engagement, meaning our regulatory approach and influence considers both vertical and horizontal supply chains. For each regulated sector, a Sector Plan will set out existing levels of compliance, market context and key issues faced by the sector, including social issues like the importance of creating local jobs in rural communities. This approach will ensure we are systematically tackling the remaining compliance issues for the sector, mapping out where the most promising ‘beyond compliance’ opportunities exist and identifying and harnessing the key levers that influence that particular sector.
Our innovative approach creates transformative changes that reduce Scotland’s use of resources from three planets to one.

A level playing field for business

Businesses that break the rules, and negatively impact our environment and communities, are faced with a range of enforcement actions. SEPA has a toolkit of measures available from advice and guidance, from warning letters to monetary penalties and prosecution. Tackling the chancers and criminals at the red end of the compliance spectrum helps to provide a level playing field for businesses and further drives the incentive to operate ‘beyond compliance’.

ENCOURAGE IMPROVEMENTS AND PROMOTE BEST PRACTICE

HIT THEM HARD

enforce educate enable engage

RECOGNISE AND REWARD

criminal chancer careless confused compliant champion
Sitting alongside regulation is flooding, our other primary service. Flooding can affect us all; it impacts our homes, communities, health, businesses and travel network and, with the impacts of climate change, we can expect wetter winters and more intense rain fall in summer.

Advanced notice of flooding is critical in taking action that can save lives and property. The Scottish Flood Forecasting Service, our partnership with the Met Office, and Floodline share information on when and where flooding is likely to happen so that action and resources can be targeted, reducing the impacts of flooding on our communities and businesses. As a Category 1 responder, SEPA is at the heart of the frontline response to flooding.

Flood risk management planning is co-ordinated across Scotland by SEPA’s flood risk management strategies. National modelling and mapping information used to create the strategies embeds the impacts of climate change and enables plans to be developed that are resilient to future impacts. A national approach to flood risk management planning has co-ordinated the actions of public bodies and targeted investment. Our advice on flood risk is embedded in the planning system and is critical in developing Scotland’s towns and cities in a sustainable way.

Sustainable Growth Agreements (SGAs) are voluntary formal agreements between SEPA and an organisation (or organisations) that focus on practical actions that they can take to deliver environmental improvement and outcomes. They can be a successful tool for business to commit to profitable environmental innovation at boardroom level and a public statement that the business is working with the regulator to be profitable through great environmental compliance and achieving even more.

By signing up to the agreement, businesses will benefit from our help and expertise as we work with them to:

- facilitate the trial of new technologies and approaches;
- identify new opportunities;
- assist with the transfer of information and knowledge from key stakeholders and industry specialists.

Finding unusual partners

To move our resource use from three planets to one, transformative changes, innovative solutions and an entrepreneurial mindset is needed to solve environmental problems. SEPA can’t do this alone. Unusual partners, disruptive thinking and new approaches are actively being found. A national and international network is now engaged with SEPA where advice, skills and discussions are shared. This network will support Scotland’s businesses to grow and develop in a way that will be successful on an international platform.

Recognising that Scotland’s approach to regulation and flood risk management is world class, SEPA has established a new consultancy service. Our staff have expert skills and knowledge that can help to tackle environmental challenges across the globe.

The revenue raised is being reinvested into enhancing our current services, accelerating both SEPA and Scotland’s journey towards a one planet economy.