



Climate Action Plan

Background

We have three areas of operation for addressing climate change

- 1) Getting our own house in order (reducing our carbon footprint and broader environmental measures)
- 2) Helping others to address climate change (providing education, influence and supporting community action on climate change, promoting climate justice)
- 3) Thought leadership (participating in networks, sharing our progress, commenting publicly on related issues)

Improving the local natural environment and increasing local biodiversity is a key part of our ethos and relates closely to our climate actions. Specific actions on these fronts are outside the scope of this plan.

Systems and processes

The programme is led by the CEO. Trustees have a monitoring brief through reports to board meetings.

All department managers contribute through realistic actions in their own area. These were developed collectively and prioritised at an achievable level.

We have considered having 'climate champions' on the staff team but found practical implementation tricky to sustain.

Our community action is currently opportunistic based on securing incoming resources.

The plan applies to both Windmill Hill and Hartcliffe sites (recognising the responsibility at HCF is shared with HoBS13).

Getting our own house in order

Targets

We aim to reduce our net carbon output to zero in as short a timeframe as we can acknowledging that

- 1) Our resources for tackling climate-change are limited.
- 2) Our capacity to find additional resources is also limited.
- 3) The scope of our impact is not fixed (we need to define how far reaching our actions are)

The minimum expectation is that we can justify saying that we are a net-zero carbon organisation by 2030 at the latest. If possible, we aim to reach net-zero C sooner.

We have completed an independent carbon audit undertaken by the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) supported by funding from Power to Change. In summary it found that the carbon footprint of the organisation was 100 tonnes net CO₂ output per annum. This was calculated from scope 1 and 2 emissions plus selected scope 3 estimates. Half of the net output (50tCO₂e) was due to heating our buildings. Overall it concluded we manage our emissions well and are heading in the right direction with new measures we are taking.



Scope

We are using the notion of emissions falling into 3 'scopes' and have identified the following climate impacts applicable in our work.

Scope 1

Gas boilers on site used for heating buildings and hot water. Our van and tractor (both diesel fuel). Contribution of animals on site.

Scope 2

Electricity use.

Scope 3

The internationally recognised Greenhouse Gas Protocol has 15 categories of scope 3 emissions (see [Scope 3 Calculation Guidance | GHG Protocol](#)). We have organised our scope 3 emissions into these categories, even though some of them have no emissions associated with them. This will enable us to more easily contribute to wider climate action initiatives in the future.

1 Purchased Goods and Services

Water use. Cleaning and hygiene. Animal feed. Gardening supplies. Childcare resources. Food ingredients. Packaging and disposables. Digital. Services purchased. Non-capitalised goods purchased.

2 Capital Goods

Buildings constructed in reporting year. Other capitalised items (value over £5,000 in line with purchasing policy) purchased in reporting year.

3 Fuel- and Energy-Related Activities Not Included in Scope 1 or Scope 2

Not directly measured. No influence beyond scope 1 actions.

4 Upstream Transportation and Distribution

Not directly measured. May influence through choice of supplier. Might include customer (visitor) journeys

5 Waste Generated in Operations

Waste sent to landfill. Waste recycled.

6 Business Travel

Not including use of the company van (scope 1)

7 Employee Commuting

Can be estimated from postcode and survey data

8 Upstream Leased Assets

None

9 Downstream Transportation and Distribution

Not measured, though might include visitor journeys.

10 Processing of Sold Products

Not measured.

11 Use of Sold Products

Not measured.



12 End-of-Life Treatment of Sold Products

Not measured.

13 Downstream Leased Assets

None

14 Franchises

None

15 Investments

Pension investment, banking. Not measured.

Measurement

A comprehensive direct measure of our climate impact is beyond our capacity and capability. The carbon audit we undertook with CSE measured scopes 1 and 2 emissions in their entirety and used a sample of scope three emissions judged to be those of greatest impact. These were largely associated with the supply chain of utility use (including fuels and water), business travel, organisational waste, and the café supply chain. Estimates were used for staff and visitor travel in the absence of any specific data.

We have no current mechanism to measure the contribution of our green spaces and local food production to carbon sequestration and while it may be useful to report avoided emissions alongside other targets they cannot be used as offsets.

Actions

Our main long-term focus is to decarbonise the heating of our buildings. Given this accounts for half our net CO₂ emissions it will have the greatest impact. We are about to commission an options appraisal to determine which low- or non-carbon systems are best for each building.

Other actions are based in departments and have been chosen with achievability as the primary means of prioritising them. We review climate actions at each monthly department managers meeting.

Communications

We have yet to develop a communications strategy for our climate action work. It will aim to support all three elements of our plan: giving accountability to our in-house actions; encouraging others to join the net-zero journey and on specific projects. We need to find the right tone, volume and content to make a difference.

We have published our climate action plan to hold ourselves to account transparently and in the hope that it may provide some inspiration to others on the same journey.

Helping others to address climate change

We have one project currently running in this area.

Bristol Green Capital Partnership Community Climate Action Programme

Runs from Apr – Mar 2024. We have helped a group of local residents to develop a community climate action plan. This will be the basis of future funding bids in the hope of finding additional resources to implement elements of the plan.



Thought Leadership

We are members of the Bristol Climate and Nature Partnership.

Resources

Power to Change Powering Up programme

A small grant that has supported development of this plan. There are three elements

- 1) Development of our climate action plan
- 2) Capacity support to engage CSE to complete a baseline carbon audit and set up a system to monitor progress
- 3) Professional development used to facilitate an away day for department managers on climate actions.

City Leap Fund

There are three elements to this grant, which are sequential and focus on the potential of bringing a district heat network supply to the site.. We won a 'micro grant' to develop an invitation to tender for a scoping study of the site and application to next phase.

We will next seek funds to undertake the scoping study and develop a brief for a full feasibility study and technical design. Finally we will develop the full technical specification and feasibility study ahead of installation.

Useful Links

[The Farm Carbon Calculator \(farmcarbontoolkit.org.uk\)](https://farmcarbontoolkit.org.uk)

[Carbon Footprint Calculator and Benchmarking - Compare Your Footprint](#)

[Carbon Analytics \(co2analytics.com\)](https://co2analytics.com)

[B Climate Tools Base — B Corp Climate Collective](#)

This summarises an approach, including scope 1-3 <https://eco-act.com/carbon-reporting/how-to-calculate-a-carbon-footprint-for-your-business/>

And this is Carbon Trust's SME carbon calc. <https://www.carbontrust.com/our-work-and-impact/guides-reports-and-tools/sme-carbon-footprint-calculator>

[Creative Climate Action Toolkit: Small is beautiful, brilliant and vital | Watershed](#)

In addition there is a tool to estimate how much carbon will be saved by making specific changes, this is aimed at individual households but may have useful data for different measures:

[The Future Energy Tool can help set ambitions and propose collective and individual household action for a net zero future](#) . The tool is a collaboration between the Wadebridge Renewable Energy Project, the University of Exeter, Planet A and Community Energy Plus.