
Carbon Reduction Plan

17 August 2022

Committing to Net Zero by 2040

We are committed to net-zero emissions by 2040 at the latest.

Carbon Emissions targets to 2025

Our interim and global 2025 targets are set out below. They are aligned to the 1.5 degrees Celsius scenario. By 2025/26 (financial year) we are targeting a 33% reduction in scope 1, scope 2 and scope 3 emissions against the 2017/18 baseline¹. Total gross emissions will decrease from 50,338 tCO₂e in 2017/18 to 33,725 tCO₂e in 2025 and then to net zero carbon emissions by 2040.

| (All figures are in tCO ₂ e) | Baseline Year 2017/18 | | 2025 interim target | | % Net reduction |
|---|--------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| | Gross | Net | Gross | Net | |
| Scope 1 emissions Direct Greenhouse Gas emissions occur from sources that are owned or controlled by the British Council, e.g. from boilers, generators or vehicles | 1,321 | 1,321 | 885 | 885 | 33% |
| Scope 2 emissions Indirect Greenhouse Gas emissions are from the generation of purchased electricity and heat consumed by the British Council. | 15,316 | 15,303 | 10,260 | 10,250 | 33% |
| Scope 3 emissions All other indirect emissions occurring at sources we do not own or control across the entire value chain | 33,701 | 33,699 | 22,580 | 22,580 | 33% |
| TOTAL | 50,338 | 50,323 | 33,725 | 33,715 | 33% |

Our progress so far

Our response to climate change is of critical importance for our customers, stakeholders and colleagues and we are responding in two ways.

Firstly, we are bringing together new voices around the world to help strengthen global climate co-operation. [The Climate Connection](#) is our global platform for dialogue, cooperation and action, providing opportunities for young people, students, artists, researchers, teachers, academics, leaders and policymakers across the world to find creative and collaborative solutions to climate change. In the run up to COP26 in 2021 until March 2022, we reached more

¹ A 2017/18 baseline has been chosen to align with HMG reporting and Greening Government Commitments www.britishcouncil.org

than 200 million individuals across 209 countries globally, through engagement with more than 7,500 partners. An estimated 4 million young people participated globally, increasing their knowledge and skills and helping them to engage and respond to climate change.

Secondly, we are improving our own environment performance. This is not new. We have been managing and reporting our carbon footprint for over 10 years but recently we have refocused our efforts to accelerate new, more environmental ways of working.

| | |
|--|---|
| Prioritising our response to climate change | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental responsibility is embedded in our strategic priorities • We are committed to the Greening Government Commitments, including reducing our overall emissions in the UK by 56% (2017/18 – 2025/26) • We have developed a network of Climate Champions and Coordinators to manage our response across our network of 100+ countries |
| Improved management of our carbon footprint | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have introduced a new global reporting system to improve the monitoring and management of our environmental carbon footprint • We have developed our net zero targets in line with science-based targets |
| More environmentally friendly ways of working | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our global headquarters in London is an exemplar of sustainable development, achieving a Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) outstanding rating • We have embedded smart, on-line ways of working across our global operations reducing the need for travel. • Our digital operations have accelerated, including computer-based testing, to learning English and delivering events on-line. |

Priorities for 2022/23

As set out in our Corporate Plan we are prioritising the following actions:

- Develop new offers for our customers and stakeholders and new opportunities which support climate change awareness, education and action, including support for COP 27.
- Continued development of digital and on-line delivery
- Strengthen our capacities and leadership to manage our climate change response.
- Strengthen global policies for a more environmentally sustainable operation. This will include:
 - Review and clarify how and when we travel to ensure we maintain the optimal combination of face-to-face and digital cultural relations and deliver a 50% reduction in distance travelled by flights between 2017/18 and 2025/26.
 - Review our physical footprint to relocate to smaller and/or more flexible, energy, water and waste efficient workspaces.
 - Develop our procurement practices to deliver improved environmental performance, including our target to eliminate single use plastics by 2025.
- Continue to improve the accuracy and efficiency of our global carbon footprint reporting

Additional Data: Baselines and Performance

Baseline gross and net emissions

| | Baseline Year 2017/18 (tCO2e) | | UK emissions (tCO2e) | | Rest of the World emissions (tCO2e) | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|---|---------------|
| | Gross | Net | Gross | Net | Gross | Net |
| Scope 1 emissions | 1,321 | 1,321 | 304 | 304 | 1,017 | 1,017 |
| Scope 2 emissions | 15,316 | 15,303 | 727 | 727 | 14,588 | 14,576 |
| Scope 3 emissions <small>Sources: Electricity Transmission & Distribution, Well to tank emissions for natural gas, Transportation for business travel, water usage, waste generated.</small> | 33,701 | 33,699 | 9,906 | 9,906 | 23,795 | 23,793 |
| TOTAL | 50,338 | 50,323 | 10,938 | 10,938 | 39,400 | 39,386 |

- The 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 baseline aligns to Greening Government Commitments.
- Carbon emissions are reported for the global estate and calculated using the operational control approach in line with GHG Protocol. Data collected includes: electricity and natural gas usage at locations, water usage, waste generated, as well as travel for business purposes. Data has been estimated for missing electricity, water and waste data. Gas and travel data was not estimated due to the variable nature of these data elements.
- Exclusions to scope: Teaching partnership sites, residential properties, any unknown transport data (including commuting, transportation of exam papers and of artworks), and materials (paper usage is not recorded by all sites).
- Estimation methodology: For base year estimates for missing electricity data, the average kwh per meter squared was calculated for the entire estate in the base year and used to determine estimates for missing electricity data. For water the missing data was estimated using m2 per FTE average and waste estimated using kg of waste per FTE average.
- Carbon calculation: Defra/BEIS conversion factors used for the appropriate reporting year, IEA conversion factors for electricity use outside of the UK. Scope 3 includes 'Transmission and Distribution' from electricity consumed and natural gas 'Well to Tank' emissions.
- Baseline recalculation policy is set at significant changes to the organisation over and above 5% variance. This has not yet been required.

2021/22 Latest Emissions Reporting

| | 2021/22 1 April – 31 March (tCO2e) | | UK emissions (tCO2e) | | Rest of the World emissions (tCO2e) | |
|-------------------|--|---------------|-------------------------|------------|---|---------------|
| | Gross | Net | Gross | Net | Gross | Net |
| Scope 1 emissions | 1,026 | 1,026 | 121 | 121 | 904 | 904 |
| Scope 2 emissions | 9,420 | 9,242 | 149 | 89 | 9,271 | 9,153 |
| Scope 3 emissions | 5,568 | 5,524 | 674 | 645 | 4,894 | 4,879 |
| TOTAL | 16,014 | 15,791 | 945 | 855 | 15,070 | 14,936 |

Declaration and Sign Off

This Carbon Reduction Plan has been completed in accordance with PPN 06/21 and associated guidance and reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans.

Emissions have been reported and recorded in accordance with the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the GHG Reporting Protocol corporate standard² and uses the appropriate Government emission conversion factors for greenhouse gas company reporting³.

Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions have been reported in accordance with Greening Government Commitments, and the required subset of Scope 3 emissions have been reported, where data is available, in accordance with the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Standard⁴.

This Carbon Reduction Plan has been reviewed and agreed with our Executive team.

Signed: 

Andy Williams: Chief Operating Officer

Date: 18/04/22

²<https://ghgprotocol.org/corporate-standard>

³<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-conversion-factors-for-company-reporting>

⁴<https://ghgprotocol.org/standards/scope-3-standard>