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# Carbon Reduction Plan

2024/25

## How we are addressing Climate Change

We deliver an ambitious portfolio of climate projects through our work in arts and culture, education and the English language. We are also committed to operating in a more environmentally responsible way. That means reducing our carbon emissions by 33 per cent by 2026, from a 2017–18 baseline, and achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2040.

Since 2020 we have directly engaged with 22 million people around the world and connected with more than 7,500 partners. This includes participation at COP26, 27, 28 and most recently COP29. Our priorities are to:

- Strengthen climate and sustainability education and research
- Build the resilience of education systems to climate impacts
- Support young people and future leaders to build their skills and knowledge in responding to climate change
- Protect cultural heritage at risk from climate change
- Raise awareness of climate change and biodiversity by supporting the arts and culture sector to develop creative responses and adopt more sustainable practices
- Be environmentally responsible and decarbonise our activities and operations
- Share knowledge and best practice by commissioning research and participating in the Conference of Parties (COP) and Conference of Youth (COY)

## Carbon Emissions targets

Our interim and global 2026 targets are set out below. By 2025/26 (financial year) we are targeting a 33% reduction in scope 1, scope 2 and scope 3 emissions against the 2017/18 baseline<sup>1</sup>. Total emissions will decrease from 50,338 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2017/18 to 33,725 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2025/26 and then to net zero carbon emissions by 2040 at the latest.

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<sup>1</sup> A 2017/18 baseline has been chosen to align with HMG reporting and Greening Government Commitments

(All figures are in tCO<sub>2</sub>e)

	Baseline Year 2017/18	2025 interim target	% Net reduction
<b>Scope 1 emissions</b> 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	885	33%
<b>Scope 2 emissions</b> Indirect Greenhouse Gas emissions are from the generation of purchased electricity and heat consumed by the British Council	15,316	10,260	33%
<b>Scope 3 emissions</b> All other indirect emissions occurring at sources we do not own or control across the entire value chain	33,701	22,580	33%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50,338</b>	<b>33,725</b>	<b>33%</b>

We have been managing our own environmental performance and reporting our carbon footprint for over 10 years but recently we have refocussed our efforts to accelerate new, more environmental ways of working. In 2023/2024 we focussed on the following areas:

<b>Initiatives to reduce our carbon footprint</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed carbon reduction plans for our priority and higher carbon emitting countries</li> <li>Undertook energy audits in India and initiated renewable energy projects for our offices in Dubai (UAE) and Colombo (Sri Lanka)</li> </ul>
<b>Improved management of our carbon footprint</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explored how to capture scope 3 emissions linked to the purchase of goods and services</li> <li>Improved and streamlined travel data reporting and developed a travel carbon budget for an international education programme</li> </ul>
<b>Leadership and engagement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiated the development of our first organisational Climate Change Strategy</li> <li>Maintained a network of regional and country environmental co-ordinators to support collection and analysis of our carbon footprint data</li> </ul>

## Priorities for 2024/25

- Finalise and launch our Climate Change Strategy in October 2024
- Share experiences on our journey towards net zero as part of our participation at COP29 in Azerbaijan
- Improve understanding of our global carbon footprint, estimating carbon emissions from homeworking and staff commuting (scope 3)
- Implement renewable energy projects in our offices in Dubai (UAE) and Colombo (Sri Lanka)

## Baselines and performance

	Total emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)		UK emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)		Rest of the world emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	
	2017/18 baseline	2023/24 actual	2017/18 baseline	2023/24 actual	2017/18 baseline	2023/24 actual
<b>Scope 1 emissions</b>	1,321	691	304	58	1,017	633
<b>Scope 2 emissions</b>	15,316	10,498	727	491	14,588	10,007
<b>Scope 3 emissions</b>	33,701	15,602	9,906	2,868	23,795	12,734
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50,338</b>	<b>26,791</b>	<b>10,938</b>	<b>3,417</b>	<b>39,400</b>	<b>23,374</b>

- 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 water, 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: Scope 1 emissions – fugitive emissions of refrigerant gases. Scope 3 emissions - all purchased goods & services (revenue) except materials (paper) & water supply which are reported, purchased goods & services (capital), upstream emissions of fuels and electricity, employee commuting, employee homeworking.
- 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.


## 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 standard<sup>2</sup> and uses the appropriate Government emission conversion factors for greenhouse gas company reporting<sup>3</sup>.

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) Standard<sup>4</sup>.

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

Signed:  .....

Andy Williams: Chief Operating Officer

Date: 20 December 2024 .....

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

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

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