HARDSCAPE GROUP

Environmental and Sustainability Policy & Report 2026

This Policy & Report includes:

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- Information, Guidance, and Support
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Introduction, Foreword, and Strategic Vision

Over the last 30 years, Hardscape has evolved alongside our industry to better understand our impact as a supplier of paving materials. We are committed to learning and adapting our business approach as the challenges of climate change become more urgent. Our goal is simple: to leave the places we touch in better condition than we found them.

Guided by the UN Sustainability Goals, we have set a clear path to reach Net Zero by 2038. We are working firstly to cut our Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions by at least 75% compared to our 2019 baseline, and rather than relying on purchasing external carbon credits, we are investing in our own sustainability projects to take direct responsibility for our footprint.

To turn these commitments into measurable action, we focus on:

- Data-Led Decisions: Providing available and relevant Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) and embodied carbon data for our materials to help our partners make informed, low-impact choices.
- Material Innovation: Investing in circularity, effective maintenance, and reclamation to keep materials in use longer, alongside developing permeable and low-carbon paving technologies.
- Ethical Integrity: Ensuring our global supply chain meets rigorous ethical sourcing and sustainability standards to protect both people and the environment.

We believe in transparency and honesty. Our progress reports are designed as evidence-based guides - not marketing tools - so our partners can trust our journey. We are proactive in sharing this knowledge through specialised CPD training and by directly supporting the Landscape Institute's Landscape & Carbon development work. Furthermore, we are proud to support the BSI in developing standards for Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs), helping to raise the bar for the entire industry.

Whether you are already on this path with us or are still navigating the transition, we are here to support and collaborate. Our commitment to creating beautiful, low-impact spaces remains steady, regardless of the hurdles ahead.



Stephen Duce - Operations Manager
29th of June 2026

Information, Guidance, and Support

We have followed the progress of national and international understanding of environmental impacts, taking action to ensure our business activities cause minimal environmental harm. We have gained valuable knowledge and developed our strategies based on scientific evidence and collective understanding from the following sustainability partners and information sources:

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

CfA Centre for Assessment ISO 14001 Environmental Management — UKAS MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS 0120

SCIENCE BASED TARGETS
DRIVING AMBITIOUS CORPORATE CLIMATE ACTION

THE CLIMATE PLEDGE

bali.org.uk British Association Landscape Industries

SME Climate Hub COMMITTED 2026

THE GLOBAL COMPACT UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT

ELLEN MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

Landscape Institute
Inspiring great places

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Environmental Policy Statement

Hardscape Group Ltd, incorporating Hardscape Products Ltd & Hardscape Surfaces Ltd (furthermore known as Hardscape) offer a specialist service for the selection, specification, and supply of innovative, diverse, and high-quality hard landscaping products. We use high performance, cost effective, and ethically sourced products including paving, setts, cladding, artwork, and street furniture using materials such as Granite, Sandstone, Limestone, Porphyry, and Slate or manufactured concrete and clay.
Operating from offices throughout the UK, Hardscape Products has an extensive portfolio of supplying materials for prestigious hard landscaping schemes for urban, civic, public realm, commercial, and private projects. Hardscape Surfaces is a manufacturing facility, capable of cutting, shaping, finish texturization, and enhancement of multi-material hard surfaces utilising the latest hi-tec laser technology, mechanical processes, and artisan handcrafted techniques.

Mission & Commitment
Hardscape is fully committed to operating as a sustainable business; this pledge is a cornerstone of our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) strategy. We are dedicated to preventing pollution, promoting sustainable resource use, and reducing harmful emissions. We ensure full compliance with all relevant UK environmental legislation, local regulations, and broader environmental responsibilities.

Net Zero & Performance
To drive continuous improvement, we regularly evaluate the environmental impact of our activities, products, and services. We maintain an Integrated Management System (IMS) that meets ISO 14001:2015 requirements while supporting PAS 2080 and other relevant standards. As part of our long-term vision, we have formally pledged to halve our CO_2 emissions by 2030 and achieve Net Zero emissions by 2038.

Our Core Objectives:

- Resource Efficiency & Circular Economy: Quantify and minimise the consumption of water, fossil fuels, and natural resources. We are committed to transitioning toward a circular economy by prioritising resource efficiency and keeping products and materials in use for as long as possible.
- Waste Management: Implement a waste hierarchy focused on prevention, re-use, recycling, and energy recovery. All unavoidable waste is disposed of safely, legally, and responsibly.
- Hazardous Materials: Phase out the use of environmentally hazardous materials where practicable and actively seek sustainable alternatives.
- Sustainable Procurement: Partner exclusively with environmentally responsible suppliers, monitoring their certifications and providing guidance to those looking to improve their sustainability.
- Mitigation of Nuisance: Prevent environmental damage and minimise local disturbances, including noise, water contamination, and air pollution.
- Climate Action: Actively reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and other pollutants that negatively impact climate, biodiversity, and human health.

Risk, Accountability & Transparency
Hardscape employs a 5x5 risk matrix to assess the likelihood and severity of environmental impacts, prioritising high-risk activities. We define and publish clear environmental objectives and targets, regularly auditing the effectiveness of our control measures to ensure desired outcomes are achieved.
We foster a culture of environmental awareness through ongoing training for employees, suppliers, and customers. To ensure full transparency, we will publish this policy alongside an annual environmental progress report on the Hardscape website, detailing our targets and performance metrics.

Leadership
The Managing Director holds ultimate accountability for the endorsement and achievement of this policy. The Operations Manager reviews and updates these guidelines annually to reflect organisational changes and industry best practices. Management is responsible for enforcing these procedures and ensuring environmental awareness is embedded throughout our business and supply chains.

Alex Warren

Alex Warren - Managing Director
Dated: 29th of June 2026

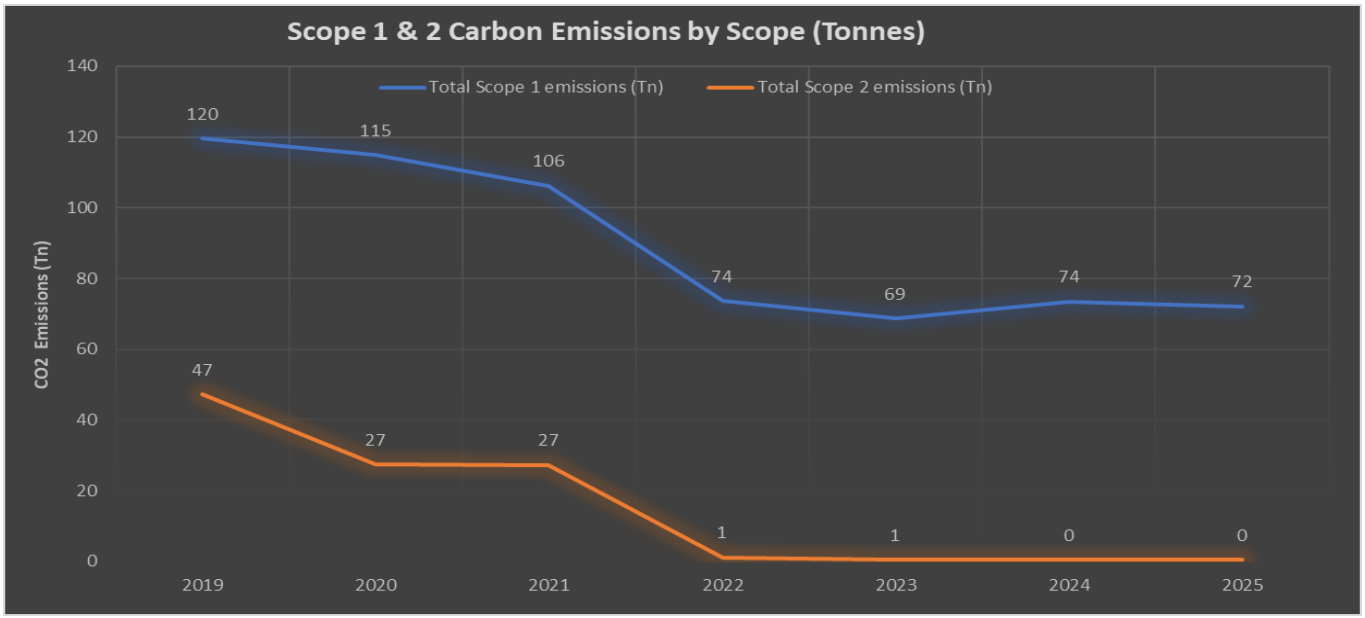
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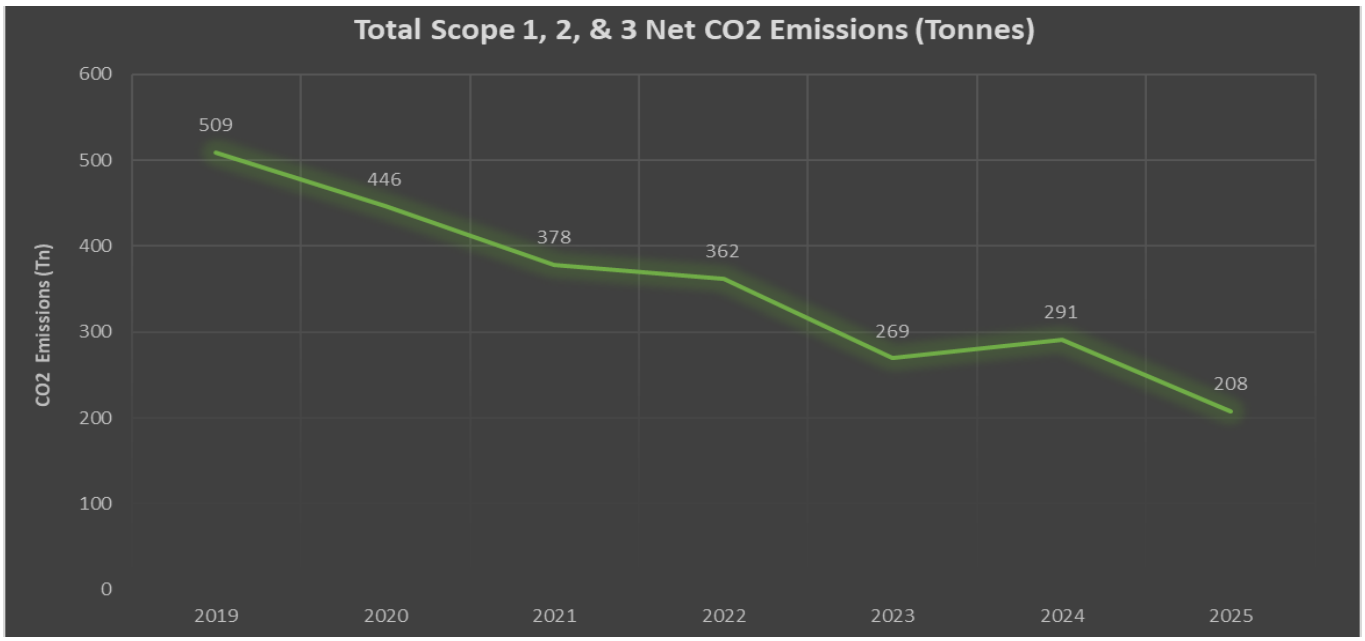
Carbon Reduction Strategy: Targets & Achievements

To achieve our ambition to become net zero by 2038 and support the UK's Net Zero Carbon ambition for 2050, we have set ourselves challenging reduction targets to hit at various milestones. Our baseline year for recording emissions was 2019.

Total Net **Scope 1, 2, & 3 CO2e Emissions % Vs Baseline Year**										
Financial Year	April 19 - March 20	April 20 - March 21	April 21 - March 22	April 22 - March 23	April 23 - March 24	April 24 - March 25	April 25- March 26	April 26- March 27	April 27- March 28	April 29- March 30
Target **Vs. baseline**	Start point	**90%**	**80%**	**70%**	**60%**	**50%**	**40%**	**30%**	**20%**	**10%**
% reduction Actual	Start point	**88%**	**74%**	**71%**	**53%**	**57%**	**41%**	-	-	-

We set a new interim target of a 90% reduction against the baseline emissions over 10 years, which decreases each year to maintain focus and progress. This is a bold target, as reductions become increasingly difficult to obtain the lower our emissions become, year-on-year. Most of the easy wins have already been implemented, so the remaining developments may need significant investment, innovation, and management to achieve net zero. Our current progress towards net zero is shown in the data and graphs below.





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Carbon Reduction Strategy: History, Targets, & Achievements

Measures which have had a significant impact on reducing our emissions over the past years include:

2019-2020:

- Covid 19 Pandemic year. (Furlough of employees, working from home, limited travel and deliveries)
- Closing of Stratford Office and combining with Head Office or additional working from home.

2020-2021:

- Switching the electricity supply in our London office to use 100% renewable energy sources.
- Brochure and document printing schemes cancelled, reducing the delivery & processing emissions.

2021-2022:

- Closing Belfast office due to reduced business need and increased hybrid working availability.
- Reduced office opening days from 5 to 3 days, so staff work from home for 2 days each week.
- Lighting systems at Logistics North improvements (low energy LED bulbs and motion sensors).

2022-2023:

- Switching our electricity supply in our factory and 2 of our offices to 100% renewable energy.
- Replaced our primary use diesel Forklift truck for a Lithium-Ion electric Forklift truck.
- Improvement project developed to expand the use of remote meetings, presentations, and audits.

2023-2024:

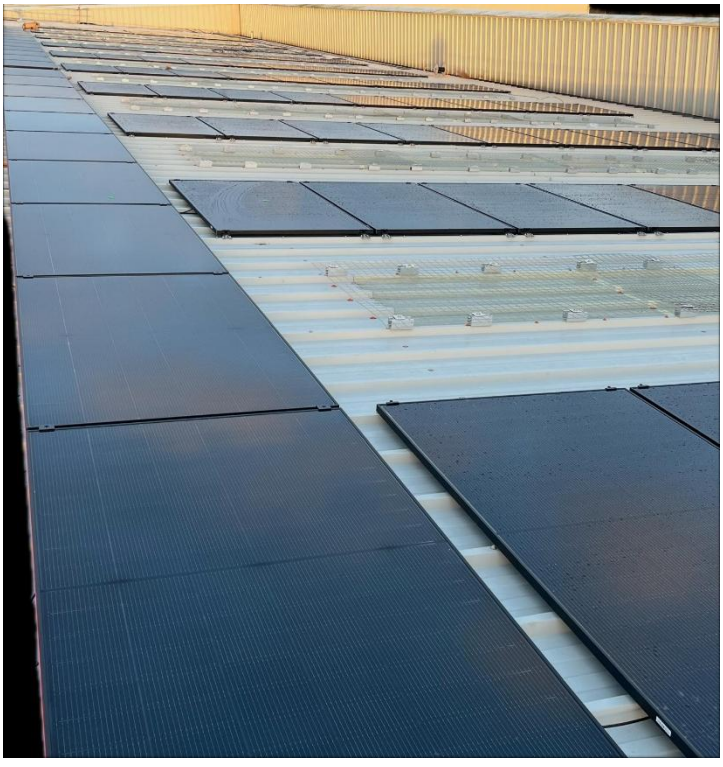
- Company fleet car renewals policy change, moving to Hybrid or Electric vehicles only.
- Created a Carbon Calculator that can show the lowest Embodied Carbon materials easily, which can be used during the specification process to advise on lowest CO2e value of appropriate materials.
- Better factory temperature controls and management to reduce overall use of gas supply.

2024-2025:

- Transferred waste recycling to an improved partner to reduce transport, segregation, and emissions.
- Wood recycling partner swapped from burning wood for energy regeneration to repurposing and reusing.
- Recalculation of emissions to improve understanding of scope 3 emissions and improved emissions rates.
- Closure of lower floor at head office, improving efficiencies, reducing consumables, and maintenance.
- Shrink wrapping improvement project leading to reduced propane consumption.

2025-2026:

- Improved **waste recycling internal processes** in our factory to improve segregation, reduce contaminants, reducing the number of collections required. This in turn has reduced waste processing emissions and reduced recyclable waste being rejected by the handling companies then having to be sent to landfill.
- Created additional Sales Manager position in Wales and the Sout-East to reduce commuting and Business travel emissions in this area of England.
- Reduced unnecessary air travel to international events, supplier visits, and networking events.
- Installed **PV Solar Panels** on the roof of our Logistics North factory, reducing energy taken from the national grid, and feeding excess energy back in, reducing UK emissions and gaining Carbon Credits.
- Purchase 2 more electric FLTs to further move away from diesel powered vehicles.



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Carbon Reduction Strategy: Future Actions

1. **Reduction in production materials embodied carbon emissions** by:
    a. Promoting lower carbon materials; including construction solutions, to customers.
    b. Promote reuse, refurbishment, and repurposing in new landscaping schemes.
    c. Encouraging suppliers to generate their own EPDs and LCAs to ultimately reduce their emissions.
    d. Calculate materials required carefully and efficiently to avoid over-ordering and waste.
2. Organise our own internal **Life Cycle emissions analysis** or Carbon Calculation data to understand our key issues with support from external experts and specialists. This will also ensure we capture our emissions data accurately, guiding our future reduction strategies and action plans.
3. Support the Landscape industry in their promotion of their **Carbon Overlay for the RIBA Plan of Works**, supporting Landscape professionals, contractors, and suppliers to specify better materials, reduce embodied carbon for new projects, and attain better Net Zero outcomes.
4. Further **promotion of EV car use**, favouring public transport, or reducing unnecessary journeys for business travel from regular and occasional users.
5. Fully monitor our purchased **material embodied carbon data** to identify the worst offending materials and promote purchase of materials from suppliers with lower embodied carbon or shorter journeys.
6. We are likely to increase staff in the next 12 months, but we do not want to add floor space or excessive equipment or infrastructure. We will do this by "**Floor occupancy optimisation**" using:
    a. Increased hotdesking options and implement desk booking systems.
    b. Reviews of working days and locations to limit maximums and spread in-office days throughout the week.
    c. Reduce storage areas, clear historic unused equipment, stock, or furniture, or improve storage solutions.
7. Review sustainability of our **service and maintenance providers**, including their sustainability commitments and carbon footprints in our selection process more prominently.
8. Create an **energy saving digital checklist**. This will support all Office Managers to assess their locations ensuring all energy saving measures are being used, highlighting regular non-conformances, and creating actions to reduce energy use and ultimately CO2 emissions.
9. **Increase frequency of sustainability team meetings**, potentially to every 2 months, bringing them more into line with Health & Safety Committee meetings.
10. Create a company-wide survey or **competition for "Green ideas"** to create solutions to issues we may not be aware of, whilst engaging employees and improve our environmentally positive culture.
11. Organise a **carpooling app** or platform for employees to share commutes, also supporting a reduction in cars at head office that currently has limits on parking space availability.
12. Advise staff on **working sustainably from home**, including:
    a. Saving energy and switching to renewable energy sources.
    b. Reviewing work equipment and usage, opting for more sustainable options or energy avoidance.
    c. Improve environmental awareness and sustainability understanding through the business through formal training, sharing online resources, reporting on company sustainability progress, and toolbox talks.

These will form our primary actions, and we shall report on the progress of the key actions in the Directors and Management meetings to create actions, allow scrutiny, and ensure the company remains committed to achieving our targets.

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Sustainable Timber & Wood Policy

Policy Statement

It is the policy of Hardscape to provide high-quality, sustainable, and ethically sourced hard landscaping products, materials, and packaging. We supply products containing wood materials (such as benches, seating, and timber-based artwork) as well as wood packaging materials (WPMs) like pallets, crates, and dunnage used for transporting our paving materials.

We are committed to operating our business responsibly, aiming to meet customer expectations and maintaining compliance with all relevant international and domestic regulations. This includes:

- The **Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)** Chain of Custody certification scheme.
- The **UK Timber Regulation (UKTR)** and, where applicable, the **EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)**.
- **ISPM 15** regulations for Wood Packaging Material.
- The British Standards Institution's **PAS 2021:2012** guidance for exercising due diligence in establishing the legal origin of timber.

To achieve this, we maintain an Integrated Management System aligned with **FSC certification** and **ISO 14001 standards**, verified by accredited third-party assessment bodies. We work closely with our supply chain partners to maintain an unbroken chain of custody from ethically managed forests.

Wood Packaging Material (WPM) & Phytosanitary Measures

We aim to source WPMs manufactured from reused, repurposed, recycled, or sustainably sourced wood wherever possible. In compliance with ISPM 15, all WPMs must undergo approved phytosanitary treatment prior to shipping to prevent the spread of invasive pests:

- **UK & Europe Sourced WPMs:** Must be de-barked and heat-treated (HT) during manufacturing.
- **Asia Sourced WPMs:** Must be de-barked and may historically be heat-treated or fumigated with Methyl Bromide (MB) due to regional pest prevalence.

Methyl Bromide Phase-Out & Safety

Methyl Bromide is banned from use within Europe. Wood treated with it is strictly marked with the **"MB"** stamp. This wood must never be incinerated, as burning releases toxic fumes hazardous to humans and animals. Hardscape is **actively working to completely phase out the receipt of Methyl Bromide-treated packaging**. To achieve this, we have **secured formal agreements with our Asian supply chain partners to eliminate the future use of Methyl Bromide**, transitioning instead to compliant heat-treatment alternatives. For any legacy or transitional MB-marked packaging received in the interim, Hardscape provides detailed safety handling documentation to all clients to ensure it is managed and disposed of safely.

Due Diligence System (DDS)

We operate a rigorous Due Diligence System to collect, record, and verify timber data from the point of harvest through to final delivery. We evaluate supply chain reliability by assessing:

- The complexity of supplier sourcing arrangements.
- The regional prevalence of illegal harvesting or trade corruption.
- The validity of supplier documentation, establishing that third-party certifications (e.g., FSC) complement, but do not replace, our independent risk assessment protocols.

Our risk assessments generate a risk profile score, allowing us to focus deeper scrutiny on high-risk supply chains. To mitigate identified risks to a negligible level, we employ measures including document validation, volume verification, traceability checks, and independent third-party or first-party supplier audits.

We proactively inform our customers about material origins and supply tailored documentation for each supply chain route, so clients know exactly how to safely manage arriving materials.

Transparency & Reporting

To ensure complete transparency, we publish our annual FSC audit data, supplier compliance scores, and risk mitigation metrics. This data is integrated into our annual Environmental & Sustainability Policy and Report, publicly available on our website.

Alex Warren

Alex Warren - Managing Director
29th of June 2026

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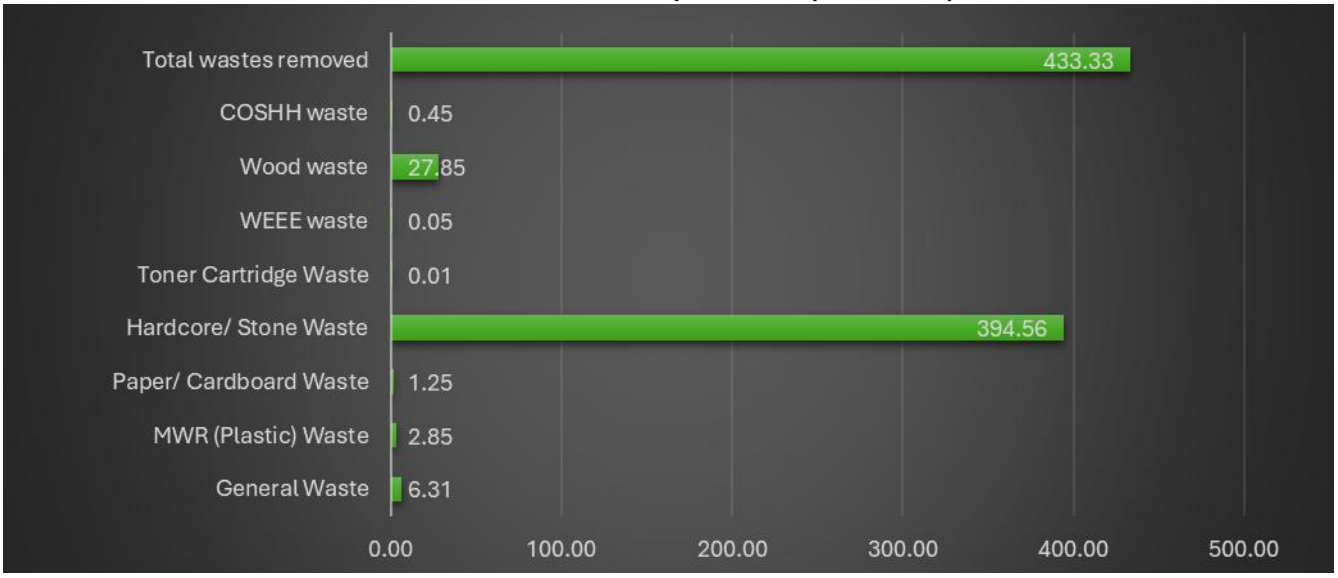
Waste Management: Targets & Achievements

Hardscape endeavours to minimise and reduce our waste to the lowest practicable amount, as we understand the huge benefits this can have on improving our business efficiencies, limiting natural resource use, reducing impacts on the environment, and reducing our costs to improve profitability. Our mission is to lead the stone manufacturing industry in sustainable production by eliminating waste at its source, transforming manufacturing byproducts into valuable circular materials, and achieving verified **Zero Waste to Landfill** across all operations.

Our production and sales have consistently increased year-on-year, so reducing our waste has become increasingly difficult, however the percentage of waste to manufactured products has dramatically fallen.

We will continue to review our waste materials and processes to achieve the most desirable outcome from the waste heirarcy model shown. We can always do better and encourage suppliers to do more to avoid waste where we can and use all the information and resources available to minimise the impacts our business has to maximise sustainability.

Annual Waste in Tonnes per stream (2025-2026)



Waste Targets as a Percentage of Purchased Materials

Financial Year	April 19 – Mar-20	April 20 – Mar-21	April 21 – Mar-22	April 22 – Mar-23	April 23 – Mar-24	April 24 – Mar-25	April 25 – Mar-26	April 26 – Mar-27	April 27 – Mar-28	April 29 – Mar-30	April 30 – Mar-31
Target %	25.0%	22.0%	19.0%	15.0%	12.0%	11.0%	10.0%	9.0%	8.0%	7.5%	7.0%
% achieved	**26.2%**	**18.5%**	**19.0%**	**12.4%**	**9.5%**	**11.8%**	**10.8%**	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC

Waste % decreased slightly this financial year to 10.8%. This was mainly due to larger production volumes compared to the previous years. Although our expectation is for this trend to continue, we will potentially need to review our targets types and values this financial year considering potential business developments.
We are likely to start cutting large blocks of stone direct from quarries, which has the potential to create between 25 and 35% of by-product from each block. This model is very different from our current production streams, and we will need to apply suitable alternative goals and targets in future as this process moves from our supply chain to our direct control.

We are currently finding suitable avenues for repurposing all our materials, from selling off cuts of stone as setts or aggregates, to compressing stone dust collected through water suppression to create materials for brick creation. Our intent is to completely divert waste away from landfill, developing our strategy into **Zero waste to landfill** as an alternative target to strive for, making it more realistic, relevant, and attainable.

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Waste Management: Achievements



- We developed an improved avenue for waste stone, converting to **bagged aggregates** to supply large industrial projects. Initially this has been outsourced to a 3rd party to assure viability, keep logistic costs low, and reduce the need for purchase of our own crusher and bagging machine for now.
- We have developed our general waste management by promoting better **segregation**, by increasing recycle bin availability, management checks, and positive feedbacks to staff. The signage on our bins was improved, giving staff clarity and supporting the ease of use through effective colour coordination.
- We **fully implemented the new regulations** on workplace waste segregation, ensuring we collected waste into Dry recyclable materials (plastic, metal, glass), Paper and card, Food waste, and Black bin or residual waste. This applies to most facilities on construction sites, including kitchens, canteens, offices, changing rooms, and welfare spaces. We reviewed all wastes to ensure this obligation was met and staff were aware of their responsibilities.

Waste Management: Future Developments

- Our mission is to change our waste management model to target Zero Waste to Landfill. This will include:
  - **Mapping** all production waste streams to track end-of-life processing.
  - **Collaborating** with recyclers and manufacturers to find sustainable waste avenues.
  - **Engaging** employees through training, toolbox talks, and internal campaigns.
  - **Investigating** independent auditing for official Zero Waste certification.

CARBON TRUST STANDARD
ZERO WASTE TO LANDFILL

- **Enhance Compliance:** Carry out regular inspections of bin segregation, slurry contamination, and carrier paperwork.
- **Optimise Hazardous Waste:** Consult with providers to find recycling, cleaning, or alternative packaging options for chemical and resin containers.
- Further develop our **stone and aggregate waste** processing, aiming to process using this hierarchy:
  1. Use off cuts without processing as pavers, selling in their raw form to a 3rd party.
  2. Convert as much material into usable setts and blocks as possible using a cropper or saw.
  3. Donating or giving away materials as gestures of goodwill or for CSR.
  4. Sending aggregates to a 3rd party to use as building supplies and crushing into hardcore.
  5. Crushing our mixed stone waste to finer aggregates and selling large bags to merchants or end users.
- **Reducing slurry waste** generated through the water filtration process, by means of a filter press machine. This will press the water out of the slurry quickly, reducing the weight of the waste, and making the clay/ sand style by-product more appealing to sell, remove, or repurpose. This will also reduce the collection frequencies and transport emissions to remove this.
- **Control Upstream Supply:** Require block and slab suppliers to use minimal, recyclable, or returnable packaging for incoming goods.

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Water Management Policy & Strategy

Hardscape Group Ltd, *Incorporating Hardscape Products Ltd, Hardscape Surfaces Ltd, and Hardscape Warehouse Ltd (furthermore known as Hardscape)* is fully aware of the increasing threats to our watercourses and the critical scarcity of potable water necessary for human survival. Climate change is primarily a water crisis. We see and feel its impacts through worsening floods, rising sea levels, shrinking ice fields, wildfires, and droughts. However, sustainable water management is central to building the resilience of societies and ecosystems, reducing carbon emissions, and fighting climate change. Everyone has a role to play—actions at industry, business, individual, and household levels are vital.

Hardscape aims to limit its use of water as a critical commodity and value it as such. We ensure our business practices use water sparingly, recycle water internally where possible, and prevent contamination of watercourses, rivers, or sewers.

Legislative Framework & Compliance

This policy and strategy adhere to, and are supported by, UK Environmental legislation and guidance, including but not limited to:

- **The Water (Special Measures) Act 2025:** Focuses on cleaning up the water sector by increasing regulators' powers, creating tougher penalties (including potential imprisonment for executives obstructing investigations), and mandating independent, real-time monitoring of sewage outlets.
- **The Water Act 2014:** Introduces greater competition for non-household customers and gives the regulator, Ofwat, powers regarding charges.
- **The Flood and Water Management Act 2010:** Promotes sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDs) and modernises water company powers during droughts.
- **The Water Resources Act 1991:** Sets out general duties for the water industry, including environmental, recreational, and pollution prevention responsibilities.

Water Recirculation & Infrastructure Investment

To minimize our draw on mains water, Hardscape implements engineered water conservation systems across our manufacturing operations:

- **Closed-Loop Target:** Hardscape operates a closed-loop water recirculation system for all stone-manufacturing machinery. Fresh mains water usage is strictly restricted to essential system top-ups to replace water lost through natural evaporation and sludge moisture retention.
- **Filter Press Investment:** To achieve maximum water efficiency and lower our environmental footprint, Hardscape is actively investing in upgrading its water treatment infrastructure. Within the current financial year, our existing gravity-settlement and chemical flocculant system will be replaced by an advanced filter press filtration system to maximize water recovery.
- **Pressure Management:** To ensure continuous, heavy-duty dust suppression, recycled water is delivered to the factory floor via a triple-boosted (3x) pressure pump system.

Occupational Health & Dust Suppression Safety

Water management at Hardscape is directly linked to our health and safety obligations regarding the control of hazardous substances:

- **Silica Dust Controls:** Water suppression is recognized as our primary engineering control against Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS).
- **Automatic Fail-Safes:** All CNC and stone-cutting machinery are equipped with automated water pressure sensors and fail-safe shut-off mechanisms. If water pressure drops below operational thresholds, machinery will immediately halt to protect operators from airborne dust.
- **Maintenance:** Boosted water lines, delivery nozzles, and pressure sensors are subject to mandatory weekly preventative maintenance checks to eliminate risks of water atomization or misting.

Trade Effluent Control & Pollution Prevention

Hardscape maintains a zero-tolerance stance toward the accidental or unauthorized discharge of manufacturing waste into public infrastructure:

- **Legal Consent:** Hardscape strictly maintains and complies with a formal Trade Effluent Consent with our local sewerage undertaker.
- **Early Warning Systems:** The site utilizes an online interceptor system to capture surface contaminants, integrated with an automated interceptor alarm that alerts the management team of any system faults or parameter breaches, allowing for rapid containment.

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- **Sludge Management:** Stone slurry collected via gravity settlement (and subsequently the compressed filter press cakes) is classified as controlled industrial waste. It will be stored safely and transferred exclusively via licensed environmental waste carriers under strict UK Duty of Care regulations.

Review and Accountability

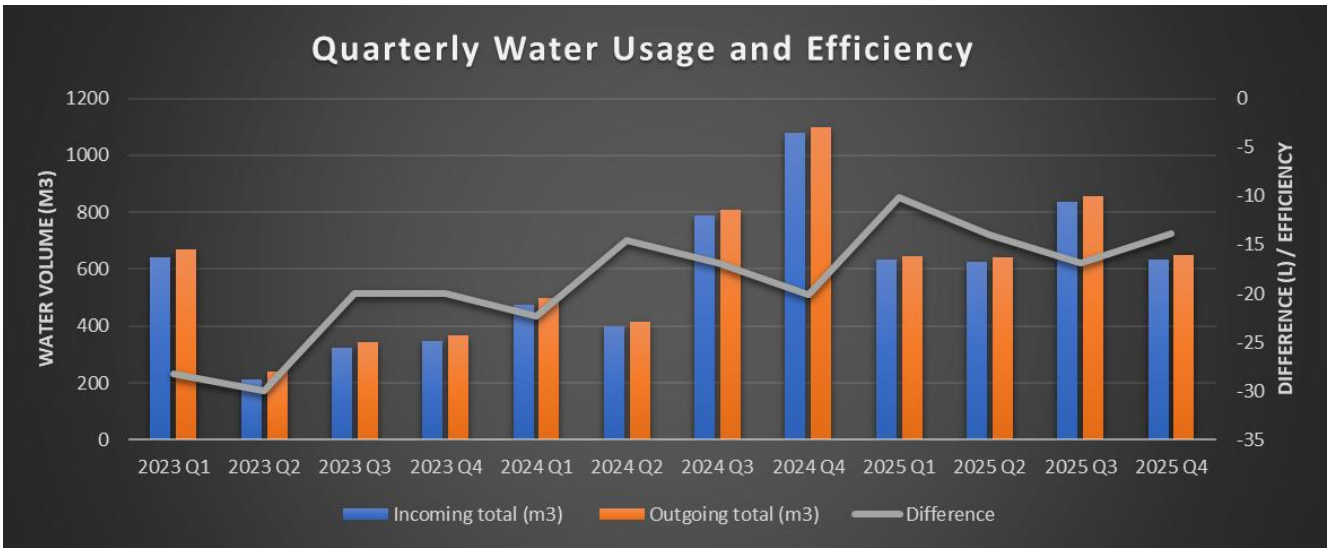
The board of directors holds ultimate responsibility for this policy. It will be reviewed annually to ensure alignment with operational changes, upgrading infrastructure, and evolving UK environmental legislation.

Alex Warren

Alex Warren - Managing Director

29th of June 2026

Water Sustainability Targets and Reports



Water Sustainability: Achievements

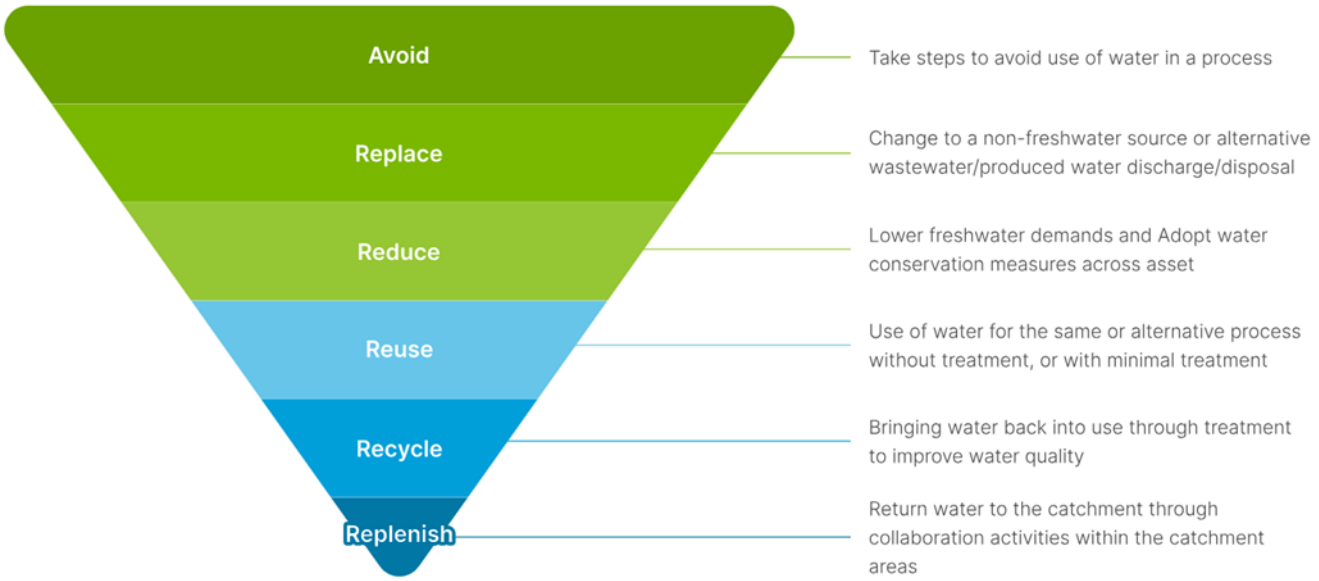
Our production volumes have been increasing rapidly over the last few years, so our efforts to improve our water management systems needs to continually improve with this to minimise our water resource use.

Over the last year we have:

- **Replaced our old-style Lamella** gravity filtration system with a 2nd flocculant-based Water Management and recirculation system; capturing wastewater, filtering, and reusing it on our cutting machines, to reduce water use, reduce risk of deposits entering the watercourses, and improving the safety for staff and neighbours by significantly reducing dust and silica emissions.
- Installed **wastewater drainage and recirculation for our new wire saw**, including it in the current 2nd CNC system upgrades, to share the resource and reduce residual losses, maximising water retention.
- Cleared water gathering areas of obstructions to assist in the swift removal of water down pits, drain channels, and sloped run-offs.
- **Re-sited the waterwall** extraction unit to place within the wet grind area, which had the ability to recirculate waste water. This allows us to empty the machine efficiently straight into the recirculation system whilst ensuring all spilled water or overflows are also kept within the system.
- Reviewed a potential **captured rainwater** system to use water redirected from our roof and guttering. This requires some significant additional infrastructure and equipment to make the water safe, even for machine dust suppression, so we have deferred this solution until we know more how to incorporate.
- Installed control measures and equipment to toilets and sinks and improved **leak monitoring controls**.
- Increased the use of **water containment** equipment to ensure water is redirected through our recirculation system using gap sealing, water diversion barriers, and spray control screening.

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Water Sustainability: Future Developments



Install and Commission a Closed-Loop Filter Press

- **Target**: Complete installation, integration, and operator training by **1st November 2026**
- **Action Items**:
  - Pipe all CNC, wire saw, and wet grind drainage lines directly into the filter press buffer tank.
  - Establish optimum flocculant dosing parameters for clean water clarity.
  - Set up a preventative maintenance schedule for the press cloths and hydraulic seals.

Optimize On-Site Water Containment

- **Target**: Achieve zero clear-water bypass or overspray losses outside containment areas.
- **Action Items**:
  - Formally document the layout of all gap seals, diversion barriers, and spray screens.
  - Integrate containment checks into the daily shop-floor start-up routine.

Establish Water Performance Metrics

- **Target**: Implement a data-driven baseline to measure efficiency against production growth.
- **Action Items**:
  - Record monthly mains water meter data alongside stone production volumes.
  - Establish the KPI: **Litres of mains water consumed per m^3 of stone processed** or similar.

Improve Water Sustainability awareness

- **Silica Dust & Water Toolbox Talks:** Deliver short training sessions linking water spray containment directly to health and safety. Show staff that keeping the spray screens intact directly lowers dangerous airborne respirable crystalline silica (RCS) dust.
- **Leak or Spill Reporting App:** Set up a simple digital reporting process specifically for staff to instantly report dripping CNC nozzles, worn gap seals, plumbing leaks, or spray hose leaks.
- Advise and communicate to staff effective measures for **water reduction** through **campaigns and posters** to limit water use, such as dishwasher loading maximisation, use of dual flush in toilets, and part-filling bottles and glasses with only the water you will drink.

Using Recirculated Water redirection for Cleaning:

- Connecting all our wash hoses to the proposed filter press recirculation system.
- Redirecting utensil cleaning sink waste water into the closed-loop system.

Install Smart Sensor Taps

- Replace manual twist or lever taps in office toilets with infrared motion-sensor taps. This eliminates the risk of staff accidentally leaving taps running or dripping and regulates the flow to just what is required.

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Product Innovation

Lower Carbon Technologies

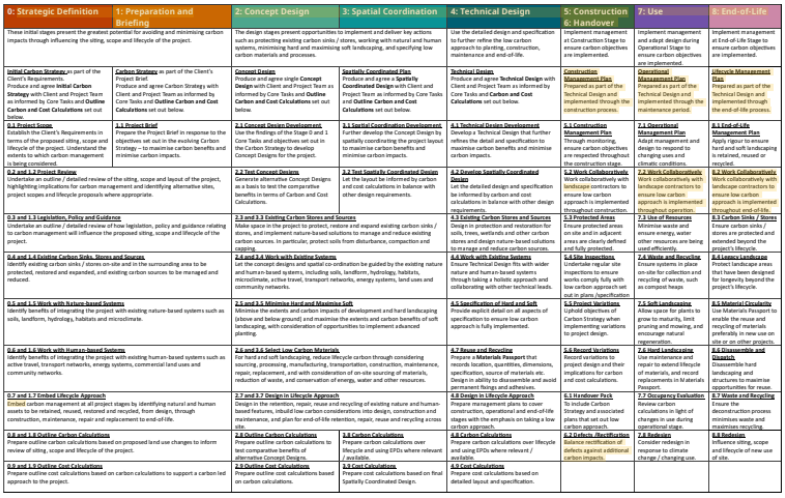
- We have been working with our suppliers to promote and encourage development of their low-carbon products, such as **Kellen Cero** and natural stone products with low emission to strength ratios and demonstrating to customers and specifiers the benefits of using these products partially or wholly on schemes.
- Promoting materials which allow less paving and more plant or soil retention and conservation, such as **Hydro Lineo, GreenBrick**, and Green Paving Solutions.
- Promoting and supporting the benefits of water management solutions such as **Drainjoint, Kellen H2O, Clima-Pave,** and **EcoGranite Aquaflow** in decreasing flood risk, minimising soil erosion, and limiting contamination of watercourses.
- We aim to further support these environmentally beneficial products through CPD events, improved Marketing resources and promotion, and through additional product training for our sales managers to support in their understanding and accurate application of these materials.

Environmental Product Declaration Improvement & Promotion

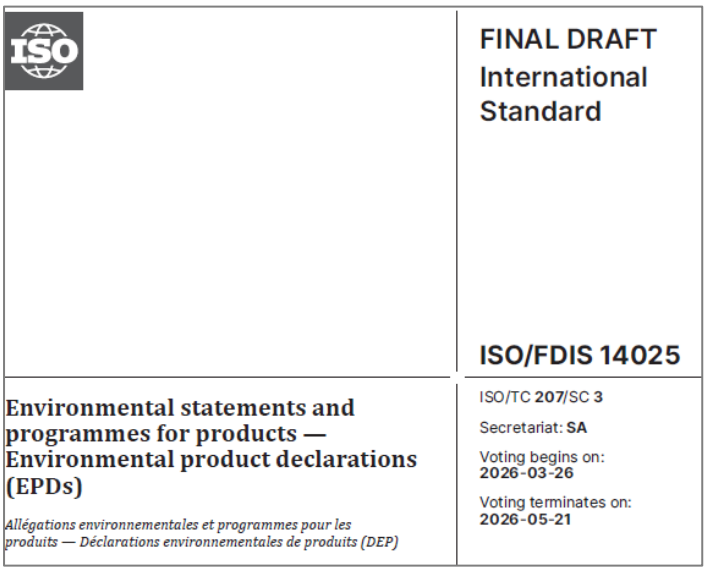
Following on from the Landscape Institute's ground-breaking "Landscape and Carbon Report" launched in March 2024, Our Operations Manager, Stephen Duce, was integral in further actions following this industry leading study and explanation of the role of Life Cycle Analysis and Environmental Product Declarations.

Stephen was working group key collaborator in the **RIBA Plan of Works Carbon Overlay**. To accompany this document, he was heavily involved in the creation of tools to support this, including a gold standard matrix of Carbon assessment and EPD sourcing tools. Stephen has been a speaker and panellist for the launch events, seen by hundreds of industry decision makers and landscape architects. Stephen's contributions will benefit Landscape architects, specifiers, contractors, and suppliers to better understand embodied and operational carbon emissions and how to get projects to net zero emissions as soon as possible.

Carbon Overlay



0: Strategic Definition	1: Preparation and Briefing	2: Concept Design	3: Spatial Coordination	4: Technical Design	5: Construction 6: Handover	7: Use	8: End-of-Life
These initial stages present the greatest potential for avoiding and minimising carbon impacts through influencing the siting, scope and lifecycle of the project.		The design stages present opportunities to implement and deliver key actions such as protecting existing carbon sinks / stores, working with natural and human systems, minimising hard and maximising soft landscaping, and specifying low carbon materials and processes.		Use the detailed design and specification to further refine the low carbon approach to planting, construction, maintenance and end-of-life.	Implement management at Construction Stage to ensure carbon objectives are implemented.	Implement management and adopt design during Operational Stage to ensure carbon objectives are implemented.	Implement management at End-of-Life Stage to ensure carbon objectives are implemented.
Initial Carbon Strategy as part of the Client's Requirements. Produce and agree **Initial Carbon Strategy** with Client and Project Team as informed by Core Tasks and **Outline Carbon and Cost Calculations** set out below.	**Carbon Strategy** as part of the Client's Project Brief. Produce and agree Carbon Strategy with Client and Project Team as informed by Core Tasks and **Outline Carbon and Cost Calculations** set out below.	**Concept Design** Produce and agree single **Concept Design** with Client and Project Team as informed by Core Tasks and **Outline Carbon and Cost Calculations** set out below.	**Spatially Coordinated Plan** Produce and agree a **Spatially Coordinated Design** with Client and Project Team as informed by Core Tasks and **Outline Carbon and Cost Calculations** set out below.	**Technical Design** Produce and agree **Technical Design** with Client and Project Team as informed by Core Tasks and **Carbon and Cost Calculations** set out below.	**Construction Management Plan** Prepared as part of the Technical Design and implemented through the construction process.	**Operational Management Plan** Prepared as part of the Technical Design and implemented through the maintenance period.	**Lifecycle Management Plan** Prepared as part of the Technical Design and implemented through the end-of-life process.
0.2 Project Scope Establish the Client's Requirements in terms of the proposed siting, scope and lifecycle of the project. Understand the extents to which carbon management is being considered.	**1.1 Project Brief** Prepare the Project Brief in response to the objectives set out in the evolving Carbon Strategy – to maximise carbon benefits and minimise carbon impacts.	**2.1 Concept Design Development** Use the findings of the Stage 0 and 1 Core Tasks and objectives set out in the Carbon Strategy to develop Concept Designs for the project.	**3.1 Spatial Coordination Development** Further develop the Concept Design by spatially coordinating the project layout to maximise carbon benefits and minimise carbon impacts.	**4.1 Technical Design Development** Develop a Technical Design that further refines the detail and specification to maximise carbon benefits and minimise carbon impacts.	**5.1 Construction Management Plan** Through monitoring, ensure carbon objectives are respected throughout the construction stage.	**7.1 Operational Management Plan** Adopt management and design to respond to changing uses and climatic conditions.	**8.1 End-of-Life Management Plan** Apply rigour to ensure hard and soft landscaping is retained, reused or recycled.
0.2 and 1.2 Project Vision Undertake an outline / detailed review of the siting, scope and layout of the project, highlighting implications for carbon management and identifying alternative sites, project scopes and lifecycle proposals where appropriate.		**2.2 Test Concept Designs** Generate alternative Concept Designs as a basis to test the comparative benefits in terms of Carbon and Cost Calculations.	**3.2 Test Spatially Coordinated Design** Let the layout be informed by carbon and cost calculations in balance with other design requirements.	**4.2 Develop Spatially Coordinated Design** Let the detailed design and specification be informed by carbon and cost calculations in balance with other design requirements.	**5.2 Work Collaboratively** Work collaboratively with landscape contractors to ensure low carbon approach is implemented throughout construction.	**7.2 Work Collaboratively** Work collaboratively with landscape contractors to ensure low carbon approach is implemented throughout operation.	**8.2 Work Collaboratively** Work collaboratively with landscape contractors to ensure low carbon approach is implemented throughout end-of-life.
0.3 and 1.3 Legislation, Policy and Guidance Undertake an outline / detailed review of how legislation, policy and guidance relating to carbon management will influence the proposed siting, scope and lifecycle of the project.		**2.3 and 3.3 Existing Carbon Stores and Sources** Make space in the project to protect, restore and expand existing carbon sinks / stores, and implement nature-based solutions to manage and reduce existing carbon sources. In particular, protect soils from disturbance, compaction and capping.		**4.3 Existing Carbon Stores and Sources** Design in protection and restoration for soils, trees, wetlands and other carbon stores and design nature-based solutions to manage and reduce carbon sources.	**5.3 Protected Areas** Ensure protected areas on site and in adjacent areas are clearly defined and fully protected.	**7.3 Use of Resources** Minimise waste and ensure energy, water and other resources are being used efficiently.	**8.3 Carbon Sinks / Stores** Ensure carbon sinks / stores are protected and extended beyond the project's lifecycle.
0.4 and 1.4 Existing Carbon Sinks, Stores and Sources Identify existing carbon sinks / stores on-site and in the surrounding area to be protected, restored and expanded, and existing carbon sources to be managed and reduced.		**2.4 and 3.4 Work with Existing Systems** Let the concept designs and spatial co-ordination be guided by the existing nature and human-based systems, including soils, landform, hydrology, habitats, microclimate, active travel, transport networks, energy systems, land uses and community networks.		**4.4 Work with Existing Systems** Ensure Technical Design fits with wider nature and human-based systems through taking a holistic approach and collaborating with other technical leads.	**5.4 Site Inspections** Undertake regular site inspections to ensure works comply fully with low carbon approach set out in plans /specification.	**7.4 Waste and Recycling** Ensure systems in place on-site for collection and recycling of waste, such as compost heaps	**8.4 Legacy Landscape** Protect landscape areas that have been designed for longevity beyond the project's lifecycle.
0.5 and 1.5 Work with Nature-based Systems Identify benefits of integrating the project with existing nature-based systems such as soils, landform, hydrology, habitats and microclimate.		**2.5 and 3.5 Minimise Hard and Maximise Soft** Minimise the extents and carbon impacts of development and hard landscaping (above and below-ground) and maximise the extents and carbon benefits of soft landscaping, with consideration of opportunities to implement advanced planting.		**4.5 Specification of Hard and Soft** Provide explicit detail on all aspects of specification to ensure low carbon approach is fully implemented.	**5.5 Project Variations** Uphold objectives of Carbon Strategy when implementing variations to project design.	**7.5 Soft Landscaping** Allow space for plants to grow to maturity, limit pruning and mowing, and encourage natural regeneration.	**8.5 Material Circularity** Use Materials Passport to enable the reuse and recycling of materials preferably in new use on site or on other projects.
0.6 and 1.6 Work with Human-based Systems Identify benefits of integrating the project with existing human-based systems such as active travel, transport networks, energy systems, commercial land uses and community networks.		**2.6 and 3.6 Select Low Carbon Materials** For hard and soft landscaping, reduce lifecycle carbon through considering sourcing, processing, manufacturing, transportation, construction, maintenance, repair, replacement, and with consideration of on-site sourcing of materials, reduction of waste, and conservation of energy, water and other resources.		**4.7 Reuse and Recycling** Prepare a **Materials Passport** that records location, quantities, dimensions, specification, source of materials etc. Design in ability to disassemble and avoid permanent fixings and adhesives.	**5.6 Record Variations** Record variations to project design and their implications for carbon and cost calculations.	**7.6 Hard Landscaping** Use maintenance and repair to extend lifecycle of materials, and record replacements in Materials Passport.	**8.6 Disassemble and Unstitch** Disassemble hard landscaping and structures to maximise opportunities for reuse.
0.7 and 1.7 Embed Lifecycle Approach Embed carbon management at all project stages by identifying natural and human assets to be retained, reused, restored and recycled, from design, through construction, maintenance, repair and replacement to end-of-life.		**2.7 and 3.7 Design in Lifecycle Approach** Design in the retention, repair, reuse and recycling of existing nature and human-based features, inbuild low carbon considerations into design, construction and maintenance, and plan for end-of-life retention, repair, reuse and recycling across site.		**4.8 Design in Lifecycle Approach** Prepare management plans to cover construction, operational and end-of-life stages with the emphasis on taking a low carbon approach.	**5.7 Handover Pack** To include Carbon Strategy and associated plans that set out low carbon approach.	**7.7 Occupancy Evaluation** Review carbon calculations in light of changes in use during operational stage.	**8.7 Waste and Recycling** Ensure the deconstruction process minimises waste and maximises recycling.
0.8 and 1.8 Outline Carbon Calculations Prepare outline carbon calculations based on proposed land use changes to inform review of siting, scope and lifecycle of the project.		**2.8 Outline Carbon Calculations** Prepare outline carbon calculations to test comparative benefits of alternative Concept Designs.	**3.8 Carbon Calculations** Prepare carbon calculations over lifecycle and using EPDs where relevant / available.	**4.9 Carbon Calculations** Prepare carbon calculations over lifecycle and using EPDs where relevant / available.	**5.8 Defects Rectification** Balance rectification of defects against additional carbon impacts.	**7.8 Redesign** Consider redesign in response to climate change / changing use.	**8.8 Redesign** Influence siting, scope and lifecycle of new use of site.
0.9 and 1.9 Outline Cost Calculations Prepare outline cost calculations based on carbon calculations to support a carbon led approach to the project.		**2.9 Outline Cost Calculations** Prepare outline cost calculations based on carbon calculations.	**3.9 Cost Calculations** Prepare cost calculations based on final Spatially Coordinated Design.	**4.9 Cost Calculations** Prepare cost calculations based on detailed layout and specification.			



FINAL DRAFT
International Standard

ISO/FDIS 14025

Environmental statements and programmes for products — Environmental product declarations (EPDs)

Allégations environnementales et programmes pour les produits — Déclarations environnementales de produits (DEP)

ISO/TC 207/SC 3

Secretariat: SA

Voting begins on:
2026-03-26

Voting terminates on:
2026-05-21

With the full backing from Hardscape, Stephen has also been a key **Standards Maker with the BSI**. His contributions towards the Working Group (SES/1/5 "Environmental Management - Life cycle tools and techniques") as a technical expert on behalf of the Landscape Industry has helped guide and advise the BSI on several industry and national standards.

He was put forward to be one of just two UK representatives on an international panel selected to update **ISO 14025**, contributing effectively to deliver a clearer, more robust, and better ISO Standard for EPDs.

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Sustainability and Biodiversity: Achievements

🌳 Community Ecosystem Restoration & Wildlife Corridors

- **Collaborative Nature Recovery**: Partnered with local community groups, including the *Friends of Cutacre Park* and *Over Hulton Community Group*, to design and support targeted local biodiversity projects.
- **Habitat Connectivity**: Initiated a woodland restoration scheme focused on planting native trees, bushes, and shrubs to build critical ecological corridors. These green highways allow safe wildlife passage and actively mitigate the biodiversity impacts of local industrial land developments.

🔄 Material Circularity & Resource Efficiency

- **Launch of Hardscape Warehouse**: Established a dedicated circular-economy business unit designed specifically to sell clearance stock directly to small businesses, merchants, and contractors.
- **Smart Material Matching**: Introduced a precision matching service for existing infrastructure schemes. This service allows clients to procure exact replacement quantities, eliminating the traditional waste stream associated with over-ordering excess materials.
- **Market Expansion**: Successfully secured commercial agreements with regional merchants to stock, promote, and distribute excess materials from previously over-ordered projects, minor quality defects, or offcut stock across rapidly growing advertising networks.

📋 Transparent Environmental & Compliance Documentation

- **Enhanced O&M Manuals**: Overhauled and reissued comprehensive Operations and Maintenance (O&M) documentation that seamlessly integrates Technical Datasheets and Material COSHH data.
- **Empowering Carbon Choice**: Embedded critical environmental metrics directly into customer documentation—including clear data on **Embodied Carbon emissions**, material strength, and product safety. This enables landscape architects and clients to make data-driven, sustainable choices.

Sustainability Development: Future Actions

🚀 Future Sustainability Innovations

- **Chemical Stewardship Transformation**: Overhaul the procurement and facility management of hazardous substances, with a focus on manufacturing production paints, grouts, and industrial cleaning agents.
- **Zero-Waste Inventory Controls**: Implement strict, demand-based procurement thresholds alongside first-in, first-out (FIFO) stock rotation to eliminate the disposal of expired, dried, or damaged product containers.
- **Preventative Ecological Safeguards**: Enforce modernized date-marking protocols and optimized, secure storage configurations to reduce our operational site footprint and safeguard local urban ecosystems against potential chemical contamination risks.

🌿 Operational Footprint & Impact Reduction

- **Procurement Policies**: Switch to certified sustainable, wildlife-friendly, or recycled timber and paper products.
- **Chemical Reductions**: Eliminate synthetic pesticides and fertilizers on our grounds.
- **Lighting Overhauls**: Review dark-sky compliant, low-lux LED exterior lighting to protect nocturnal wildlife.

Our commitment to nature extends from the quarries of our supply chain to the urban landscapes we help create. Through targeted team training and rigorous impact assessments, we aim to deeply understand our ecological footprint. By fully adopting **Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)** and Nature-Based Solutions, we are transforming this awareness into tangible action. Specifically, we leverage our complex CNC engineering and artistic capabilities to manufacture **habitat-integrated public realm components**, whilst actively advocating for and funding local nature restoration.

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Biodiversity Development: Future Actions

Here are our targeted BNG actions tailored to our business model and production capabilities:

🪵 Quarry Supply Chain Influence

- **Restoration-Linked Procurement**: Favor quarry partners who actively restore worked-out areas into high-value ecological habitats (like wetlands or species-rich grasslands) rather than just backfilling them.
- **Quarry Biodiversity Pledges**: Mandate that your stone suppliers conduct baseline ecological surveys and track their own net-positive impact on local wildlife.

🧱 Modular Paving & Kerb Innovations

- **Bio-Passage Kerbs**: CNC-machine horizontal channels or "wildlife tunnels" into standard kerbs. This allows amphibians, hedgehogs, and invertebrates to safely cross public realm roads and footpaths without being trapped by the kerb line.
- **Gully-Bypassing Drop Kerbs**: Design kerbs with safety steps or textured ramps near drainage gullies. This creates escape routes for small animals like frogs that frequently fall into standard urban drains and perish.
- **Wide-Joint Grass Paving**: Promote the use of manufactured modular paving units with engineered, recessed spacers. These create wide, soil-filled voids that accommodate root systems for low-growing, traffic-tolerant wildflowers (such as chamomile or wild thyme), turning a standard plaza into a mosaic habitat.
- **Stepping-Stone Inlays**: Use your inlaying capability to imbed highly durable, porous stone inserts into standard modular paving. These inserts can hold moisture longer, creating localized micro-climates that support urban moss and lichen growth.

🎨 Artistic & Complex CNC/Laser Cutting Actions

- **Micro-Refugia Carving**: Use complex 3D CNC milling to cut deep, organic textures, grooves, and pockets into the non-load-bearing faces of stone public art or retaining wall blocks. These mimic natural cliff faces, creating shelter and nesting sites for solitary bees and beetles.
- **Laser-Etched Ecological Signalling**: Use laser cutting to engrave QR codes or educational infographics directly into stone artwork. This connects the public realm users to digital data about the project's urban BNG metrics or local wildlife.
- **Inlaid BNG Commemorations**: Partner with landscape architects to create bespoke features of nature. We will promote past case studies in nature-centric artworks such as inlays illustrating the native flora and fauna, supporting nature and BNG awareness.

💰 Corporate "Offsite" BNG support

- **Art for Units Contribution**: Commit to support local stone artwork projects to fund local habitat banks. We will accept applications for materials or purchase fractional statutory biodiversity credits on behalf of our business or gift them back to our clients' projects.
- **Community Pocket Park Sponsorship**: Donate CNC-cut stone seating or sculpted stone planters to local urban rewilding projects. This provides structural elements for community groups trying to hit local nature targets.

🏘️ Collaboration with Landscape Architects

- **Training and development** for our sales managers and advisors who consult with Landscape Architects in Nature-friendly materials and designing.
- **Creative Co-Design Competitions**: Host an annual design competition for landscape architects, challenging them to use your CNC and laser cutting capabilities to create the ultimate wildlife-supporting urban stone installation.

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References and Resources

Affiliated companies and supporting partners:

- **IPCC Climate Report**: https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/ (Summary for Policymakers is excellent)
- The **L.I. Landscape and Carbon Report**: https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/policy/landscape-and-carbon/
- **Active Travel Kerbs** information available on our website here https://hardscape.co.uk/inspire/active-travel-kerbs/ and through the Dutch Cycling Embassy here: https://dutchcycling.nl/.
- **The Supply Chain Sustainability School** has a wealth of information and is completely free to use. You can sign up for a company or personal account here: https://www.supplychainschool.co.uk/
- The **Science Based Targets Initiative** https://sciencebasedtargets.org/
- The **Ellen MacArthur Foundation** for a circular economy: https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/
- The **SME Climate Hub:** https://smeclimatehub.org/
- **The Climate Pledge:** https://www.theclimatepledge.com/
- The **UN Global Compact** network of companies: https://unglobalcompact.org/
- The UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (**DEFRA**): https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs

Other agencies and resource guidance used:

- The 2015 Paris Accords and subsequent Conference of Parties (COP) agreements
- The UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)
- The European Environment Agency
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- The Carbon Trust
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM)
- Task Force on Climate Related Financial Disclosure (TCFD
- Alliance for Sustainable Building Products (ASBP)

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