



Urban  
Foresight

# Carbon Reduction Plan

PUBLICATION DATE

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# Commitment to Net Zero

Urban Foresight is committed to reducing our carbon footprint and to achieving net zero emissions by 2050.

This plan sets out the steps which Urban Foresight is taking to achieve this goal.

Urban Foresight is proud of the work we do, which aims to minimise our environmental impact. As a small or medium-sized enterprise (SME), Urban Foresight has signed up to [The SME Climate Commitment](#), with an aim to reduce our emissions by 50% by 2030. This is a public declaration of our commitment to net zero by 2050.

## Baseline and targets

- Baseline Year: 2024
- Interim Target: 50% reduction in emissions by 2030
- Long-term Target: Achieve net zero emissions by 2050

## Carbon emissions footprint

Baseline emissions are a record of the greenhouse gases that have been produced in the past and were produced prior to the introduction of any strategies to reduce emissions. Baseline emissions are the reference point against which emissions reduction can be measured.

We started to record our emissions in 2023 in accordance with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol using the Zellar platform. However, in 2023 we were unable to include categories of emissions such as commuting and working from home or the impact of heat provided by the CHP based district heating system within our Newcastle office. Our 2024 footprint below provides a new baseline with these categories now incorporated.

In 2025 we will be undertaking a comprehensive carbon accounting exercise for our wider business activities. This will encompass a full screening and subsequent calculation of Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions sources, in line with the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol Corporate Value Chain Standard. This may necessitate a further re-baselining of our emissions.

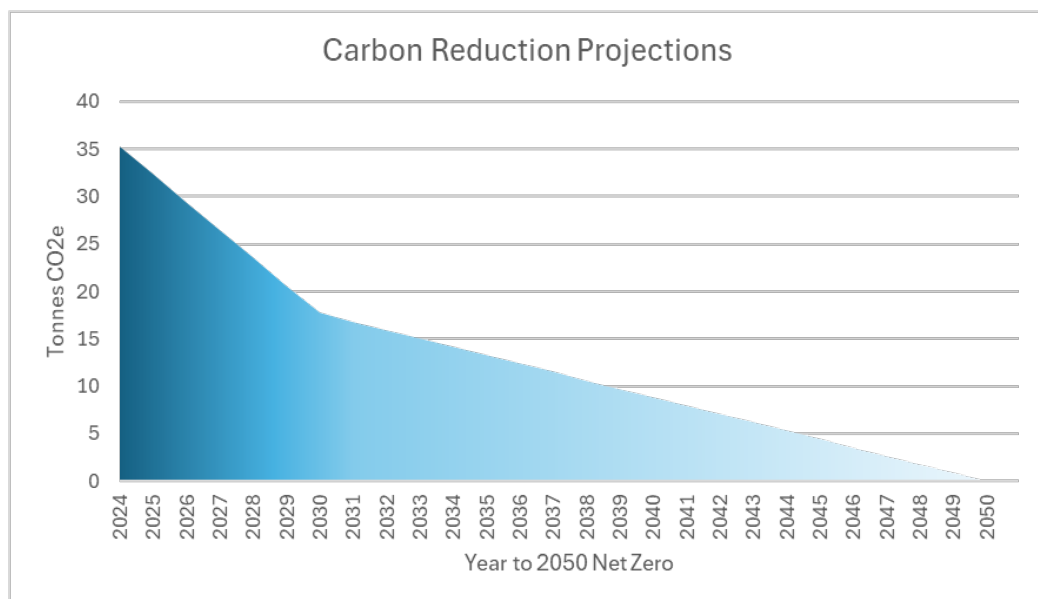
Baseline period: 2024			
Scope	Emissions source	2024 Emissions (tCO2e)	Change from base year (tCO2e)
Scope 1	Natural gas	5.4	0.0
Scope 2	Electricity	4.6	0.0

Scope 3	Business travel	10.9	0.0
	Commuting and home working	13.9	0.0
<b>Total</b>		34.8	0.0

## Emission reduction targets

- Short-term (by 2027): Reduce Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 30% through energy efficiency improvements.
- Mid-term (by 2030): Reduce overall emissions by 50% through sustainable business operations.
- Long-term (by 2050): Achieve net zero through a combination of emissions reduction and verified offsetting.

We project that carbon emissions will decrease to 20.6 tCO<sub>2</sub>e by our 2030 reporting year (2029 data) for the categories of emissions listed above. This is a reduction of 41.5% compared to our 2024 baseline, in line with a 50% reduction target for 2030. Anticipated progress against these targets can be seen in the graph below:



## Carbon reduction projects

### Completed carbon reduction initiatives

The following environmental management measures and projects have been completed or implemented since we started reporting in 2023. As we have adopted a new baseline, the carbon emissions reductions achieved by each action is not provided in this Carbon Reduction Plan.

- As a small or medium-sized enterprise (SME), Urban Foresight has signed up to [The SME Climate Commitment](#), with an aim to reduce our emissions by 50% by 2030. This is a public declaration of our commitment to net zero by 2050.
- We have appointed a Sustainability Champion to lead our efforts in driving sustainable practices.
- We have successfully reduced waste generation and minimised the proportion sent to landfills through efficient waste management. This includes the introduction of food waste recycling.
- We have added our energy consumption data to our recording, allowing us to track and monitor our energy usage and make informed decisions to improve efficiency.

Since 2024 baseline we have completed or implemented the following additional measures. We expect the carbon emissions reductions achieved by these schemes will equate to around 3tCO<sub>2</sub>e by our 2026 reporting year (2025 data), a 8% reduction against our baseline in 2024. These measures will be in effect when performing the contract:

- We have calculated our travel and employee commuting emissions, including those associated with working from home, to understand our carbon footprint.
- We are completing energy checks (e.g. review heating settings) to reduce our energy consumption and are working with the operator of our Newcastle office to understand the reduction in emissions from the introduction of air source heat pumps to replace some of the gas used by our combined heat and power that heats and powers the district heat network at which our office is located.
- We continue to support our employees to commute and travel for business using the most sustainable transport options, shifting away from the use of petrol and diesel vehicles, with an estimated reduction of 5.8 tCO<sub>2</sub>e by 2030, a 16.4% reduction against our 2024 baseline.
- Flights constituted 27% of our carbon footprint for 2024. We are updating our travel policy to restrict flights for business or travel between offices to situations in which travel by train and/or boat is impossible or prohibitively expensive. We will also update our travel policy in relation to travel outside of the UK to ensure flights are only take when necessary. This is expected to reduce our emissions from flying by around half (4.7 tCO<sub>2</sub>e by 2030, a 13.3% reduction), acknowledging some of our contracts require travel that cannot be completed by land and sea.

## Planned carbon reduction initiatives

In the future, we hope to implement further measures such as:

- We will establish regular meetings to track and discuss sustainability progress.
- We will switch to a zero emissions electricity tariff and explore purchasing via power purchase agreements with new-build renewable generation, sourcing renewable energy to reduce our carbon footprint and support the transition to clean energy beyond the scope of our own operations, aligned with anticipated updates to the Greenhouse Gas Protocol for market-based emissions reporting.

- We will report our emissions from electricity in Scope 2 using regional data. It is anticipated that our emissions from electricity will fall to zero tCO<sub>2</sub>e by 2030 as our local grids decarbonise (and by 2035 at the latest by reference to national grid carbon intensity).
- We will undertake a comprehensive carbon footprint analysis to understand our wider emissions associated with data usage and within our value chain, including associated upstream and downstream transportation, and update our policies in relation to the use of AI, purchasing of goods and materials and reuse of office supplies.
- We will capture data to measure the emissions of our waste and wastewater and the emissions associated with travel for our clients and/or stakeholders.
- We will offset our carbon emissions by investing in verified carbon offset projects and/or alternative offsetting options to those available through the voluntary carbon market provided by emerging local initiatives including the North East Carbon and Nature Marketplace, expected to launch in June 2025. By 2026 we expect to have calculated our residual emissions for Scope 1 and 2 to align with our 2030 target and an outline our offsetting policy reflecting science-based targets / recognised offsetting frameworks such as the Oxford Principles and emerging approaches at central and local government level.

## Declaration

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>1</sup> and uses the appropriate Government emission conversion factors for greenhouse gas company reporting<sup>2</sup>.

Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions have been reported in accordance with SECR requirements, and the required subset of Scope 3 emissions have been reported in accordance with the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Standard.

Signed on behalf of Urban Foresight:



Rachel Beeton

Director



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