

Our Carbon Emissions

2024/25 Performance Report & Reduction Plan

Prepared by SCAPE

Table of Contents

The SCAPE Group of companies	3
Executive summary	4
Our commitment to change	5
UK regulations and guidance	6
Legislation	6
Government policy and best practice	6
Leadership and influence.....	7
Baseline and Scope.....	8
Scope	8
Carbon emissions scopes	9
Greenhouse Gas Emissions Baseline	10
Source of our emissions and how to reduce them.....	11
Workplace emissions.....	11
Business travel	12
Supply chain emissions	13
Mobilising our team	14
Changing behaviour.....	15
Investing to reduce and mitigate our carbon emissions.....	16
Governance, measurement and reporting.....	17
Glossary of terms.....	18

The SCAPE Group of companies

The SCAPE group of companies is designed entirely to create value.

Our services include actively managed construction, consultancy, civil engineering and utilities frameworks for the public sector and beyond; innovative and iconic design solutions and bespoke property services on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council.



Executive summary

As part of SCAPE's 10-year vision, we are committed to leaving a sustainable legacy in local communities. Acting to address the climate emergency is both ethical and a legal requirement in the UK. Our responsibility is to reduce our own emissions at source while mitigating the effects of climate change at a local, national and global level.

Our verified carbon footprint (absolute emissions) for the year 2024/25 was 449.7 tCO₂e, an increase of 19.6 tCO₂e against the previous year. This increase is due to widening our inclusion of additional Scope 3 emissions arising from our office workplace, commuting and business travel, and the activities of our supply chain.

When emissions scopes are compared on a like for like basis against 2023/24, our emissions reduced by 25% in absolute terms.

Our normalised emissions reduced by 34% to 25.54 tCO₂e per £million of turnover compared to the previous year. This is a result of investment and focus on key areas of emissions, and we will continue to identify areas where we can reduce emissions and improve energy efficiency.

We will take immediate responsibility for our verified emissions. We will strive to cut emissions by 10% year on year ahead of our key organisational targets of carbon neutrality and net zero status.

We are proud to have retained our Champion status under the Carbon Reduction Code for the Built Environment and have mandated that our Framework partners must align themselves with the principles of the Code.

We have set out clear roles and responsibilities within our business to ensure progress is made in line with these expectations and are accountable to our local government owners and the communities we serve.

Ensuring everyone plays their part is key, and we have committed to achieving carbon literacy Gold Status by 2030.

We have set out an action plan and a carbon reduction pathway that seeks to deliver meaningful emissions reductions underpinned by clear ambition.

SCAPE's carbon footprint

450 tCO₂e

2024/25

Our long-term goals

Become a



carbon neutral

organisation by 2030

Become a



net zero

organisation by 2035

Our commitment to change

We understand the responsibility we have to reduce the environmental impact of our operations, and the need to be both transparent and accountable regarding our carbon emissions.

This Carbon Report and Reduction Plan is a positive reaction to our verified 2024/25 carbon footprint. It sets out an investable action plan that seeks to deliver continuous emission reductions, setting us on a clear path towards significant organisational targets.

As a result of expansion of the types of emissions we record and report since 2021, we believe that this emissions report establishes a more representative baseline level from which to drive our reduction plans.

We will launch a pilot project in 2025 with a focus on local carbon reduction and energy efficiency measures in social housing. We will 'offset' 20% of our 2024/25 emissions and will publish a case study detailing both the carbon and social value impacts of that investment. The projects we invest in will be assured via the Verified Carbon Standard scheme.

Our commitment to positive local impact and environmental protection are founding principles of our business, and we will continue to be a force for positive change in our industry.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Robinson'.

Mark Robinson

Group Chief Executive

UK regulations and guidance

This plan is written acknowledging the context in which we operate, framed by legislation and government guidance. This plan, our Environmental Policy and our general approach, are informed by the following UK law and best practice.

Legislation

The primary legal and regulatory context which this plan acknowledges and adheres to:

Environment Act, 2021

This aims to improve air and water quality, tackle waste, improve biodiversity and make other environmental improvements. The Planning Bill mandates the delivery of a minimum of 10% Biodiversity Net Gain in new developments, 30 year management plans and a system of biodiversity credits both on and off site.

Social Value Act, 2012

Public sector commissioners are required to consider how they could improve the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of their local area through procurement.

Climate Change Act, 2008

Set in law, emissions in England must be reduced by 78% by 2035, compared to 1990 levels.

Government policy and best practice

The guidance which shapes and is critical to our organisational approach to ESG (Environment, Social and Governance):

Procurement Policy Note 06/20

Taking account of social value when awarding Central Government contracts.

Carbon Reduction Procurement Policy Note 06/21

Carbon reduction plans are required for every procurement over £5m.

Construction Playbook V2

Procurement guidance which introduces and strongly recommends Whole Life Carbon assessments, which, having been discussed in parliament in 2022/23, is expected to be mandated in the medium-term.

Carbon Reduction Code for the Built Environment

A construction industry code of practice, mapping and connecting a number of disparate initiatives into a universal framework for carbon reduction. There are three levels of commitment, allowing organisations to be either a pledger, a signatory or a champion.

Leadership and influence

SCAPE is a large administrative SME organisation, with a modest carbon footprint.

However, our influence beyond our own regulatory scope is significant, including industry peer Framework organisations and our own partners.

Based on the throughput and pipeline of SCAPE's procurement frameworks, we have estimated that our influence extends to approximately 750,000 tCO₂e per year, through the delivery of public sector construction, civil engineering and utility projects.

Within our Environmental Policy, and Environmental Standards Documents, we have set out our commitments as an organisation which include playing a key leadership role, both in thought and delivery of carbon reductions.

SCAPE fulfils its industry leadership commitments by working collaboratively with framework partners and their supply chains. We are an active member the UK Green Building Council (UKGBC), Constructing Excellence, the National Association of Construction Frameworks (NACF) and a partner to the Local Government Association. We are in dialogue with the UK Government and actively support policy and guidance that drives more sustainable behaviour, such as the Construction Playbook.

We undertake regular reviews and updates of our suite of Mandatory & Optional Project Environmental Standards to drive a more sustainable industry.

SCAPE is also proud to be a Champion of the Construction Leadership Council's Carbon Reduction Code for the Built Environment.

SCAPE's extended influence per year

750,000
tCO₂e

Baseline and Scope

Scope

In this plan, we are working from a verified carbon emissions baseline for the 2024/25 financial year, of 449.7 tCO₂e per annum.

This includes the direct and indirect emissions relating to all of SCAPE Group's activities (SCAPE), including workplace energy use and business travel, together with an array of additional Scope 3 emissions. We have also included supply chain emissions arising directly and indirectly from our professional services activities and from design and risk management services.

This plan currently excludes the emissions arising from Arc Partnership, which, as a joint venture dedicated to supporting Nottinghamshire County Council, has its own carbon reduction plan.

It also excludes the carbon emissions from built environment projects funded by our clients.

We acknowledge our responsibility to influence and advise our clients and project stakeholders. Based on industry research and case studies, we have estimated that the project or “capital” carbon SCAPE could influence (the carbon our clients usually consider in their scope 3 emissions) is around 750,000 tCO₂e.













On the following page is an illustration of the scope of emissions. It shows the three main areas of emissions around which we have shaped this plan; workplace, business travel and supply chain.

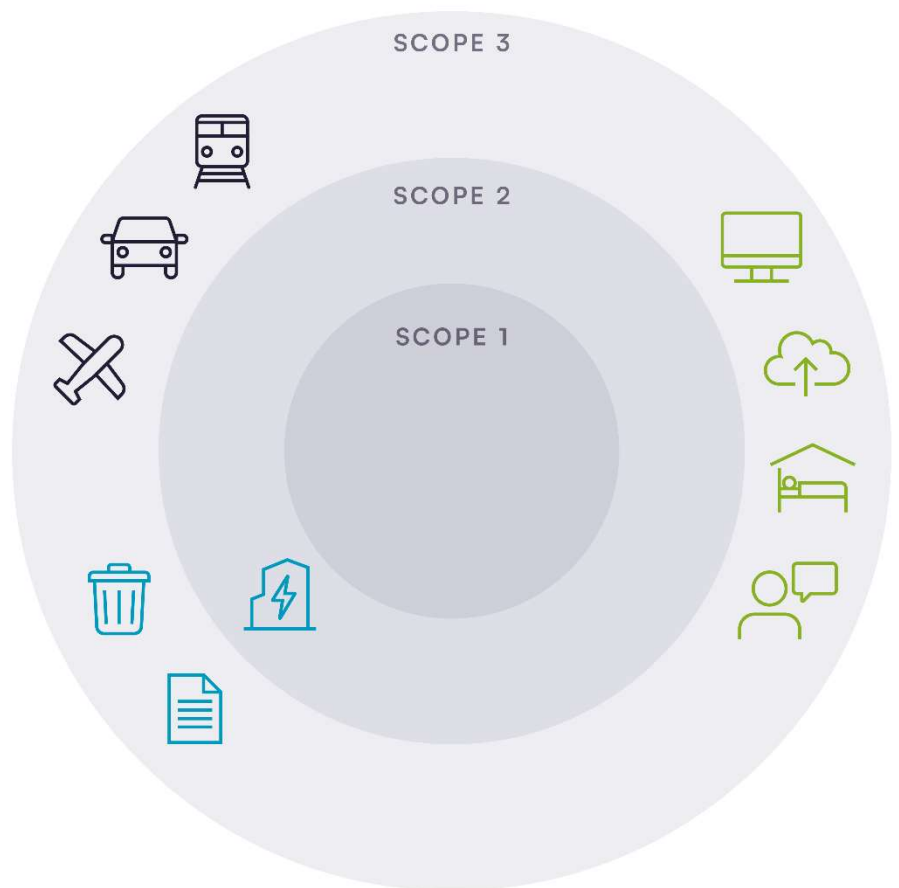
Our estimated commuter and home working mileage both fall outside the scope of this plan, but we do intend to voluntarily report on and seek to reduce these non-regulated emissions, as part of our commitment to environmental accountability.

SCAPE's carbon emissions for 2024/25

449.7 tCO₂e

Carbon emissions scopes

Business travel	
	Car journeys
	Flights
	Rail journeys
Workplace	
	Energy use
	Waste
	Paper use
Supply chain emissions	
	ICT hardware
	Data storage
	Venues and accommodation
	Consultancy services
Additionally, outside formal scope	
	Commuter travel
	Home working



Greenhouse Gas Emissions Baseline

(in Tonnes of CO₂ equivalent)

In 2024/25, absolute emissions in scope of this Carbon Reduction Plan were 449.7 tCO₂e

449.7 tCO₂e

This comprises:

Workplace emissions



60.8 tCO₂e

Business travel



56.1 tCO₂e

Supply chain / goods and services purchased



332.8 tCO₂e

Source of our emissions and how to reduce them

Workplace emissions

The challenge

Our office space is leased until 2028 and we collectively used circa 160,000 kWh of electricity in 2024/25.

Our initial 2021 benchmark year saw consumption in excess of 200,000 kWh per year, so our latest data represents an almost 25% reduction in energy use.

We invested heavily in those aspects of building functionality over which we have influence, and have installed efficient, fully electric HVAC systems (heating, cooling and ventilation).

Additionally, our original baseline year energy supply was not sustainably sourced. All of our energy is now REGO (Renewable Energy of Guaranteed Origin) certified.

Our energy intensity is now at a level of 88.9 kWh/m²/yr, 24% lower than pre-investment levels of 116 kWh/m²/yr.

While we will continue to strive to reduce our intensity to industry benchmark levels, (CIBSE 65 kWh/m²/yr and LETI 55 kWh/m²/yr) we recognise that these performance levels may not be achievable until we move to a more modern facility after lease expiry.

Our 2024/25 consumption is almost identical to the previous year, suggesting that we may have reached our foundation level of office energy use.

from electricity use (2024/25)



16 tCO₂e
79,112 kWh

Objective

Minimise energy consumption while providing a safe, healthy and harmonious workplace.

Actions

- Conduct an office energy review and implement cost-effective reduction measures
- Reduce office energy use intensity where possible
- Ensure the energy performance of our long-term office accommodation aligns with our low carbon ambitions

Business travel

The challenge

The work we do is in the procurement, design and delivery of projects and maintenance of assets across the UK, meaning that essential business travel contributes to our carbon footprint.

Business travel emissions arise from our “grey fleet” — the vehicles our employees own and use for work, as well as train journeys and occasional air travel.

We have adopted a balanced approach, combining office, remote and home working. Making informed decisions about where and how we work and travel is key.

We know that adopting informed working practices while reducing the time spent travelling will also improve employee health and wellbeing, reducing stress and fatigue.

Better decisions lead to better outcomes.

from business travel (2024/25)



56* tCO₂e

156,058 car miles

**An anomalous circa one third (20.3 tonnes) of our 2024/25 travel emissions resulted from long-haul flights associated with exploration of international, non-routine business opportunities.*

Objective

Deliver 5% year-on-year reductions in absolute emissions from business travel

Actions

- Enable informed choices on relevant transport options, as well as the benefits of car sharing and minimising avoidable journeys.
- Promote the use of car sharing by introducing the national car sharing mileage rate for essential business journeys.
- Support the transition towards Electric Vehicles (EVs) and communicate the benefits, including informing staff of available incentive schemes to support adoption.
- Encourage active travel including the use of public transport

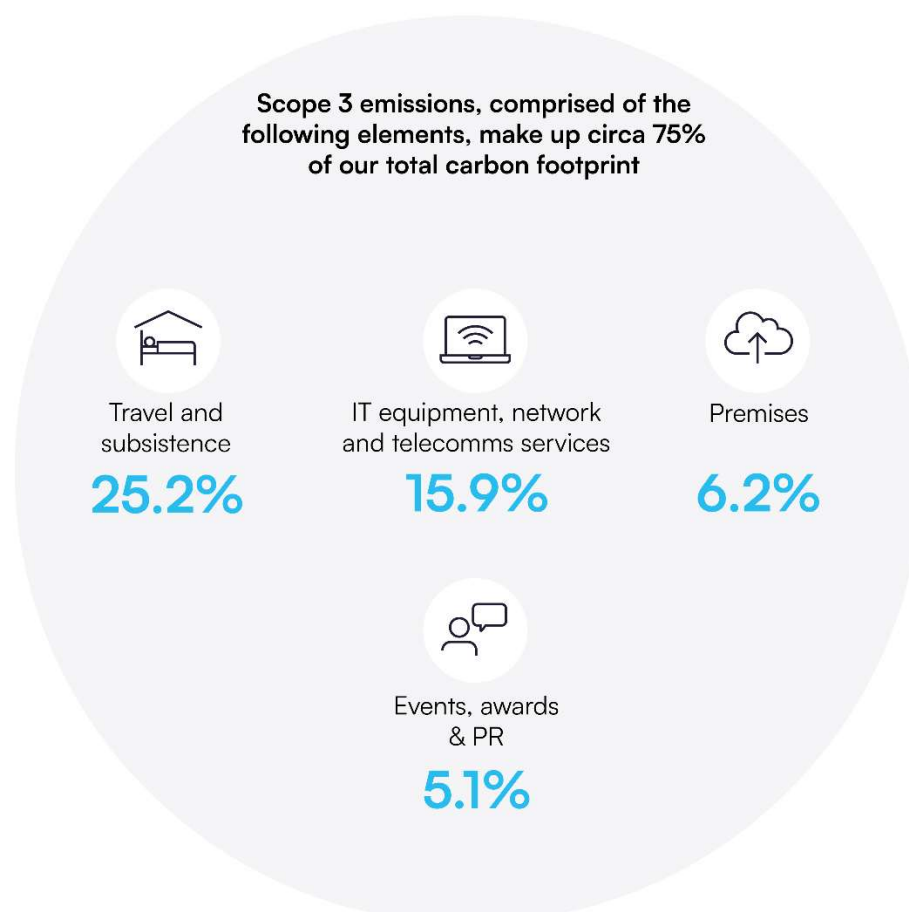
Supply chain emissions

Our supply chain (goods and services) accounts for three quarters of our total emissions.

The challenge

To be a truly accountable organisation, both in our direct and indirect carbon emissions, we are committed to reducing scope 3 emissions — those that are created as part of our supply chain.

It is our intention to ensure our procurement approach is aligned to the Carbon Reduction Procurement Policy Note (O6/21). We will take a category management approach in assessing our supply chain's commitment to carbon reduction. The requirements will be optional for existing suppliers, but mandatory for all new suppliers as appropriate.



Objectives

- All supply chain partners to be updated on SCAPE's carbon reduction approach by the end of 2025.
- Supply chain partners to provide transparent emissions data and have Carbon Reduction Plans in place by 2026.

Actions

- Support supply chain partners with the creation of Carbon Reduction Plans for their organisations and operations.
- Develop buying standards for the use and purchasing of venues, accommodation and IT equipment.
- Embed carbon reduction into the procurement criteria for all suppliers over time.
- Incrementally introduce carbon reduction targets into supply chain contracts to encourage best practice.
- Mandate the reporting of project construction phase emissions across all Frameworks from November 2025.

Mobilising our team

We recognise that our employees are crucial to the success of our carbon reduction commitments.

We will only be able to deliver this plan if our team understands why we need to act. They need to share our business ambition to do things differently and be given the information, support and ability to make those changes.

Research from many other organisations and advice from our peers suggests this will require:



Leadership

Our expectations for change need to be clearly communicated and our senior leaders must visibly lead by example.



Carbon literacy

Our team need to know where our emissions come from and why doing things differently matters.



Informed choices

Our team must have the knowledge and tools they need to make practical and realistic choices in their day-to-day work and make informed decisions.



Rewards, incentives and recognition

We understand that change can be hard. We want to reinforce proactive action and carbon-conscious behaviours.



An opportunity to make a difference

Our team want to know how they can make an impact professionally, and as part of wider society by volunteering in the local community.

Objective

Create a culture that enables emissions reductions via a carbon-conscious workforce.

Actions

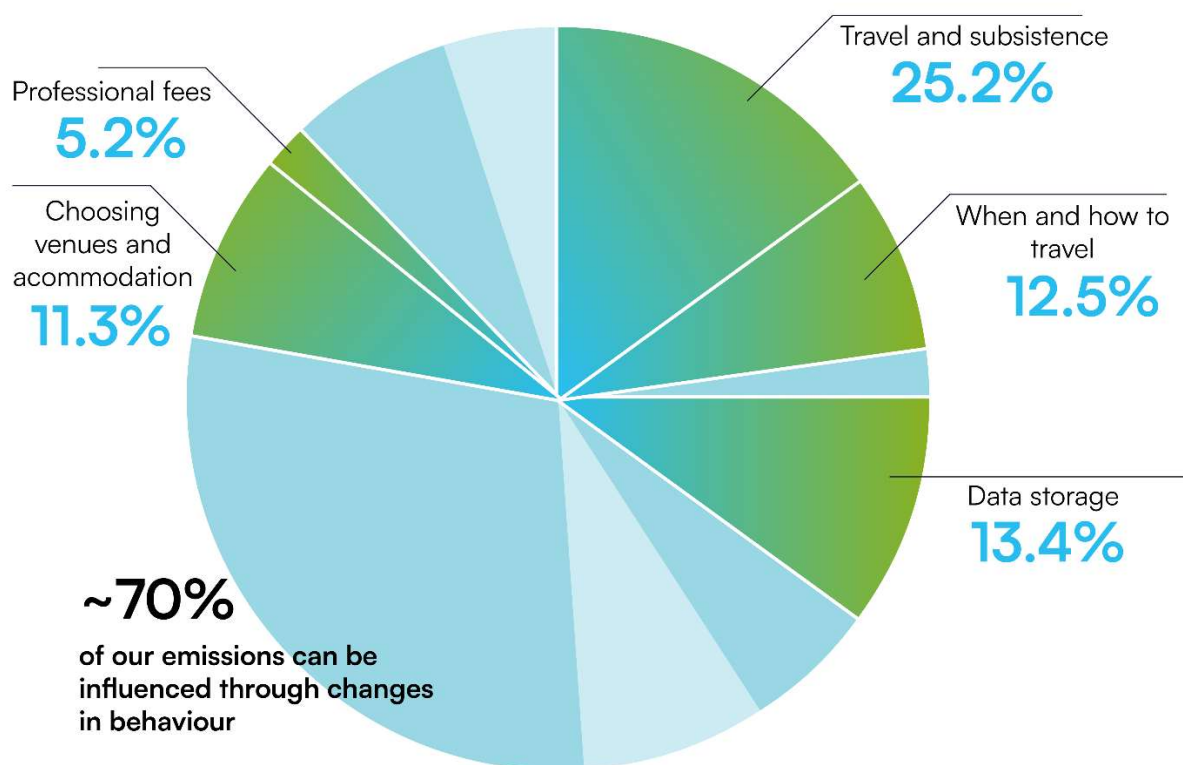
- Promote our revised Carbon Reduction Plan and its vital role within the context of our 10-year strategy, setting out responsibilities across the business, including clear expectations at all levels.
- Lead by example with regular updates from senior managers, sharing actions being undertaken across the business that actively support and contribute to our carbon reduction objectives.
- Provide relevant training, and learning and development opportunities to help employees understand and contribute to our carbon reduction ambitions.
- Promote SCAPE's new Environmental Sustainability Policy (Nov 2025).
- Aspire to organisational Gold Standard for carbon literacy (Silver achieved)

Changing behaviour

The challenge

Every choice we make has a carbon cost associated with it, but enabling our team to make informed decisions will help to significantly reduce our carbon footprint.

This graphic shows the elements of our carbon footprint that are influenced directly by the choices our employees make every day.



Objective

To create an organisational and business culture that ensures our carbon reduction ambitions are delivered as part of our 10-year business strategy.

Actions

Ensure our culture supports behaviours and workplace decisions that will have a lasting positive impact, including:

- Informed travel decisions
- Use of digital platforms
- Choosing venues and accommodation that are low carbon
- Using less energy in the office and at home
- Using sustainable energy sources
- Using, storing and sharing data sustainably
- Clear and consistent communication
- Recognise and reward individual actions or outcomes

Investing to reduce and mitigate our carbon emissions

To deliver this plan, we will need to invest in transformative actions.

To fund our ambitions, we have established an Internal Carbon Levy, which:

- is reviewed annually
- is linked to the UK Carbon Price Index
- reflects our actual carbon emissions from the preceding 12 months.

Investment priorities

We will prioritise the use of funds to deliver activities that reduce our business emissions, as well as:

- Investing in community-level energy efficiency and emissions reduction schemes in areas in which we work (“insetting”)
- Investing in UK/VCS certified carbon credits to enable us to be a truly carbon neutral business (“offsetting”).

As a commitment to our Champion status under the Construction Leadership Council’s Carbon Reduction Code, we will publish which projects we invest in together with impact case studies. The projects we support will align with the Oxford Offsetting Principles.

Governance, measurement and reporting

Our emissions need to be carefully managed, and we have established the following approach, to ensure we are transparent and accountable.

We will consistently measure the activities from which our in-scope emissions arise, including:



Office energy use



Business mileage



Supply chain expenditure

Starting with our new baseline year of 2024/25, we will externally verify our emissions annually and consider ISO 14064 accreditation at the earliest opportunity.

We will publish our progress and report on the management of these metrics and the reduction of the associated carbon emissions to:

- The Board of Directors annually
- Stakeholders and interested parties via our website and social media channels

We will ensure emissions and carbon reduction are factored into all future key business decisions.

Objective

To ensure carbon management becomes an inherent part of SCAPE's performance management, governance regime and ESG approach.

Roles and responsibilities



Executive Leadership Team

Responsible for ensuring each business/service implements the necessary actions to deliver the carbon reductions identified in this plan.



Sustainability Director

Responsible for ensuring that measurement, verification and reporting activities are undertaken in line with the standards identified in this plan.



All employees

Responsible for ensuring they understand what they can do in their own role to enact this plan and to support others in doing the same.

Glossary of terms

Climate emergency

The critical and urgent state of the Earth's climate system due to anthropogenic (human caused) climate change. Many public bodies have made a Climate Emergency Declaration, emphasising the need for immediate and drastic action to mitigate and adapt to the adverse effects of climate change, to prevent irreversible and catastrophic consequences for humanity and the planet.

Offsetting

Offsetting, specifically carbon offsetting, refers to a practice where individuals, organisations, or governments take actions to compensate for their carbon emissions by supporting projects that reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions elsewhere. Offsetting is used to achieve a balance between the amount created and the amount removed or reduced, which in turn reduces their carbon footprint.

Insetting

Insetting, also known as carbon insetting, is a concept that focuses on reducing or offsetting carbon emissions within a specific company or organisation's value chain or operations. Unlike offsetting, which typically uses external projects, insetting usually involves internal reduction initiatives to balance out the emissions generated.

Greenhouse gas emissions

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) or carbon emissions. Expressed as tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (tCO₂e), Greenhouse Gas emissions from human activities strengthen the greenhouse effect, contributing to climate change. Most is carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels: coal, oil, and natural gas.

Net zero

Achieving net zero means reducing Greenhouse Gas produced by human activity, to be achieved by employing nature-based solutions and strategies such as carbon capture and storage.

Carbon neutral

Carbon neutral means that the level of carbon dioxide removed from the atmosphere is equal to or greater than the emissions created.

Whole-life carbon

The carbon emissions resulting from the materials, construction and use of a building over its entire life, including its demolition and disposal.

Retrofitting

The process of making changes to existing buildings so that energy consumption and emissions are reduced.