

Carbon Reduction Plan

Supplier Name: UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH)

Publication date: 17 September 2025

Commitment to achieving Net Zero

The UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH) is an independent, not-for-profit research institute carrying out excellent environmental science with impact. UKCEH operates from four main sites, undertaking monitoring and research across the UK and at an international scale.

UKCEH is committed to achieving Net Zero for greenhouse gas emissions resulting from directly controlled activities (Scope 1 & 2) by 2040 as set out in our [Environmental Policy](#). We will further seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with the activities that we can influence (Scope 3), through collaborative working with our partners, suppliers, clients and other stakeholders by 2050.

Additionally, our research and innovation strengthen the methodology of national and regional greenhouse gas emission inventories here in the UK and overseas and enables the development and implementation of sustainable land management and renewable energy interventions across countryside, farmland and offshore. Our commitment to achieving Operational Net Zero emissions is embedded within our work, as shown in the new [UKCEH Strategy 2030](#), launched in November 2024.

This Carbon Reduction Plan focuses on emissions arising from UKCEH's operational, research and innovation activities, covering the relevant greenhouse gas (GHG) emission Scopes and Scope 3 Categories required under PPN 06/21. Further information on the UKCEH GHG inventory (all scopes and categories) and our wider Strategic Environmental Goals can be found [here](#).

Baseline Emissions Footprint

Baseline emissions are a record of the GHG emissions that have been produced in the past and form the reference point against which GHG emissions reduction can be targeted and measured. UKCEH has operated an environmental management system certified to ISO 14001 since 2010 and achieved substantial reductions to resource use since then.

In December 2019 UKCEH was established as an independent not-for-profit research institute, with full control over purchasing and investment decisions from that date. A baseline year of 2021 has historically been used for the purpose of reporting against the requirements of PPN 06/21. However, in 2024 UKCEH undertook an assessment of its complete scope 1, 2 and 3 GHG inventory for the January to December 2023 period, which is now used across the organisation for its full scope Net Zero targets. Due to the impacts of Covid-19 in 2021 on core business activities such as travel, the 2023 GHG inventory provides a more representative baseline year for comparison against going forward. As a result, UKCEH has chosen to update the baseline year within its PPN 06/21 reporting to use the 2023 GHG inventory, which will better align with its existing organisational GHG emission reduction targets. When reporting

this year, minor errors in the 2023 PPN 06/21 disclosure was noted and have been corrected in this document.

Reporting Year: 2023 (re-baselined)	
EMISSIONS	TOTAL (tCO ₂ e)
Scope 1	793.02 - Direct emissions from buildings, fuel use and fleet vehicles
Scope 2	9.57 (market-based) 665.09 (location-based) - Emissions from purchased electricity
Scope 3 (Included Sources)	1509.64 This figure includes the following categories: 27.29 – Category 4: Upstream Transportation and Distribution* 4.33 – Category 5: Waste Generated in Operations 799.45 – Category 6: Business Travel* 678.57 – Category 7: Employee Commuting* 0.00 – Category 9: Downstream Transportation and Distribution*
Total Emissions	2312.23 (market-based) 2967.75 (location-based)

* All figures exclude Well-to-Tank (WTT).

Current Emissions Reporting

Reporting Year: 2024	
EMISSIONS	TOTAL (tCO ₂ e)
Scope 1	778.15 - Direct emissions from buildings, fuel use and fleet vehicles
Scope 2	10.47 (market-based) 663.05 (location-based) - Emissions from purchased electricity
Scope 3 (Included Sources)	1615.60 This figure includes the following categories: 15.08 – Category 4: Upstream Transportation and Distribution* 3.80 – Category 5: Waste Generated in Operations 918.52 – Category 6: Business Travel* 678.20 – Category 7: Employee Commuting* <0.01 – Category 9: Downstream Transportation and Distribution*
Total Emissions	2404.22 (market-based) 3056.80 (location-based)

* All figures exclude Well-to-Tank (WTT).

We recognise that Scope 3 GHG emissions increased in 2024 due to the expansion of our workforce and continuing resumption of our business activities and scientific research projects across the globe. In 2023, shipments of manufactured equipment to customers was arranged

and paid for by UKCEH, meaning this was calculated under Scope 3 Category 4. In 2024, the manufacture and distribution of one product (AMI) was outsourced to a third party. As a result, the shipping related GHG emissions for this product now fall under Scope 3 Category 9. However, the resulting emissions remain low, with the Downstream Transportation & Distribution emissions being less than 0.01 tCO₂e. This is due to the relatively low quantity and weight of the products shipped on behalf of UKCEH.

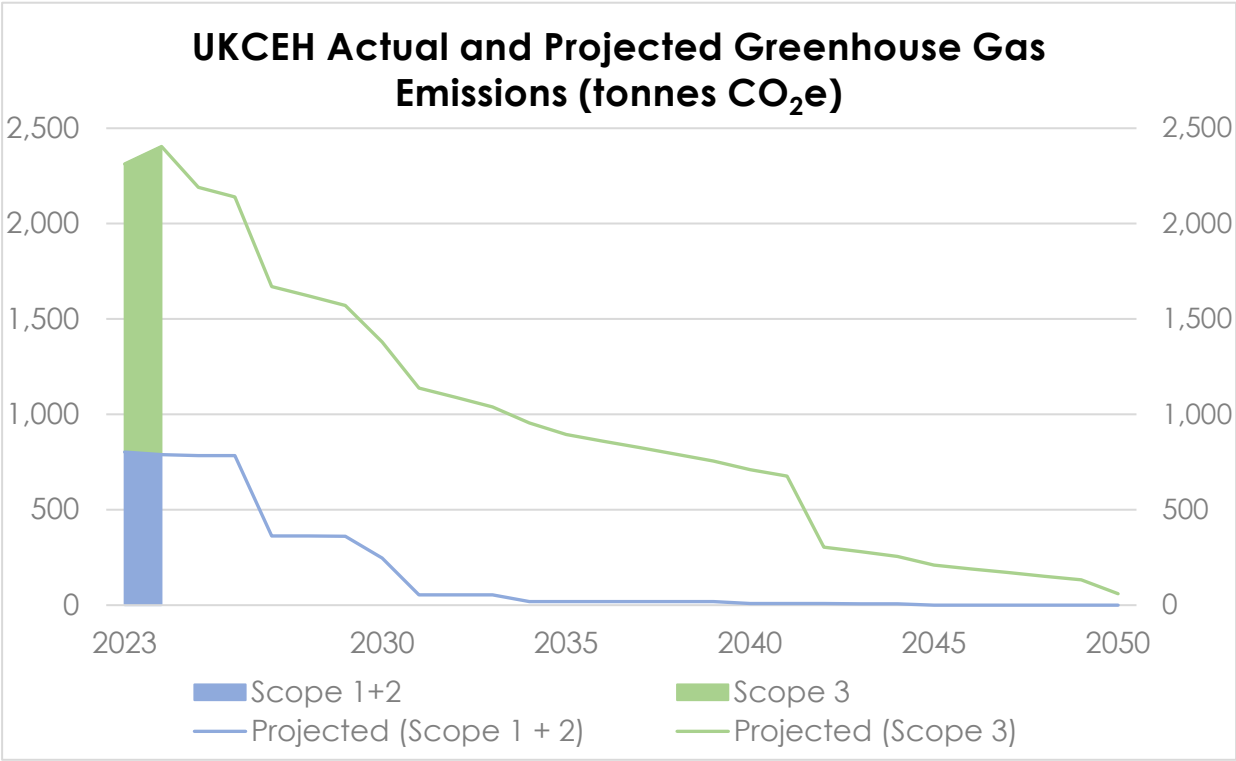
Emissions reduction targets

In order to continue our progress to achieving Net Zero, we have adopted the following carbon reduction target which was updated in 2023.

‘Reduce UKCEH reliance on fossil fuels and achieve ‘Net Zero’ Scope 1 and Scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions by 2040 and associated Scope 3 emissions by 2050.’

As part of this commitment, in 2024 we mapped out high, medium and low ambition Net Zero Pathway options for UKCEH. The Executive Committee and Board of Trustees unanimously endorsed a high ambition pathway in February 2025.

By 2030, we project that market-based Scope 1 & Scope 2 GHG emissions will decrease to 362 tCO₂e. This is a reduction of 76% of our Scope 1 & Scope 2 baseline emissions. Over the same time span, Scope 3 GHG emissions are projected to decrease to 1,209 tCO₂e, which is a 22% reduction against the baseline year.



Carbon Reduction Projects

Completed Carbon Reduction Initiatives

The following environmental management measures and projects have been completed during 2024:

- Returned UKCEH field sites directly purchasing mains electricity to a 'zero carbon' REGO backed renewable electricity tariff after these were unexpectedly returned to a standard grid tariff at the start of 2024.
- Completed replacement of building lighting with LEDs /PIR lighting controls.
- Completed upgrades to IT infrastructure and individual worker equipment to enable improved remote working and reduced business travel needs.
- Updated the UKCEH Travel Policy, formally embedding consideration of the sustainable business travel hierarchy in decision making.
- Undertook a staff commuting survey to improve accuracy of footprint calculations and identify opportunities to encourage use of lower carbon transport for commuting purposes.
- Moved to a new Travel Management Company better able to support our requirements for promotion of low carbon travel modes and capture of travel emissions data.
- Achievement of the Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework Gold certification in our Bangor laboratories and substantial progress towards Gold certification in our remaining Lancaster laboratories, in line with other UKCEH laboratories at our main offices sites.
- Progressing with delayed upgrades to our site sub-metering and Building Management Systems to better identify energy reduction opportunities on our main sites.
- Mapped out high medium and low ambition pathway options for achieving operational Net Zero for UKCEH

From 2025 we plan to progress measures to reduce reliance on fossil fuels including through:

- Launch of the high ambition UKCEH Operational Net Zero Pathway to all UKCEH People including through cross-site engagement initiatives.
- Reviewing the feasibility of installing further on-site renewable energy generation infrastructure on our main sites.
- Installation of EV charging infrastructure to support increased use of electric and ULEV vehicles for business travel requirements, where appropriate to do so.
- Engaging our key suppliers to identify opportunities to reduce carbon emissions associated with procurement decisions.
- Working closely with our neighbours & landlords to identify potential collaborative opportunities.

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.

Greenhouse gas emissions have been reported and recorded in accordance with the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the GHG Protocol Corporate Standards¹. Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions have been reported in accordance with SECR requirements,

¹ <https://ghgprotocol.org/corporate-standard>

and the required subset of Scope 3 emissions have been reported in accordance with the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the GHG Protocol Value Chain (Scope 3) Standard².

The majority of the GHG emissions calculations utilise activity data alongside the 2024 UK government conversion factors³. Scope 3 Categories 4 (Upstream Transport and Distribution) and 6 (Business Travel) have been calculated using a mix of spend and activity data. Where spend data was used, the UK Government Conversion factors per £ by SIC code were utilised for the GHG emissions calculation⁴.

This Carbon Reduction Plan has been reviewed and endorsed by the board of directors (or equivalent management body), namely UKCEH's Executive Committee.

Signed on behalf of the Supplier:



Dr Stuart Wainwright OBE

Chief Executive, UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology

Date: 17 September 2025

² <https://ghgprotocol.org/corporate-value-chain-scope-3-standard>

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

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uks-carbon-footprint>