Carbon Reduction Plan

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

Publication date: 27 October 2026

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 006. 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 greenhouse gases that have been produced in the past and are the reference point against which emissions reduction can be 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 006 reporting to use the 2023 GHG

inventory, which will better align with its existing organisational GHG emission reduction targets.

Baseline year: 2023 (re-baselined)	
Additional details relating to the baseline emissions calculations:	
Calculation of the GHG emissions inventory was completed by a third-party (JRP Solutions) in the ba ensure a robust methodology is in place. In sequential years has been completed using a self-service carbon calculation platform, following the same methodology, with some improvements to data quality over time. For electricity, the dual reporting method is used, with both market- and location-based emissions presented below.	
Baseline year emissions:	
Emissions Scope	**GHG emissions (tCO_2e)**
Scope 1 - Direct emissions from buildings, fuel use and fleet vehicles	**793.02**
Scope 2 - Emissions from purchased electricity	**9.57 (market-based)** **665.09 (location-based)**
Scope 3 - Category 4: Upstream transport and distribution* (27.29 tCO_2e) - Category 5: Waste generated in operations (4.33 tCO_2e) - Category 6: Business Travel* (799.45 tCO_2e) - Category 7: Employee Commuting* (678.57 tCO_2e) - Category 9: Downstream transport and distribution* (0.00 tCO_2e)	**1509.64**
Total emissions	**2312.23 (market-based)** **2967.75 (location-based)**

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

Current emissions reporting

Reporting year: 2025	
Emissions Scope	**Total emissions (tCO_2e)**
Scope 1 - Direct emissions from buildings, fuel use and fleet vehicles	**830.17**
Scope 2 - Emissions from purchased electricity	**0.37 (market-based)** **558.28 (location-based)**
Scope 3 - Category 4: Upstream transport and distribution* (10.92 tCO_2e) - Category 5: Waste generated in operations (1.81 tCO_2e) - Category 6: Business Travel* (571.62 tCO_2e) - Category 7: Employee Commuting* (293.39 tCO_2e) - Category 9: Downstream transport and distribution* (<0.01 tCO_2e)	**877.74**
Total emissions	**1708.28 (market-based)** **2266.19 (location-based)**

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

We recognise that GHG emissions relating to Scope 1 increased in 2025 due to several refrigerant losses from ageing air handling and air conditioning equipment used to regulate temperatures within buildings across our estate. Following the discovery of the losses, units have either been repaired, replaced or removed as appropriate. Alongside this, we are pleased to report a decrease in GHG emissions for Scope 2, and across all relevant Scope 3 Categories (those required for PPN 006). It is also worth noting that the reported reductions in GHG emissions associated with commuting (Scope 3, Category 7) are partly due to an improved version of the all-staff commuting survey, which was used to capture the 2025 data. This has resulted in improved data quality for this emissions category.

In 2023, shipments of manufactured equipment to customers were arranged and paid for by UKCEH, meaning this was calculated under Scope 3 Category 4. In 2025, 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 tCO_2e. This is due to the relatively low quantity and weight of the products shipped on behalf of UKCEH.

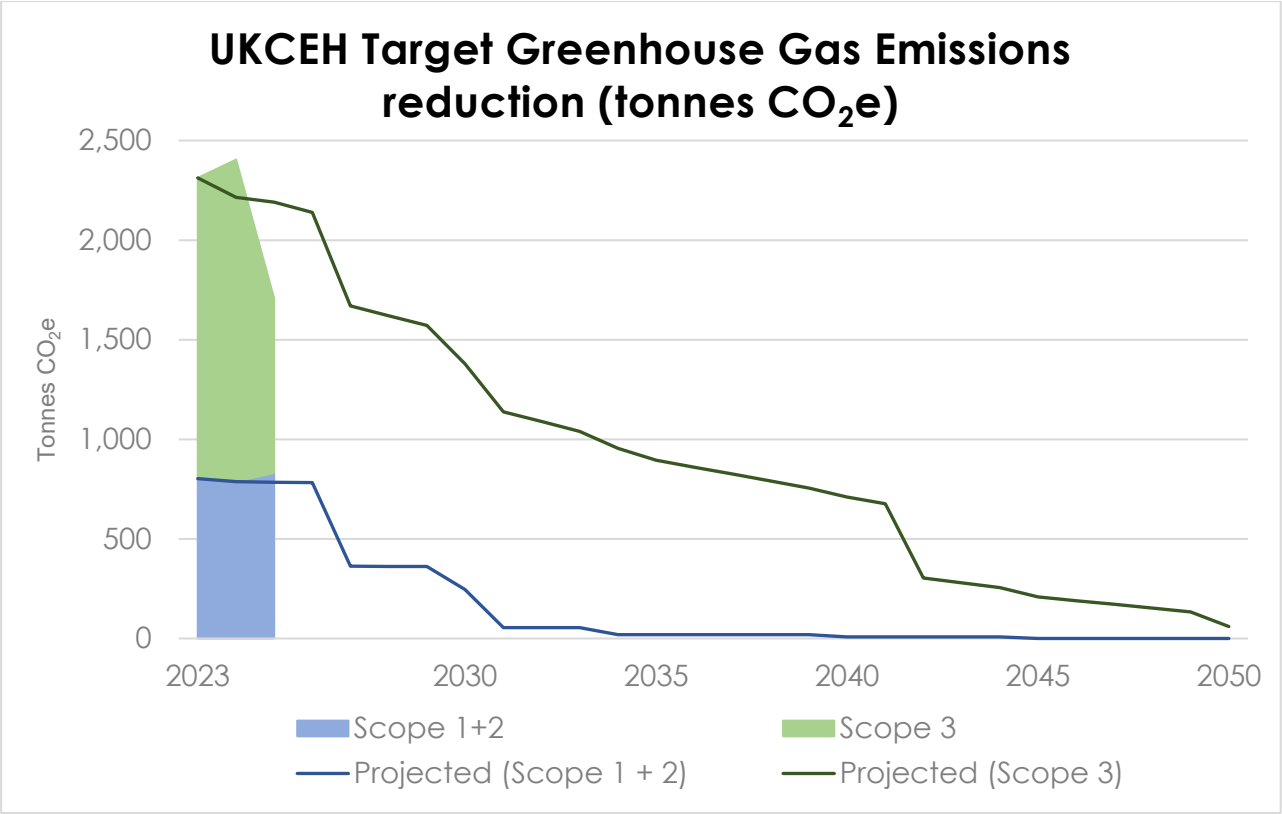
Emissions reduction targets

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.'*

The Executive Committee (now the Executive Leadership Team – ELT) and Board of Trustees unanimously endorsed a high ambition Net Zero pathway in February 2025.

By the end of 2030, we project that market-based Scope 1 & Scope 2 GHG emissions will decrease to 246 tCO_2e. This is equivalent to a 69% reduction in our Scope 1 & Scope 2 since the base year. Over the same time span, Scope 3 GHG emissions associated with PPN 006 reporting are projected to decrease to 1,133 tCO_2e, which is a 25% reduction against the base year.



Carbon Reduction Projects

Completed carbon reduction initiatives

The following environmental management measures and projects have been completed or implemented since the 2023 baseline. Combined, these projects have contributed to an overall carbon emissions reduction of 604 tCO_2e, a 26% reduction against the base year.

- Estate infrastructure decarbonisation surveys carried out across UKCEH office sites, identifying opportunities for energy efficiency improvements and future carbon reduction investments. Where feasible, we are integrating these improvements into our existing estate maintenance and improvement plans.
- Moved all UKCEH UK-based offices, labs and field sites that directly purchase mains electricity to a ‘zero carbon’ REGO backed electricity tariff.
- 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 to formally embed the sustainable business travel hierarchy, ensuring lower-carbon travel options are considered as part of business travel decision making.
- Undertook the annual staff commuting survey to improve accuracy of footprint calculations and identify opportunities to encourage use of lower carbon transport for commuting purposes. This was further enhanced for the 2025 year, to improve data quality.

- Improved business travel emissions reporting and monitoring through collaboration with our Travel Management Company, enhancing the quality of travel emissions data and supporting more informed, lower-carbon travel decision making.
- Achieved the Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework Gold certification in all UKCEH main site laboratories.
- Upgraded our sub-metering and Building Management System to better identify energy reduction opportunities on our main sites.
- Endorsed a high ambition pathway for achieving operational Net Zero for UKCEH, providing clarity and direction around our commitment to reducing GHG emissions across the organisation.
- Installed 12 additional EV charging units at our Edinburgh & Wallingford sites for fleet, staff and visitor use.
- Replaced fan motors with direct drive inverters at our solar dome climate change research facility.

Future carbon reduction initiatives

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

- Invest in EV and hybrid replacement fleet vehicles
- Replace gas-powered kitchen equipment and water heaters with electrically powered alternatives in our Wallingford restaurant and reception area.
- Trial individual radiator controls to minimise heat demands in unoccupied rooms.
- Install solar shading to south-facing windows at our Wallingford site to reduce summer comfort cooling needs.
- Link in with the Lancaster University District Heating Scheme and identify further collaboration opportunities with our neighbours & landlords.
- Install further on-site renewable energy generation infrastructure on our main sites.
- Engage with our key suppliers to identify opportunities to reduce carbon emissions associated with procurement decisions.

Declaration and Sign Off

This Carbon Reduction Plan has been completed in accordance with PPN 006 and associated guidance and reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans.

GHG emissions have been reported and recorded in accordance with the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the GHG Protocol Corporate Standards and uses the appropriate 2025 government emission conversion factors for GHG company reporting.

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.

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

UKCEH
Our planet. Decoded.

Signed on behalf of the supplier:



Gill Turner Lay
Chief Operating Officer, UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology

Date: 16 October 2026