

Carbon Reduction Plan

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Our environmental sustainability journey

The Met Office
has a target to
achieve carbon
neutrality by
FY2030/31



Baseline Emissions Report

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.

Baseline Year: 2019/ 20

Additional Details relating to the Baseline Emissions calculations

A comprehensive baseline assessment was conducted of the Met Office CO₂e emissions for the 2019/20 financial year. This provided a representative, pre-COVID, starting point from which to take action and set initial targets. We recognised that there were some aspects of our indirect emissions that we could not measure realistically at that point in time. Therefore, in 2022/23, we completed a full reassessment of our overall baseline, or carbon footprint, to fill these gaps.

Our baseline now includes the emissions impact of the supply of satellite data, which is crucial to weather and climate forecasting, as well as the impact of the full supercomputing infrastructure that Microsoft have built for us. Once hybrid working patterns stabilised following the COVID-19 pandemic, employee commuting and working from home emissions were incorporated.

We have presented these emissions using the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reporting protocol, which divides emissions into the following Scopes:

- Scope 1 (direct emissions generated from sources owned or controlled by the Met Office)
- Scope 2 (indirect emissions from purchased electricity used on-site). These are market-based emissions calculated using supplier-specific emission factors or energy attribute certificates rather than grid averages (so buying renewable energy can reduce this figure to zero)
- Scope 3 (all other indirect emissions across the Met Office's value chain — both upstream (e.g. suppliers, raw materials, business travel) and downstream (e.g. end-of-life disposal) — that are not owned or controlled by the Met Office itself)

Emissions are reported in tCO₂e (tonnes of CO₂ equivalent) — a standardised unit used in emissions reporting that expresses the global warming potential of all greenhouse gases (e.g. methane, nitrous oxide) as the equivalent amount of CO₂, enabling different gases to be compared and aggregated on a single scale.

Our methodology recognises data quality will improve over time but still allows us to track progress in underlying emissions reductions and target carbon neutrality in 2030/31.

Baseline year emissions:		
EMISSIONS	TOTAL (tCO ₂ e)	
Scope 1	1,450	
Scope 2	15,363	
Scope 3 (Included Sources)	29,737	(Cat 1: Purchased Goods & Services)
	2,453	(Cat 2: Capital Goods)
	5,361	(Cat 3: Fuel & Energy)
	79	(Cat 4: Upstream transportation & distribution)
	27	(Cat 5: Waste generated in operations)
	3,676	(Cat 6: Business Travel)
	3,061	(Cat 7: Employee commuting)
	172	(Cat 8: Upstream leased assets)
	470	(Cat 15: Investments)
	45,036	Scope 3 Total
Total Emissions	61,849	

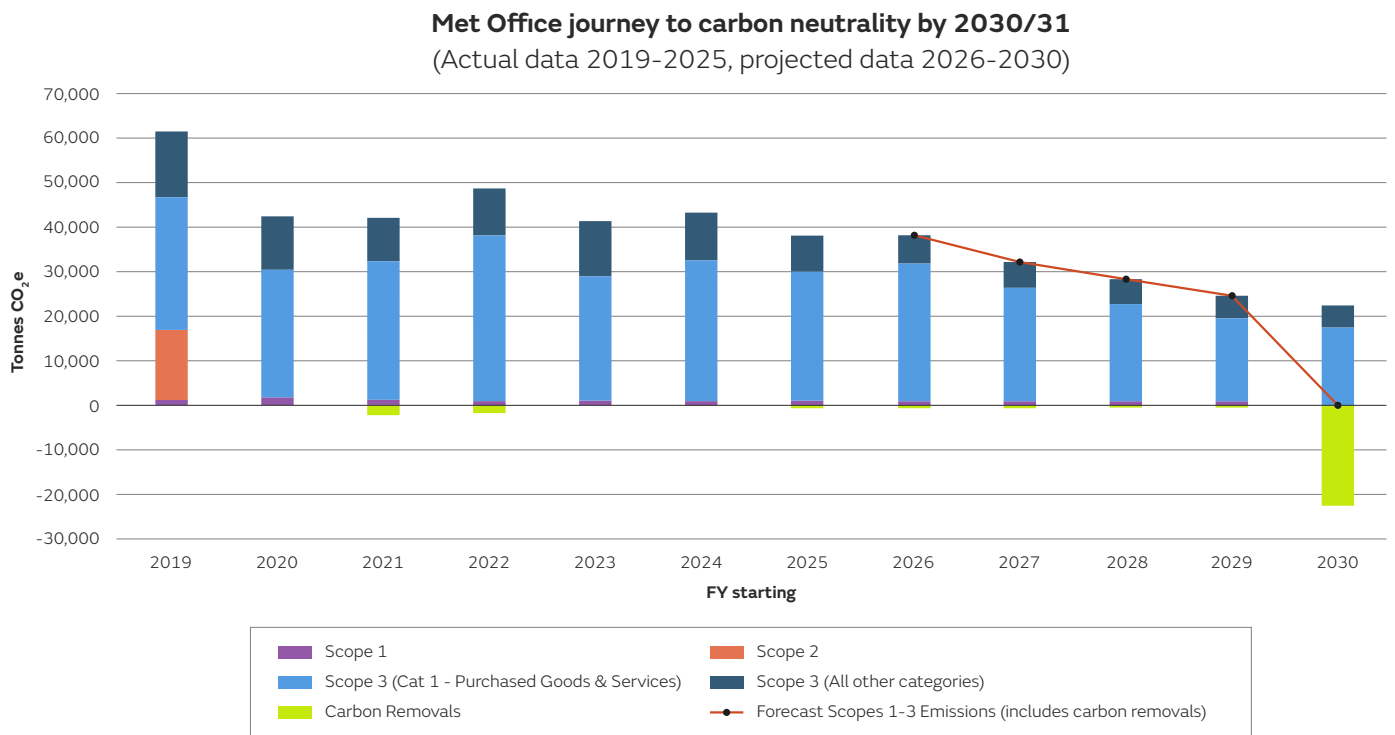
Reporting Year: 2025/ 26		
EMISSIONS	TOTAL (tCO ₂ e)	
Scope 1	1,023	
Scope 2	0 (zero emissions tariff)	
Scope 3 (Included Sources)	29,272	(Cat 1: Purchased Goods & Services)
	1,518	(Cat 2: Capital Goods)
	2,212	(Cat 3: Fuel & Energy)
	69	(Cat 4: Upstream transportation & distribution)
	15	(Cat 5: Waste generated in operations)
	1,926	(Cat 6: Business Travel)
	2,288	(Cat 7: Employee commuting)
	116	(Cat 8: Upstream leased assets)
	9	(Cat 15: Investments)
	37,425	Scope 3 Total
Scope 1-3 Emissions	38,447	
Carbon Removals FY25/26	580	
Total Emissions	37,867	

Emissions reduction targets

To continue our progress to achieving carbon neutrality, we have adopted the following carbon reduction targets.

We project that carbon emissions will decrease over the next five years to 22,500 tCO₂e by 2030/31, before carbon removal. This is a reduction of 40%.

Progress against these targets can be seen in the graph below.



Completed carbon reduction projects

The following environmental management measures and projects have been completed or implemented since the 2020 baseline.

Energy & Carbon Management:

- From 2020, the Exeter-based Cray supercomputer and associated infrastructure ran on zero-carbon electricity (a mix of renewable and nuclear tariffs via EDF). This delivered the single largest reduction in the Met Office's original baseline emissions.
- In 2025, live weather forecast production and supercomputing moved to Microsoft's new datacentres, which are powered by 100% renewable energy. This reduced like-for-like electricity demand at Exeter by over 75%.
- When the previous Cray supercomputer was decommissioned, Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) processed 143,186 components through their Technology Renewal Centre, achieving a 99% refurbishment rate. This saved 4,697 tCO₂e, diverted 31 tonnes of waste from landfill, and recovered over 25,000 kg of critical raw materials.
- Completed full refurbishment of gas boilers in FY21/22, improving efficiency.
- Eliminated gas usage for cooking in the employee canteen.
- A solar PV installation at the Exeter HQ site continues to generate renewable electricity, consistently meeting projected outputs each year.
- A major laptop refresh was completed with strong sustainability criteria to extend device longevity and reduce embedded carbon. A "Recycle for Good" event was also held in 2025 to divert obsolete personal IT equipment from landfill.
- Staff from Defra and The Insolvency Service now occupy space at Exeter HQ, spreading the building's utilities and carbon footprint across more occupants.

Water Conservation:

- Completed borehole enhancement project in July 2020, increasing water softening capability to reduce reliance on mains water.
- Installed two new chillers with adiabatic cooling systems that use significantly less water than traditional cooling towers. Combined with the supercomputer decommissioning, this led to major reductions in both mains and borehole water consumption.
- Achieved continued reduction in total water use at headquarters.

Travel & Transport:

- Business travel emissions have been significantly reduced compared to the pre-COVID baseline, through virtual meetings, combining trips, using rail for European journeys, and reducing conference attendance. We are currently on track to meet our target to reduce business travel emissions by 40% over the decade to 2030/31.
- Increased electric vehicle charging points at Exeter HQ and UK sites by over 80 (including EV chargers for disabled colleagues), facilitating a shift to electric vehicles by staff.

Waste Management:

- Consistently achieved less than 5% waste to landfill in line with Greening Government Commitments.
- Maintained high recycling and recovery rates.
- Reduced or removed Consumer Single Use Plastics in catering and stationery.
- Ensured all IT waste is either re-used or recycled with data cleansing and refurbishment programmes.



Biodiversity:

- Reached 600+ species of flora and fauna in Exeter grounds by FY24/25.
- Following the discovery of a dormouse nest in FY24/25, 12 dormouse nest boxes were installed around HQ in FY25/26 to encourage the population.
- The Exeter site has held the Wildlife Trusts' Biodiversity Benchmark Award for 15 years, with over 750 species of flora and fauna recorded. Active biodiversity management includes butterfly transects, bat surveys, reptile checks, and grassland management.
- Established regular monitoring through butterfly transects, plant, bird, bat, fungi surveys, and reptile refugia checks.
- As part of a new radar build in East Anglia, ecological enhancements included new planting, bird box installation, and pond improvements.

Governance & Reporting:

- Completed comprehensive baseline analysis of Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions in 2020 following GHG Protocol.
- Implemented Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) reporting framework.
- Conducted physical and business transition climate change risk assessments (CCRA).

Carbon removal credits — UK nature-based projects:

- The Met Office has invested with Beyond Zero in UK nature-based carbon sequestration on three farms. High-quality UK Carbon Code-certified removal credits have been purchased to offset business travel emissions, including overseas programme flights.

Supply Chain:

- The Met Office has actively engaged with its key supply chain partners — including Microsoft, EUMETSAT and ECMWF — to better understand and track their emissions profiles, which together account for around 80% of the total emissions from the Met Office's value chain. Through this close collaboration, the Met Office has been able to recalibrate its Scope 3 emissions projections through to 2030, including a slight downward revision of satellite-related emissions following detailed work with EUMETSAT.

Future carbon reduction projects

Carbon Neutrality Target:

- Pathway to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030/31: The overarching target is to reach carbon neutrality by the end of FY 2030/31, relying on a combination of direct emissions reductions, supplier engagement, and purchase of carbon removal offsets.
- Switching to EDF Renewables for Business (UKR4B) tariff from FY26/27 for our energy supply. This is a 100% renewables (non-nuclear) tariff.
- Transition to all-electric car and van fleet by end of 2027 and 2030, respectively.
- From FY2030/31, the Met Office intends to address its residual greenhouse gas emissions—those that cannot be eliminated through direct decarbonisation—by purchasing high integrity, UK nature-based carbon credits, treating carbon removals explicitly as a last resort rather than a substitute for emissions reduction. The Met Office is basing its approach around three guiding principles: prioritising UK-based nature projects to ensure public money is invested locally and credibly; restricting purchases to removals or reductions consistent with HM Government strategy; and requiring all credits to be verified by a recognised regulatory body, to ensure additionality and long-term impact.

This approach aligns with the Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market's Core Carbon Principles and with the Voluntary Carbon Markets Integrity Initiative's Claims Code of Practice, ensuring that any action taken by the Met Office is credible and science aligned. By favouring domestic, nature-based removals over international or unregulated alternatives, the Met Office also secures economic co-benefits for the UK, while maintaining transparency and accountability with external stakeholders about how residual emissions are managed.



Infrastructure Expansion:

- Additional EV chargers installed (including for disabled users).
- Installing new substation to support expanded charging infrastructure, with potential for future expansion.
- With the supercomputer decommissioned, space in the IT halls will need to be repurposed. The most effective approach is being assessed.

Travel Reduction:

- 40% reduction in business travel emissions target by 2030.
- Department-specific air travel limits established.
- Working from home emissions reduction: As staff transition to greener home energy sources, working-from-home emissions (currently around 4% of total) are expected to gradually decline over time.

Biodiversity Enhancement:

- Tree replacement programme with native species following any removals.
- Biodiversity Net Gain initiatives at Exeter HQ with Devon Wildlife Consultancy advice.

Risk Management & Strategy:

- Annual reviews of physical and transition climate risks.
- Monitoring AI emissions impact: As AI use grows in weather forecasting and climate modelling, the Met Office is committed to ongoing monitoring of the emissions and cost implications of AI technology. Early analysis suggests the impact will be relatively small and AI may improve computational efficiency.
- Scenario-based risk assessment every three to five years.
- Integration of climate services development targets into corporate strategy.
- Headline financial analysis of climate impacts planned for 2026/27.

Sustainable Procurement:

- Continued focus on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) engagement (currently 33% of contracts).
- Enhanced social value framework and supplier environmental performance requirements.
- Comprehensive social value register for measuring contract benefits.

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.

Emissions have been reported and recorded in accordance with the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the GHG Reporting Protocol corporate standard¹ and use the appropriate Government emission conversion factors for greenhouse gas company reporting².

The required subset of Scope 3 emissions has been reported in accordance with the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Standard³.

This Carbon Reduction Plan has been reviewed and signed off by the Chief Financial Officer.

Signed on behalf of the Supplier:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nick Jobling'.

Nick Jobling
Chief Financial Officer

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

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-conversion-factors-for-company-reporting>

³ <https://ghgprotocol.org/standards/scope-3-standard>



We're a force for good.

Our organisational values are about what we do, what we stand for, why we come to work and what we want to achieve. They're a unique expression of our Met Office personality.

Our planet matters. We need to act now, and we want to make a difference. That's why we take our environmental and social impact seriously.

Our sustainability journey will not be easy. It will require vision and leadership, enthusiasm and flexibility from all our staff and positive engagement with our partners and stakeholders. Together we can ensure the Met Office is carbon neutral by 2030/31. Together we can make the planet a better place to live.