

2050 Net Zero Carbon Strategy

Human activities are estimated to have already caused 1°C of global warming above preindustrial levels and unless drastic action is taken, we will surpass the 1.5°C threshold in the next 30 to 50 years.

The risks associated with global warming above 1.5°C represent significant risks to the systems upon which we depend. Global emissions over the next few decades will shape our planet for centuries to come.

As an organisation we can make a significant impact through the projects that we deliver. As a firm, we have made a commitment to be a net zero organisation by 2050. Our Net Zero Carbon Strategy sets out how we will achieve the 1.5°C aligned science-based target for our full value chain emissions and compensate residual hard-to-decarbonise emissions with certified greenhouse gas removal. We will monitor progress and regularly revisit this plan to ensure we are on track to meet our net zero commitment by 2050.

Energy

CBOF group commits to reviewing the sustainability ratings of our premises and aim to bring in greener energy sources. This can be in the form of procuring renewable electricity for our office and warehouse.

Travel

Sustainable travel is about making the best choices in line with the travel hierarchy. The first step is reducing travel across all modes. Beyond which choosing active or low carbon transport are preferential. There are numerous health and wellbeing co-benefits of reduced and otherwise active travel. To encourage the most sustainable modes of travel this hierarchy must be embedded in travel plans, travel assistance and behaviour to encourage and enable our staff, and clients, to make the best choices about travel – for both commuting and business purposes. Each of our offices will develop a holistic travel plan for commuting, visitor travel, travel to clients and other business travel. This should include setting targets and monitoring progress. Actions to reduce the need to travel will be of greatest priority. Where travel is necessary, steps will be taken to ensure that sustainable options are selected as frequently as possible.

Purchasing

We rely on a supply chain to help us complete our works, including the materials and products we purchase, and services we use, such as IT. As we depend on these things to run our business, we need to recognise the carbon impact. Understanding this has been boosted recently by some of our key suppliers producing data on the carbon impact of their products, their manufacturing processes to reduce this and even data on individual materials and products themselves. An example of this is one of our key suppliers Senator and their Sustain Programme.

As more of our supply chain respond to the climate emergency, it is becoming easier for us to collect data on the carbon impact of products, as well as to use the data to inform decisions on spend. We will take a consistent approach to procurement and engagement with our suppliers, for example, by requiring our suppliers to set their own carbon emission reduction plans. We will implement a phased approach to receiving better emissions data on our procured products and services and prioritise this information as part of the decision for strategic purchases.

Waste

The first principle of reducing waste is not to purchase things in the first place. A resource management strategy is key to the waste that still inevitably occurs. The key components of this are to understand the resource streams generated and the potential value optimisation opportunities that would increase reuse or repurposing of the resource and therefore minimise the waste generation across our business. We will continue to work with GM Polystyrene, Senator, Atlantic Recycling and Smiths Waste to achieve zero waste to landfill and look for further opportunities to reduce and recycle waste.

Offsetting

Until we achieve our net zero carbon target by 2050, we will commit to offsetting our annual carbon footprint (as calculated on the Carbon Calculator) through the planting of trees.

Reporting

We will make a commitment to careful monitoring, continuous improvement, and reporting on our carbon performance yearly, showing reductions in energy consumption on a like-for-like basis, year-on-year. The first report will be completed in May 2023 and published on our company website.