Focus Consultants:
Net Zero Carbon Policy Statement

Background

The UK Government has long committed to sustainable growth and the green agenda and have introduced legally binding targets and standards, including the Climate Change Act 2008 (CCA) which mandated an 80% reduction in CO_2 from a 1990 baseline level by 2050. *Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (October 2021)* set out policies and proposals for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy to meet a net zero target by 2050. The current Labour government has announced several new bills, with the Great British Energy Act (May 15, 2025) aimed at providing publicly owned clean power to accelerate investment in renewable energy.

In our industry, the overall approach is to build using optimal Fabric Energy Efficiency and utilise on-site low carbon heat and power plus technological solutions to further reduce Carbon impact. This is supported by ongoing changes to Approved Document L and accepted Assessment Methods. At Focus we are committed to supporting our clients in their efforts to meet their internal or external decarbonisation targets via our specialist advice in this area and to support their operational Carbon Reduction planning.

Application

Some options are out of scope for Focus' corporate performance measuring. Our journey targets the reduction specifically of our operational carbon emissions, setting a challenging deadline for carbon neutrality of 2026.

GHG Protocols and Scopes

These are accepted standards for addressing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and carbon neutrality and will form the basis of our strategic planning and measurement, building on the ISO 14001 environmental standard held by our Nottingham Head office and the principals of which we have now followed for over a decade. This helps:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and invest in meaningful carbon offsets
- Increase environmental transparency
- Establish a responsible brand image, strengthening 'green-thinking' customer confidence
- Meet supplier requirements of a sustainable business partner.
- Comply with current and future environmental regulations
- Boost resource efficiency and lower life cycle spending.

Emissions are categorised in 3 Scopes:

- Scope 1. Direct emissions under an organisation's control: fuel combustion, fleet vehicles
- Scope 2. Indirect emissions related to, for example, electricity and heat purchased by the company
- Scope 3. Other indirect emissions not owned/controlled by the entity – related to consumer goods, transportation, waste and employee travel.

Applicable Standards

To date we have followed the PAS2060 route (four key stages to carbon neutrality: measurement, reduction, offsetting and documentation), thus giving credence to our carbon measurement and reduction plans across Focus' operations. We based our methodology on the GHC protocols and UK Government guidance – accepted under PAS as a compliant approach.

Our initial target was to target carbon neutrality for Scopes 1 and 2 by the end of 2025, as these emissions are deemed the easiest to capture and influence and have been identified by external stakeholders such as Professional Services Frameworks as a priority.

Since our initial Declaration of Intention and Baseline establishment we note the withdrawal PAS2060 at the close of 2025 and have been investigating the most suitable post 2025 approach for Focus, including the new ISO 14068-1 standard, Procurement Policy Note PPN 006 (previously called 06/21) reporting requirements and the revised SBTi route. We watch with interest for developments following the announcement in the Autumn of the Strategic Partnership between ISO and GHG Protocol, planned to deliver unified Global Standards for Greenhouse Gas Emissions Accounting.

Measurement

Our previous CO_2 monitoring for ISO 14001 has been expanded since our first baseline establishment. This enables us to manage a wider set of data more accurately, frequently and visibly (in our Carbon 'ticker' of the Focus Website). We made our first QES (Qualifying Explanatory Statement) commitment declaration in summer 2023 and have published updated Carbon Reduction Plans and footprint data for 2 anniversaries.

This year revised declarations were required due to material changes to our operations; namely growth in staffing and significant turnover increases. We have also considerably improved data collection, and as a result we have reset our baseline and will effectively re-start the clock on carbon accounting from this new level.

Reduction

Focus had already taken significant steps to reduce our impact under ISO 14001 and before, minimising consumables, increasing recycling and adopting better internal use of utilities on our premises over a span of more than ten years. Paper usage has decreased hugely, and we now regularly hold virtual meetings, which not only reduces travel but encourages electronic on-screen document sharing and signing. DocuSign adoption alone has saved an estimated 282 kg CO_2 last year.

Where travel is essential due to the nature of our role, we encourage car sharing and use of public transport to enable reductions across commuter miles and business travel by better use of technology to work remotely and via our Hybrid working model. Our aim is to educate and support our operatives to make more sustainable choices and prioritise reductions over the need to offset. Travel related to our operations makes up a large proportion of our Scope 3 emissions and we have been investigating Electric Vehicles in line with our Carbon Reduction Plan.

We have invested in Photovoltaic panels and Powersave for our head office to embrace technology as part of the solution and have succeeded in rationalising our office occupancy to benefit from the efficiency of running from fewer, smaller and more versatile premises.

Monitoring

Our revised data capture incorporates further Scope 3 items, including those specifically set out in PPN 006, in response to tender/framework requirements. This includes leased asset carbon emissions for the first time and lead to a larger carbon footprint and baseline for 2025.

We recognise the difficulty in accurately measuring and monitoring carbon emissions outside of our direct influence and have had to utilise appropriate estimates and assumptions in such areas.

Offsetting

The PAS2060 route followed to date allowed for a Declaration of Carbon Neutrality as a step on the journey to true Net Zero, which relies on effective absolute reduction and removal.

We have experienced challenges in carbon reduction for our rapidly growing company; thus, we conclude that whilst we may achieve neutrality in our original timescale, absolute reductions to Net Zero are proving more difficult (although intensity reduction has been achieved year on year). Having brought further emission streams into scope since our original baseline calculation, this was always likely to work against us in overall reduction.

As an interim measure while we continue our efforts, we have investigated various offsetting solutions using 'Gold Standard' certified projects; these represent the highest standard of integrity, transparency and impact. Following this process we have purchased credits via Alectro for our 2024-5 Scopes 1 & 2 offset (8 tonnes CO2e in total), in line with the commitment in our Annual Carbon Reduction Report. These have been selected to target low carbon wind and solar technology projects, avoiding fossil fuel use for power generation. We feel this is a fitting and relevant route for a company that champions use of low carbon technology in the built environment.

Specific Targets

We will continue to target carbon neutrality in 2026, against our revised baseline. Towards this end, we will:

Transport
Commit to further reduction in commuting and business travel emissions, by using technology to minimize travel needs and making more sustainable travel choices to target CO_2e reduction per mile and in absolute terms.

Consumables/Stationery
We now operate a near paperless office, sourcing consumables from providers of recycled material, committed to low impact products and practices, improving the associated carbon footprint.

Further waste reduction initiatives include improved recycling and reuse (diverting from landfill and reducing use of virgin material); this includes shredded confidential waste collections.

Utilities
We are on a 100% renewable energy tariff and will continue to use a provider offering a low carbon approach to production and delivery, to drive continuous related emissions reductions. We appreciate many companies claim zero carbon fuel provision, but in practice, are aware of the importance of sourcing energy from a company that genuinely invests continuously in power generation by renewables.

Impact

We set annual SMART objectives and plan our corporate Social Value initiatives for the year by targeting actions under the banners of Environment, Society and Governance and logging these centrally. Furthermore, Focus strives to advance our contributions to the UN Sustainability Development Goals through all company policies and activities. Our Sustainability-focussed policies and documents, primarily contribute to the following goals:

Related Policies and Documents

Environmental and Sustainability Policy
Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Policy
Carbon Reduction Plan

The effectiveness of this policy is monitored by the Partners and its contents will be reviewed at least annually under our established ISO 9001 (Quality) and 14001 (Environmental) procedures.

For Focus Consultants 2010 LLP
Jason Redfearn BSc (Hons) MRICS
Partner
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