Carbon Reduction Plan

For Bluesky Architects

Publish date: August 2025

bluesky architects

positive planet

Our Commitment

Bluesky Architects is committed to achieving Net Zero emissions by 2045.

During the 2023-24 reporting period, the decision was made to adjust our Net Zero target from 2035 to 2045 following consideration of supply chain target trends, with most SMEs setting targets between 2040 and 2050. While we remain ambitious in our approach to reducing emissions we do not operate in a vacuum and must consider wider value chain intentions to set realistic goals for ourselves, especially given the majority of our emissions come from the goods and services we purchase.

What does Net Zero mean in practice?

To achieve Net Zero, we will be aiming to reduce emissions in line with the latest science-based targets (SBTs). SBTs are greenhouse gas reduction goals set by organisations, they are defined as "science-based" when they align with the scale of reductions required to limit global temperature increases to 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial temperatures. To achieve Net Zero under this scenario, we will need to reduce our absolute emissions by 90% from our baseline year.

SBTi recommends that organisations commit to near-term targets (that cover a minimum of 5 years/maximum of 10 years from the baseline year), as well as long-term targets.

Our near-term targets:

- Maintain scope 1 and 2 emissions at zero, up to and beyond 2030.
- To procure 80% renewable electricity by 2025 *(achieved FYE 2024)*.
- To procure 100% renewable electricity by 2030.
- Reduce scope 3 emissions by 42% by 2030.

Our long-term targets:

- Reduce our total market-based emissions (scope 1, 2 and 3) by at least 90% by 2045.
- Neutralise any residual emissions using verified carbon offsets.

Scope 1 emissions: direct greenhouse gas emissions that occur from sources owned or controlled by a company, such as emissions from the combustion of fuels in on-site boilers, furnaces, or vehicles.

Scope 2 emissions: indirect greenhouse gas emissions that result from the generation of purchased electricity, steam or other forms of energy consumed by a company.

Scope 3 emissions: all other indirect greenhouse gas emissions that occur in an organisation's value chain, including emissions from upstream and downstream activities.

Our Carbon Footprint

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. Bluesky Architects have previously set a FYE 2021 (01/05/2020 - 30/04/2021) baseline year, however, following updated measurements to align with updated methodologies and assessment of annual measurements up to FYE 2024 it is evident that gaps in data collection and the impact on business travel and commuting and home working from the Covid-19 pandemic caused FYE 2021 and 2022 measurements to misrepresent a normal operating year.

In line with the above Bluesky Architects baseline year has been adjusted to the FYE 2023. This is a more accurate depiction of a normal operating year and will allow better target setting and consistent tracking of year-on-year emission trends within categories.

Baseline Year: May 2022 - April 2023

Bluesky Architects have selected FYE 2023 as the baseline against which future emissions reporting will be considered. This reporting period has been selected as it is deemed the earliest representation of a normal operating year, which is necessary to ensure future reporting is measured against a comparable baseline.

There are no scope 1 or 2 emissions relevant to Bluesky Architect's activities. Emissions from gas and electricity consumed in the office are accounted for in scope 3 - Upstream Leased Assets, as Bluesky Architects has minimal influence over initiatives to reduce emissions from utilities other than encouraging the management company to act.

Emissions	Total (tonnes CO_2e)
Scope 1	0.0
Scope 2*	0.0
Scope 3 including: - Purchased Goods & Services - Capital Goods - Fuel & Energy Related Services - Business Travel - Transportation & Distribution (Upstream & Downstream) - Employee Commuting & Homeworking - Operational Waste & Water - Leased Assets (Upstream & Downstream)*	48.6

Total Emissions*	Market-based: 48.6

Our total emissions equate to a Carbon Intensity Metric of 8.1 tCO_2e per full-time employee equivalent (FTE) based on 6 FTEs during the baseline period (using market-based emissions).

*Purchased electricity can be measured in two ways. A location-based method reflects the average emissions intensity of grids on which energy consumption occurs (using mostly grid-average emission factor data). A market-based method reflects emissions from electricity that companies have purposefully chosen (or their lack of choice). A market-based method therefore takes into account the purchase of electricity via a verified renewable energy tariff. We have chosen to report and base our Net Zero target on a market-based methodology.

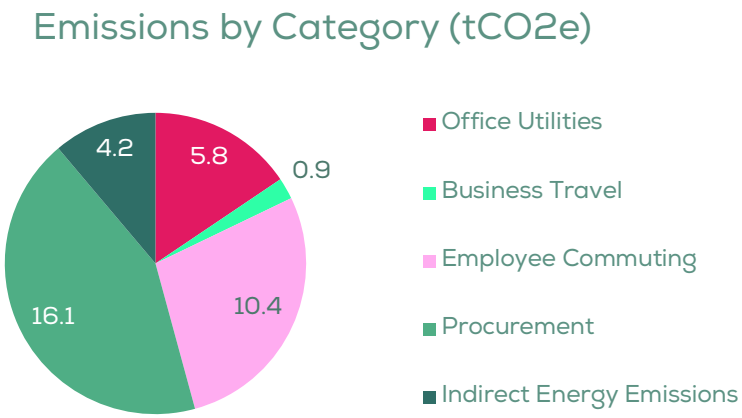
Current Emissions Reporting

Current Reporting Year: May 2024 - April 2025	
The measurement boundary and inventory remain consistent with those used to establish the baseline emissions reported above.	
Emissions	**Total (tonnes CO_2e)**
Scope 1	0.0
Scope 2*	0.0
Scope 3 including: - Purchased Goods & Services - Capital Goods - Fuel & Energy Related Services - Business Travel - Transportation & Distribution (Upstream & Downstream) - Employee Commuting & Homeworking - Operational Waste & Water - Leased Assets (Upstream & Downstream)*	37.5
Total Emissions*	**Market-based: 37.5** **Location-based: 37.5**

Our total emissions equate to a Carbon Intensity Metric of 5.8 tCO_2e per full-time employee equivalent (FTE) based on 6.5 FTEs during the measurement period (using market-based emissions).

*Purchased electricity can be measured in two ways. A location-based method reflects the average emissions intensity of grids on which energy consumption occurs (using mostly grid-average emission factor data). A market-based method reflects emissions from electricity that companies have purposefully chosen (or their lack of choice). A market-based method therefore takes into account the purchase of electricity via a verified renewable energy tariff. We have chosen to report and base our Net Zero target on a market-based methodology.

Annual Carbon Emissions by Category



Measurement Results (FYE 2025)		
By Scope	tonnes	% of total
Scope 1	0.0	0
Scope 2 (*Location-based*)	0.0	-
Scope 2 (*Market-based*)	0.0	0
Scope 3	37.5	100
By Source		
Direct	0.0	0
Upstream	37.5	100
Downstream	0.0	0
By Category		
Office Utilities	5.8	16
Company Cars	0.0	0
Business Travel	0.9	2
Employee Commuting & Homeworking	10.4	28
Procurement	16.1	43
Distribution	0.0	0
Waste	0.0	0
Indirect Energy Emissions	4.2	11
Total		
Location-based	37.5	-
Market-based	37.5	100

Carbon Reduction

Our Net Zero targets

Bluesky Architects is committed to achieving Net Zero by 2045. To achieve Net Zero under this scenario, we will need to reduce our absolute emissions by 90% from our baseline year. To keep us on track, we have also set the following near-term targets to 2030.

Our near-term targets:

- Maintain scope 1 and 2 emissions at zero, up to and beyond 2030.
- To procure 80% renewable electricity by 2025 *(achieved FYE 2024)*.
- To procure 100% renewable electricity by 2030.
- Reduce scope 3 emissions by 42% by 2030.

Our long-term targets:

- Reduce our total market-based emissions (scope 1, 2 and 3) by at least 90% by 2045.
- Neutralise any residual emissions using verified carbon offsets.

Emissions	Total Carbon Footprint (tonnes CO_2e)		% Change
	Baseline year: 2022 - 2023	Current year: 2024-2025	
Scope 1	0.0	0.0	n/a
Scope 2	0.0	0.0	n/a
Scope 3	48.6	37.5	-22.8
Total emissions	48.6	37.5	-22.8

Emissions	Carbon intensity metric		% Change
	Baseline year: 2022 - 2023	Current year: 2024 - 2025	
Employees (tCO_2e per FTE)	8.1	5.8	-28.4

Progress

Bluesky Architects are on track to achieve our short-term target of a 42% reduction in scope 3 emissions by 2030. Between this reporting period and the base year measurement, there has been a decrease in emissions of 22.8%, meaning Bluesky Architects are over halfway to achieving their 2030 target.

This reduction is mostly owing to a reduction in emissions for procurement (purchased goods and services and capital goods). Whilst procurement emissions are currently based on spend-based estimation, this is a positive trend. Bluesky Architects should aim to improve the certainty around these estimates and begin tracking supplier specific emissions in 2025, which will allow for accurate tracking supplier emissions and enable suppliers' own reduction achievements to be accounted for.

Employee commuting and homeworking remains the second largest Scope 3 category, representing 28% of Bluesky Architect's footprint. It is therefore important to explore further opportunities to facilitate making sustainable choices when travelling and commuting for employees.

Another area to focus on will be procuring a renewable tariff again. An 80% renewable tariff was procured during the reporting period ending FYE 2024, meeting the interim target of 80% renewable energy by 2025. However, a change in tariff for FYE 2025 has reduced the percentage of renewable energy to 51.3%. To get back on track with progress against near term targets for renewable energy, Bluesky Architects should aim to procure at least an 80% renewable tariff for the next reporting period.

Completed Carbon Reduction Initiatives

The following emissions management measures and projects have been completed or implemented.

Activity	Completion Date	Scope
Commit to measuring carbon footprint of business activities year on year to gain an understanding of pinch points and regularly be making efficient and direct improvements to reduce these emissions. Appointed Positive Planet to support with calculating baseline carbon footprint and reduction recommendations.	2021	1, 2, 3
Created a Green Team to lead initiatives. This team supports the roll out of initiatives and management of data, this includes sharing and collaborating throughout the organisation.	2023	1, 2, 3
Developed an Environmental Management System and gained Green Mark Level 3 accreditation. As part of this action plan we have taken the following actions: • Incorporated Environmental Policy training into our onboarding process. • Discussion of environmental reduction opportunities as a standard agenda item in company meetings • Made energy efficiency a key consideration as part of our IT replacement strategy. • Began fitting LED lighting when current fixtures reach end of life. • Communicated the benefits of prepping meals at home to reduce packaging waste. • Food waste bin in place within kitchen area. • Implemented a hazardous waste policy to responsibly dispose of electronic waste, WEEE certificates obtained where possible. • Developed a Sustainable Procurement Policy which communicates and lays out our focus on sustainability within supplier specifications. • As part of the Sustainable Procurement Policy - preferential purchasing of products and services that have positive environmental credentials.	2023	3

• Communicated the benefits of using public transport for commuting and business travel where possible. Where car travel is un-avoidable car pooling is encouraged. • Openly communicate our commitments to Net Zero and carbon reduction on our website. Further information on outstanding actions is outlined in the future reduction plans section below.		
To align with ISO 9001, which was achieved in 2003 and renewed for another 3 years in April 2024, Bluesky Architects have committed to moving to ISO 14001 certification as part of the next audit; the assessment for this has been carried out in the first half of 2025, with confirmation of achievement expected September 2025. In the interim we will continue to commit to Green Mark Level 3.	2025	1, 2, 3
Reviewed and updated our sustainable procurement policy as part of our ISO 14001 accreditation process, which gives consideration to sustainability criteria during the appraisal/contract awarding process. This refers to both supplier sustainability credentials and the sustainability of products/services (including disposal). This will encourage suppliers to adopt sustainable practices and improve their own carbon footprint, thereby reducing Bluesky Architect's carbon footprint. Other points in the policy include reducing consumption, ordering in bulk to minimise packaging waste, suitably recycling any packaging waste, and sending outputs digitally. These policy points will also help to reduce emissions associated with Operational Waste and Transport & Distribution.	2025	3
Sustainable travel is already proactively encouraged. We will continue to encourage low emission travel options following the low emissions travel hierarchy where appropriate: • Digital communication • Walking and cycling • Public and shared transport • EV's and car sharing • ICE vehicles and car sharing • Air travel	2025	3

The following initiatives are already in place to help encourage more sustainable employee commuting habits: • Cycle-to-Work Scheme • On-site EV charging facilities • Secure bike storage • Flexible homeworking hours	2025	3

Future Carbon Reduction Plans

We are committing to action the following emissions management measures and projects in line with our Net Zero targets.

Reduction Plans – Scope 3			
Activity No.	Activity	Target Date	Category
1	Continue rolling out training and engagement initiatives. Including and not limited to, creating spaces for environmental positive conversations (internal comms, Teams etc) and formal staff training (e.g. Couch to Carbon Zero, Carbon Literacy Training).	*ongoing*	Business Travel, Commuting and Home working
2	Continue to apply the Procurement Policy (as outlined above under completed actions). We will give preference to products and services that can be manufactured, used and disposed of in an environmental and social manner. We will ensure sustainability criteria are included in the specifications to all suppliers. Consider further engagement with suppliers in the future, in order to begin collecting supplier-specific emissions. This data collection will support the reduction journey by moving from spend-based data to more accurate supplier-specific data and allowing the positive impacts from supplier reduction actions to be captured.	2025 & *ongoing*	Purchased Goods & Services
3	Whilst we do not have direct control of employee commuting choices, it is possible to support employees to make sustainable travel choices and therefore reduce emissions for the company associated with commuting. Owing to the location of Bluesky Architect's offices, reductions in employee commuting are partially dependent on improvements to public transport infrastructure (most significantly a Stockport tram stop). In the meantime, further schemes and incentives that will support staff members to opt for low-carbon	2030	Commuting

	commuting methods (in addition to actions already listed as completed) will be explored.		
4	Continue to engage the landlord around reducing building energy consumption. This could include considering low-cost energy efficiency options such as reducing the boiler temperature, introducing sensor lighting, installing timers on sockets, and adding heat & solar control reflective window sheets. There is also the opportunity to advocate for longer-term larger infrastructure changes to the office premises. Examples of alternative heating systems to the current gas boiler include electric boilers, solar heating or heat pumps (following an energy audit to assess feasibility and payback periods). There is currently government grant funding available via the Boiler Upgrade Scheme for upgrading to low carbon heating systems, which the landlord may be eligible for and would help with upfront capital costs.	*Ongoing* *(NB: CYE 2027 is the current closing date for the govern-ment grant)*	Leased Assets (gas & electric)
5	The current energy tariff is providing 51% renewable energy. This represents a reduction in renewable energy share from the last reporting period (>80% renewable energy). It should be a priority to liaise with the landlord to encourage the procurement of 80% renewable energy as soon as possible and 100% by 2030 to achieve our targets.	2025	Leased Assets (electric)
6	Continue to implement positively received behaviour change initiatives within the workplace for reduction of emissions. These include posters and e-communication to raise awareness of sustainable decisions and actions. Sustainable behaviours are now well embedded within day-to-day culture, and we intend to maintain this.	*ongoing*	Leased Assets (gas & electric)

Near-Term Reduction Projections (Scope 3)

Based upon the above completed and planned initiatives, it is projected that (as a minimum) scope 3 carbon emissions will decrease from the baseline measurement of 48.6 tCO_2e to 28.2 tCO_2e by 2030. This is a reduction of 42% and will keep us on track to Net Zero.

Declaration and Sign Off

Emissions have been reported and recorded in accordance with the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the GHG Reporting Protocol corporate standard[1] and uses the appropriate Government emission conversion factors for greenhouse gas company reporting[2].

This Carbon Management Plan has been reviewed and approved by Bluesky Architects' Executive Team.

Signed on behalf of Bluesky Architects:

Name:

Position:

Date:

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

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