

CARBON REDUCTION STRATEGY



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INTRODUCTION

The impacts of climate change continue to shape global headlines, with unpredictable weather patterns and extremes of rain and heat impacting our daily lives.

Recognition of the part that carbon and other emissions play on climate change is leading to global action however, at the same time, businesses are coming to terms with the scale of the challenge to reduce their carbon footprint.

There is an acceptance that, unless we change our behaviours, the future looks socially, environmentally, and economically uncertain. Through the 2015 Paris Agreement, world governments committed to curbing global temperature rise to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and pursuing efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C. In 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned that global warming must not exceed 1.5°C, to avoid the catastrophic impacts of climate change. In response, the UK became the first major economy to pass Net Zero emissions law, which requires the UK to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to Net Zero by 2050.

Recognising and accepting that the choices we make today have consequences that will affect the stability of our future is key; now is the time to act. The challenge in front of us, however, is not insurmountable and it is important that we remain optimistic.

At VolkerWessels UK, we recognise that the way we design, build and execute our projects has a carbon impact, and, critically, it is within our gift to reduce this impact through engineering excellence and working collaboratively to reduce operational carbon.

Since the original publication of our Carbon Reduction Strategy in September 2021, conversations about carbon reduction have grown exponentially both internally and externally.

We continue to seek ways to reduce our emissions, yet we recognise that our success is inextricably linked to the actions of our clients, suppliers, subcontractors and industry bodies.

In this latest review of our strategy we have therefore further acknowledged the strategies and roadmaps from the UK Government, industry bodies and our supply chain, through the development of emission specific targets.

We recognise that it is our ability to engage people on the journey to Net Zero, that will enable us to achieve that goal.



Richard Offord
CEO - VolkerWessels UK

OUR DRIVERS OF CHANGE

We have identified four drivers of change necessary to achieve our carbon reduction target.

1 Robust Data

Good quality data enables good decision making. Our carbon footprint is calculated using an ‘Operational Control’ approach which means we capture data relating to the emissions that we have direct control over. We will continue to review carbon data from all emissions sources, to close gaps and further improve quality, and share this data with our operational teams to help facilitate informed discussions about opportunities for carbon reduction.



2 Targeted reductions around known emission sources

This element of our strategy is critical to ensure we put targeted effort into our carbon reduction decisions. It involves collaboration internally from our operational, procurement and design teams, plus engagement with our supply chain, supported by a commitment from our clients.

Each emission source has been analysed to identify opportunities for carbon reduction and include quick wins as well as the longer-term modern methods of construction which require cultural shifts in the way we deliver our projects, investment and innovation. The output of this analysis is a suite of emission reduction plans, owned and managed by functional leads in the business, consisting of short-, medium- and long-term actions to reduce emissions which align to the PAS 2080:2023 carbon reduction hierarchy of avoid, switch or improve.

- Avoid** Evaluate the basic need for the activity, task, product or material.
- Switch** Assess alternative solutions and then adopt one that reduces whole life emissions through alternative scope, design approach, materials, or technologies.
- Improve** Identify and adopt solutions and techniques that improve the use of resources and design life of an asset.

These documents are a key input to the creation of project specific carbon reduction plans.

3 Education and awareness

Our overall approach to emissions reduction is people centric, with the belief that if our employees are presented with the facts and are empowered to initiate change, we can trust them to seek out innovation and make the right decisions at all levels in the business. The cornerstone of our framework, therefore, rests in our ability to inspire behavioural change through education, awareness and empowerment, and to ensure carbon management and reduction principles are embedded into our business processes.

To support this, we will ensure our workforce receives carbon reduction training, awareness or an education programme relevant to their role, and we will facilitate a variety of ways to showcase and share best practice internally and externally.



4 Collaboration

In line with our People-Planet-Purpose sustainability strategy, it is our ambition to work with a like-minded and cooperative supply chain, to collate product specific emission data and drive innovation to reduce embodied carbon in products, services and materials. Collaborative relationships with our clients will enable us to deliver mutual benefits through carbon reduction and working with our supply chain will ensure we stay abreast of new technologies and solutions to reduce our impact.

We will also forge relationships with external partners to facilitate shared learning.



OUR CARBON REDUCTION TARGET

Our carbon reduction targets have been validated by Science Based Target Initiative (SBTi), confirming that our reduction goals align with the science to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

We have the following targets:

- **Net-Zero** - We commit to achieve Net-Zero greenhouse gas emissions across the value chain by 2050
- **Near-term** - We commit to reduce absolute Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions by 63.29% , and Scope 3 emissions from purchased goods and services by 37.5% by 2035 from a 2023 baseline.
- **Long-term** - We commit to reduce absolute Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions by 90%, and Scope 3 emissions from purchased goods and services by 90% by 2050 from a 2023 baseline.

The data used to demonstrate progress towards our target will be externally verified through our Planet Mark certification, to ensure credibility and transparency.



To support us achieving these emission reductions, we have set emission source specific targets, which can be found later in this document.

Notably, we recognise the challenge of reducing the embodied carbon in materials we procure, and the need for a pivotal shift by manufacturers in our supply chain to achieve this. We are focusing on five key materials which have significant embodied carbon, namely concrete, aggregate, asphalt, steel and timber. The carbon associated with these products is outside of our direct control so we will work with clients, designers, supply chain and procurement teams to promote sustainable selection of materials to stimulate a downward trend in emissions ahead of our 2050 Net Zero carbon pledge.

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Footnotes

¹ 'Net Zero Carbon' is when emissions must be reduced by a minimum of 90% prior to offsetting any residual emissions prior to offsetting residual emissions. This is in line with the SBTi definition for Net Zero. Residual emissions from our activities are created because presently there are no viable lower carbon alternatives due to technological restraints, cost, availability or quality control.

² The target boundary includes land-related emissions and removals from biogenic feedstocks.



TIMELINE

2024	2025	2027	2030	2035	2040	2050
Sustainable travel and accommodation plan developed and implemented	All projects above £1m will have a carbon target and report on their progress	95% of company cars will be fully electric or hybrid	All subcontractors providing emissions data for materials/ products they procure on our behalf	63% reduction in scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions	100% of orders for heavy goods vehicles >7.5t will be hybrid, EV, or alternatively fuelled	VolkerWessels UK achieve Net Zero across all activities
	Materials decarbonisation plan developed and implemented		100% of sites powered using renewable electricity or alternative fuels	100% of company car (LEX) orders will be zero emission vehicles	80% of asphalt procured or specified will be low carbon	All subcontractors to be Net Zero Carbon* <i>*small and micro contractors (≤£10m) to be carbon neutral</i>
	Plant and tools decarbonisation plan developed and implemented		70% of new vans ordered will be zero emission	100% of new vans ordered will be zero emission	Eliminate all but hazardous construction and demolition waste entering landfill	100% of concrete procured or specified will be Net Zero
	95% of sites powered using renewable electricity or alternative fuels		50% of concrete procured or specified will be low carbon	100% of light goods vehicles (≤ 3.5 tonnes) orders will be hybrid, EV, or alternatively fuelled	30% of aggregates procured or specified will be recycled or secondary aggregates	100% of steel procured or specified will be Net Zero
	Our top 50 subcontractors providing emissions data for materials / products they procure on our behalf		50% of steel procured or specified will be low carbon	100% of orders for heavy goods vehicles >3.5t to 7.5t, will be hybrid, EV, or alternatively fuelled		100% of asphalt procured or specified will be Net Zero
	PAS 2080 verification complete			80% of diesel plant will be eliminated		Zero avoidable waste to landfill
						100% of plant will be zero emissions



RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

This carbon reduction strategy outlines our corporate ambition to reduce the carbon emissions associated with our operations. The VolkerWessels UK board of directors fully endorses this strategy and have accepted their ultimate accountability for ensuring our commitments are achieved. Our ESG leadership group, attended by our CEO, Managing Directors, Corporate Responsibility Director, Group Procurement Director and Heads of Sustainability ensures there is sufficient focus and structure to facilitate this.

Underpinning this is the trust placed in each of our businesses to contribute to our overall goal by focussing on the activities specific to their operations. This structured, yet flexible approach, is in line with our wider People- Planet-Purpose sustainability framework and helps to ensure alignment with client ambitions, facilitates the need to embrace sector specific technologies quickly and responsively, and promotes responsibility at all levels to create a culture to think differently and innovatively about carbon reduction.



FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about our Carbon Reduction Strategy, please contact sustainability@volkerwessels.co.uk or visit our website volkerwessels.co.uk



APPENDIX A

VolkerRail Carbon Reduction
Plan – in accordance with
requirements of PPN 006



Commitment to achieving Net Zero

VolkerRail is committed to achieving Net Zero by 2050.

Baseline Emissions Footprint

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	
Additional details relating to the Baseline Emissions calculations The following emissions sources have been included in Scope 3 – waste generated in operations, business travel, employee commuting and downstream transportation and distribution. Emissions from ‘Upstream transportation and distribution’ have been excluded due to non-availability of data.	
Emissions	Total tCO ₂ e
Scope 1	1,726
Scope 2	150
Scope 3	403
Total emissions	2,281

Current Emissions Reporting

Reporting Year: 2024	
The following emissions sources have been included in Scope 3 – waste generated in operations, business travel, employee commuting and downstream transportation and distribution. Emissions from ‘Upstream transportation and distribution’ have been excluded due to non-availability of data.	
Emissions	Total tCO ₂ e
Scope 1	3199
Scope 2	78
Scope 3	368
Total emissions	3645

Note: In line with our wider carbon reduction strategy and our plans to ensure access to robust data, we will continue to increase the scope of our reporting and seek to improve data quality. As such, the data presented above is actual, non-normalised, data.

Emissions Reductions Targets

Commitment to achieving Net Zero

In order to continue our progress to achieving Net Zero, we have committed to a 6.3% year on year reduction in emissions. This target represents a 90% reduction in emissions against baseline by 2050 prior to offsetting any residual emissions. This is in line with the SBTi definition for Net Zero.

By adopting this target, we project that VolkerRail carbon emissions will decrease to 1084 tCO₂e in the next five years. This is a reduction of 52% against baseline.

Carbon Reduction Projects

Completed Carbon Reduction Projects

The following environmental management measures and projects have been completed or implemented since the 2019 baseline. Despite these initiatives being in place, there has been an 59% increase in emissions since baseline, equating to +1,364 tonnes CO2e. This is due to an increase in operational output and a new contract awarded in the south of England which increased Scope 1 emissions.

VolkerRail are certified to ISO 14001 and have the following initiatives in place relating to Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions:

Carbon Measurement and Reporting Projects

- During 2024 we made significant improvements across our business systems for the measurement and reporting of carbon. This has enabled improvements in the granularity of our carbon data to provide each reporting unit with their own carbon footprint to facilitate greater understanding of the emissions associated with their activities. Other data improvements have highlighted opportunities to target reduction in grey fleet mileage and hotel stays.
- We launched a Carbon Hub to allow employees to access a wide range of internal and external resources to support carbon reduction initiatives at a project level, and published a Low Carbon Opportunities Register.

Scope 1 Carbon Reduction Projects

- We have a longstanding relationship with Lex Autolease who assist employees in choosing the most sustainably fuelled vehicle based on their individual circumstances and requirements. In 2024, VolkerRail had 154 company cars, 148 of which were either hybrid or fully electric vehicles, representing 96% of the total fleet. This compares to 77% in 2023.
- To support the growth of electric vehicles in use by our employees, several electric charge points have been installed at our Doncaster offices.
- A Fleet Suitability Assessment of commercial vehicles to challenge specification and reduce carbon emissions. The outcome has resulted in exchanges of medium sized vans for small vans, and the off hire of all 4x4 Crew Cabs.
- We secured HVO as a transitional fuel for activities operating out of Hoo Junction Depot.

Scope 2 Carbon Reduction Projects

- VolkerRail utilises the services of an energy broker to procure 100% REGO certified renewable energy for offices and large sites / projects with a mains energy feed.
- Our new Southern Renewals Track Framework contract transferred Tonbridge and Hoo Junction Depots into the operational control of VolkerRail, and we have successfully transferred our energy supply to secure 100% REGO certified renewable energy.

Scope 3 Carbon Reduction Projects

- VolkerRail continues to reduce waste and carbon through application of the waste hierarchy (prevent, reduce, reuse, recycle, recovery, disposal). From October 2024 we moved from hardcopy to the digital format of the RSSB (Rail Safety and Standards Board) Rule Book, a document containing instructions for our employees working in safety-critical rail situations. This change will deliver an annual carbon reduction of 1.3 tonnes through paper, printing and disposal of superseded versions.
- VolkerRail is one of four partners, including the client Network Rail, that makes up the TRU East Alliance, delivering the Transpennine Route Upgrade from Leeds to York. As part of our carbon reduction strategy we successfully installed 155 SICUT 153 low carbon sleepers along a section of track renewals at Neville Hill. This sustainable sleeper delivered a 71% reduction in embodied carbon compared to the standard concrete sleeper.
- On our TRU East Alliance and Southern Renewals Track Framework contract we are working collaboratively with our track design supply chain partners and Network Rail Supply Chain Operations to define and deliver a ‘Best in Class’ track renewals scheme that seeks to provide the lowest embodied carbon for the three key components of steel rail track, concrete sleepers and a blend of virgin and recycled track ballast. This low carbon specification will be delivered at suitable locations in 2025.

Future Carbon Reduction Initiatives

In 2023 we published our refreshed Carbon Reduction Strategy to support the delivery of our People-Planet-Purpose sustainability framework. As part of our commitment to long-term protection of the natural environment, we aim to be Net Zero for all emissions by 2050 in line with UK Government strategy. Our near-term targets include an aim to reduce scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions by 63% by 2035. Progress before our target will be externally verified through our Planet Mark certification. We are also a signatory of the Science Based Targets Initiative ‘Business Ambition for 1.5C’.

- We are working towards independent verification to PAS2080 by the end of 2025 - the framework for carbon management in building and infrastructure projects, aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and drive sustainable practices in the construction industry.
- Setting personal carbon objectives through our annual performance review process. All employees will be asked to “make at least one quantifiable change within your area of responsibility or influence to achieve a reduction in our carbon emissions”.
- Launch a Carbon Curriculum through our learning management system iLearn to provide employees with access to a tailored suite of eLearning courses and tasks to direct their learning to understand our Carbon Reduction Strategy, Carbon Risk and Opportunities Register, and Carbon Hub with a wealth of additional resources.
- As a Corporate Partner of the Supply Chain Sustainability School we plan to deliver a series of workshops focused on ‘Scope Busting’, ‘Designing out Carbon’ and ‘PAS 2080’ to help our suppliers.

Our key drivers for change are:

- **Robust Data** - Good quality data enables good decision making. Our carbon footprint is calculated using an ‘Operational Control’ approach which means we capture data relating to the emissions that we have direct control over. We will continue to review carbon data from all emissions sources, to close gaps and further improve quality, and share this data with our operational teams to help facilitate informed discussions about opportunities for carbon reduction.
- **Targeted reduction around known key emission sources** -This element of our strategy is critical to ensure we put targeted effort into our carbon reduction decisions. It involves collaboration internally from our operational, procurement and design teams, plus engagement with our supply chain, supported by a commitment from our clients.

Each emission source has been analysed to identify opportunities for carbon reduction and include quick wins as well as the longer-term modern methods of construction which require cultural shifts in the way we deliver our projects, investment and innovation. The output of this analysis is a suite of emission reduction plans, owned and managed by functional leads in the business, consisting of short-, medium- and long-term actions to reduce emissions which align to the PAS 2080:2023 carbon reduction hierarchy of avoid, switch or improve

- **Education and Awareness** - Our overall approach to emissions reduction is people centric, with the belief that if our employees are presented with the facts and are empowered to initiate change, we can trust them to seek out innovation and make the right decisions at all levels in the business. The cornerstone of our framework, therefore, rests in our ability to inspire behavioural change through education, awareness and empowerment, and to ensure carbon management and reduction principles are embedded into our business processes.

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Underpinning this is the trust placed in each of our businesses to contribute to our overall goal by focussing on the activities specific to their operations. This structured, yet flexible approach, is in line with our wider People- Planet-Purpose sustainability framework and helps to ensure alignment with client ambitions, facilitates the need to embrace sector specific technologies quickly and responsively, and promotes responsibility at all levels to create a culture to think differently and innovatively about carbon reduction.

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.

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

Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions have been reported in accordance with the Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (SECR) requirements, and the subset of Scope 3 emissions have been reported in accordance with the published 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 for VolkerRail.

Signed: *Stuart Birch*

Date: 30 June 2025



Stuart Birch, Managing Director

