

Environmental Sustainability Policy 2023 – 2024



About the Business Design Centre

Business Design Centre (BDC) is a leading multi-purpose venue that welcomes a busy calendar of conferences and exhibitions as well as being home to over one hundred permanent businesses. The company holds its social responsibilities at the very heart of everything it does and is committed to both the safe and responsible operating across all areas of the business.

The BDC, now B Corp Certified, has been a Carbon Neutral® Venue for over thirteen years, since January 2010. We pride ourselves on sending zero waste to landfill as well as using 100% renewable electricity. We are also committed to continuous improvement on our environmental impact and work closely with our venue partners and customers in providing solutions that both businesses within the building and the events that take place with us can benefit from.

When it comes to sustainability, we prioritise that which is most important: our people, our community – both locally and across the industry – and the planet. In 2022, we proudly signed the Net Zero Carbon Events Pledge and set out our next steps in meeting Net-Zero before 2030. We understand the importance of working with our customers and suppliers in further implementing best practice at both events and throughout the building on our route to achieving this.

Policy Purpose

The purpose of this Environmental Sustainability Policy is to outline our commitment to reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions (hereafter referred to as GHGs or emissions) and reducing our waste footprint both within our organisation, and across the events and businesses that use our building.

This policy focuses on environmental sustainability however, we identify there are other key aspects that fall under the umbrella of sustainability such as our people and community. These highly important, interlinked elements form part of our wider business strategy and are detailed in our latest impact report, A Platform for Good, which is available on our website: [bdc.london/impactreport2023](https://www.bdc.london/impactreport2023)

We will communicate this policy to all our stakeholders, including clients, suppliers and staff, in order to enable them to work with us in achieving our ambitions and collective goals in this important area.

Our Commitments

Our aim as a responsible business is to support the needs of our generation without compromising that of future generations by creating a future that is fit for all. We set 2018/19 as our baseline and on measuring 2022/23 we had reduced our footprint by 73%. We expect to reach Net-Zero emissions by 2030 at the latest, across our company operations.

We will continue to measure our Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions annually with independent consultants, ecollective, and will take under advisement the recommendations made to reduce our footprint year on year. We will report on this publicly on an annual basis and will continue to offset all of our measured residual emissions, through verified projects with Climate Impact Partners in line with the Carbon Neutral Protocol.

Delivering Our Commitments

Our core goal for 2023/24 will be to support our move towards reaching Net-Zero, as well as bringing those who operate businesses and events from the venue along with us on this journey. This includes our promise to:

- Report transparently on our GHG reductions, disclosing both progress as well as the projects adopted in offsetting our residual emissions.
- Deliver post event reporting for conferences and exhibitions taking place at the venue, working to improve the accuracy of this through better sub-metering across venue spaces, whilst continuing to include event waste, water and energy related emissions in our carbon offsetting.
- Share progress and communicate to our resident businesses on how they can improve their own impact on the environment, whilst continuing to include their waste, water and energy related emissions in our carbon offsetting.

Certified



Corporation



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- Create a 5 year plan to reduce our reliance on natural gas to heat our building, this is the largest part of our remaining footprint but one of the hardest to remove. The plan will look into how we reduce our reliance on gas and use lower carbon methods to manage the temperature of the building.
- Work with our catering partner on the refurbishment of our onsite kitchens, switching to induction equipment in order to reduce our scope 1 emissions by at least 10% by the end of March 2024.
- Provide further training to our teams across the venue ensuring a better understanding of our mission to improve our environmental impact and how they can translate this into meaningful action.
- Obtain sustainability policies from our supplier and contractor base in order to improve procurement from aligned businesses, sharing recommended suppliers to our customers.
- Publish our newly received B Corp Certification, setting annual goals within the platform in line with their model of continual improvement across all aspects of our sustainable development.
- Participate at a local, national and international level through groups and associations that work to collaborate on making meaningful change, in both emission reductions and through embedding best practice initiatives.

As a venue, we fully understand that a bi-product of successful operations means an impact on our environment; however, we also have the opportunity to educate all those who enter the doors of our building. We continue to work with our team in translating our targets into action and by maintaining the close relationship with our onsite service partners who are integral to the delivery of our plan.

Adhering to this Policy requires every member of our team to play their part and we will therefore promote a shared accountability culture within our organisation, ensuring all staff work together to incorporate these goals into their day-to-day work. This will be supported through training of staff and integration as a key element of our corporate objectives for the year ahead.

We commit to a transparent reporting process, which will see results published annually on our website, whilst actively participating in discussions and knowledge sharing for the collective good. This policy is endorsed at the highest level of our business and will be cascaded across all stakeholder groups.

The below named Director takes responsibility for coordinating the review of this policy and engaging stakeholders in the process:



Kate Vandenburg
Marketing & Communications Director
Business Design Centre

With full support of:



Dominic Jones
Chief Executive
Business Design Centre