

The National Centre for Social Research

Carbon Reduction Plan

Publication date: 3rd December 2021

1. Commitment to achieving Net Zero

The National Centre for Social Research is committed to achieving Net Zero emissions by 2050. In the meantime we will continue to offset all residual emissions using schemes certified by bodies such as Gold Standard so that the organisation is carbon neutral.

2. 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.

The period 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021 is NatCen's baseline year for its emissions footprint. In future years, emissions data will be presented relative to this baseline.

Baseline Year: 2020/21

Additional Details relating to the Baseline Emissions calculations.

In the context of its charitable status, most of the work of the National Centre for Social Research involves collecting data on behalf of government departments and universities in order to evaluate and inform government policies and decision-making. Much of our data collection involves face-to-face fieldwork which requires interviewers to travel, generally using private vehicles. In order to meet our customer needs, we will continue to need to carry out face-to-face fieldwork, and the volume of this work may increase in response to customer needs. While the UK fleet is transitioning away from vehicles powered by internal combustion engines, this will mean tCO₂e emissions will continue. NatCen’s Leadership Team is committed to proactively seeking ways to minimise these emissions and will continue to do so.

Scope 3 emissions cover the following GHG Protocol categories: Upstream transportation and distribution; Waste generated in operations; Business travel; Employee commuting; and Downstream transportation and distribution.

Baseline year emissions:

EMISSIONS	TOTAL (tCO₂e)
Scope 1	930
Scope 2	36
Scope 3	1,056
Total Emissions	2,022

3. Emissions reduction targets

In order to continue our progress to achieving Net Zero, we have adopted the following carbon reduction targets.

We project that our carbon emissions will decrease over the next five years to 1,826 tCO₂e by 2026. This is a reduction of 10%.

We will offset all residual emissions throughout this period, as we have since NatCen became carbon neutral in 2020.

4. Carbon reduction projects

Completed carbon reduction initiatives

During the baseline year (2020/21) NatCen achieved ISO 14001 certification, switched the electricity source of its largest office to renewables / nuclear and offset all its residual emissions.

At the end of 2021/22, we will report the impact of these initiatives on reducing carbon emissions in terms of tCO₂e and a percentage reduction against the 2020/21 baseline.

Planned carbon reduction initiatives

In future we hope to implement further measures such as:

- Carry out awareness-raising training for all staff as well as a series of discussions with external speakers
- Adopt hybrid working which will reduce the amount of emissions caused by commuting
- Review energy efficiency and energy sources in our offices and implement measures to improve energy efficiency and extend our use of renewable / nuclear power sources where possible

Looking forward, our Leadership Team and our Environment Group will work together to define a comprehensive programme of initiatives to minimise our work's impact on the environment while ensuring we fulfil our charity's objects of the advancement of education through research into the social, political and economic sciences, the dissemination to the public of the results of such research for educational purposes incidental thereto.

5. Declaration and sign off

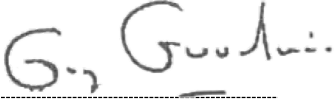
This Carbon Reduction Plan has been completed in accordance with PPN 06/21 and associated guidance and reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans.

Emissions have been reported and recorded in accordance with the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the GHG Reporting Protocol corporate standard¹ and uses the appropriate Government emission conversion factors for greenhouse gas company reporting².

Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions have been reported in accordance with SECR requirements, and the required subset of Scope 3 emissions have been reported in accordance with the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Standard³.

This Carbon Reduction Plan has been reviewed and signed off by the board of directors (or equivalent management body).

Signed on behalf of the National Centre for Social Research:

Name	Guy Goodwin	
Role	Chief Executive	
Date	2 nd December 2021	

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

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

³ <https://ghgprotocol.org/standards/scope-3-standard>