

Chartered Surveyors Climate Action Plan

1. Executive Summary

The Chartered Surveyors Climate Action Plan acknowledges the critical impact of buildings on carbon emissions, contributing approximately 40% of the total. As a founding member of the Livery Climate Action Group since 2021, the Worshipful Company of Chartered Surveyors (WCCS) is well positioned to support significant carbon reduction initiatives in alignment with government policies. Our proactive plan centres on four main goals:

- **Alignment:** Support the Lord Mayor and Corporation of London's climate goals, the Livery Climate Action Group's goals and adhere to and assist in developing the RICS sustainability guidelines in their 2024 Sustainability Report. (Links)
- **Educate and Inspire:** Motivate and support Livery peers and the broader property community towards sustainable practices. Enhance climate awareness and action within the Livery and the property industry.
- **Support and Mentor Future Generations:** Promote climate awareness among students and educational institutions to nurture a climate-conscious future workforce, to put sustainability at the heart of their future business activities.
- **To be balanced in our assessment of climate change initiatives** ensuring they are practical, deliverable and based on evidence based principles.

This Climate Action Plan lays out actionable steps and measurable targets for fulfilling these goals across our Livery practices, investments, and educational efforts.

2. Vision Statement

Encourage a climate-resilient future for both the WCCS Livery and the built environment generally and contribute to reduced emissions and a strengthened environmental ethos through sustainable practices in our activities and the property sector,

3. Baseline Assessment

Our current initiatives include participation in the Livery Climate Action Group as a founding member and educational support for future surveyors with climate-focused studies and bursaries.

4. Strategic Priorities

4.1 Internal Practices:

- Streamline traditional communications to online sustainable alternatives, where appropriate, taking advantage of digital and online facilities.
- Evaluate resource consumption and financial viability as appropriate across key operational areas, including meetings, communications, and events to reduce their carbon impact.

4.2 Meetings:

- Establish hybrid meetings to allow online in conjunction with in-person as the default for the Court and WCCS groups.

4.3 Catering and Venues:

- As a Livery Company without property follow the Livery Climate Action Group's guidance note on how Livery Companies should engage with their caterers and supply chains to improve the sustainability of their choices. (Link)

4.4 Investments:

- Ensure that any appointed investment manager follows the United Nations Principles of Responsible Investment and meets ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) principles in terms of their investment strategies and in accordance with the WCCS Court decision.

4.5 Carbon Footprint Awareness:

- Encourage members to consider the environmental impact of their decisions and act positively to protect the environment. Aim to develop a custom carbon footprint calculator for Livery members and establish a carbon footprint baseline within the Livery, identifying areas for significant reductions.

4.6 Education

- **Support for Students:** Provide bursaries for students studying estate management and support climate-conscious curricula through partnerships, such as with the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability.
- **Selection of students:** Hand to them our climate action plan so they are aware of the importance the Livery Company places on sustainability and the impact that they can have working in the Built Environment.

- **Knowledge Sharing:** Support the Livery Climate Action Group by creating an alumni of ex-students supported by the Livery Company to promote sustainability within the profession. Conduct thinktanks, webinars, and seminars with the next generation of surveyors to boost awareness and sustainability literacy among members.
 - **Industry Collaboration:** Encourage members to engage in sustainability committees across various property organizations, enhancing Livery's collective influence on climate action.
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5. Action Plan

Each priority is supported by specific, measurable actions:

- **Internal Practices:** Streamline digital communications where feasible and in accordance with members wishes following a survey by end of 2025
 - **Meetings:** Conduct 90% of Court and WCCS meetings in hybrid form by 3rd quarter 2025
 - **Catering and Venues:** By mid-2025 be able to demonstrate that the Company is following LCAG guidance.
 - **Investment Strategy:** Review and adjust portfolio in line with ESG standards by Q1 2025.
 - **Carbon Calculator:** Aim for the release of a carbon footprint calculator tool by end 2025.
 - **Deliver Workshops and online seminars:** 2/3 in number during 2025
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6. Stakeholder Engagement

- **Internal Stakeholders:** The Court, WCCS members, and all Livery participants are invited to support this transition.
- **External Stakeholders:** Third-party events and ESG-aligned investment events. Broaden influence by encouraging students and WCCS members to support other property organizations in building a foundation for a climate-conscious industry.

8. Monitoring and Reporting

- **Data Collection:** Establish KPIs on emissions, energy use, food and other activities, particularly for internal practices, meeting formats, and event practices.
- **Reporting Frequency:** Issue annual progress reports to measure effectiveness and adjust strategies as needed and report to Court progress against KPIs.
- **Ongoing Adjustments:** As climate goals evolve, update action steps to reflect new standards, technologies, and feedback from stakeholders.

9. Budget and Funding

- **Budget Allocation:** Allocate funds for digital transformation, educational support, and other sustainability initiatives.
- **Funding Sources:** Explore partnerships, grants, and sponsorships to support our environmental initiatives and student bursaries.

10. Risk Management

- **Risk Assessment:** Identify risks such as budget constraints, resistance to virtual meeting formats, and limited ESG-compliant investment opportunities.
- **Mitigation Strategies:** Develop solutions, including phased digital transition and continued member engagement to support buy-in and alignment.

11. Conclusion

Through the Chartered Surveyors Climate Action Plan, we are committed to tangible and long-lasting contributions to climate action, with a vision to inspire the property sector for generations to come. This plan positions the Worshipful Company of Chartered Surveyors as a leader in climate responsibility within the property sector, inspiring impactful change across generations. We call upon all Livery members and partners to join us in this vital endeavour.

12. Appendix

- **Supporting Resources:** Links to City of London’s climate goals, RICS guidelines, Livery Climate Action Group resources, and ESG standards.
 - **KPIs:** To be developed and listed here.
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