



# Company of Entrepreneurs

## Climate Action Plan

Version 1.0

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### INTRODUCTION

The Livery Climate Action Group, which our Company joined in 2023, now comprises more than 100 other Livery companies and is committed to encouraging each member to reduce its impact on greenhouse gas emissions and climate change adaptation. In this we support the ongoing efforts of the Lord Mayor and the City of London.

As a Company without a Livery Hall or owned transport, our carbon emissions are not easy to benchmark so our strategy must be on the basis of focused carbon reduction in our activities, best practice and continual improvement. Part of our Climate Action Plan (CAP) will be to encourage our Court, Clerk, members and suppliers to support our aims in reducing our impacts. Nevertheless, it is important to establish a baseline for our carbon footprint in order to be able to measure progress.

Our aim is to take a blended approach where we retain the best of the Livery traditions while adopting the most practical innovations. Our Climate Action Plan will be applied across all Company activities.

### OUR CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

There are six distinct areas where, as a Company, we can seek to reduce our impact on the environment and help to mitigate the impacts of climate change on the environment and society.

1. **Administration:** We will aim to reduce the use of paper and postage for most Company communications while recognising that some of our formal invitations (Pour Memoires) and menus are valued and appreciated by many of our members and guests. We should invite both to indicate preference for electronic notices and explore the use of QR codes for menus, programmes and publicity. Court papers are already published electronically and Court members should consider whether these need to be printed. Paperwork should be recycled where possible. Our Clerk will advise on other, greener forms of administration that can be adopted across the membership.

The Company also produces paper brochures for events. The option to receive a copy brochure electronically should be offered in the registration forms for all events.

2. **Investments:** Our Company does not as yet have an investment portfolio. When investments are made, they will be directed towards businesses and activities that have declared that they will pursue sustainability policies that do not add materially to greenhouse gas emissions.

3. **Catering and Hospitality:** We should provide clear guidelines for suppliers to encourage improvements in sustainability. Using local goods to reduce transportation, encouraging recycling and the use of bio-degradable containers and utilities should all be encouraged. Menu choices should be seasonal and locally sourced where possible. Where our dinners and other events are held in the Livery Halls of other LCAG members or the Guildhall, we should ensure that both parties Climate Action Plans are understood and respected. This will become much easier as more CAP's are published as there will be many areas held in common.
  
4. **Travel:** All Company events should be held where those attending can travel by public transport. We have a good track record presently. We should encourage the use of cycling and walking where possible and for members to aspire to green travel in their own working and social lives. We should encourage walking to events in central London from commuter rail termini as much as is practical, both to minimise the use of taxis and to gain obvious health benefits.
  
5. **Education:** The Company is actively engaged in numerous programmes with a range of schools and educational activities. Where possible, these will emphasise the need for sustainability and respect for the environment. Most educational establishments are actively pursuing their own policies to reduce carbon emissions, and as far as possible these will be supported by our Company. We have already demonstrated our commitment to sustainability by our selection of the theme for the Raleigh Lecture in 2023, and by the introduction of speakers at other events.
  
6. **Military Affiliations:** Through our connections with the Navy, Army and Air Force we should encourage the same attention to the problems of climate change and our drive to adopt greener measures to reduce emissions. Our CAP should be shared with our affiliates regularly as it is updated each year. Any influence on the military elements with which we are associated will almost certainly be through their Cadet groups.

## **ACCOMMODATION AND PREMISES**

The company's adoption of Drapers' Hall as our principal location for a number of key events requires us to recognise that the Drapers Company's approach to environmental sustainability should support that of the Entrepreneurs. Following recent discussions with the Drapers it has been established that:

- Their Climate Action Plan will be published around mid-2025.
- They are forming an ESG Committee. An ESG audit costing £30,000 has recently been completed.
- They are currently undertaking actions to reduce their carbon footprint by 70% by 2025, and to be carbon free by 2040.
- The boilers at Drapers' Hall are currently gas fired. These will be replaced by electric units within 10 years.

- All cooking within their kitchen is currently done on gas appliances. These will be gradually replaced with electric induction units.
- Drapers are exploring the use of ground-source pumps to heat the building.
- All windows will be replaced with double or triple glazing by 2028.
- Menus for all dining events are based on locally sourced seasonal ingredients.

It is considered that the Drapers Company are undertaking a wide range of measures that will support the Entrepreneurs objectives in environmental sustainability. The hall is a large heritage building that is currently outside the requirements of the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Scope requirements. However, it is believed that at some point this will change, and they will be required to comply.

The Company of Entrepreneurs uses a number of other Livery halls for dining and other activities. We should seek to obtain details of the Climate Action Plans of those Livery companies whose facilities we use.

## **GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REGULATIONS**

Three Scopes have been defined by the World Resources Institute, and have been universally accepted as standards for reporting on carbon emissions. These are:

- Scope 1: Emissions directly caused by our own internal activity.
- Scope 2: Emissions caused by organisations from which we purchase goods or services, for example dining events at Drapers' Hall or other establishments.
- Scope 3: Emissions caused by the activities of organisations in the supply chains of those that we deal with.

We have Scope 3 emissions in the suppliers that we use, but nevertheless we must be cognisant that we should be doing all we can to reduce our Scope 1 emissions, and be aware of the GHG commitments of our suppliers and other partners. This will support the objectives of the LCAG, and demonstrate our commitment to the Corporation of London objective of net zero by 2040.

## **EMISSIONS BENCHMARK**

It is very difficult for the Company of Entrepreneurs to measure our production of GHG. With one very notable exception, the overwhelming majority of our members are small service organisations whose general activity emits approximately 18kg of carbon per person per day into the atmosphere. Assessing our collective contribution to overall emissions is thus almost impossible, but some work has been done in this area by the Worshipful Company of Fanmakers, whose activity covers the manufacture, installation and use of heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems (HVAC). They have estimated that the average Livery company that does not own a hall and does not operate any transport vehicles will contribute approximately 40 tons of carbon to the atmosphere per annum. It is therefore assumed that this figure will apply to the Company of Entrepreneurs, although this cannot be confirmed until a baseline for the Company has been established.

## Illustration of Potential Actions and Targets

Issue	Current Situation	Rationale
Reduction of Environmental Impact from printing, postage, and delivery of Company communications	Annual magazine is printed and sent by post to Freeman and others	Increased use of technology can reduce cost, wastage and carbon emissions
Reduction of Environmental Impact from printing, postage, and delivery of Company communications	All attendees receive printed "Pour Memoires" printed on card and posted	Increased use of technology can reduce cost, wastage and carbon emissions. Many prefer to receive these in paper form
Reduction of Environmental Impact from printing, postage, and delivery of Company communications	Printing of menus and seating plans for each attendee at event.	Increased use of technology can reduce cost, wastage and carbon emissions. The Company has traditionally printed menus and seating plans. Many Freeman and guests value these as memories of the event
Reduction of Environmental Impact from printing, postage, and delivery of Company communications	Some Court Members print Court meeting reports and minutes	Increased use of technology can reduce cost, wastage and carbon emissions. Court members should be encouraged not to print Court papers
Reduction of personal environmental impact of individual members	Not measured	Reducing individual actions that have a detrimental impact will contribute to a positive collective effect
Reduction of environmental impact caused by travel to events	Most events are held in central London, where the only realistic option is public transport	Encouraging walking, tube or bus travel within London will have positive effects
Reduction of environmental impact caused by high levels of food mileage and in the supply chain	Food miles are not measured currently	Dining events at Livery Halls will be impacted by the host company's policies. At present the Company expects caterers to make maximum use of local seasonal produce
Reduction of environmental impact caused by greenhouse gas emitting processes and providers	No information on the proportion of meals that include red meat or intensively fished products	This can be sought from the caterers that we use for our dining events
Reduction of environmental impact caused by greenhouse gas emitting processes and providers	No information on catering providers' use of single-use plastics	This can be sought from the caterers that we use for our dining events
Reduction of environmental impact caused by poorly managed venues	Not currently known what climate action plans are in place at each hall	We should request that Livery Companies whose halls we use for our events provide their carbon action plans

## QUESTIONNAIRE FOR FREEMEN

A questionnaire will be circulated to all Freeman of the company prompting them to consider a number of measures that will help to reduce their carbon footprint. In summary these will be:

For each Freeman's business:

- Have you set a target for reduction of energy in your business?
- Have you taken any steps to generate energy?
- Have you installed LED lighting?
- Have you implemented renewable energy tariffs?
- Have you considered voltage optimisation?
- Have you added insulation to your premises?
- Are there any other measures that you have taken or are considering?

For each Freeman's home:

- Reduction of single-use plastic, for example water bottles
- Have you added insulation to your home, for example in loft spaces?
- Have you installed draught proofing on doors, letter boxes, etc?
- Have you added reflectors on radiators to bounce heat into rooms?
- Have you implemented greener energy or renewable tariffs?
- Have you taken steps to reduce waste?
- Have you taken steps to reduce the use of water?
- Have you added automatic controls for heating systems?
- Have you reduced thermostat settings to a comfortable minimum?
- If you are able, have you reduced your boiler temperature?