



DYERS' HALL

THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF DYERS **OUTLINE FOR NET ZERO PATHWAY ACTION PLAN**

PREAMBLE: The Court agreed, at its December 2022 meeting, to take advantage of the Heart of The City (HOTC) programme, “Climate for SME’s”. HOTC is funded by the City Corporation in support of its Climate Action Strategy. The programme is divided into 4 modules: 1) jargon busting and demystification, 2) building the business case, 3) measuring our Carbon Footprint, 4) establish our Net Zero Action Plan and next steps. We have now reached stage 4 which comprises creation of our Action plan, having it tested by HOTC and agreed before seeking Court approval for implementation. I’m very grateful for the support of Court Assistant, Angus Macpherson, our Clerks (Russell Vaizey and Martin Lane) and Staff Members: Grant Cowley and Tom Evans for their support and guidance through this lengthy process.

TARGET: To reduce our carbon footprint from our baseline year, 2022, of 95 tonnes CO₂e by a significant percentage (40%) to 57 tonnes CO₂e by 2030. Although ambitious, this can be reached by a combination of methods, including for example more efficient use of existing gas/electricity, replacement/modernisation of heat-wasting windows, disciplined waste control/recycling, potential installation of Photo-voltaic generation panels, improved insulation of loft space, etc. These and other options need to be supported by Members and Staff consciousness of energy-saving behaviour, for instance not leaving taps running or turning off lights when leaving a room empty as well as being aware of recycling possibilities wherever feasible.

MANAGEMENT: Whilst day-to-day conformity with the above remains everybody’s responsibility, there needs to be regular oversight at senior staff level. Meter readings for gas and electricity need to continue as at present as they are key to measurement of progress. The following “ACTIONS” include the decision-making and Management suggestions as well.

ACTION 1: “Low-hanging fruit”:

1. Discuss and agree where signage is appropriate regarding lighting, waste management, water use, heating levels etc.
2. Possibly agree to extend discussion to include office work routines eg. reducing printer usage where feasible, turning off monitors when not in use, turning off computers overnight, turning off fans or room heaters when not needed etc. etc.
3. Discuss and decide if co-ordinating/linking heating thermostats is practical
4. Verify current roof void insulation thickness and agree to augment to 160mm.

ACTION 2: “To do list”:

1. Obtain signs and install them,
2. Provide multi-use waste baskets to desk-based staff where appropriate and place in key locations elsewhere,
3. Programme computers to turn off monitors when not in use, link area thermostats to an appropriate central control, ensure all light bulbs are LED type if not already in place.
4. Add 160mm insulation on top of all existing insulation in unused roof voids. (NB: where the roof void is floored and in use, it may be necessary to also raise the flooring).

ACTION 3: “Getting serious”:

1. Include secondary glazing for replacement by modern double or triple glazing in Phase III refurbishment schedule as key Net Zero objective.
2. Engage in Photo Voltaic installation for design/quote/install roof panels.
3. Reduction in our Gas consumption will need conversion of parts of current usage to electric energy. Agree order and practical conversion timetable. (Suggest order of implementation as: Water, Cooking, Heating)

ACTION 4: “Major challenges”:

1. Install, if necessary HW electric heating most appropriate for individual location usage.
2. Cooking exclusively on electricity means a mix of range-style cookers, ovens and boiling/simmering plates.
3. Converting CH power to electricity will reduce carbon emissions considerably. On the other hand our electricity costs will skyrocket!
4. Reducing electricity consumption will not be possible if action 4.2 or 4.3 above is put in place. This enhances the value of converting to LED lighting, turning off appliances etc as mentioned above.
5. Waste management may seem the easiest to control but new routines may be needed to ensure waste collected reaches the correct recycling outlet.

Summary:

The foregoing is a first draft of our eventual Net Zero Pathway. Missing are potential costings and some practical knowledge of how Phase III will be undertaken. As a Livery company I believe we are on the low end of the carbon footprint table but there is no official list to confirm or negate this. Whilst we may have a relatively low target we are nevertheless morally obliged to find ways to reduce our Carbon Emissions wherever we can.

Robin Back

(Endorsed at Court of Assistants Meeting on 6th December 2023)