



The Worshipful Company of Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers

Climate Action Plan

The City of London Corporation has set out a Climate Action Strategy that commits to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in its own operations by 2027 and net zero in its full value chain and across the Square Mile by 2040.

The Livery Climate Action Group (LCAG) was established in October 2021 by Alderman Alison Gowman with 13 founder members. This has now grown to more than 100 members of which we are one, having joined the Group in July 2023.

The challenges facing each livery company will vary depending on several factors: do they have a hall; do they have responsibility or some ownership of the regulation of their trade; is their membership nationwide, etc. Therefore, each Company is encouraged to consider what they can do to reduce their own Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions.

Our Climate Action Plan

There are six areas where we, as a Company, can seek to reduce our impact on the environment.

Administration

Since the introduction of the Livery Management System (LMS), there has been a reduction in administration costs. However, our electronic footprint could be reduced further as the calling notice is attached to emails that are issued notifying liverymen of new events. This is currently generated automatically, but we will explore, with ASAP Computer Services, if this can be optional. This will lead to a reduction in our data footprint.

A Pour Mémoire is issued to guests attending our formal events. Whilst this does necessitate printing and postage, it is something that people value, so we have no intention of discontinuing this at present.

The Wyre Drawer is our Company magazine. It was previously issued twice yearly, but will now be an annual publication capturing the Master's year. Whilst this may lead to more pages, it is anticipated that it will not be double the current size. Many people like to have a physical version, but we may consider this being the exception in the future. However, it also serves as useful promotional material, so this will have to be taken into account when the next review is undertaken.

The Clerk will review our administrative processes to identify if there are any other opportunities to reduce our carbon footprint, either physical or electronic. Any new processes will be challenged at the outset to ensure they do not have a negative impact.

Investments

We do not currently look to focus on 'green' investments, although this will be explored by the Finance Committee in conjunction with our advisors, Brewin Dolphin at the next review. There may be a challenge as this may not necessarily generate the highest returns, but that decision will need to be made when more information is known.

Travel

Travel continues to drive a significant amount of carbon emissions. Whilst many of our meetings are scheduled on the same day or necessitate being in person, e.g. when interviewing candidates, etc. we should look to move to online meetings where appropriate. We may also look to identify what methods of transport attendees are using, whether for committee meetings, dinners or other social events.

Catering and Hospitality

As we do not have our own hall, we should seek to support the climate action plans of other LCAG members when dining in their halls. This should include selecting seasonal or local produce and avoiding food waste wherever possible.

Trade Activity

We should encourage our trade freemen to source their materials from ethical suppliers, recycling existing materials whenever possible. We will ask for examples so that we can promote them to other Trade Freeman. As with many areas of manufacturing, there are several schemes claiming to meet green and ethical standards. It would be useful to understand whether these are valid or just 'greenwashing'.

Livery Pledges

Many of the aims we are looking to achieve may take time. However, there are things that we can all do now, which, in themselves, may seem inconsequential, but, collectively, can make a difference. We would ask that all members of the Company pledge to do at least one of the following things, hopefully all of them, and to encourage your friends, family and colleagues to do the same

- Delete all of your junk mail at least once a week, but daily if possible
- Delete unnecessary emails, e.g. time limited offers, offers for something you have no intention of buying, etc.
- If you need to attach a document to an email, you may have the option to share it instead, especially if it has been saved to the Cloud. This means that you are not duplicating it and it reduces the size of your email as you are only including a link
- Remove logos in your email signature as these take up more storage than text alone
- Consider reviewing your photos and videos, sorting them in albums and deleting the remainder

We all consider decluttering our homes and many people will have established good habits to maintain this, but electronic decluttering is equally beneficial. Not only does it help our devices, but it reduces the need for storage in Cloud data centres. These consume significant resources so avoiding storage avoids consumption.