

Worshipful Company of Marketors: Livery Climate Action Plan

Introduction: The Livery Climate Action Group (LCAG) was launched in March 2021 in response to the City of London Corporation's Climate Action Strategy. Already over 100 livery companies have signed up including the Marketors. This makes it the largest pan-Livery Project. The plan below contains some thoughts about how the Marketors could conduct our own climate action. In building a sustainability plan it is very important to get started and indeed to start small. Every action no matter how small will reduce emissions to some extent. One needs to lead from the front with values, actions and attempts to influence our profession.

1. Form a rapid action team, not a committee, but a small group of 4 to 6 which must have authority and needs to be diverse particularly in terms of age. This has been formed: Leader Past Master Dr David Pearson. Court Assistants Martin Ashton and Steve Pailthorpe. Liveryman Omaid Hiwaizi, new Freeman Paul Finch and Alexander Fadahunsi.
2. We will need baseline data on our carbon footprint including catering and other areas of purchasing. Investments have to be considered as does biodiversity. However, we can do this in parallel with other actions as it is important to start.
3. There are three Scopes that have to be considered. Scope 1 covers physical buildings such as a hall in the case of a livery company. In our case we do not have a hall, but we rent space in one. Scope 2 covers those services that we buy in e.g. power and catering. Scope 3 effectively covers everything else, including travel to events and investments.
4. We should start with a 2-2-2 plan, that is two things that we will continue to do; two things that we will start to do for the first time; two things that we will stop doing. We should set a target of tracking progress over a six-month period and not be overly ambitious and spend months and even years talking about our plan but get on with it. We should engage with Plaisterers to discuss their climate action plan and see how we can help them in any way.

Two things we should continue to do:

- a. We should continue to run in-person events. We could reduce our carbon footprint by holding all our meetings on Zoom. We did that during the pandemic and it badly affected the company. We are a fellowship organisation above all.
- b. We should continue to serve delicious meals. We could cut out red meat but that's one of the things to which our members look forward. However, we could no doubt introduce more plant-based courses and offer more options.

Two things we will start to do for the first time:

- c. We should start to measure our carbon footprint. The Carmen have developed an app which can be shared with members attending a Great Event. They will say what form of transport they used to get to the event. If a reasonable number respond that will start to identify part of our footprint.
- d. We should start to investigate what measures our caterers are taking. This will not come as a surprise to them as many livery companies have already done this.

Two things that we will stop doing:

- e. We should consider not using any single use plastic as for example with bottles of water at table. In that case we should just serve tap water but some halls charge high prices for this.
- f. Some companies are stopping the use of printed materials. It is proposed that in the case of Marketor we should consider making this an option. That is, if members wish to continue to receive a printed copy they should be able to do so. But if members prefer to receive it electronically they should also be able to do so. It is felt that if the printed copy is not available there is a high risk of losing some older members.

5. Catering. We should consider to what degree our caterers can provide more sustainable food which needs to be based on biodiversity, intact soils, local sourcing and high welfare for animals. To reduce impact on the environment requires diverse ingredients, seasonality, zero waste, mostly plant-based foods, minimal airfreight and low farm inputs.

6. Events. We should consider to what degree events can be more sustainable and indeed whether joint events with other like-minded livery companies might produce more positive actions. Also, whether events promoting sustainability could be held more widely with the profession. We should consider prioritising the livery halls that have made strong steps to reduce the carbon footprint of the hall. For example, the newly refurbished Stationers' Hall has only renewable forms of energy. Skinners' Hall is undergoing a similar refurbishment. Merchant Taylors' Hall has made several improvements and has reduced its carbon footprint by 75%.

In person walks are very popular and a good way of facilitating fellowship. But we could also introduce virtual "walks" on Zoom. I held a very successful walk with James Hasler when I was Master of Cripplegate Ward Club during the pandemic. On Zoom we covered Hampstead Heath. James gave us a slide show covering more ground, giving much more information. There were 40 people on the call while a physical walk is limited to 25 or so for safety reasons. Obviously, none of us travelled there so there was a big reduction in carbon footprint. If we wanted to, we could drink a glass of something during the "walk" rather than waiting to the end! We could even do a virtual walk round Venice or Barcelona.

7. Investments. We should engage with our investment manager to discuss whether they are taking into account to what degree the companies in which we invest are committed to reducing their carbon footprint. From April 2022 all listed companies have had to disclose their carbon footprint; transition plans – under COP 26 these were required for financial institutions and listed companies by the end of 2023. We should not take the simplistic view that we should not invest in oil companies per se, but we need to engage with such companies and encourage them to switch their sources of energy to renewable ones while at the same time not selling on the oil but leave it in the ground. Some companies have already successfully transformed their business to almost entirely renewable sources at the same time closing their fossil fuel assets rather than selling them on.

8. Future. Our carbon footprint will not be particularly large but it is still worth the effort to reduce it. The Water Conservators' is the equivalent of three domestic houses. They are a smaller company than us in terms of membership so ours might be the equivalent of five or six domestic houses. However, in the process of going through this exercise we will learn much more about it and can share that with

other publics, our contacts in the profession, the employers of our members, and many others and that can enhance the Name and Fame of the Company.

Past Master Dr David Pearson

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