



# MERCHANT TAYLORS' COMPANY

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## SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

### Introduction

Climate change is already impacting on the City of London and Merchant Taylors' Company. Wetter and stormier winters, hotter summers and much greater likelihood of intense rainfall are with us now. The installation of comfort cooling in the Hall, Drawing Room and offices and the fitting of a flood attenuation tank are clear examples of the effect of changing weather patterns caused by climate change.

The Company's approach to climate change is driven by its philosophy to leave the Company in a better state for future generations. It wishes to be at the vanguard of Livery Companies taking action against this existential threat.

### Vision

*To invest in our long-term future through rapid reduction in our reliance on fossil fuels at the Hall and in the supply chains that support our activity, to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2027 and zero carbon emissions by 2050 and to be at the vanguard of Livery Companies' activity in this crucial area.*

### Context

Before the Industrial Revolution, the environmental impact of the Company would have been minimal, and any carbon emissions would be naturally absorbed by the planet; a Company in harmony with nature. By contrast, as the Company approaches its 700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary it must play its part in driving down carbon emissions to slow the pace of climate change and, ultimately, return to a planet where mankind lives in harmony with nature. This cannot be achieved in isolation. The Company's suppliers of energy, provisions and goods need to be challenged and engaged. And, of course, the Company's members will need to support and understand the vision.

The City Corporation has a [Climate Action Strategy](#) to achieve net zero carbon emissions from its own operations by 2027 and to achieve net zero carbon emissions across its investments and supply chain by 2040. It is also supporting the achievement of net zero for the Square Mile by 2040 through investment of £68m over the next six years to support these goals of which £15m is dedicated to preparing the Square Mile for extreme weather events.

### Definitions

*Net Zero Carbon* – Carbon emissions generated are offset by carbon credits e.g. reforestation.

*Zero Carbon* – No carbon is emitted.

TCO<sub>2e</sub> – Tons of carbon dioxide equivalent – a standard method of counting greenhouse gases regardless of whether they are CO<sub>2</sub> or another gas.

*Scope 1 Emissions* - Covers direct emissions from owned or controlled sources.

*Scope 2 Emissions* - Covers indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling consumed by the Company.

*Scope 3 Emissions* - Includes all other indirect emissions that occur in the Company's supply chains.

## **Progress**

The Company has made significant strides to reduce its carbon footprint, primarily at the Hall. The 2012 carbon footprint from Scope 1 Emissions has been reduced from **431 tCO<sub>2e</sub>** to **126 tCO<sub>2e</sub>**.

This has been achieved by:

2012 - installing condensing boilers and LED lights (79 tCO<sub>2e</sub> reduction)

2014 – installing power optimisers fitted (28 tCO<sub>2e</sub> with overall consumption reduced by 14%)

2019 – switching to certified renewable electricity (198 tCO<sub>2e</sub> reduction)

2019 – solar panels fitted (0 tCO<sub>2e</sub> reduction – as electricity is from certified renewable supply the solar panels only reduce demand but 18 tCO<sub>2e</sub> equivalent)

## **Next Steps**

*Adopt the [Greenhouse Gas Protocol \(GhGP\)](#)*

This provides the foundation for sustainable climate strategies and more efficient, resilient and profitable organizations and most widely accepted industry standard. The Company should adopt the GhGP standards to measure, manage and report greenhouse gas emissions.

## ***Net Zero Carbon Emissions by 2027***

Net Zero Carbon can be achieved by reducing our Scope 1 emissions as much as possible and **offsetting** the remaining carbon through a variety of different measures such as:

- Investment into carbon offsetting schemes such as:
  - reforestation
  - remedying degraded land and

- renewable energy schemes in developing countries
- Direct investment into:
  - forestry management
  - remedying degraded land and
  - renewable energy schemes

Either approach can be taken to achieve the 2027 net zero carbon emissions. Currently (Feb 22) the cost per tCO<sub>2</sub>e is £82 up from £42 in July 21. **ie 126 x £82 = £10,332pa**. More detail can be found [here](#). The cost of purchasing Carbon Offsetting is tax deductible if the project is registered as a non-profit organisation. It is anticipated that these costs will increase significantly over time, perhaps by as much as 10-fold by 2030.

### ***Zero Carbon Emissions by 2050***

Zero Carbon can only be achieved by working together eliminating our Scope 1 & 2 emissions but also reducing our Scope 3 carbon emissions from our supply chain.

For the Company to eliminate Scope 1 emissions it will need to stop using natural gas and install suitable equipment that uses electricity as its power source. The timing of making this move needs careful consideration and will require collaborative working with:

- UK Power Networks (UKPN) to facilitate access to the City's 1000KVA ring mains and
- Heritage England and the City Corporation to grant Planning and Scheduled Monument Consent

### ***Supply Chain***

Best practice in supplier engagement is through the [Science Based Target Initiative](#).

Supply chain emissions can be reduced by one or more of the following:

1. Making different purchasing decisions to favour low-carbon products or services
2. Purchasing from suppliers with a low carbon footprint; and
3. Engaging with suppliers to reduce emissions across the value chain