



Worshipful Company of Environmental Cleaners (WCEC) Climate Action Plan – Revised (February 2026)

1. Introduction

This Climate Action Plan outlines how the Worshipful Company of Environmental Cleaners (WCEC) will contribute to the City of London’s Livery Climate Action Strategy. It reflects our commitment to continuous improvement, transparency, and leadership in sustainable practice across our operations and wider professional influence.

The plan has been revised following feedback from the Chair of the Livery Climate Action Group (LCAG), Alderman Alison Gowman, and the WCEC Clerk, Samuel Rogers. Their insights have strengthened the plan’s realism and alignment with both LCAG expectations and WCEC practicalities.

2. Scope and Purpose

This plan covers all WCEC activities, including governance, events, communication, and the role we play as sector leaders within the cleaning and facilities management industry.

We recognise that our most significant environmental impact is indirect, through our influence, partnerships, and the promotion of sustainable practices within our sector.

3. Governance and Oversight

The **Climate Action Committee (CAC)**, chaired by Past Master Gary Fage, holds overall responsibility for delivery of this plan and reports to Court annually.

A **Single Point of Contact (SPOC)** acts as liaison with the Livery Climate Action Group and coordinates all WCEC sustainability-related activities.

Annual progress will be verified internally and, where appropriate, cross-referenced with external frameworks such as the Neutral Carbon Zone (NCZ) or Planet Mark.

4. Key Objectives and Timeline

The plan adopts a phased approach to achieving measurable progress toward Net Zero by 2040, in line with LCAG ambitions.

Year	Objective	Status / Notes
2025/6	Establish baseline data for Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions, including business travel, event logistics, and supply chain.	In progress
2026	Extend Scope 3 review to include financial investments and potential environmental impact of WCEC endowment funds. Coordinate with Finance Committee.	New addition per LCAG feedback
2026	Encourage coordination with the WCEC Charitable Trust , inviting voluntary alignment with WCEC sustainability goals.	New addition per LCAG feedback
2027	Publish first verified annual progress report with benchmark comparisons across other Livery Companies.	Planned
2028	Continue improving sustainability of events by reducing avoidable waste and prioritising recyclable and responsibly sourced materials.	Updated to reflect Clerk feedback
2030	Achieve measurable reduction in carbon emissions against 2025 baseline through procurement, travel, and supplier engagement policies.	Targeted
2040	Reach Net Zero across all WCEC controllable and influenceable activities.	Long-term goal

5. Event Sustainability

The WCEC will take practical steps to improve event sustainability while maintaining the professionalism and tradition of formal gatherings.

Actions include:

- Prioritising recyclable and sustainably sourced materials for printed items such as menus and Court papers.
- Working with event venues to minimise food waste and encourage low-carbon menu options.
- Tracking travel patterns for major events to identify opportunities for emissions reduction (e.g., car sharing, public transport).

Previous quantitative reduction targets (15% reduction, zero-waste policy) have been replaced with a flexible commitment to continuous improvement, in recognition of the Clerk's feedback on practicality and proportionality.

6. Supply Chain and Procurement

WCEC will aim to embed sustainability within all purchasing and contracting decisions, including:

- Preference for suppliers with verified environmental credentials.
- Use of recyclable or compostable materials wherever possible.
- Integration of carbon impact as a decision-making factor for service providers.

Where feasible, suppliers will be asked to provide information on their sustainability practices, helping WCEC to improve transparency and accountability.

7. Financial and Investment Review

In line with Alderman Gowman's feedback, WCEC review environmental exposure of investments as part of Scope 3 influence. This will include consideration of ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) screening for investment decisions to avoid exposure to fossil fuels and other unsustainable sectors.

The Finance Committee will lead this review, balancing financial return with responsible investment principles.

8. Charitable Trust Alignment

Although the WCEC Charitable Trust operates independently, the Court will invite trustees to review their investment and operational practices against WCEC sustainability goals. A shared statement of intent will be developed to demonstrate alignment of purpose without compromising autonomy.

9. Sector Leadership and External Influence

The WCEC's most significant contribution to climate action will come through influence within the cleaning and hygiene sector.

We will:

- Promote science-based sustainability and carbon reduction practices within the industry.

- Encourage members to act as advocates for low-carbon innovation and sustainable procurement.
- Highlight best practice through talks, publications, and collaborative initiatives.

This leadership role reinforces our founding purpose – to raise professional standards and champion environmental responsibility in cleaning.

10. Monitoring and Reporting

Progress will be reviewed annually by the Climate Action Committee and reported to the Court.

Updates will include:

- Emissions data and trends against baseline year.
- Progress on supplier engagement and investment review.
- Examples of influence and impact within the wider sector.

Reports will be shared with the Livery Climate Action Group to support City-wide benchmarking and transparency.

11. Verification and Continuous Improvement

WCEC will seek light-touch verification of progress, ideally aligned with established frameworks such as Planet Mark or NCZ, while keeping administrative demands proportionate to the Company's size and resources.

Annual updates will allow flexibility to adapt targets as data quality improves and opportunities for emissions reduction evolve.

12. Conclusion

This revised Climate Action Plan balances ambition with realism. It strengthens our governance, acknowledges financial responsibility, and reflects the professional and ethical standards expected of the Worshipful Company of Environmental Cleaners.

Through partnership, education, and advocacy, WCEC will continue to play its part in achieving a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable future.