



THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF BASKETMAKERS

Climate Action Plan

INTRODUCTION

The Livery Climate Action Group, which our Company joined in June 2023, now comprises 98 other Livery companies and is committed to each reduce our impact on greenhouse gas emissions and climate change adaptation. In this we support the the ongoing efforts of the Lord Mayor and the City of London.

As a Company without a Livery Hall or owned transport, our carbon emissions are not easy to benchmark so our strategy must be on the basis of best practice and continual improvement. Part of our Climate Action Plan (CAP) will be to encourage our Court, Clerk, members and suppliers to support our targets in reducing our impacts. Our aim is to take a blended approach where we retain the best of our traditions while adopting the most practical innovations. Our Climate Action Plan will be applied across all Company activities and will form part of the ‘Company Manual’ and governance.

OUR CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

There are six distinct areas where, as a Company, we can seek to reduce our impact on our environment and reverse climate change.

Administration

We will aim to reduce the use of paper and postage for most Company communications while recognising that some of our formal invitations (Pour Memories) and menus are valued and appreciated by some of our members and guests. We should invite both to indicate preference for electronic notices and explore the use of QR codes for menus, programmes and publicity. Court papers are already published electronically and Court members should consider how much these need to be printed out. Paperwork should be recycled where possible. Our Clerk will advise on other, greener, forms of administration that we can all adopt across the membership.

Investments

Our portfolio is not currently a dedicated ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) investment but takes ESG into strong consideration and actively engages with investee funds within its own portfolio which in turn, actively engage with their own underlying investment companies. This will change from time to time as the underlying investments improve their own ESG credentials. Currently our portfolio represents 196 tonnes of CO₂ compared to the desirable benchmark of 229 tonnes according to the latest form of impact measurement. This can be reviewed at any time and our portfolio can be adjusted to reflect our wider aims in the future.

Catering and Hospitality

We should provide clear guidelines for suppliers to encourage improvements in sustainability. Using local goods to reduce transportation, encouraging re-cycling and the use of bio-degradable containers and utilities should all be encouraged. Menu choices should be seasonal and locally sourced where possible. Where our dinners and other events are held in the Livery Halls of other LCAG members or the Guildhall, we should ensure that both parties climate action plans are understood and respected. This will become much easier as more CAP's are published as there will be many areas entirely held in common.

Travel

All Company events should be held where travel can be by public transport. We have a good track record presently. We should encourage the use of cycling and walking where possible and for members to aspire to green travel in their own working and social lives.

Education

Our Trade could not be greener, both in its use of materials and in the manufacture of its products. We currently promote our Trade to schools with the Livery Schools Link. Our demonstrating Yeomen not only share their career stories to inspire future craftsmen but also promote training in basketry and the many areas in which basketry actively helps the environment. We should seek every opportunity to promote our Trade in schools and places of education.

Through the Charitable Trust, basketry training and promotion has long been a focus for support and there are many ways, by the provision of bursaries, prizes, rent support through Cockpit Arts and grants for teaching and exhibitions that we can increase our influence as a prime supporter of green industry and the bio-economy. Our Yeomen should be at the centre of our endeavours in this area. The Trust also currently funds an annual Professional Development Programme to improve the business skills of basketmakers. There is endless scope for increasing our reach UK wide for promoting our eminently sustainable industry.

Military Affiliations

Through our connections with the Navy, Army and Air Force and particularly with our Cadets, we should encourage the same attention to the problems of climate change and our drive to adopt greener measures to reduce emissions. Our CAP should be shared with our affiliates regularly as it is updated each year.

CONCLUSION

Our Climate Action Plan should be seen as ongoing with an annual review. As the other Livery companies publish their own CAP's we should look, through the LCAG, for areas in common such as requirements for catering suppliers or venues for events, where parity will encourage suppliers to engage and reward compliance.

January 2024



ILLUSTRATION OF POTENTIAL ACTIONS AND TARGETS for review in 2025.

Issue	Current situation	Rationale	Action	Target
Reduction of Environmental Impact from printing, postage and delivery of Company communications.	Annual magazine is printed and sent by post to members	Increasing the use of technology can reduce cost, wastage and carbon emissions	Send annual 'Basketmaker' magazine to all members in electronic PDF format by email.	95% of members to read magazine online (with 5% still receiving by post for those that are not computer users.
Reduction of Environmental Impact from printing, postage and delivery of Company communications.	All attendees receive individual 'Pour Memoires' printed on card by post	Increasing the use of technology can reduce cost, wastage and carbon emissions	Send Pour Memoires to attendees electronically with only guests being sent a card version by post	66% reduction in printing and postage. 33% to be sent by guests
Reduction of Environmental Impact from printing, postage and delivery of Company communications.	Printing of menus and seating plans currently for each attendee at events	Minimising printing can reduce cost, wastage and carbon emissions	Place small A6 menus on each place setting, removing cards and tassels. Toast lists to be printed on reverse. Seating plans to be positioned on A2 boards near main entrances during drink receptions	75% reduction in card usage by end of 2024, with commemorative menus available to guest on request

Reduction of Environmental Impact from printing, postage and delivery of Company communications.	Most Court Members print out all the Court meeting reports and minutes resulting in huge amounts of paper being consumed	Increasing the use of technology can reduce cost, wastage and carbon emissions	Invite all Court Assistants to bring their tablet / device to Court meetings to read reports online. Encourage adherence and commit to signing a "Court Environmental Charter" to reduce personal impact	85% Court Assistants to use technology during meetings by July 2024
Reduction of personal environmental impact from all members	Currently unmeasured	Reducing individual actions that have a detrimental environmental impact will contribute to a collective positive impact	Reword Company charge to ensure a commitment to climate change is given by each new member. Invite members in all event communication to consider their use of company transport	100% new members to commit to net zero impact on travel when joining the company from March 2024
Increase of recycling of company printed materials	Menus / pour memoires are left behind on seats at the end of events (GDPR implications)	Increase opportunity for members to recycle papers at the end of each event	Provide a woven basket receptacle at the exit of each event inviting members to deposit unneeded papers / menus etc	Baskets to be provided at each exit at all events. PW to exhort attendees to recycle on their way out in their speech
Reduction of Environmental Impact from printing, postage and delivery of communications from committees and associated bodies	Basketmakers Charitable Trust currently sends out a printed thank you letter to all contributors by post	Increasing the use of technology can reduce cost, wastage and carbon emissions	Trustees and donors to receive all communications by email with PDF letter as attachment. QR code for charitable donations to be included on menus at events.	90% reduction in postage and printing by July 2024

Reduction of environmental impact caused by travel to events	Currently unknown how many people travel to events by public transport / car	Reducing amount of travel will have a positive carbon impact	Ensure where possible that all meetings other than Court dinners are held online on Zoom / MSTeams	Reduction of travel by up to 75% for committee meetings
Reduction of environmental impact caused by travel to events	Currently unknown how many people travel to events by public transport / car	Understanding current travel trends will allow better planning of events for ease of access	Capture current trends from attendees by including a QR code on menus to scan for a short travel survey	80% of attendees to complete survey over 2024 allowing better understanding of travel needs and trends
Reduction of environmental impact caused by high food mileage / supply chain	Currently unknown what levels of food miles are incurred	Sourcing locally grown / farmed foods reduces carbon impact from transport	Ensure that providers and caterers have a Climate Impact plan in place and source locally grown / farmed produce as far as is practicable. Choose menus that have the least impact.	70% of produce to be sourced from within a 100 mile radius of the City of London by December 2024
Reduction of environmental impact caused by greenhouse gas emitting processes and providers	Currently xxx meals are red meat / intensively fished products	Selecting low carbon / low greenhouse gas emitting produce will reduce the carbon impact of consumable products	Ensure options other than red meat / intensively farmed fish / poultry are selected	Two out of five menus to be other than red meat / intensively farmed fish or livestock
Reduction of environmental impact caused by greenhouse gas emitting processes and providers	Currently xx caterers use single use plastics	Completely removing single use plastics will have a positive effect on carbon impact	Insist on selection of provider who use 0% single use plastics	0% single use plastics used at any event by January 2024

Reduction of environmental impact caused by poorly managed halls / inefficient venues	Currently unknown what environmental / carbon plans are in place at each hall	Selecting halls that have a robust climate action plan in place will ensure that we reduce our secondary impact	Select halls that have a clear carbon footprint management commitment, are heated / cooled using non fossil fuel technology	Reduce our current secondary carbon footprint by 20%
Reduction of third party environmental impact caused by investment portfolios	Currently P. Miles is exploring ESG of investment portfolios where the Company has holdings	Positive selection of carbon neutral investment funds will have a positive impact on our footprint	Ensure that current investments and shares are held in carbon neutral funds / investments that carbon offset	100% investments to have been checked by July 2024 with options then to be explored.

The Company will recognise that these targets are ambitious, but appreciates that without a commitment to change the environmental impact of the Company's activities will not decrease.

Progress will be reported on on an annual basis and our Climate Action Plan updated accordingly.

Mark Cooper
Court Assistant
9th October 2023

Sasha Keir
Court Assistant and SPOC for LCAG
12th January 2024