



**The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators**

## **Climate Action Plan**

**Approved at the Michaelmas Court 27 September 2021**

# **WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF WATER CONSERVATORS CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**

## **Introduction**

Earlier this year, Livery Companies were invited to work together to prepare a combined response to the challenges of climate change in the form of individual **Livery Company Action Plans**. A Livery Climate Action Group was formed to support them develop their climate action plans and to provide an input to the Lord Mayor's contribution to 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow to be held on 31 October – 12 November 2021. The Livery Climate Action Group was chaired by Alderman (now Sheriff) Alison Gowman.

In the call for volunteers, a number of Water Conservators stepped forward (the highest of any Livery Company) because we had something to say and also had the knowledge and skills to help other Companies in their efforts to reduce carbon emissions. The initiative was led by Deputy Master Rob Casey and he was supported by Martin Bigg, Christine Jarvis, Dinah Nicholls, Richard Coackley, Carolyn Roberts, Neil Reynolds and Ramon Bravo.

There follows the Climate Action Plan as agreed by Court on 27 September 2021. Following adoption, the volunteers have been asked to develop an implementation plan. This process will be managed through the Company's Finance, Membership & General Purposes Committee.

Peter Hall  
**Master Water Conservator**

# **WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF WATER CONSERVATORS CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**

**We, the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators, support the objectives of the Livery Climate Action Group (LCAG) by aiming to reduce our carbon emissions and our wider impacts on the environment. We will foster a more responsible and sustainable approach to the use of the planet's scarce resources, in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Accordingly, our Company commits to preparing a Climate Action Plan to reduce our impact on the environment, and encouraging our direct and indirect contacts to do the same.**

- 1. We will reduce our direct and indirect carbon emissions wherever possible, and manage our impacts by:**
  - Establishing baseline data and setting out a road map and milestones for emissions reductions. This will be regularly reviewed and updated, and our progress and good practice shared within LCAG to assist others towards achieving their goals.**

We will produce an annual statement detailing our progress towards reducing our carbon emissions and wider environmental impacts.

- **Reviewing our purchasing, events, dinners, merchandising and other activities to identify opportunities for using fewer, more sustainable and less carbon-intensive products and services.**

When selecting locations and catering arrangements for our meetings, events and dinners we will particularly take account of the distances travelled, and the sustainability and carbon content of the food we provide and the other products we use. In collaboration with other livery companies, we will work with key catering suppliers to establish low carbon menu options using seasonal and local food where possible. We will ensure that they minimise the amount of food wasted.

We will also review the social and employment policies and practices of our caterers and other suppliers to ensure that they meet high standards in relation to, for example, equality and diversity, the Living Wage, and modern slavery.

- **Reviewing our waste policies and practices so as to increase re-use and recycling with the aim of achieving zero waste to landfill, whilst not increasing carbon emissions.**

When selecting locations and catering arrangements for our meetings, events and dinners we will take account of our suppliers' waste management practices in accordance with the principles of the waste hierarchy, starting with waste prevention.

- **Reducing our per capita water consumption and wastewater discharges.**

When selecting locations and catering arrangements for our meetings, events and dinners we will require that tap water is provided in preference to bottled water. We will provide guidance on reducing overall per capita water consumption and wastewater discharges, and will provide links to experts, for other livery companies and businesses.

- **Reviewing the travel needs and modes of our employees, members and visitors, and identifying sustainable transport modes.**

When selecting locations for our meetings, events and dinners, we will take account of and encourage the use of public and low emission transport to the location. We will avoid unnecessary travel by encouraging virtual meetings whenever appropriate.

- **Reviewing our investment portfolio(s) considering Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) good practice, and alignment with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Paris Agreement.**

The Trustees of the Water Conservation Trust are reviewing its investments according to ESG good practice and alignment with the Paris Agreement. The investments are reviewed every year.

## 2. We will make a positive impact by:

- **Increasing our charitable engagement with schools, universities, colleges, and other stakeholders to promote knowledge and research about sustainability and climate change.**

As part of our existing engagement with schools, universities, colleges and other stakeholders we already promote knowledge about sustainability, climate change and environmental management, and this will continue. We will also continue to fund innovative research in universities, by supporting postgraduate students undertaking projects on environmental and sustainability themes in the UK and overseas.

- **Directly sponsoring initiatives in schools, universities and other groups that reduce their resource consumption and carbon emissions.**

We will facilitate our schools, universities, colleges and other stakeholders to reduce their carbon emissions through projects, education and knowledge sharing.

- **Drawing on the expertise of our members to make learning and good practice on standards, tools, platforms and expertise publicly-available, to facilitate sustainable development and progress towards zero carbon.**

We already organise free monthly publicly-accessible talks on water and environmental management themes, in which sustainable development is an overarching principle. At our meetings, events and dinners we share knowledge and information on contributing towards sustainable development. We will continue to organise and support workshops and exhibitions on environmental themes, such as improving the management of water resources and minimising the use of plastics. We will continue to share good practise solutions on water and waste management with other livery companies, businesses and organisations.

- **Encouraging and inspiring our members and networks to follow our lead within their own organisations and personal activities.**

By precept and example, we will encourage all of our members to review, identify and share good practices on sustainable development and climate change.