

The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators

Promoting a diverse and sustainable environment

Livery Climate Action – Progress Report

The Livery Climate Action Group (LCAG), led by Alderman Alison Gowman is now supported by over 90 Livery Companies, and was formed to assist City of London Livery Companies and Guilds to manage their impact on climate change and the environment by reducing carbon emissions.

This note sets out the 3 key steps taken by the Water Conservators Company to manage our impact on climate change. Firstly, we established a Climate Action Plan (see <https://liverycag.org.uk/water-conservators/>) that sets out the proposed action areas. Then we calculated our carbon footprint following the guidance note on the LCAG website (<https://liverycag.org.uk/calculating-company-carbon-footprint/>). See page 2 of this note for details of our calculations. The combined carbon footprint for both the Company and our Trust (including investments) is small at around 40-45 tonnes CO₂e per annum (equivalent to less than 3-4 average UK persons).

Then finally we established an Implementation Plan (see pages 3 and 4) which details our progress against the actions set out in our Climate Action Plan. The layout and action items closely follow the recent recommendations made by LCAG. The plan and our carbon footprint will be updated at least annually, and as new information is received.

I have successfully completed all four modules of the Heart of the City Climate Action Course on behalf of the Water Conservators. Our Climate Action and Implementation plans have been submitted to Heart of the City as part of the course, and we are entitled to display the “Heart of the City” logo for our Action Plan.

Considering the actions we have already taken, as demonstrated in our Implementation Plan, I believe we have now close to a minimum carbon footprint level for the Company, but will continue to extend our influence on the water, waste and environment sectors. We are now at the point where we are considering offsetting our remaining carbon footprint to become “Net Zero”.



Looking online there are many schemes that offer offsetting, however, rather than funding a commercial offsetting site, our December Court Meeting agreed that it would be more appropriate for us to fund the tree planting currently underway at River Holme Connections (pictured above - RHC is currently supported by our Trust), and this was supported by the Court and agreed by RHC. This is most appropriate for us as we are funding something that is associated with an improved river environment. We also agreed that we would raise the funds by donation from Company members.

Rob Casey, Past Master, Water Conservators Company.

Carbon Footprint Calculation For The Water Conservators Company – Year July 2021-22

SCOPE 1 AND 2 – Zero

SCOPE 3

Committees and Events Emissions

Calculate total transport miles by train, car, taxi and journeys by plane using the Emissions Calcs spreadsheet. Enter figures into the Climate Impact calculator to get the total emissions per year. Calculate total number of meals and accommodation nights into Sections 6 and 7 to get the total emissions per year.

TRANSPORT, MEALS AND ACCOMODATION	Number of events	Total number attended	Total train miles	Total diesel car miles	Total petrol car miles	Total electric car miles	Total taxi miles	Total number attended	Total meals - meat	Total meals - vegetarian	Accommodation - nights
Company lunches & dinners	5	400	32000	1250	500	250	50	0	350	50	20
Company committee meetings	5	50	4000	175	50	25	0	0	48	2	4
Company Social Events	4	63	5040	160	40	20	0	0	50	13	0
Masters Weekend	1	12	960	45	10	5	0	12	40	8	48
Charity committee meetings	4	10	3200	105	30	15	0	0	36	8	0
Charity events	7	67	5360	210	70	35	0	0	84	21	3
City events	42	60	4800	0	0	0	0	0	55	5	4
Totals			55360	1945	700	350	50	12	663	107	79
Calculated emissions tonnes CO2e			3.13	0.54	0.20	0.05	0.01	4.33	1.57	0.20	11.21
Total meals tonnes CO2e	1.77										
Total transport tonnes CO2e	8.26										
Total accomodation tonnes CO2e	11.21										
Grand total tonnes CO2e	21.24										
Average train journey miles	80										
Average car journey miles	5										
Average taxi journey miles	5										

Total emissions for Committees and Events = 21.24 tonnes of CO2

Working From Home

Enter data on hours worked from home by Company officials and members into the Heart of the City calculator.

	Employee name	Average number of days worked per week	Average number of days worked from home per week	Average hours worked per day	Number of days off per year, including annual leave, 8 days for bank holidays, sick leave and furlough leave	Total yearly business working from home kgCO2e	Total yearly business working from home tonne CO2e
2	Clerk	3	3	8	20	2272.74	2.27
4	Master	5	2.5	8	30		
5	3 No. Wardens	6	3	8	0		
6	10 Court Assistants	5	2.5	8	0		
7	9 Trustees	6	6	8	0		

Total emissions due to Working From Home = 2.27 tonnes of CO2

Goods and Services

Enter data on the amount spent on Goods and Services into the Heart of the City calculator

Total emissions due to Goods and Services = 6.52 tonnes of CO2

Climate Action Implementation Progress

ACTION PLAN ITEM	ACTION	CURRENT SITUATION	FUTURE TARGET
Establish baseline data, monitoring and future roadmap	Calculation of total Worshipful Company of Water Conservators (WCWC) and Water Conservation Trust (WCT) carbon footprint annually and review	Year 2019/20 - WCWC/WCT 33.9 tonnes CO2 + WCT Investments 10.0 tonnes CO2 Year 2020/21 - Covid Year 2021/22 - WCWC/WCT 30.3 tonnes CO2e + WCT Investments 10.0 tonnes CO2	Continue annual monitoring
	Future roadmap		Annual review with targeted reductions where possible
1. To reduce the environmental impact from travel of members attending meetings for Company business:	1.1 Support remote working whenever appropriate	Clerk, members of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators (WCWC) and Water Conservation Trust (WCT) Trustees all work from home	Continue as present
	1.2 Reduce travel by encouraging virtual or hybrid meetings whenever appropriate	Important Court, FM&GP, and WCT Trustee meetings are held in person. FM&GP and WCT offer hybrid facilities. All other company and WCT meetings are held by zoom	Continue as present
	1.3 Undertake Climate Footprint Baseline calculation for travel (for Company meetings) and to review annually to establish progress in reducing travel based emissions	Travel calculations undertaken annually and are part of the annual footprint calculation	Continue as present
	1.4 Encourage the use of public and low emission transport to WCWC meetings, events and dinners	Court and trustees encouraged	Expand to wider membership. Target for 2023/24
	1.5 Where travel is necessary seek to provide the opportunity for members to 'Net Zero' their travel by car, rail or air through an appropriate Carbon Offset	Current possibilities being looked at	Make recommendations to members. Target for 2023/24
2. To reduce the environmental impact of Catering for WCWC events	2.1 When selecting venues for meetings, events and dinners take account of sustainability: request evidence of environmental policies and actions to reduce waste	Sustainability statement received from caterers Life's Kitchen and Party Ingredients. Statement from Cook and Butler in progress	Sustainability statement from all caterers used
	2.2 When selecting menus take account of the environmental impact of ingredients: ask catering suppliers to propose low-carbon menu options, using seasonal and local food	Party Ingredients - source food as locally as possible, and buy in season produce Life's Kitchen - Provide meat, poultry, etc. from sources using practices that conform to high environmental, social and animal welfare standards, fish from sustainable stocks. Procure goods from the London markets wherever possible.	Extend to all caterers used
	2.3 When selecting caterers take account of their waste management practices with a focus on minimising the amount of food that is wasted	Party Ingredients - surplus food to Zheros charity, food waste recycled at South Quay for farms in Kent. Life's Kitchen - Leftover food for staff meals. Waste recycled	Extend to all caterers used
	2.4 Review the social and employment policies and practices of caterers and other suppliers to encourage high standards in relation to, for example, equality and diversity, the Living Wage, and modern slavery	Party Ingredients is a London Living wage employer	Extend to all caterers used
3. To reduce the environmental impact from plastic usage and waste created as a result of WCWC & WCT business, events and meetings.	3.1 Review waste policies and practices to identify specific targets such as reducing single-use plastic in WCWC activities	Party Ingredients/Life's Kitchen has replaced all single use plastic products wherever possible	Extend to all caterers used
	3.2 Avoid the use of non-recyclable plastics where appropriate	Party Ingredients/Life's Kitchen has replaced all single use plastic products wherever possible	Extend to all caterers used
	3.3 Encourage suppliers and caterers to minimise the amount of plastic wasted	Party Ingredients/Life's Kitchen has replaced all single use plastic products wherever possible	Extend to all caterers used
	3.4 Seek for plastic involved in WCWC events and business activities to be effectively reused and recycled	Party Ingredients/Life's Kitchen has replaced all single use plastic products wherever possible. No plastic bottles, cups, cutlery used at WCWC/WCT events or meetings	Extend to all caterers used
	3.5 Review WCWC activities, including dinners, merchandising and other activities, to identify opportunities for using fewer, more sustainable products	Party Ingredients/Life's Kitchen has replaced all single use plastic products wherever possible. No plastic bottles, cups, cutlery used at WCWC/WCT events or meetings	Extend to all caterers used
4. To reduce bottled water usage resulting from WCWC business, events and meetings	4.1 When selecting locations and catering arrangements for WCWC/WCT meetings, events and dinners ensure that tap water is provided in preference to bottled water	Tap water provided by default at all WCWC diners, lunches and events. Bottled water only provided for an individual if requested	Continue as present

5. To reduce the environmental impact of cleaning processes and materials	5.1 Seek to influence owners of halls for our events in their choice of cleaning contractors and products used to reduce environmental impact	Influenced currently through Livery Climate Action Group with hall owners	Continue as present
6. Increase reuse or recycling of resources used in WCWC/WCT business, events and meetings with the aim of achieving zero waste to landfill	6.1 Ensure all resources used in WCWC/WCT activities minimise environmental impact and are reused and recycled;	Minimal resources used	Continue as present
	6.2 Review WCWC/WCT merchandising to minimise environmental impact e.g. use of sustainable and/or recyclable materials	WCWC/WCT merchandising is extremely small	Continue as present
7. Influence others in their environmental impact reduction e.g. schools, professions, trades and other organisations	7.1 WCWC: Engage with membership to encourage involvement in LCAG and other relevant organisations (e.g. Pollinating London Together); canvass members in promoting sustainability within their own organisations and personal activities through a programme of online webinars that explores best practices for sustainable development, slowing climate change and the impact of biodiversity	WCWC is a member of Livery Climate Action Group and Pollinating London Together. WCWC member is a trustee for PLT. WCWC holds monthly webinars with the main topics including sustainability, climate change, biodiversity, and waste management attracting a wide audience from the livery, businesses, universities and professional bodies	Continue to grow
	7.2 The Livery: Seek to inform and educate on energy and the environment through the WCWC/WCT own events and activities (e.g. Conferences, Lectures and presentations) and through membership of the Livery Climate Action Group	WCWC compiled the guidance notes on water, wastewater, waste management for LCAG. WCWC has supported the Plastic Free City and Bag it and Bin campaigns by CoLC. WCWC members regularly attend LCAG conferences seminars and webinars and provide expertise to the Livery on water, wastewater, waste management and environmental matters	Continue to provide guidance and advice to the Livery on water, wastewater, environmental issues and waste management issues. Support the Livery to promote a diverse and sustainable environment.
	7.3 Schools/Universities: Engage with partner charities, schools and universities to offer opportunities for education, advice and mentoring to enhance water related science and environmental learning	WCT has provides bursaries to MSc students in the areas of Water and Environmental Management. WCT funds school visits to a Farm and works with PLT to encourage learning on biodiversity. WCT funds a school education programme with River Holme Connections on improving the river environment.	Continue to monitor and grow
	7.4 Government/NGOs/LAs/Trusts: Engage to leverage links to improve understanding of possible climate and environmental actions	The Company promotes a diverse and sustainable environment as part of our consultation responses to Defra, Environmental Audit Committee, etc.	Continue as present
	7.5 Professions and trades: Leverage industry and professional links to improve understanding of the environment and climate change mitigation actions that can be taken	The company organises monthly webinars promoting action on climate change, biodiversity, waste management, offshore renewable energy and other environmental issues	Continue as present
8. Support directly initiatives undertaken by third parties that seek to mitigate environmental impacts including conferences and educational initiatives.	8.1 Sponsor events to improve knowledge of environment impact and climate change mitigation?	The company organises monthly webinars promoting action on climate change, biodiversity, waste management, offshore renewable energy and other environmental issues. The Company also organises a biannual City Water Debate for key water sector stakeholders where climate change and the environment are key issues. The Company supports and attends LCAG meetings and City events related to Climate Change and the environment.	Continue as present
	8.2 Consider the beneficiaries of any charitable grants and how they are responding to the climate challenge	WCT has provides bursaries to MSc students in the areas of Water and Environmental Management. WCT funds school visits to a Farm and works with PLT to encourage learning on biodiversity. WCT funds a school education programme with River Holme Connections	Continue as present
9. Consider ESG impacts of investments, should the Company or its charity:	9.1 Appoint Investment Advisors and Managers to review ESG impacts of investments?	Our investments (CCLA and Casenove) are small (approx. £0.65m), belong to WCT and are managed by WCT Trustees. We have moved both funds to ESG based funds which have a lower carbon footprint compared to normal investments.	Continue as present
	9.2 Ensure your managers have set a net zero target for 2050 or earlier with a transition pathway consistent with viable decarbonisation.	Casenove have Climate Transition Action Plan with a target of achieving net zero by 2050. CCLA - To align with the Paris Climate Change Agreement most investor targets are to achieve 50% emissions reductions by 2030 (compared to a 2018 baseline level) and 100% by 2050.	Continue as present
	9.3 Ask the managers to provide evidence of its planning especially regarding the high emitting sectors and assets.	Both CCLA and Casenove have published climate action transition plans and provide regular updates on their websites. CCLA have provided us with a carbon footprint estimate of our ESG investment of 6.2 tonnes CO2e	Continue as present
	9.4 Urge direct engagement with the investee companies regarding resolutions on climate change and disclosure.	Managed through our investment managers. Our investments are small with a very small climate impact.	Continue as present