CIEEM Carbon Reduction Plan 2021-2030

2025 Update

Introduction

Background to the Organisation

The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) is the leading professional body supporting ecologists and environmental managers in the United Kingdom and Ireland. Our Objectives are to advance the understanding and the standards of practice of ecology and environmental management for the benefit of the natural environment and the public good; and to further the conservation, management and enhancement of biodiversity and the maintenance of ecological processes and life support systems essential to a fully functional biosphere Established in 1991 and has nearly 8500 members drawn from local authorities, government agencies, industry, environmental consultancy, teaching/research, and voluntary environmental organisations. We have led the way in defining and raising the standards of ecological and environmental management practice for the benefit of nature and society. Our leadership was recognised in 2013 when we were awarded our Royal Charter. We were further recognised for our contribution to the public good in June 2020 when we became a charity.

Performance on Carbon Management to date

In September 2019, we declared a climate emergency and biodiversity crisis, acknowledging that these two issues are inextricably linked and that urgent action is needed at all levels. We have since launched Action 2030: a project which aims for us to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2030 and lead the way for our professions in taking urgent action to address the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis. Our Environment Policy is at the heart of what we are doing to tackle these crises. The key principles behind it are to **reduce** the use of energy and resources, **reuse** materials wherever possible, **recycle** all that can be, **avoid** materials and products where there is doubt concerning environmental impacts, and **encourage** members and suppliers to adopt similar practices. We have procured 100% renewable electricity for our main office since 2015, the current office has no gas supply, and is fitted with solar panels which provide a low level of electricity production. Purchasing goods or services, we endeavour to use suppliers and contractors with a demonstrable commitment to environmental good practice. We have chosen ethical banks and building societies for the management of our finances: Unity Trust, Triodos Bank, and Ecology Building Society. These banks and building societies fund and invest in socially responsible organisations that aim to bring about positive societal change. Our pension provider, TPT Retirement Solutions, offers an ethical option for the Secretariat which avoids investments in coal mining and oil sands.

We calculate our carbon emissions using a bespoke carbon calculator, that takes into account the emissions produced by the activities of our business and secretariat. Our baseline year (2019/2020) and

the year 2022/2023 have been calculated by Greengage Environmental Ltd. Greengage was employed by CIEEM conduct a gap analysis of our carbon emission figures, and to produce pathways for us to achieve Net Zero, this is explained in more detail within the Emissions Baseline and Projections section.

We are committed to reducing the emissions associated with the use of energy and resources to net zero by 2030. From 2016, CIEEM has made an annual donation to compensate for the unavoidable carbon emissions to projects that involve carbon sequestration and ecological restoration in Britain and the island of Ireland. These projects are assessed against the CIEEM principles for compensation for carbon emissions (see below in Carbon Management section).

In 2021, we formally signed up to the Pledge to Net Zero[1] which commits us to:

1. Set and commit to deliver a greenhouse gas target in line with either a 1.5°C (encouraged) or well below 2°C climate change scenario – covering buildings and travel as a minimum. In line with this we have committed to a 90% reduction (from our baseline year of 2019/2020) of Scope 1,2, and 3 in our greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.
2. Publicly report greenhouse gas emissions and progress against this target each year.
3. Publish one piece of research/thought-leadership each year on practical steps to delivering an economy in line with climate science and in support of net zero carbon. Alternatively, provide mentoring and support for smaller signatory companies in setting targets, reporting and meeting the requirements of the pledge.

Emissions Baseline and Projections

Scope and Boundaries of the Carbon Footprint

Over the course of our road to net-zero by 2030, we aim to include the sources below in determination of our carbon footprint:

Scope 1

- Onsite boilers (if applicable)

Scope 2

- Electricity (Location-Based)
- Electricity (Market-Based)

Scope 3

- Couriers
- Venues
- In-Practice Production
- Water Supply
- Office Stationery
- Food and Beverage (Office + Staff claims)
- Cleaning products and services
- Hardware

[1] https://www.pledgetonetzero.org/pledge

- Software
- Marketing Services
- Transmission and Distribution Losses
- Well to Tank Emissions
- Waste
- Business Travel
- Employee Commuting
- Work From Home

Every effort will be made to include these by contacting suppliers for figures and searching for conversion factors.

To calculate the carbon usage of these sources, we are using a bespoke carbon calculator, developed in 2021 and updated annually, based on the UK Government carbon dioxide conversion factors for Company Reporting[2]. We are now discussing adopting the carbon calculator method used by Greengage, following their assessment of our carbon pathway.

Data Sources

The data sources used in our carbon calculations are based on robust data provided by both internal and external partners. The main streams of data (consumption and costs) input are as follows:

- Records of Secretariat and Committee travel
- Calculation of home working energy use using EcoAct methodology[3]
- Monitoring of energy and water meters in CIEEM Main Office
- Carbon usage figures for *In Practice* provided by Greenhouse Graphics
- Secretariat monitoring of waste collection weights
- Suppliers' calculated emissions where possible

Data is collated and converted to a CO_2e tonnage equivalent using UK Government factors for Company Reporting[4] in a bespoke carbon calculator, we are now looking to update this calculator using Greenage's methodology, to take better account of our emissions.

CIEEM's Carbon Footprint

CIEEM's overall Carbon Footprint for the Baseline year of 2019/20; 75.9 tonnesCO2e, this is the revised figure based on the assessment carried out by Greengage.

In order to more accurately represent the change is emissions from the baseline year to 2030, we have retrospectively calculated figures for as much of our current scope as possible, and as accurately as possible. As can be seen in table 1. Areas where this was not possible to achieve include water treatment (cubic metres) and delegate travel to events.

[2] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/greenhouse-gas-reporting-conversion-factors-2024
[3] https://info.eco-act.com/en/homeworking-emissions-whitepaper-2020
[4] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/greenhouse-gas-reporting-conversion-factors-2024

	Total emissions (Scope 1) (tCO2e)	Total emissions (Scope 2) (tCO2e)	Total emissions (Scope 3) (tCO2e)	Tonnes CO2e annually	% change from base year	Full Time Equivalent (FTE)/ staff	Tonnes /FTE
2019/2020 (Baseline)	2.1	5.4	68.4	75.9		18.6	4.081
2020/2021	0	2.47	54.05	56.52	-25.53%	19.4	2.913
2021/22	0.00	1.65	48.90	50.54	-33.41%	21.07	2.399
2022/23	0.00	4.30	52.90	57.20	-24.64%	22.87	2.501
2023/24	0.00	1.82	75.28	77.10	1.58%	26.1	2.954
2024/25	0	2.08	77.97	80.05	5.47%	27.5	2.911

Table 1: CIEEM's annual emissions (Scopes, 1, 2 and 3), and tonnes per FTE staff since the baseline year of 2019/2020.

Greengage Environmental Ltd

In 2024 CIEEM commissioned Greengage Environmental Ltd to conduct the following tasks:

- Review and revision of the GHG inventory of CIEEM's baseline year FY 2019/2020 and 2023 reporting year 2022/2023.
- Review and revise CIEEM's carbon reduction plan in line with its ambition to reach net zero by 2030.
- Review CIEEM's existing offsetting approach and provide guidance on net zero aligned offsetting based on the latest industry standards and best practice.

Carbon Management

Introduction

We are committed to reducing the emissions associated with the use of energy and resources to as close to zero as possible by 2030, so we are only offsetting unavoidable residual carbon emissions. When we offset emissions, we will select high quality offsetting schemes that follow the offsetting principles and good practice set out below:

- Additional – it is fundamental that offsetting funds do not pay for work that would have happened anyway.
- Verifiable – verification and certification of the CO_2 offsetting in a transparent and accountable process.
- Remove CO_2 from the atmosphere - nature-based solutions that create new habitats and restore existing habitats and ecosystems will help to address the biodiversity crisis and deliver ecosystem services.
- Permanent – the CO_2 removed from the atmosphere should not be released in the future except through natural processes and habitat management.
- Undertaken in real-time - CO_2 emissions should be offset simultaneously with their generation or over a defined short period of time.
- Based locally – offsetting schemes should ideally be based in Britain or the island of Ireland.
- Avoid negative impacts – offsetting schemes should have a very low risk of creating unintended consequences for people or the environment.

These principles take account of PAS 2060[5], the Oxford Offsetting Principles[6] and the 2021 Environment Agency review of offsetting approaches[7].

To continue achieving emissions reductions and avoiding financial exposure, we are committed to identifying and implementing carbon-saving actions.

Carbon Compensation Projects

Every year since 2016 CIEEM has made a donation equivalent to the average cost of offsetting the annual unavoidable carbon emissions, to support the following environmental projects:

- 2016/17: Plantlife wildflower meadow habitat conservation in England (https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk) Wildflower meadow habitat conservation by Plantlife in England. CIEEM donated £200. Plantlife is protecting and restoring a range of habitats including grasslands, woodlands, coastal habitats, heathland, wetlands and biodiverse roadside verges.
- 2017/18: The Native Woodland Trust planting programme in Ireland (https://www.nativewoodlandtrust.ie/) The Native Woodland Trust planting programme in Ireland. CIEEM donated £200. This project has raised 1.3 million euro. Over 2,500 native trees have been planted although most woodland expansion is done by natural regeneration.
- 2018/19: Trees for Life Caledonian Forest restoration in Scotland (https://treesforlife.org.uk/) Trees for Life Caledonian Forest restoration in Scotland. CIEEM donated £200. Trees for Life has been working since 1993 to restore the Caledonian forest and has developed a local tree nursery to grow rare trees for planting in the forest such as aspen. The charity has returned red squirrels to forests in the North West Highlands where they had not lived for over 50 years and has sought to bring back beavers to rivers and lochs.
- 2019/20: Project Seagrass in Wales (https://www.projectseagrass.org/) Project Seagrass in Wales. CIEEM donated £200. Project Seagrass undertakes research, community engagement and seagrass restoration projects around the UK. In west Wales, Project Seagrass has planted 2 hectares of seagrass using over 1 million seeds.
- 2020/21: Fleet Moss Peatland Restoration in England (https://www.ywt.org.uk/give-peat-a-chance). CIEEM donated £200. The Yorkshire Peat Partnership, led by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, is restoring over 100 ha of Fleet Moss peatlands as part of a wider project to restore over 30,000 ha.
- 2021/2022: RSPB (Scotland) Management and Restoration of 21,000 hectares of Forsinard Flows (https://www.rspb.org.uk/days-out/reserves/forsinard-flows). Forsinard Flows NNR in Scotland. CIEEM donated £760. The RSPB is managing and restoring 21,000 ha of the Flow Country, a vast expanse of blanket bog, sheltered straths and mountains, which is a candidate World Heritage Site.

---

[5] https://www.bsigroup.com/en-GB/PAS-2060-Carbon-Neutrality/

[6] Allen, M., Axelsson, K., Caldecott, B., Hale, T., Hepburn, C., Hickey, C., Mitchell-Larson, E., Malhi, Y., Otto, F., Seddon, N. and Smith, S. (2020). *The Oxford Principles for Net Zero Aligned Carbon Offsetting.* Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment, University of Oxford, Oxford. Available at https://www.smithschool.ox.ac.uk/publications/reports/Oxford-Offsetting-Principles-2020.pdf. Accessed 8 May 2021.

[7] Environment Agency (2021). *Achieving Net Zero. A review of the evidence behind potential carbon offsetting approaches.* Version 7, FRS19212. Environment Agency, Bristol.

- 2022/2023: Clonbeale More bog restoration in County Offaly, Ireland (https://tullamorelionsclub.com/bog_conservation/). CIEEM donated £1,000. This bog is the northern lobe of a larger area of raised bog the majority of which has been harvested industrially for many years. The donation would go to the Tullamore Lions Club who are collaborating on the restoration with the Birr Lions Club and the landowner.
- 2023/2024: Bryn Ifan in Gwynedd, Wales (https://www.northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk/bryn-ifan). CIEEM donated £7,639. The North Wales Wildlife Trust have acquired 180 ha of lowland grassland, wetland and upland common for woodland creation and restoration together with good practice management of wetland and peatland.

A New System

Going forwards, we are looking to incorporate a system whereby our value for carbon compensation increases by 10% each year, starting from the UK ETS carbon price of £83/tonne.

Schemes for compensation are decided on by the Action 2030 Working Group, who ensures that they comply with CIEEM's seven principles for carbon compensation. We will seek to utilise certified carbon market projects (e.g. Woodland Carbon Code and Peatland Code) to ensure accurate measurement of carbon absorbed vs carbon produced.

Recommendations from Greengage Environmental Ltd

The recommendations and actions identified below are a sample of those which have the highest carbon footprint and therefore will provide the largest proportion of savings when actions are taken to reduce them.

Venues

Greengage has suggested that our emissions for venue use has been inflated due to CIEEM's use of spend-based data. They have recommended that we engage with venues to procure a more detailed, and accurate breakdown of emissions.

We have begun to offer hybrid options for attendees to join conferences virtually and continue to offer the option for delegates to offset their emissions.

Employee Commuting

Greengage recommended that we ensure business travel is fully segregated from employee commuting, as the two factors have been occasionally conflated. Additionally, we are exploring incentives that could be used to reduce commuting and introduce travel types with lower carbon emissions.

Meetings are primarily conducted virtually, and in person meetings are generally attended in locations accessible by public or slow travel options.

In-Practice Production

We will proactively promote the online version of *InPractice* and increase its take-up by improving its accessibility and the reader experience.

2022 Progress: Since 2019, we have been promoting the option for members to switch to a virtual copy of *In Practice* instead of receiving a printed copy. In September 2019 we printed 5,300 copies, while in September 2021 we printed 4,900 copies. By March 2022, that figure was down to 4,700 – an 11% decrease.

2023 Progress: Between March 2022 and December 2022 the numbers of printed copies of *In Practice* decreased by 200 to 4,550. However, between December 2022 and March 2023 these numbers have increased to 5,400, the highest amount since September 2019.

Greengage has recommended for us to transition to a digital edition of the magazine either available online or through a dedicated app, with an additional price attached to paper copies to further reduce the number of paper copies being printed.

Target Setting

CIEEM's target is to achieve a 90% emission reduction from our Baseline Carbon Footprint of 75.9 tonnesCO2e by 2030. This target forms part of our Pledge to Net Zero, and is based on the SBTI methodology[8].

Following the report from Greengage we have been discussing reevaluating these targets, due to the severe impact on operations that achieving 90% reduction by 2030 would require. At present, it would require and at least 25% reduction in our emissions each year, until 2030, which would involve cutting back on nearly all of CIEEM's current activities at a rapid pace. Therefore, based on the recommendations given by Greengage, we will be implementing a steady reduction of 10% in our Carbon emissions each year, starting from the baseline value of 75.9 tonnes CO2e, this will enable us to halve our emissions by 2030, while remaining within the SBTi.

Wider Impacts

Our Action 2030 project does not only focus on CIEEM's carbon emissions, but seeks to influence other organisations, our members and non-member ecologists and environmental managers to reduce their carbon emissions and adopt more sustainable practices.

Projects to achieve this aim include:

- Developing a new bespoke Carbon Literacy Training Course for our sector, emphasising the importance of biodiversity in tackling climate change, and what steps we can take to reduce our emissions.
- Developing guidance on the sustainable use of materials in ecology and environmental management.
- Our new Competency Framework launched last autumn has a revised Professional Standards competency (PS1) that now includes climate change and nature literacy and actions to reduce

[8] https://sciencebasedtargets.org/how-it-works

emissions of greenhouse gases and improve biodiversity. Revising the original Professional Conduct competency by adding these words to the foundation competency that every member has to demonstrate shows how CIEEM is leading the way by ensuring that all its members are involved in tackling global heating, climate change and biodiversity loss.
- Holding webinars and publishing blogs and *In Practice* articles on various topics relating to addressing the joint crises as part of a proactive Communications Plan for our Action 2030 work.

Progress Reporting

Yearly Updates to the Carbon Reduction Plan

The Carbon Reduction Plan (CRP) is viewed as a 'live' document, and it is envisaged this will change on an annual basis as CIEEM's projects change and assumptions become reality. To ensure that the CRP remains 'fit for purpose' to deliver targeted carbon savings, the document will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Specifically, the following areas of the CRP will be subject to annual review:

- Progress towards overall carbon reduction target including CO_2e savings against target and quantifiable benefits.
- Progress with identified carbon reduction projects
- Financial savings achieved as a result of carbon reduction projects where applicable.
- Costs of the programme where applicable
- Wider benefits

Public Reporting

The Pledge to Net Zero initiative requires us to publicly report the progress against our science-based target. This will be achieved through the publication of this plan and at the CIEEM Annual General Meetings each Autumn.

Administrative information

This is an Energy Performance Certificate as defined in SI2007:991 as amended

Assessment Software:	iSBEM v4.1.c using calculation engine SBEM v4.1.c.2
Property Reference:	628416510000
Assessor Name:	Richard Smith
Assessor Number:	EES/005369
Accreditation Scheme:	Elmhurst Energy Systems
Employer/Trading Name:	Elmhurst Energy Services
Employer/Trading Address:	Unit 16, St Johns Business Park
Issue Date:	21 Jul 2011
Valid Until:	20 Jul 2021 (unless superseded by a later certificate)
Related Party Disclosure:	Not related to the owner

Recommendations for improving the property are contained in Report Reference Number: 0230-6941-0469-1950-6024

If you have a complaint or wish to confirm that the certificate is genuine

Details of the assessor and the relevant accreditation scheme are on the certificate. You can get contact details of the accreditation scheme from the Government's website at www.communities.gov.uk/epbd, together with details of the procedures for confirming authenticity of a certificate and for making a complaint.

CARBON TRUST

For advice on how to take action and to find out about technical and financial assistance schemes to help make buildings more energy efficient visit **www.carbontrust.co.uk** or call us on **0800 085 2005**