

Carbon Reduction Plan and Net Zero Commitment

Concern Worldwide (UK)
March 2023

Commitment to achieving Net Zero

Concern Worldwide UK is committed to achieving Net Zero emissions by 2050.

Through our organisation-wide Environmental Policy and accompanying Strategy, we are committed to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions throughout our global systems and operations and minimising the environmental impact of our programmes. Since 2019, Concern Worldwide has been auditing emissions across the organisation for a sample of country offices including our Irish HQ, US, UK and South Korea support offices as well as at a sample of our offices overseas – DRC, Niger, Pakistan, Sierra Leone and Somalia. Our approach to this carbon audit has been developed with an external carbon analyst and is in line with the GHG Protocol and best practice within our sector, as per the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations.¹

The latest science from the IPCC released in 2022 using 2019 as a baseline, indicates that GHG emissions need to be cut by at least 43% by 2030. This is critical to meeting the Paris Agreement goal of limiting temperature rise to 1.5°C from pre-industrial levels.² As such, reducing emissions by 40-50% by 2030 - and achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 are considered the minimum viable targets necessary to prevent warming of higher than 1.5°C, compared to pre-industrial levels.³

Concern UK is committed to reducing total emissions by 50% from a 2019 baseline by 2030. This emissions reduction is in line with the reductions necessary to be on track to achieving net zero by 2050. Concern UK will continue to monitor progress against this commitment via our annual carbon audit.

The main pathway through which the reduction target for Concern UK will be achieved is via an air travel policy

which aims to limit unnecessary staff air travel and prioritise land transport for short-haul trips. A voluntary flight guideline to reduce business related air travel is already in place and has reduced air travel from Concern UK already. Concern UK does not currently explore options for offsetting emissions. Instead, the organisation is focussing efforts on making absolute emissions reductions. Offsets will then only be applied to residual emissions, where necessary.

¹ Concern signed the Charter in 2020: <https://www.climate-charter.org/>

² <https://www.ipcc.ch/assessment-report/ar6/>

³ <https://www.ipcc.ch/assessment-report/ar6/>

Baseline Emissions Footprint

Baseline emissions are a record of the greenhouse gases that have been produced in the past and were produced prior to the introduction of any strategies to reduce emissions. Baseline emissions are the reference point against which emissions reduction can be measured.

Baseline Year: 2019

Additional details relating to the Baseline Emissions calculations

Baseline carbon emissions data were collected at Concern Worldwide in 2019, which represents a pre-pandemic year. During this baseline assessment, data was collected for our support offices including Irish HQ, UK, US and South Korea offices as well as a sample of 5 overseas country offices. The data collected for Concern UK includes the following Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3 elements: energy use, air travel, ground travel (vehicle use), paper use & printing and waste. The baseline data was analysed with support from an external carbon analyst and reported in an annual Carbon Audit Report.

Due to resource constraints, Scope 3 – Category 4 (Upstream transportation and distribution) and Scope 3 – Category 9 (Downstream transportation and distribution) emissions from our supply chains were not collected during the 2019 baseline assessment. A screening assessment of the emissions from both of these categories has found that the only significant Category 4 emissions are already included in the printing footprint (from external printing), and that Category 9 emissions would represent a small fraction of the baseline total (less than 5%) and so are considered low priority for inclusion at this stage.

It should be noted that for Concern Worldwide's 2022 carbon audit (to be completed in 2023), an assessment of Scope 3 supply chain emissions across the organization will be conducted using emissions factors from the recently published ICRC Carbon Measurement Tool for Humanitarian Aid.

The following calculations have been made to estimate other Scope 3 elements:

1) Scope 3 – Category 5 Waste generated in our UK operations: 0.004 tCO₂e for 2019 Baseline. We assume that the main waste from the UK office is paper, and that it gets recycled at the average UK rate of 71%. 0.21 tonnes of office paper was purchased for the UK offices in 2019. This equates to a carbon footprint of around 0.004 tCO₂e for 2019.

2) Scope 3 – Category 6 Business travel: Baseline air travel and ground travel emissions were calculated for Concern UK based on data collected during the 2019 audit. Air travel = 100 tCO₂e. Ground travel = 0.6 tCO₂e.

3) Scope 3 – Category 7 Employee commuting: It should be noted that data on employee commuting was not collected in 2019. Throughout the pandemic, due to hybrid and remote working, emissions data was not collected for staff commuting. However, this category can be estimated

using national average commuting behaviour and UK staff numbers which equates to a baseline of approximately 44 tCO₂e/year. It should be noted that national average commuting behaviour is 70%- 80% by car. In reality, we believe Concern's UK staff to mostly commute by public transport or walking/cycling. As such, this figure is not included in our reduction projections and will be interrogated further in the 2022 carbon audit based on hybrid working and staff commuting. It is included here for illustrative purposes only.

In summary, Scope 1 emissions for Concern UK is zero, as the office doesn't use gas and no vehicle fuel is bought directly (ground travel by car is included in Scope 3, as it relates to staff using their own cars and being paid for mileage). All of the energy footprint is included in Scope 2 (emissions from office electricity). Scope 3 emissions at Concern UK include Paper use & printing, Air travel, Ground travel and Waste. It should be noted that the emissions from paper use & printing are those emissions from external printing suppliers that are required to print Direct mail and Emergency Appeals as part of our Fundraising efforts.

Baseline year emissions: 2019

EMISSIONS	TOTAL (201 tCO ₂ e)
Scope 1	0
Scope 2	9 tCO ₂ e (Emissions from energy use at Concern UK offices)
Scope 3 (Included Sources)	192 tCO ₂ e (Paper use & printing; Air travel and Ground travel)
Total Emissions	201 tCO₂e

Current Emissions Reporting

Reporting Year: 2021

EMISSIONS	TOTAL (89 tCO ₂ e)
Scope 1	0
Scope 2	2 tCO ₂ e (Emissions from energy use at Concern UK offices)
Scope 3 (Included Sources)	87 tCO ₂ e (Paper use & printing; Air travel and Ground travel)
Total Emissions	89 tCO₂e

Emissions reduction targets

In order to continue our progress to achieving Net Zero, we have adopted the following carbon reduction targets. These targets have been informed by annual carbon auditing at Concern UK which collects the following Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3 elements on an annual basis: Energy use, air travel, ground travel, paper use and printing and waste.

Based on this data, Concern UK project that carbon emissions will decrease over the next 7 years to a total of 100 tCO₂e by 2030, equating to an emissions reduction of 50% from a 2019 baseline. This is in line with the emissions reductions necessary to meet the Paris Agreement and be on track to achieve Net Zero by 2050.

Carbon Reduction Projects

Completed Carbon Reduction Initiatives

The following environmental management measures and projects have been completed or implemented since the 2019 baseline. The carbon emission reduction achieved by these schemes equate to 112 tCO₂e, a 56%ge reduction against the 2019 baseline. It should be noted that the years 2020 and 2021 do not reflect normal operating conditions, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and related travel restrictions – which are reflected in the total emissions. These measures will be in effect when performing the contract and throughout the entirety of its duration. Concern Worldwide has signed the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations, which offers a set of principles to guide humanitarian action in response to the current climate and environmental crises.

- In late 2020, Concern UK introduced a voluntary flight guideline to reduce business flight-related CO₂ emissions as these were our biggest source of carbon emissions based on a 2019 baseline. These included provisions to engage and connect with our global team in alternative ways and shifting from flights to land and sea transport. Those guidelines are now in force and will be reviewed annually to ensure they are effective. They are being developed into an organisation-wide air travel policy to limit unnecessary air travel across Concern Worldwide.
- Light fittings in the London office were changed to LED.
- Concern UK employees are members of the UK Cycle to Work Scheme.
- At the end of 2021, Concern UK changed our energy supplier in our London office to one which provides 100% renewable electricity.
- Concern UK are switching to recycled paper for printing where possible.
- Concern UK has switched to recycled paper for office use.

In the future we hope to implement further measures such as:

- A wider study to inform how to reduce carbon emissions related to paper and printing, looking at energy efficient printing suppliers and using to recycled paper.
- Increasing incentives to cycle to work.
- Switching to a supplier which provides 100% renewable energy in Belfast for both the office and 7 retail outlets.

Declaration and Sign Off

This Carbon Reduction Plan has been completed in accordance with PPN 06/21 and associated guidance and reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans.

Emissions have been reported and recorded in accordance with the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the GHG Reporting Protocol corporate standard⁴ and uses the appropriate Government emission conversion factors for greenhouse gas company reporting.⁵

Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions have been reported in accordance with SECR requirements, and the required subset of Scope 3 emissions have been reported in accordance with the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Standard.⁶ This Carbon Reduction Plan has been reviewed and signed off by the board of directors (or equivalent management body).

Signed on behalf of the Supplier:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danny Harvey". The signature is written over a horizontal dotted line.

Danny Harvey,
Concern (UK) Executive Director

14 March 2023

⁴ <https://ghgprotocol.org/corporate-standard>

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-conversion-factors-for-company-reporting>

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-conversion-factors-for-company-reporting>