

More in Common UK Environmental Protection and Net Zero Policy January 2022

Overview

The climate crisis is the most urgent threat for society today. As an organisation we take this threat extremely seriously and want to ensure that More in Common plays its part in reducing its impact on the environment.

We have committed to achieving net zero as an organisation by 2030. This document sets out our strategy for how we will move forward with addressing these commitments and translate these commitments into action.

We are a small team with around 6 staff in the UK – based primarily at home or at shared co-working office space locations. As a professional services organisation, our main climate impacts are energy use and carbon emissions; materials use and waste; transport; office activities: printing, IT, supplies and services, waste; catering: food, water; business travel and carbon emissions.

This plan will outline the key actions we have taken already in achieving our net zero goal, as well as future plans.

Energy usage

We will ask our office space providers for regular updates on the energy efficiency of the premises where we work, and encourage and support staff members working from home to adopt sustainable best practices for home working.

Business travel

We will only conduct face-to-face fieldwork when we feel it is necessary for the purpose of the project, or necessary to achieve the aims of our broader mission. When travelling within Great Britain, we adopt a 'train first' policy. A moderate level of team travel to meet with partners and understand better the communities will always be required for our society-building type of work. On the limited number of international flights we take, we offset all carbon emissions.

Recycling

It is our policy to recycle waste using the facilities provided in our co-working spaces or home offices. We encourage staff to only print if essential and we record and log our printer usage when done in shared working spaces. Any non-functioning IT equipment or office furniture is to be recycled appropriately.

Suppliers

We want to ensure that the suppliers we use share the same environmental values as More in Common and are working towards becoming Net Zero and reducing their carbon footprint. We will audit our suppliers to ensure we utilise, where possible, suppliers who have a climate strategy and provide transparency of their emission data.

Staff commuting

We ask that London based staff attend the office at least once a week balancing what works best for themselves, our team and our partners. Most of our London based staff

have a variety of low carbon options to travel to work. Some of our team members are based elsewhere in the UK and will continue to need to use air travel (from Northern Ireland) and train/car travel for elsewhere in Great Britain.

Homeworking emissions

As Covid-related restrictions are lifted, we will monitor how often staff members are working from home on average so that we can calculate as accurately as possible what the homeworking emissions are and subsequently report on these.

Promoting healthy lifestyles

We promote the choice of healthy food whenever it's possible to influence this – for example for partner meetings and other staff events. We want to encourage and promote planet-friendly eating and so we will ensure we are using planet-friendly suppliers for all staff catering where this is within our control. As much as possible, we will offer vegetarian and vegan options at staff functions and catering.

IT Strategy and web services

Our IT strategy is centred around cloud services which reduces energy usage through less hardware. Hybrid working inevitably leads to more use of email and web services and therefore we will look to reduce the emissions of these services where possible and offset where we can't reduce. This includes looking at the services we are reliant on including our website, server data centres, Slack and Microsoft applications.

Projects

A key part of our mission is to understand how to avoid our net zero transition being a moment which further divides British society and seize it as an opportunity to unite British society. In 2020, we worked with the European Climate Foundation and Climate Outreach to develop 'Britain Talks Climate' and we continue to work on climate projects for foundations, civil society partners and partners in government and the public service. We will continue to actively seek out opportunities to work on more projects with an environmental focus in the future.

Monitoring and evaluating our progress on net zero

We are committed to monitoring and evaluating our progress towards our net zero aim. We will do this by:

- Developing internal milestones which we will use to assess our progress
- Gaining feedback from our stakeholders including our partners, our team, our suppliers and members of our wider eco-system on our progress
- Reviewing our progress towards Net zero and being agile to make changes to our policies.

To discuss any elements of this document further, please contact:

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