

Deloitte.



The Responsible
Business Network
Northern Ireland



Working together towards
a low-carbon future
Climate Action Pledge

January 2022



Contents



01

THE DECARBONISATION AGENDA

- Business in the Community Northern Ireland
 - Organisations participating in the report
 - Foreword from Deloitte
 - Executive summary
 - Business Action on Climate Champion organisations
-

02

BACKGROUND TO THE CLIMATE ACTION PLEDGE

- Introduction to the Pledge
 - The climate challenges facing business in Northern Ireland today
 - Northern Ireland's greenhouse emissions
-

03

CLIMATE ACTION PLEDGE – RESULTS OVERVIEW

- Measuring a business's scope 1 and 2 emissions
 - Carbon emissions data
-

04

CASE STUDY ANALYSIS

- Danske Bank
 - Diageo & Encirc
 - Deloitte
 - Conclusion
-



01

The decarbonisation agenda

Introduction from Business in the Community Northern Ireland

Foreword from Kieran Harding, Managing Director, Business in the Community Northern Ireland

Climate change is the biggest challenge faced by our planet. It presents real and potentially imminent threats that will negatively impact the environment, industry, trade, and commercial functionality. While the risks of climate inaction are clear, equally, business needs to recognise that by moving to a low-carbon economy Northern Ireland can realise new business opportunities and create a more stable economic model.

Responsible business network Business in the Community Northern Ireland (BITCNI) is proud to be leading on a collaborative climate campaign – Business Action on Climate – that puts Northern Ireland businesses at the forefront of action on the climate emergency.

Through the campaign, together with the CBI, FSB, IoD and NI Chamber and with the support of the Department of Agriculture, Environment, and Rural Affairs, we are calling on organisations of all sizes and from all sectors to sign the Climate Action Pledge and commit to reduce their direct carbon footprint by either 30% or 50% by 2030, with the support and guidance of BITCNI.

The Pledge is a way for businesses to: demonstrate their willingness to collaborate to address this critical issue; make a public commitment to meeting ambitious greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets; and it acts as a catalyst for businesses to undertake wider and more far-reaching complementary climate action initiatives as part of their race to net zero.

I am encouraged that Northern Ireland businesses are responding to this climate call-to-action. As of November 2021, 21 companies have become signatories of the Pledge and have reported on their progress to date, and will continue to do so via the annual Climate Action Pledge Report.

This inaugural Climate Action Pledge Report is an important milestone in an ambitious long-term climate action campaign which creates urgency and a platform for joint action by business. BITCNI is delighted that Deloitte Northern Ireland accepted the invitation to produce this first Report which sets out a clear baseline from which to chart future progress on the decarbonisation pathway.

For the first time, we have a collective cross-sectoral perspective that includes insights from local companies. There is clear evidence that all sectors want to play their part in addressing the climate challenge and that businesses want to work with their stakeholders to create positive change.

BITCNI and its Climate Champion organisations aim for this report to become an annual statement on business action in response to climate change. We recognise that the pathway will be difficult, and that much remains to be done. We believe that the leadership demonstrated by the Pledge signatories and their willingness to be part of this collective report is a foundation on which to build more ambitious and bold action and we thank them for their efforts.

To change everything, we need everyone.



KIERAN HARDING
Managing Director
BITCNI



The Responsible
Business Network
Northern Ireland

Organisations participating in the report



Foreword from Deloitte

Climate change is the most pressing and urgent issue we as a society now face. World scientists agree and are unequivocal in their message; if we fail to halve global greenhouse gas emissions within a decade, it will have a devastating impact on all our lives including our environment, global economy and society.

With the advent of new technologies, globalisation and interconnectivity has exponentially increased. It has many positives in how we live but that connectivity and mutual interdependence has consequences; and we are taking stock of what we are personally willing to sacrifice to protect the shared assets on which we rely. Our world leaders have met at COP26 in Glasgow, and they know that the world must choose between two paths: one of insufficient action, and one of bold, rapid investment in decarbonising the global economy, a monumental transformation that needs to be completed at an unprecedented pace.

This urgency to act also represents a significant opportunity for business to lead and take immediate action to improve operational efficiencies, develop new business strategies to adapt to a lower carbon future, engage and empower talent, enhance capital market attractiveness, and build resilience for future climate disruption. As climate action increasingly becomes a business imperative, now is the time for organisations to reimagine their business models and how they engage with their customers, stakeholders, investors and suppliers.

The core objective of the Climate Action Pledge is to support organisations in managing this transition to a low-carbon and resilient future, encouraging both ambitious commitments and pragmatic action.

I am extremely proud that Deloitte is involved in this partnership with Business in the Community. It aligns well with our ambition to drive responsible climate choices within our organisation and beyond, and our purpose – to make an impact that matters for our clients, people and society.

JACKIE HENRY

Senior Office Partner, Belfast



Executive summary

The Climate Action Pledge Report provides valuable cross-sector insights into the climate journey that organisations are undertaking. This is the inaugural year of the Climate Action Pledge and 21 businesses have signed up to take part and share their climate data. The response we've had from those organisations signals a clear intention to make positive changes and is a good indication of how powerful the Pledge will be going forward.

The Climate Action Pledge is a collaborative initiative intended to strengthen existing support for companies in managing the transition to a low carbon, resilient and valuable future. There are a number of in-depth case studies included and they capture company-specific insights into target setting, drivers of change, programme organisation, the most impactful initiatives, their climate and commercial impact, barriers to progress and lessons learned.

All of the companies who have signed up are publicly committing to reducing their scope 1 and scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions by either 30% or 50% by 2030 and working towards measuring and reporting scope 3 GHG emissions.

The response from the companies demonstrates that real progress is being made in reducing emissions. From the baseline year reporting to the current year reporting, there has been a 35% decrease in carbon emissions across scope 1 and 2 which shows real progress against the Pledge commitments to reduce emissions by either 30 or 50% by 2030.

This report is a first step in our journey. The data and trends provided by the 21 companies that have signed up to this Pledge signals a clear and positive intent to drive down emissions. They are leading the way for businesses in Northern Ireland and BITCNI has ambitions to grow the number who are signed up to the Pledge significantly. As more companies come on board and the support and platforms that surround it evolve, our collective response will strengthen and together we will make real and lasting contributions on the fight against rising temperatures in our world.

Together we will succeed.



Business Action on Climate Champion organisations

CLIMATE CHAMPIONS



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



SUPPORTED BY





02

Background to the Climate Action Pledge

The climate challenges
businesses in Northern
Ireland face today

Introduction to the Pledge

- The UK government's Net Zero Strategy lays out how the government intends to halve UK emissions in just over 10 years, and to eliminate them by 2050. If this strategy is successful it will bring jobs, investment and wider benefits to the UK.¹
- In Northern Ireland, The Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has published a draft Green Growth Strategy.² This strategy is the Northern Ireland Executive's multi-decade strategy, balancing climate, environment and the economy in Northern Ireland. It sets out the long-term vision and a framework for tackling the climate crisis.
- Two Climate Change Bills are currently progressing through the Assembly's legislative process. These have different headline greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. The Climate Change Bill brought forward by DAERA sets out a target of at least 82% net reduction in Northern Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, in line with the Climate Change Committee's assessment of what is Northern Ireland's fair, equitable and achievable contribution towards the UK net zero by 2050 target. A Private Member's Bill sets a target for Northern Ireland of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045.
- BITCNI recognises the need for businesses and organisations in NI to work together to achieve the targets set out in the Green Growth Strategy. The key objective of the Climate Action Pledge is to accelerate progress in the climate transition, in order to reduce emissions and enhance resilience. By publishing emissions data, inspiring further climate commitments and action, and facilitating collaboration, significant progress can be made.
- This cannot be a singular action but rather will take significant commitment from every sector to develop and implement the solutions that are required to reverse climate change. This Pledge is designed to help with that effort in encouraging and supporting local businesses across sectors in Northern Ireland to lower their emissions.
- Signing the Climate Action Pledge is a public commitment by an organisation to reduce its absolute scope 1 and scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions by either 30% or 50% by 2030; and to work towards measuring and reporting scope 3 GHG emissions. By signing the Climate Action Pledge, and setting and striving to achieve ambitious GHG reduction targets, Northern Ireland organisations can demonstrate willingness to collaborate to address this critical issue, as part of their race to net zero.

The climate challenges businesses in Northern Ireland face today

- 21 businesses have signed up to the Pledge this year and BITCNI have ambitions to greatly increase that number in the coming years. This number of business participants has limited the analysis somewhat in that sectoral analysis could not be carried out and the data provided is not fully representative of all businesses across Northern Ireland.
- BITCNI has made a creditable effort in this inaugural year on the Climate Action Pledge and each year it plans to increase the number of participants and businesses taking part in the emissions tracking exercise. To understand the particular climate challenges facing business in Northern Ireland, it is necessary to take a view of the particular business landscape within the region: essentially Northern Ireland is a small business economy, with the highest concentration of SMEs in all the regions in the UK. 98% of all firms employ fewer than 20 people, while 95% employ fewer than ten. Northern Ireland SMEs provide 75% of all private sector jobs, and two-thirds of private sector turnover.³
- SMEs face particular challenges on reducing emissions. The way in which SMEs are typically structured makes their emissions journey seem relatively straightforward; they typically have a small physical footprint, a small number of employees who commute, combined with short supply chains.
- However, SMEs generally do not own their buildings and some do not pay their own energy bills. Key functions on manufacturing or services may be outsourced to reduce costs. Constrained staff resources means that focus on climate and net zero is carried out in addition to a person's main responsibilities. Their small size can also mean they lack the scale to decrease cost in critical areas i.e. in sourcing raw materials and energy supplies. All of these factors can combine to ensuring that reducing scope 1 emissions and making it critical to business operations and growth is a challenging task for SMEs.
- BITCNI recognises these issues and is working closely with those SMEs to help find solutions to this particular set of challenges. In direct response, BITCNI has recently launched its new Climate Action Programme. The Programme is based on a pilot programme that was developed and delivered in partnership with Danske Bank in early 2021. The Climate Action Programme will involve 15 larger established businesses engaging eight SMEs (seven medium and one small) in their value chain, supporting them on a journey to achieve net zero. The participating SMEs will benefit from Carbon Literacy Training, three bespoke workshops, 1:1 advice and support on measuring their carbon footprint, developing an action plan, setting targets and developing a mitigation strategy.

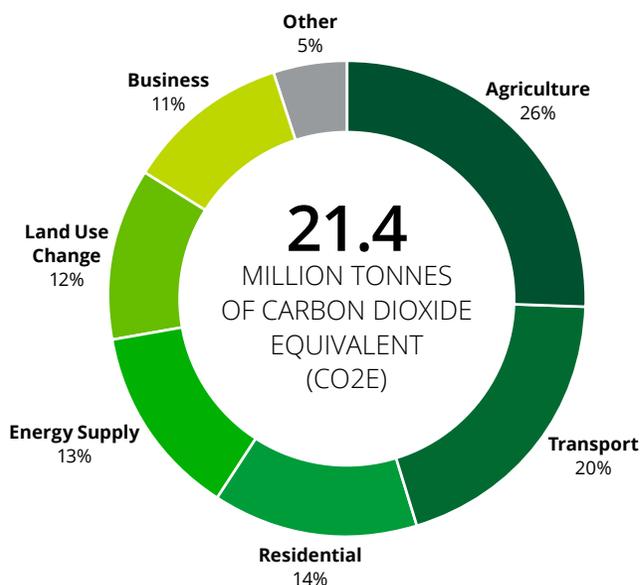


ESSENTIALLY, NORTHERN IRELAND IS A SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMY, WITH THE HIGHEST CONCENTRATION OF SMES IN ALL THE REGIONS IN THE UK... SMES FACE PARTICULAR CHALLENGES ON REDUCING EMISSIONS.

Northern Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions

Industry overview and the challenges ahead

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY SECTOR IN NORTHERN IRELAND



Sector	2019 (in MtCO ₂ e)	% of total emissions 2019
Agriculture	5.6	26%
Transport	4.2	20%
Residential	2.9	14%
Energy Supply	2.8	13%
Land Use Change	2.5	12%
Business	2.3	11%
Other	1.1	5%
Total	21.4	100%

- In 2019, Northern Ireland's total greenhouse gas emissions were estimated to be 21.4 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. Northern Ireland accounted for 5% of UK greenhouse gas emissions, compared to approximately 3% of the UK population. Agriculture (26%), transport (20%) and residential buildings (14%) were the largest sectors in terms of emissions in Northern Ireland (2019).⁴
- Most sectors showed a decreasing trend. The largest decreases were in the energy supply, waste management and residential sectors. These were driven by the energy sector fuel switching from coal to natural gas.
- Whilst local government is taking steps towards a greener future, it is acknowledged that how we as a society are operating is not going far enough to deliver the improvements needed to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Therefore, this Pledge undertaken by local businesses is timely and appropriate. It demonstrates the desire of those businesses to work together to achieve the goals set out around lowering emissions.
- To achieve this overall GHG emissions target of 82% by 2050, a 48% reduction in all emissions needs to be achieved by 2030 and 69% by 2040. It is acknowledged that achieving these reductions will be difficult and the reductions of 18% achieved in the last 31 years highlight the scale of the challenge ahead in the coming 29 years. In the next ten years, Northern Ireland will have to do almost twice as much in less than a third of the time means that we need a fundamental change in our approach. We must take action urgently.

IN 2019, NORTHERN IRELAND'S TOTAL GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS WERE ESTIMATED TO BE 21.4 MILLION TONNES OF CARBON DIOXIDE EQUIVALENT. NORTHERN IRELAND ACCOUNTED FOR 5% OF UK GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, COMPARED TO APPROXIMATELY 3% OF THE UK POPULATION.

The background of the slide is an aerial photograph of terraced rice fields, rendered in a monochromatic green color. The terraces are arranged in a complex, wavy pattern that resembles a fingerprint, with lines curving and branching across the landscape. The lighting creates subtle gradients of green, from dark forest green in the shadows to a lighter, almost yellowish-green in the sunlit areas.

03

Climate Action Pledge

Summary findings
and results overview

Measuring a business's scope 1 and 2 emissions

A business's carbon footprint is measured by totalling all its greenhouse gas emissions. It is typically divided into three areas or 'scopes'.

SCOPE 1 EMISSIONS

- These emissions are typically produced by the fuel i.e. gas, petrol or diesel that is used in a business. An example of this might be from company vehicles or fuel used operationally in industry. These are all scope 1 emissions.

SCOPE 2 EMISSIONS

- These emissions are produced from the electricity that is used within a business. These are scope 2 emissions.
- Scope 1 and 2 emissions can sometimes collectively be known as 'operational' emissions.

SCOPE 3 EMISSIONS

- Scope 3 are commonly known as 'value chain' emissions. These are emissions associated not with a company itself, but with the other entities it interacts with up and down the value chain. Examples of upstream emissions include those generated by a supplier's distribution activities, and the production of raw materials or components bought by the company. Downstream, the term covers emissions generated by the use or disposal of the end product that the company sells, as well as all their business travel.
- In this report, we focus on scope 1 and 2 emissions. Scope 3 emissions have not been measured. The reason for this is that scope 1 and 2 emissions are more directly controlled by businesses and the carbon accounting options are better developed.
- It is intended that in the future, BITCNI will work with the Pledge signatories to help them work towards measuring and recording their scope 3 emissions.

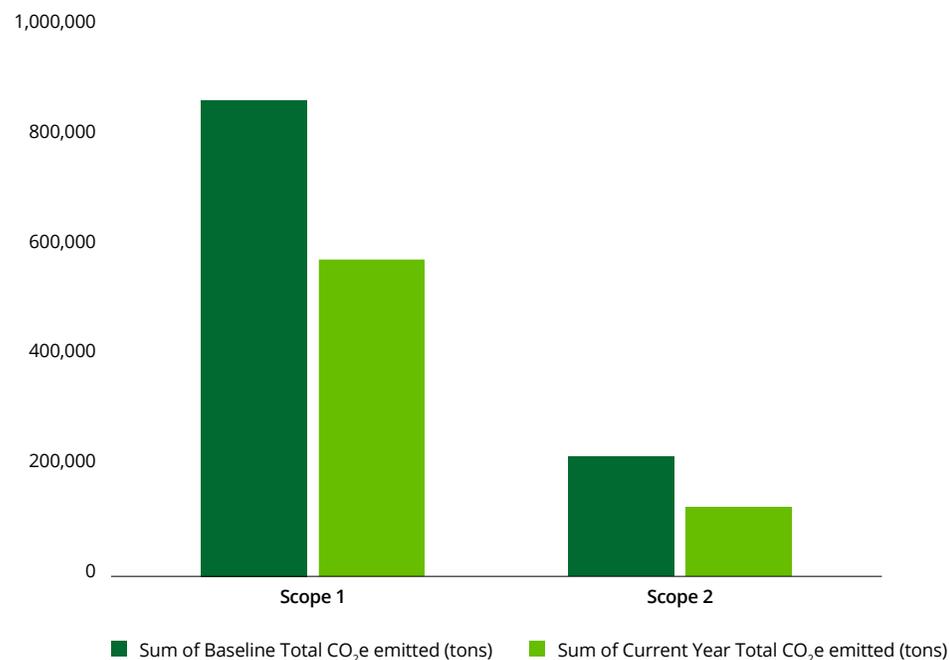
IN THIS REPORT WE FOCUS ON SCOPE 1 AND 2 EMISSIONS... THESE EMISSIONS ARE MORE DIRECTLY CONTROLLED BY BUSINESSES AND THE CARBON ACCOUNTING OPTIONS ARE BETTER DEVELOPED.

Carbon emissions data

Comparing the Base Year versus the Current Year

BASELINE VS CURRENT YEAR EMISSION TOTALS BY SCOPE

CO2 Emissions (Tons)



Total Emissions in TCO2E			
	SCOPE 1	SCOPE 2	SCOPE 3
Baseline Year	883,000	203,000	1,086,000
Current Year	594,000	112,000	706,000

The data collected from those businesses who have signed up to the Pledge provides an encouraging view in terms of lowering carbon emissions. It also demonstrates a commitment and awareness to ensure that climate action is critical to business operations. The data collected will also provide an important benchmark against future carbon emissions data of the Pledge signatories.

The total emissions for the baseline years totalled 1,086,000 tCO₂e. The various company's Climate Action Pledge signatories were allowed to choose their baseline year, and they ranged from 2017 – 2020. The current years data shows emissions of 706,000 tCO₂e. Comparing the baseline data to the current year's data demonstrates that there has been a significant reduction overall of nearly 380,000 tCO₂e across scope 1 and 2 emissions or 35%.

Emissions from scope 1 for this year account for 84% of total emissions with the remaining 16% accounted for in scope 2 emissions.

Scope 1 emissions decreased by approximately 300,000 tCO₂e or 33% decrease from a starting point of 883,000 tCO₂e from the baseline year to 594,000 tCO₂e for this current year. It should be noted that in 2021 scope 1 emissions will be reduced in part because of the reduced levels of activity across many industries and sectors in response to Covid restrictions.

Scope 2 emissions have also considerably decreased by approximately 90,000 tCO₂e or over 40%. The data demonstrates that there has been a positive downward trend and that a reduction in scope 1 emissions continue to be the main emission driver.

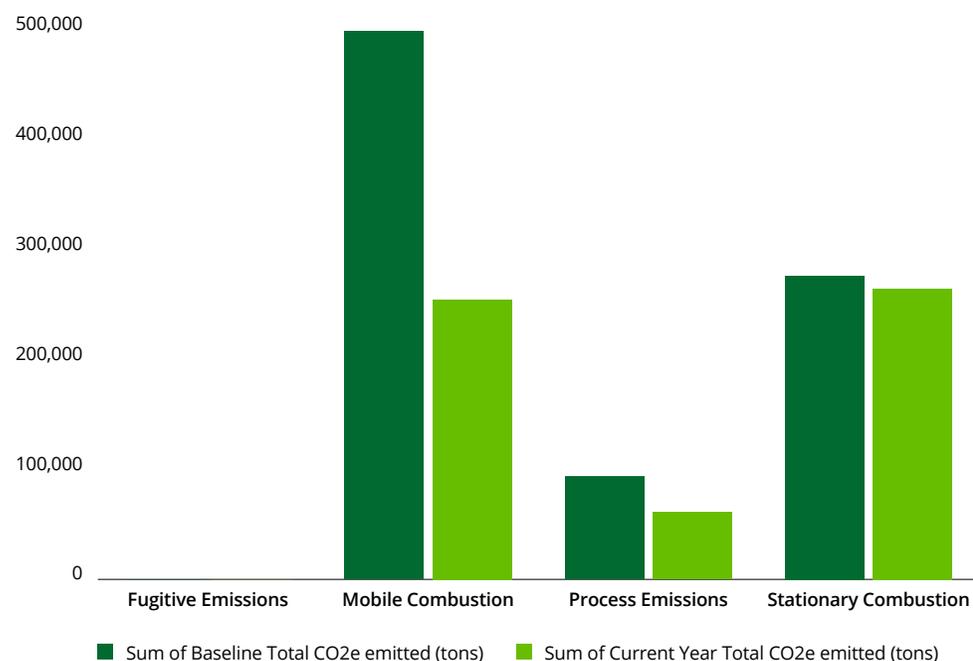
THE DATA COLLECTED FROM THOSE BUSINESSES WHO HAVE SIGNED UP TO THE PLEDGE PROVIDES AN ENCOURAGING VIEW IN TERMS OF LOWERING CARBON EMISSIONS. IT ALSO DEMONSTRATES A COMMITMENT AND AWARENESS TO ENSURE THAT CLIMATE ACTION IS CRITICAL TO BUSINESS OPERATIONS.

Carbon emissions data

A breakdown analysis of scope 1 emissions

EMISSIONS SOURCE TREND – BASELINE VS CURRENT – SCOPE 1

CO₂ Emissions (Tons)



SCOPE 1 EMISSION AREAS

Scope 1 emissions covers the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that a company makes directly, for example while running its boilers and vehicles. Scope 1 emissions are divided into 4 areas:

- **Fugitive Emissions:** The emissions produced by leaks of greenhouse gases, for example from refrigeration and air-conditioning units.
- **Mobile Emissions:** The emissions that are produced by mobile sources i.e. fuels burned in vehicles.
- **Process Emissions:** The emissions that are produced by the chemical transformation of raw materials.
- **Stationary Combustion:** The emissions that are produced by use of fossil fuels in furnaces and boilers etc.

DIESEL USAGE IS THE MAIN SOURCE OF MOBILE EMISSIONS AND WAS THE MAIN DRIVER AROUND THE DECREASE FROM THE BASE PERIOD TO THE CURRENT YEAR.

ANALYSIS OF SCOPE 1 EMISSIONS

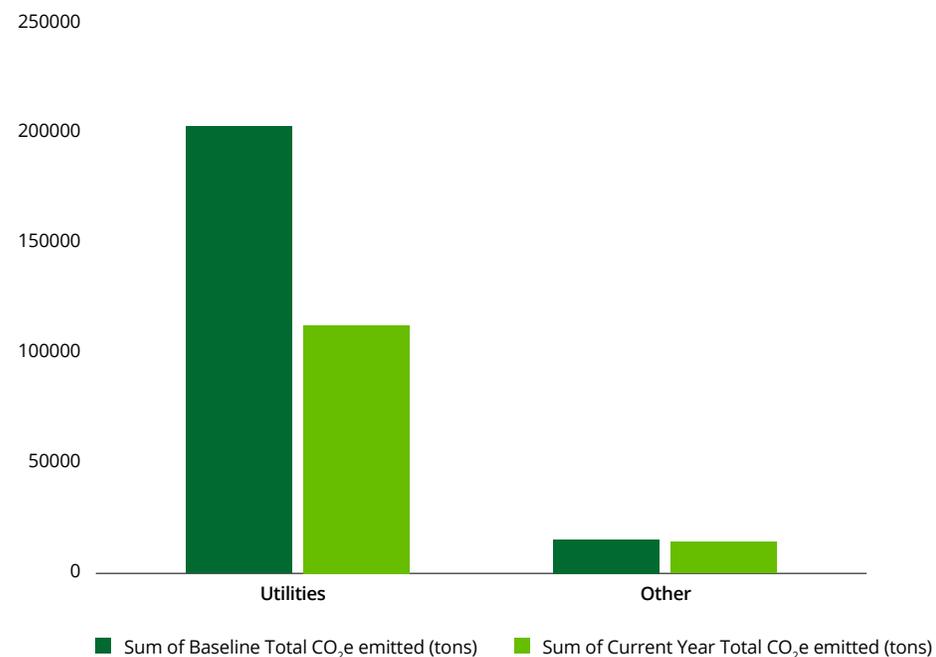
A reduction in Mobile Emissions has been the biggest driver in the reduction of scope 1 emissions. It has seen the biggest decrease between the base period and the current year with a 50% decrease from nearly 500,000 tCO₂e to approximately 250,000 tCO₂e.

Fossil fuel use in company vehicles i.e. fleet vehicles and company cars, creates mobile emissions. Diesel usage is the main source of mobile emissions and was the main driver around the decrease from the base period to the current year. The decrease likely stems from investment in company vehicle efficiency i.e. introductions of electric vehicles and operational changes resulting in more efficient usage of transport and Covid restrictions on business operations.

Process emissions also seen a decrease dropping from 90,000 tCO₂e to 60,000 tCO₂e. Whilst stationary and fugitive emission sources stayed relatively unchanged.

EMISSIONS SOURCE TREND – BASELINE VS CURRENT YEAR – SCOPE 2

CO2 Emissions (Tons)



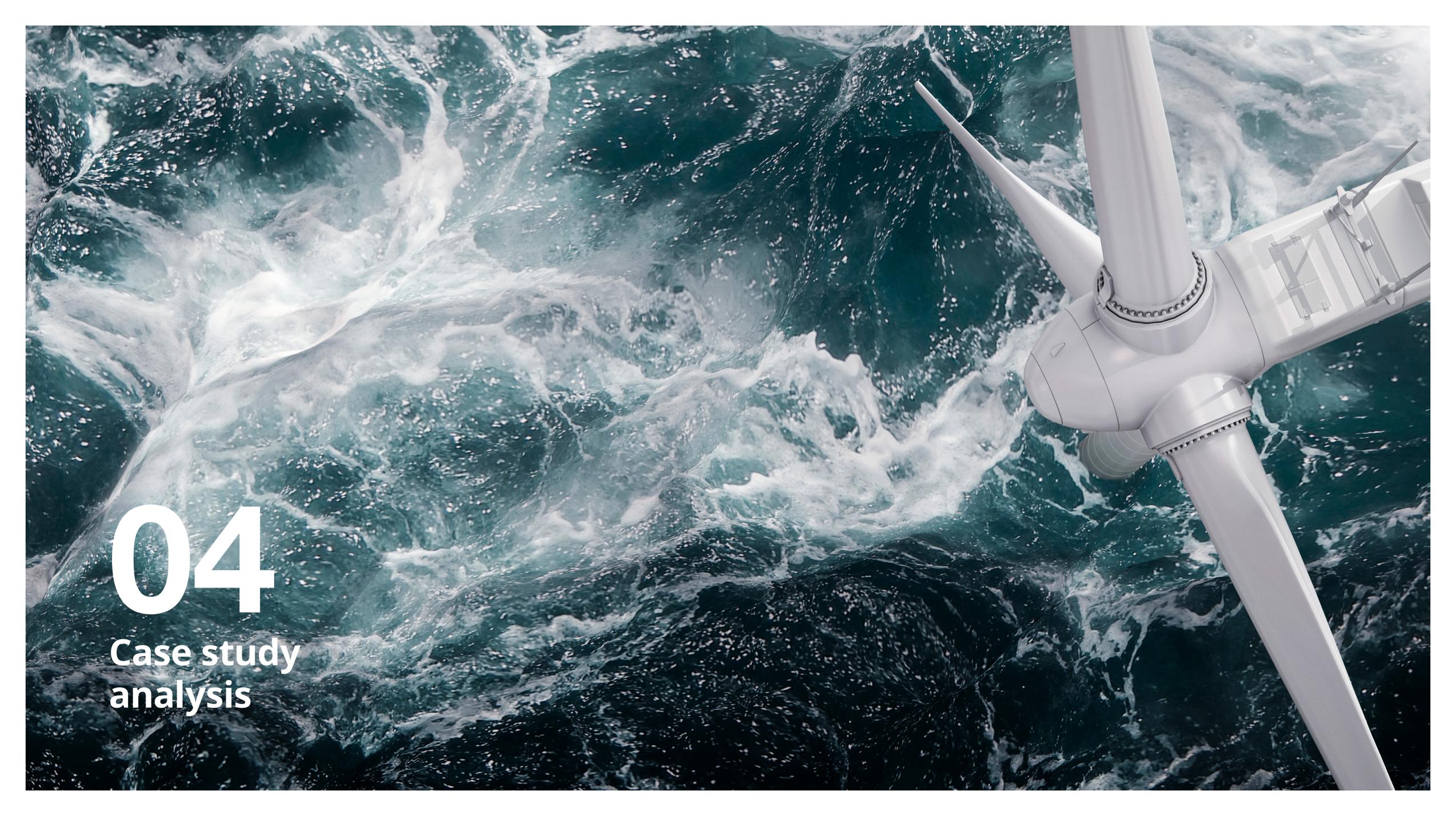
ANALYSIS OF SCOPE 2 EMISSIONS

Scope 2 refers to indirect emissions from the generation of our purchased electricity; district heating & cooling; and owned electric vehicles

The majority of scope 2 emissions comes from purchased electricity. There has been a significant decrease in scope 2 emissions from the base period from 203 tCO₂e to 112 tCO₂e, a decrease of nearly 50%. A reduction at this scale would normally suggest that many companies are now purchasing electricity from renewable sources; however given the reduced circumstances in which businesses were operating in during the pandemic, it should be noted that it some of the reductions can be attributed directly to this. When it comes to energy usage, companies now have a dual focus to include reduction in usage and a switch to renewable sources.

Specific business initiatives to encourage sustainable use of energy combined with energy companies providing services designed to enhance energy efficiency and save on cost means that there has been a significant decrease in energy used from purchased electric.

THERE HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT DECREASE IN SCOPE 2 EMISSIONS FROM THE BASE PERIOD FROM 203 TCO₂E TO 112 TCO₂E, A DECREASE OF NEARLY 50%. A REDUCTION AT THIS SCALE WOULD SUGGEST THAT MANY COMPANIES ARE NOW PURCHASING ELECTRICITY FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES.

An aerial, high-angle photograph of a white wind turbine in the middle of a vast, turbulent ocean. The water is a deep, dark teal color, with white foam and spray from the waves crashing against the turbine's base and blades. The turbine's three blades are visible, extending outwards. The nacelle and tower are also visible, showing the mechanical details of the structure. The overall scene conveys a sense of power and the harsh environment of offshore wind energy.

04

Case study
analysis

Danske Bank

DANSKE BANK

The Bank achieved the Business & Biodiversity Charter in 2019 and has consistently led the way in its sector in the annual NI Environmental Benchmarking Survey, achieving Platinum level again in 2021. Despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, Danske Bank significantly stepped up its commitment and efforts to tackle climate change and contribute to a more sustainable future.

WHAT DANSKE BANK DID

Danske Bank's Executive Committee (ExCo) has put climate at the heart of the Bank's Corporate Plan. Being 'Sustainable and Responsible' is one of five key strategic priorities, placing environmental leadership at the centre of the Bank's ambitions.

In 2020 the Board and ExCo began to embed climate change and sustainability in the Bank's organisational culture..

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2020/21 INCLUDE:

- Creating a new role of Head of Sustainability
- Developing a Climate Strategy
- Putting robust governance in place
- Becoming BITCNI 's Climate Champion for the financial services sector, actively calling on other businesses to take action on climate
- Hosting a BITCNI roundtable with the UK's Climate Action Champion Nigel Topping
- Becoming the first bank (and one of the first organisations) to sign BITCNI 's Climate Action Pledge
- Including a 'Sustainable and Responsible' KPI within every employee's performance
- Developing strategic new partnerships to reduce environmental impact
- Helping other businesses transition – co-developing an innovative Climate Action Programme



THE FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR HAS A BIG PART TO PLAY IN HELPING BUSINESSES AND CUSTOMERS TRANSITION TOWARDS A ZERO-CARBON ECONOMY. IN THE NEXT 5-10 YEARS ONE OF THE BIGGEST THINGS WE CAN DO IS TO HELP NI BUSINESSES TO BE READY FOR THE NEXT 50 YEARS. WE HAVE THEREFORE PUT SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE AT THE TOP OF OUR SOCIETAL AGENDA.

VICKY DAVIES, CEO, DANSKE BANK

Danske Bank

IMPACTS AND OUTCOMES:

- Rated as an 'Outstanding' place to work by Best Companies, achieving a top 10 listing across all sectors in NI
- 11 'Green Champions' across the Bank's branch network who lead its green agenda among peers and colleagues
- 20 colleagues helped create the biodiversity/outdoor learning spaces at 11 primary schools
- 500+ employees have taken part in climate and environment training in 2021
- 40+ Corporate and Business Managers received training on how to integrate sustainability into decision-making
- Enhanced reputation by raising awareness of climate initiatives through climate communications plan and Responsible Business Report
- Removed petrol and diesel options from its car scheme and committed to a zero emissions fleet by end 2025
- 100% of electricity is obtained from certified renewable sources
- Installed additional 'living walls' within head office, contributing significantly to the quality of the building's environment and positively to the wellbeing of those who work there
- Added value for six corporate customers by nominating them for the Climate Action Programme pilot with BITCNI which provides NI businesses with a structured series of workshops and tangible outcomes designed to promote climate adaption within their business and highlight the need for environmental awareness and response
- Supported the voluntary sector by donating employee time and skills to partners working in the environmental sector, such as Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful, Eco-Schools and Ulster Wildlife




Diageo and Encirc have collaborated on a trial to make the most sustainable glass Scotch whisky bottles ever.

Diageo, a global leader in beverage alcohol, with a collection of over 200 brands, employs over 27,000 people, and has been a member of Business in the Community Northern Ireland (BITCNI) since 2007. Part of the Vidrala Group, Encirc was founded in 1998 and is a manufacturer and supplier of glass containers based across three sites in England, Northern Ireland and Italy. Each year it produces more than 4 billion glass containers for leading global brands. Encirc has been a member of BITCNI since 2018.

Both businesses are committed to doing things sustainably and finding opportunities to innovate in a climate-positive manner. Diageo has implemented a 10-year action plan to help create a more inclusive and sustainable world, called 'Society 2030: Spirit of Progress'. Amongst the targets involved in this plan, three relate directly to climate-positive action: preserve water for life; accelerate to a low carbon world, and become sustainable by design.

Encirc is committed to being a forward-thinking manufacturer in a socially and environmentally conscious world. Its ethos is underpinned by six key values, including sustainability, innovation and continuous improvement, and collaboration.

The collaboration between Diageo and Encirc to reduce the carbon footprint of glass bottle-making processes demonstrates these commitments in action. The members worked with leading industry research and technology body Glass Futures to use waste-based biofuel-powered furnaces in the production of glass bottles for the Black & White Scotch whisky brand. In a trial, the three organisations produced 173,000 bottles of Black & White with a near 90% reduction in carbon emissions. The trial used 100% recycled glass, making this batch the most environmentally friendly ever produced for a Scotch whisky brand.



WE ARE COMMITTED TO CREATING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR OUR BUSINESS AND THAT INCLUDES LOOKING FOR INNOVATIVE NEW WAYS TO MAKE OUR BOTTLES AND PACKAGING THAT REDUCES THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF OUR PRODUCTS.

JOHN AIRD, SENIOR PACKAGING TECHNOLOGIST AT DIAGEO




Recognising the opportunity for further reductions to its environmental impact, Diageo is working to develop and scale the trial for future production, which it hopes will represent a significant step forward in making its grain-to-glass supply chain more sustainable. This project forms part of the UK Government Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Energy Innovation Programme, exploring the most effective routes to using low carbon fuels in glass manufacture processes.

“We are committed to creating a sustainable future for our business and that includes looking for innovative new ways to make our bottles and packaging that reduces the carbon footprint of our products,” says John Aird, Senior Packaging Technologist at Diageo. “This trial is just a first step in the journey to decarbonise this aspect of our supply chain and we still have a long way to go, but we are delighted with the results of the collaboration and the platform it creates for future innovation.”

Reflecting further on the collaboration, Fiacre O’Donnell, Director of Sustainability at Vidrala says “The results we’re seeing from this biofuel trial are truly remarkable and paint a very bright and sustainable future for our industry. These ultra-low-CO2 containers we’re making are being produced for some of the biggest names in the drinks industry, showing how united we all are in our quest for total sustainability.”

Adrian Curry, Managing Director at Encirc, suggests that the success of this trial can act as a leading light for others in the industry. “This is a truly momentous occasion for glass,” Adrian says, “we have set the standard globally with this trial and now the glass industry needs to work towards realising what we’ve proved is possible. We now know that glass can be the most sustainable of all packaging types and must all work together to ensure that happens.”



WORKING WITH BITCNI HAS BEEN FANTASTIC FOR US AS SUSTAINABILITY IS AT OUR CORE, AND WE BELIEVE THAT COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION ARE KEY TO TACKLING THE CLIMATE CRISIS. BITCNI SHARES MANY OF THE SAME GOALS AS ENCIRC AND TOGETHER WE CAN BUILD BACK RESPONSIBLY

FIACRE O’DONNELL, DIRECTOR OF SUSTAINABILITY, VIDRALA



A COMMITMENT TO ACHIEVE NET-ZERO GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG) EMISSIONS BY 2030 FOR OUR OWN OPERATIONS

Mitigating the impacts of climate change is a monumental task. At Deloitte we are coming together to drive positive change. We believe that progress is possible if we act collectively and we as a business, in line with wider society take urgent and immediate action. We recognise change starts within, and therefore Deloitte has set higher standards for itself, empowering our people and connecting with our broader ecosystem, creating solutions that facilitate the transition to a low carbon economy.

Deloitte has launched WorldClimate – our global plan to achieve net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for our own operations by 2030 and drive responsible climate choices within our organisation and beyond.

Our biggest priority is reducing emissions. We've set and shared ambitious goals that touch on every aspect of our organisation and which are guiding the action our people are taking with clients, alliance partners, suppliers and other stakeholders.

Backed by the Science-Based Targets Initiative (SBTI), our plans are aligned with Paris Agreement ambitions – to keep the world within a 1.5°C temperature increase. Our commitment to address the climate crisis also inspired us to join the UN's Race to Zero campaign – the largest ever alliance committed to achieve net zero emissions.

EMPOWERING OUR PEOPLE

WorldClimate is empowering our entire business to take action on climate change. Using our bespoke interactive climate impact assessment tool, our #iAct campaign encourages our people to set their own climate action commitments, in their work and home lives.

With support from the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the #iAct assessment tool asked people to think about the decisions they make when heating and cooling their homes, buying new items with packaging, making travel choices and more. This first-of-a-kind initiative has helped empower our people to take steps to reduce their carbon footprint.

TAKING RESPONSIBILITY

This year we signed onto all three of the core initiatives of The Climate Group to drive climate action quickly – one of only a handful of companies to make the triple commitments of supporting renewable energy, electric vehicle adoption and energy productivity.

We also announced the introduction of a new default pension. With £1 billion of pensions investment, the move saw us become the largest investor in Aberdeen Standard Investments (ASI) Sustainable World Index Fund, which assesses investments across environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors.

Our emissions reduction plan touches on every aspect of our organisation. Deloitte's WorldClimate strategy sets targets for our existing operations, renewable energy, waste reduction, circular economy and suppliers. In 2020, Deloitte procured 100 per cent renewable electricity. We have pledged to reduce waste production by an additional 50 per cent per person whilst minimising the creation of plastic, food and single-use waste within our operations.

One of our key aims is to increase recycling rates to over 75 per cent and send zero waste to landfill, while also supporting the circular economy. We can do this by prioritising suppliers that design out the use of virgin materials in their products and ensure their recyclability at end-of-life.

Emissions within our supply chain account for around 70 per cent of our carbon footprint. Managing our supply chain responsibly and positively influencing suppliers is one of the most impactful ways we will make a difference. We have also committed to ensure that at least 67 per cent of our suppliers have aligned science-based carbon reduction targets by 2025.

AN OFFICE FOR THE FUTURE

As part of the firm's continued efforts to achieve net zero, our emissions reduction plan has shaped our attitude towards our workspaces. Our new Belfast Head Quarters, located at the historic Ewart Warehouse on Bedford Street, will aim to obtain the BREEAM excellent rating for sustainability; a status awarded by BREEAM UK, which assesses new and refurbished buildings according to the environmental sustainability standards.

Bedford Square, will become our central hub; removing excess workspaces and supporting our hybrid, choice-led working model of the future. This compliments our commitment to reducing our travel emissions by 50 per cent per FTE. By investing in digital collaboration tools and using our Sustainable Delivery Framework to deliver international projects, we'll support our clients more sustainably.

COLLABORATING FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Looking outside of our firm, we're also supporting markets and organisations to contribute to a more sustainable future, helping businesses and governments on their own net zero journeys.

By investing in our sustainability services, we aim to help industries think systemically about the changes needed, whether through responsible finance, decarbonisation strategies, or carbon reporting. Now is the time for change, it is vital that we all take the urgent and immediate actions to reach the goals of the Paris Agreement. Contact our Belfast Sustainability and Climate Team (UKBelfastSustainabilityClimateTeam@Deloitte.co.uk) for support with your own climate action plan. Together we can make a difference.



DELOITTE IS AWARE OF THE CLIMATE CHALLENGES WE ARE FACING. OUR FIRM HAS 1000 PEOPLE IN BELFAST, IT IS OUR MORAL AND SOCIAL OBLIGATION TO INFLUENCE CHANGE, COMBINING THE SKILLS OF OUR PEOPLE TO PROVIDE INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO HELP CLIENTS TACKLE THEIR BIGGEST ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS.

MARK CREE, DELOITTE NI CLIMATE COMMISSIONER

Conclusion

This report is a first step for businesses in Northern Ireland to commit to lowering their Greenhouse gas emissions. The analysis demonstrates that businesses are taking positive steps in reducing their impact on the environment with significant reductions across scope 1 and 2 emissions.

Businesses in Northern Ireland are aware that positive engagement on climate is being increasingly demanded by environmentally conscious consumers and shareholders. By taking part in this initiative with Business in the Community NI it not only demonstrates their commitment to lowering emissions but also sends positive signals to their customers that climate is an area that is of critical importance to it.

BITCNI has a strong relationships with the business community in Northern Ireland. This first report demonstrates real progress in engaging with those businesses on their climate journey and delivering real change in helping them take action on reducing their emissions. Over the past year, BITCNI has engaged these businesses in a programme of events to support, guide and advise them on their climate journey.

The team at Business in the Community NI has:

- Developed and delivered 9 'Time to Act' webinars to an approximate audience of over 400 people across a wide variety of industries and sectors
- Developed accredited Carbon Literacy Training and trained over 50 individuals to date (January 2021)
- Delivered 13 bespoke advisory sessions
- Developed a COP26 Hub for Northern Ireland businesses

The various programmes detailed above have been very well received. It has enabled businesses to ask critical questions and understand the steps they need to take to lowering emissions. BITCNI will continue to build on the success of the first year and engage with more businesses to sign the Pledge and start the journey on lowering emissions, to ensure the safe future of our world.



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FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information on Business Action on Climate visit **www.bitcni.org.uk/climate**

Or email **environment@bitcni.org.uk**

Endnotes

1. www.theccc.org.uk
2. www.daera-ni.gov.uk
3. www.fsb.org.uk
4. www.daera-ni.gov.uk



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