

Carbon Reduction Plan

Supplier name: British Geological Survey (BGS)

Publication date: March 2026

Commitment to achieving net zero

The British Geological Survey, as part of UKRI, is committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2050. BGS aim to achieve net-zero carbon for our directly managed estates and research in line with the UKRI commitment. By 2050, we will have substantially raised our standard for environmental sustainability, and we will have fully embedded it in our science strategy and estate management; we plan to work beyond compliance.

Our research, focusing on decarbonisation and resource management, environmental change adaptation and resilience, and multi hazards and resilience, enables us to understand how our planet is changing and to contribute solutions and adaptive responses. We acknowledge, however, that the research we undertake and how we support it has its own impact on the environment. BGS also collaborates with other organisations in the UK and internationally and we will actively support our and their environmental sustainability agendas and encourage them to share our values.

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. These emissions are the reference point against which emissions reduction can be measured. BGS has operated an environmental management system certified to ISO 14001 since 2005, achieving reductions to resource and enabling the effective implementation of policy and procedures.

Baseline year: FY2017/2018	
Baseline year emissions:	
Emissions	Total (tCO₂e)
Scope 1	1423
Direct emissions from buildings, fuel use and fleet vehicles	
Scope 2	1868
Direct emissions from purchased electricity	
Scope 3	1979
Business Travel – 1096 tCO ₂ e	
Waste – 1.24 tCO ₂ e	
Employee commuting – 882 tCO ₂ e	
upstream transportation and distribution, and downstream transportation and distribution – 0 (this was not measured during the baseline year).	
Total emissions	5270

Current emissions reporting

Reporting year: FY2024/2025	
Emissions	TOTAL (tCO _{2e})
Scope 1	1302
Scope 2	870
Scope 3	1010
Business Travel – 500 tCO _{2e}	
Waste – 1.15 tCO _{2e}	
employee commuting – 508 tCO _{2e}	
upstream transportation and distribution, and downstream transportation and distribution – 0 (this was not measured during the financial year).	
Total emissions	3182

Emissions reduction targets

To meet our Net Zero by 2050 target, we have adopted the following interim carbon reduction targets:

- 40% emission reduction by 2025
- 50% emission reduction by 2030

We project that carbon emissions will continue to decrease over the coming years. The reporting year of FY2024/2025 presents significantly lower emission by 39.6% than the baseline year, slightly missed the first interim target.

Carbon reduction projects

Completed carbon reduction initiatives

- Since the 2017/18 baseline, at BGS headquarters site, have implemented several carbon reduction projects including the installation of two solar arrays, saving 149.5 tCO₂e/year in FY2024/2025. We have also installed air source heat pump, taking 3 of our buildings off gas, with gas related carbon savings of about 300 tCO₂e/year.
- Ground source heat pump (phase 1) has been under testing and commissioning at BGS headquarters site since May 2025, supplying heat for 2 of our buildings. During the first six-month operation (May – Nov 2025), there has been a carbon saving of 43 tCO₂e when compared with the same period in 2024.
- Highly efficient windows have been installed on 2 of our workshop buildings at BGS headquarters site, these replace old, blown inefficient ones.
- On-going replacement of building lighting with LEDs/PIR lighting controls in both BGS headquarters site and Edinburgh office.
- Installation of sub metering across our BGS headquarters site which allows for close and accurate monitoring and measuring of energy consumption per building, in turn, provides data to drive behaviour change to reduce carbon emissions.
- Participate in the Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework (LEAF) programme and awarded Gold level certificates for various laboratories at BGS headquarters site.
- Reduced business travel emissions through a carbon accounting methodology. We capture emissions for all BGS air travel, monitoring the data to in turn inform travel planning and raise awareness to staff.
- Developed an Environment Dashboard and published on the BGS Environmental and Sustainability intranet. It provides environmental related data, including electricity and gas consumptions, associated costs, as well as relevant greenhouse gas emissions.

Future carbon reduction initiatives

In the future we are planning to implement further measures, including:

- New electricity heating system is under installation in Hartland observatory to replace oil powered heating system. Installation of these systems in another two observatories, Herstmonceux and Eskdalemuir observatories, will take place soon.
- Ground source heat pump (phase 2) is currently under design stage.
- Installation of additional electric car charging points at the Keyworth site.
- Closer work with our key stakeholders to ensure carbon emissions are continuously being reduced.

Declaration and sign off

This Carbon Reduction Plan has been completed in accordance with PPN 006 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 standard¹³ and uses the appropriate government emission conversion factors for greenhouse gas company reporting.¹⁴

Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions have been reported in accordance with SECR requirements (where required), 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.¹⁵

This Carbon Reduction Plan has been reviewed and signed off by the British Geological Survey's director.

Signed on behalf of the supplier:



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Karen Hanghøj

Date: 4 March 2026

¹³ <https://ghgprotocol.org/corporate-standard>

¹⁴ www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-conversion-factors-for-company-reporting

¹⁵ <https://ghgprotocol.org/standards/scope-3-standard>