

Visit Belfast

Climate Action Plan 2025–2030

Reducing Our Organisational Carbon Impact

Our Commitment

Visit Belfast is committed to leading by example to support Belfast’s ambition to become an inclusive, climate-resilient, zero-emissions economy within a generation. Building on our New Horizons 2024–2027 strategy and our Sustainability Policy, we are dedicated to systematically reducing our organisational carbon footprint across Scopes 1, 2, and 3 emissions, while promoting climate-positive tourism across the city.

In May 2024, Visit Belfast became a proud signatory of the Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism, committing to:

- **Halve emissions by 2030** and reach Net Zero as soon as possible before 2050.
- **Align our climate action with the latest scientific recommendations** to limit global warming to no more than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
- **Unite all stakeholders** — including our staff, suppliers, partners, and visitors — to deliver urgent and meaningful climate action.

Our Carbon Baseline

During the 2024/25 financial year, Visit Belfast completed its first comprehensive organisational carbon footprint assessment. Our baseline emissions totalled 142.297 tCO₂e, distributed as follows:

Scope	Category	Emissions	Share
Scope 1	Direct emissions – fuels from controlled sources	28.89 tCO ₂ e	20.3%
Scope 2	Indirect emissions – purchased electricity	22.355 tCO ₂ e	15.7%
Scope 3	Other indirect – business travel, commuting, homeworking, purchased goods, waste, and energy-related activities	91.051 tCO ₂ e	64.0%

Scope 3 emissions account for 63% of our footprint, underlining the critical need for collaboration, innovation, and systemic change to achieve our climate goals.

Key Actions 2025–2030

The actions below focus on reducing emissions across all three scopes of our organisational footprint:

Scope 1 – Reduce Direct Emissions

- Review and transition to higher-efficiency heating alternatives by 2026.
- Continue improving operational efficiency across Visit Belfast premises and facilities.

Scope 2 – Decarbonise Electricity

- Switch to 100% certified renewable electricity supply for Visit Belfast Welcome Centre and Corporate office by 2028.
- Implement energy efficiency measures:
 - upgrading lighting to LED
 - improving lighting sensor efficiency
 - monitoring and reducing unnecessary energy consumption.
- Conduct an annual Energy Audit starting 2025.
- Train and empower staff to optimise energy use through annual workshops and “Climate Champion” initiatives.

Scope 3 – Address Indirect Emissions

- **Business Travel:** Update our travel policy to prioritise low-carbon travel modes; aim for a 10% reduction in business travel emissions by 2027.
 - **Commuting & Homeworking:** Promote flexible working and sustainable commuting options (cycling, public transport), aim for a 50% reduction in staff commuting emissions by 2030.
 - **Purchased Goods:** Embed sustainability criteria into 100% of procurement processes by 2025 and partner with suppliers who have science-based targets or equivalent carbon reduction plans by 2028.
 - **Waste:** Strengthen waste reduction, recycling, and circular economy initiatives across all offices. Increase recycling rates to at least 80% by 2027.
 - **Partner Engagement:** Set a climate action plan for the Belfast Tourism Industry by 2027.
 - **Marketing and Visitor Servicing:** Integrate climate action messaging into visitor information materials.
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Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting

- **Annual Carbon Reporting:** Measure and report progress transparently each year.
- **Science-Aligned Targets:** Update emission reduction targets at least every five years, aligned with the latest IPCC guidance.
- **Public Disclosure:** Publish annual Visit Belfast Sustainability and Impact Reports showcasing achievements, challenges, and areas for improvement.
- **Third-Party Verification:** Seek independent verification of carbon footprint reporting and reduction achievements starting 2027.
- **Adaptive Management:** Review and adjust the Climate Action Plan biennially to reflect scientific, technological, and policy developments.

Our Long-Term Goal

Visit Belfast is committed to achieving Net Zero emissions by 2050 or sooner, consistent with the Belfast City Climate Plan.

Interim Target: Achieve a minimum 50% reduction in total emissions by 2030 compared to our 2024/25 baseline.
