

# Visit Belfast Climate Action Plan 2025–2030

## 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.

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## Our Carbon Baseline

During the 2024/25 financial year, Visit Belfast completed its first comprehensive organisational carbon footprint assessment. Our baseline emissions totalled **176.83 tCO<sub>2</sub>e**, distributed as follows:

- **Scope 1** (Direct emissions – fuels from controlled sources): **28.89 tCO<sub>2</sub>e**
- **Scope 2** (Indirect emissions – purchased electricity): **18.87 tCO<sub>2</sub>e**
- **Scope 3** (Other indirect emissions – business travel, commuting, homeworking, purchased goods, waste, and energy-related activities): **129.08 tCO<sub>2</sub>e**

**Scope 3 emissions account for 73% of our footprint**, underlining the critical need for collaboration, innovation, and systemic change to achieve our climate goals.

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## Key Actions 2025–2030

1. **Scope 1 – Reduce Direct Emissions**
  - Review high-efficiency alternatives by 2026
2. **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:
    1. Upgrade all lighting to LED as old ones fail.
    2. Improving lighting sensor efficiency

3. Conduct an annual **Energy Audit** starting 2025.

- Train and empower staff to optimise energy use through annual workshops and "Climate Champion" initiatives.

### 3. 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.

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### 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.