



Forestry England

Our clean future

Summary of our Net Zero Strategy

2025 – 2040



An aerial photograph of a dirt path winding through a lush green forest. A woman is pushing a stroller with a child inside, and another child is walking alongside them. The path is bordered by dense ferns and other vegetation. A dashed white line curves across the top of the image. In the bottom left corner, there is a red rectangular box containing the text 'The Big Picture'.

The Big Picture

We're tackling the causes of climate change by cutting carbon emissions ("emissions") from our operations and sequestering carbon through our work managing the nation's forests.

Our goal is for our operational management of the nation's forests to be net zero by 2040.

Net zero means balancing the emissions we generate— such as from heating our buildings, driving our vehicles, and those associated with the goods and services we buy – with actions that remove an equal amount from the atmosphere such as planting trees, restoring peatlands, and embracing cleaner technologies. When both sides balance, we will achieve net zero.

Forests play an important role in helping reduce the impact of emissions generated by society. However we all need to tackle the cause of the problem first by eliminating emissions as much as we can at source. Our net zero strategy provides the roadmap for Forestry England to do this.

Our net zero strategy is interwoven with Forestry England's objectives and values. It is a key part of how we will deliver aspects of our Growing the Future ambitions. It will also play an important role in helping secure our long-term financial and environmentally sustainable future. As leaders and experts we will reduce our own operational emissions to net zero and beyond, and continue to manage our forests for the benefit of people, nature and the economy.

Our vision

We will:

- Achieve net zero for the emissions we directly control (Scopes 1 and 2) by 2035.
- Be net zero by 2040 (Scopes 1,2 and 3).
- By 2030, establish our strategy to be net positive for the environment by 2045 – utilising the full range of opportunities open to us as the country's largest land manager.
- Share our progress and expertise – ensuring we communicate regularly and clearly on our progress and collaborate with our wide range of stakeholders.

Our route to net zero

Forestry England will transform our operations over the next 15 years from emitting ~40,000 tCO₂e each year to be net zero in operation by 2040. Our ambition is to continue improving to be net positive by 2045

Figure 1 illustrates where we are now, and gives an indication of the required progress in reducing and balancing our emissions to achieve net zero by 2040.

We will continue to measure and report our annual emissions to monitor our progress against this target trajectory. We will also re-baseline our emissions periodically as our progress evolves. We'll also be following a roadmap with key milestones as shown in Figure 2

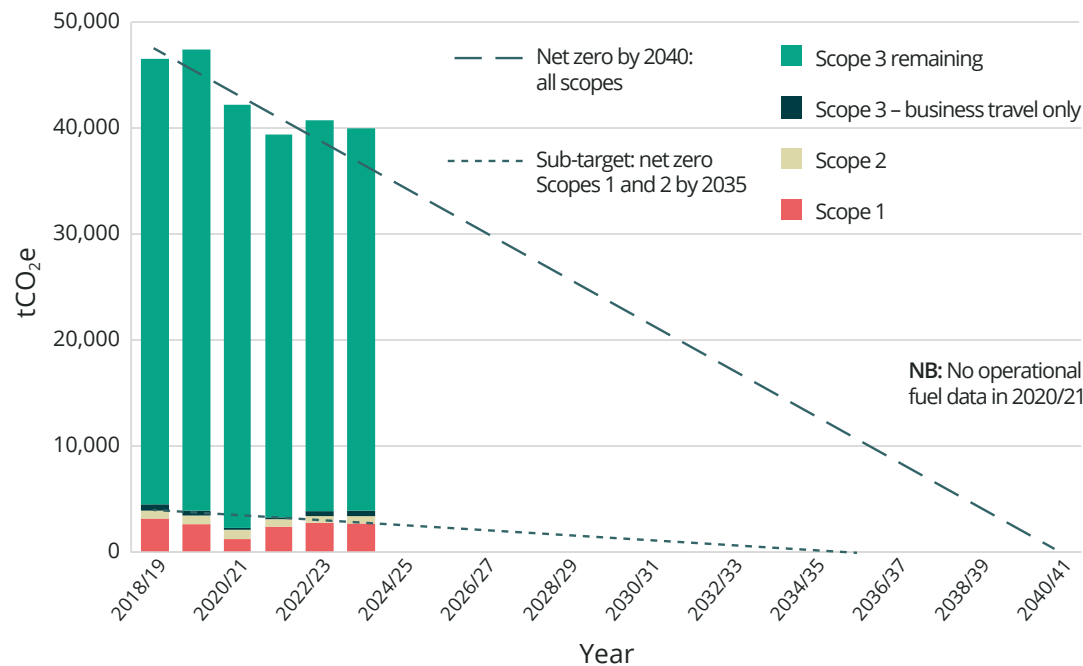


Figure 1: Forestry England total annual emissions (tCO₂e) from baseline year 2018/19 by scope

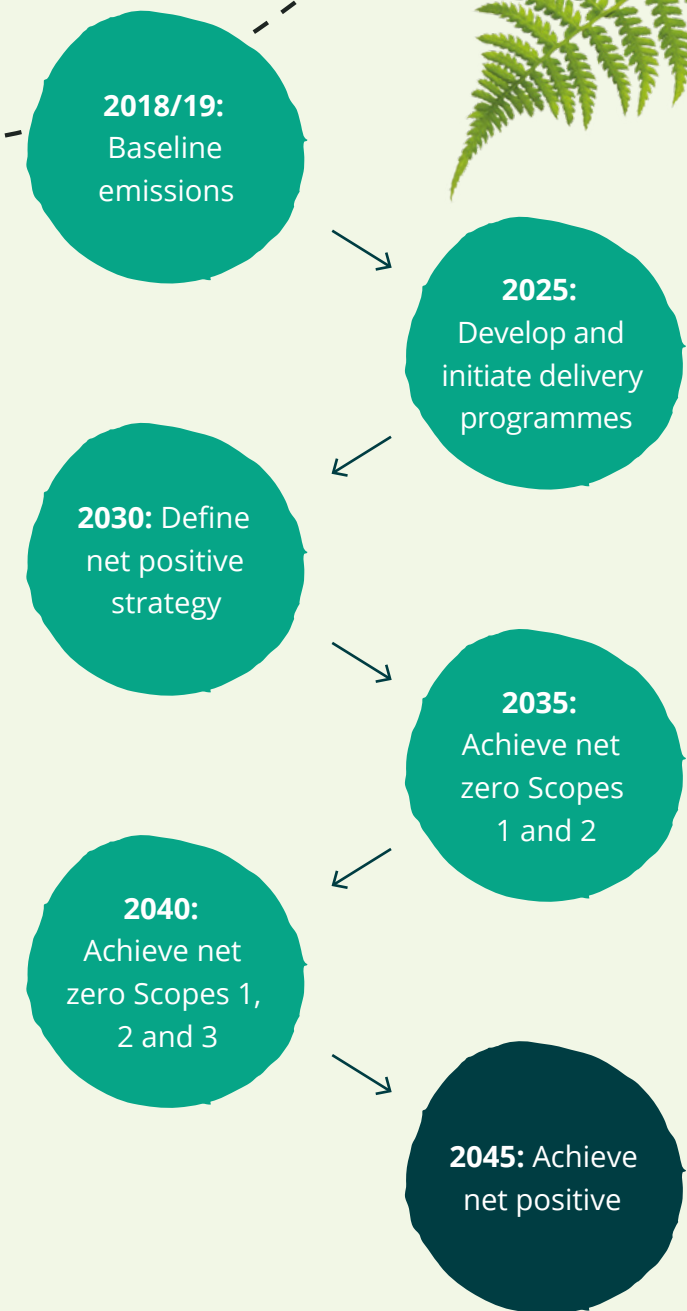


Figure 2: Our roadmap to 2040 and beyond

The part we play

Forestry England provides a wide range of services that deliver important climate, biodiversity, social, and economic benefits.

The reporting boundary of our net zero strategy is defined as our Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions inventories resulting from our operations to deliver the management of our land and forests. Within this boundary we have measured the emissions from the activities that we directly control (Scopes 1 and 2) as well as the indirect emissions within our wider company value chain that we do not directly control (Scope 3). The respective contribution and scale of these emissions are set out in Figure 3.

Our goal is to remove the emissions we directly control by 2035 and work with our suppliers and partners to reduce their impact to help us reach full net zero by 2040. Our new strategy gives us a clear framework to focus our efforts.

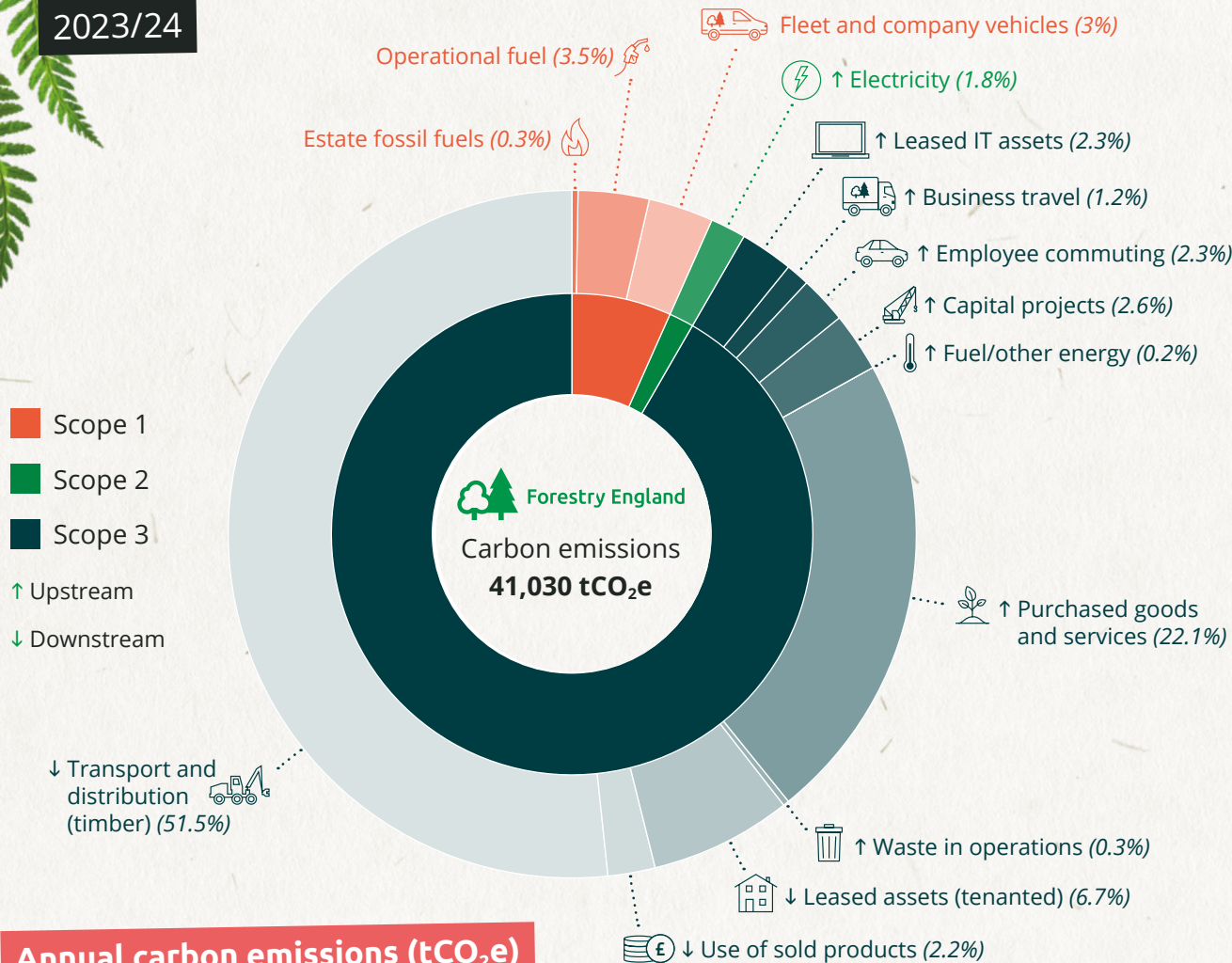
Everyone in Forestry England has a role to play in our journey to net zero by the decisions and choices we make every day. Some changes will happen quickly, other changes will take longer. Regardless, we will succeed in our net zero challenge through the clarity this plan creates for us and by us all doing it together.

It's in our nature.



Our carbon footprint

2023/24



Annual carbon emissions (tCO₂e)

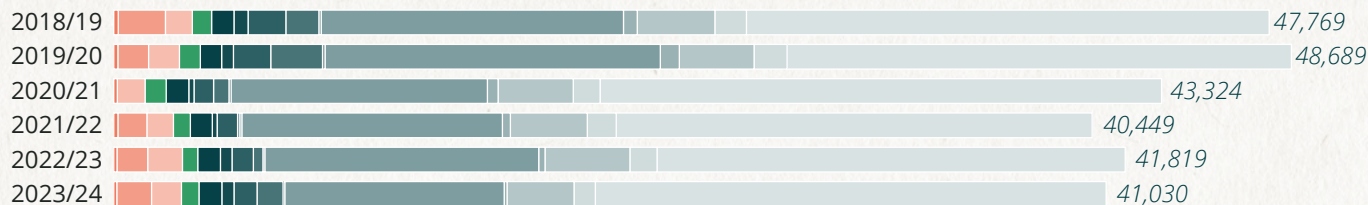
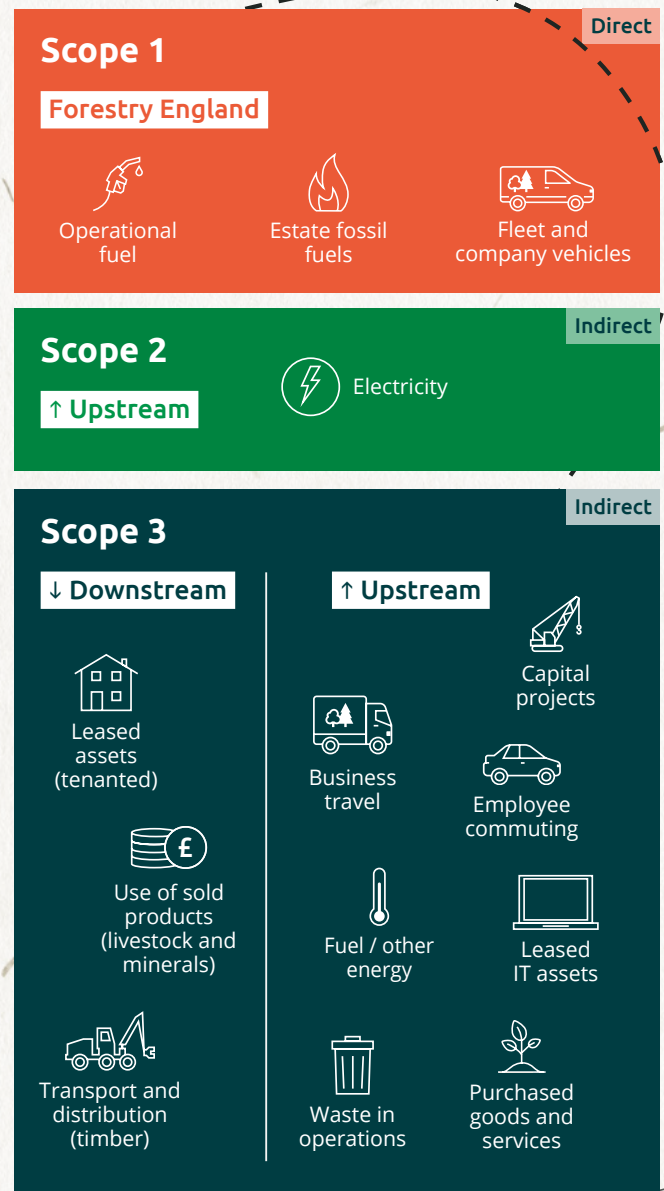


Figure 3: Forestry England net zero strategy emissions



Note: the displayed graphs illustrate the proportional sources of emissions resulting from Forestry England's operations within our net zero reporting boundary.

Reference: [Climate Partner - Scope 1, 2 and 3 a complete guide](#)

Where we will focus our efforts

Net zero strategy and targets



Objective 1:
Net zero
buildings



Objective 2:
ZEV fleet



Objective 3:
Commercial
operations



Objective 4:
Procurement



Objective 5:
Business travel



Objective 6:
Resource
efficiency



Objective 7:
Inset and offset



Objective 8:
Organisational
capability

Existing and new buildings will be net zero in operation, where practical

We will:

- Assess the environmental performance of our properties and manage energy demand.
- Design new buildings to aim to be net zero in operation, and aim for the same standard across our existing properties where possible.
- Increase energy efficiency and the use of renewable technologies for heat and power in our buildings.
- Plan for the energy needs of whole operational sites to include Electric Vehicle Charging and co-located infrastructure improvements.



Transition our fleet to zero emissions vehicles

We will:

- Transition our internal combustion engine (ICE) car and van fleet vehicles to Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV) by 2035.
- Provide electric vehicle charging at our sites.
- Develop a strategy and action plan led by our Engineering unit to reduce the emissions from our machinery and equipment.



Reduce emissions from our commercial operations



We will:

- Deliver plans to reduce our largest sources of emissions within our operational supply chain.
- Consider our let estate and owned buildings when making plans to reduce carbon.
- Establish and implement an IT Sustainability Programme, including a review of our data server providers.



Make sustainability a priority in purchasing and supply chain management



We will:

- Embed sustainable procurement principles across the organisation.
- Introduce sustainability benchmarks and metrics to establish requirements and standards within our tender and purchasing routes.
- Engage and proactively work with our suppliers to increase environmental and net zero considerations and performance within our contracts relative to contract values.
- Phase out consumer single use plastic (CSUP) and non-recyclable materials in our purchasing from suppliers by 2030.



Transition our business travel to net zero emissions



We will:

- Introduce a sustainable travel policy and set out a travel vision.
- Establish and roll out net zero travel emissions guidance for staff to support the policy in practice.



Continually improve our resource efficiency and reduce consumption



We will:

- Drive waste reduction and recycling rate improvements through contract management.
- Promote and expand guidance for waste prevention, management, and recycling.
- Embed and prioritise waste minimisation and recycling within our purchasing standards.
- Establish a national water plan to improve water efficiency and metering across our operating and let estate.
- Improve metering and sub-metering to drive water consumption efficiency and reduce cost.
- Expand water harvesting, collection, and re-use across all our estate.



Implement a credible programme for offsetting and insetting



We will:

- Develop a programme for insetting and offsetting our residual emissions.
- Align our Woodland Creation programme to deliver accountable woodland carbon credits and explore peatland restoration as measures to inset our residual emissions.
- Maximise renewable energy generation opportunities available through our estate.
- Develop our capability and leverage of Green Finance opportunities.



Develop our organisational capabilities



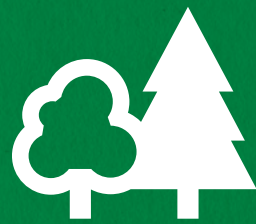
We will:

- Establish proactive governance and decision making to support net zero delivery.
- Build net zero leadership through our senior leadership teams and operational managers.
- Provide training to build skills and our capabilities to meet the changing demands of a net zero organisation.
- Share our evidence base and continue to build upon our organisation-wide performance reporting.
- Build a programme of engagement across our organisation, integrating with our staff training and wellbeing objectives.
- Support improvement by maintaining our Environmental Management System (EMS) and obtain re-certification under ISO 14001.
- Provide a range of tools and guidance to staff that supports our transition.
- Ensure all staff are empowered to contribute ideas and effort in support of our aims.





For more details you can access our full Net Zero Strategy.



**Forestry
England**

Growing the future