

Net Zero Carbon Policy

NT44: Measure- Policy and programme to achieve net zero carbon including monitoring plan with specific milestones.

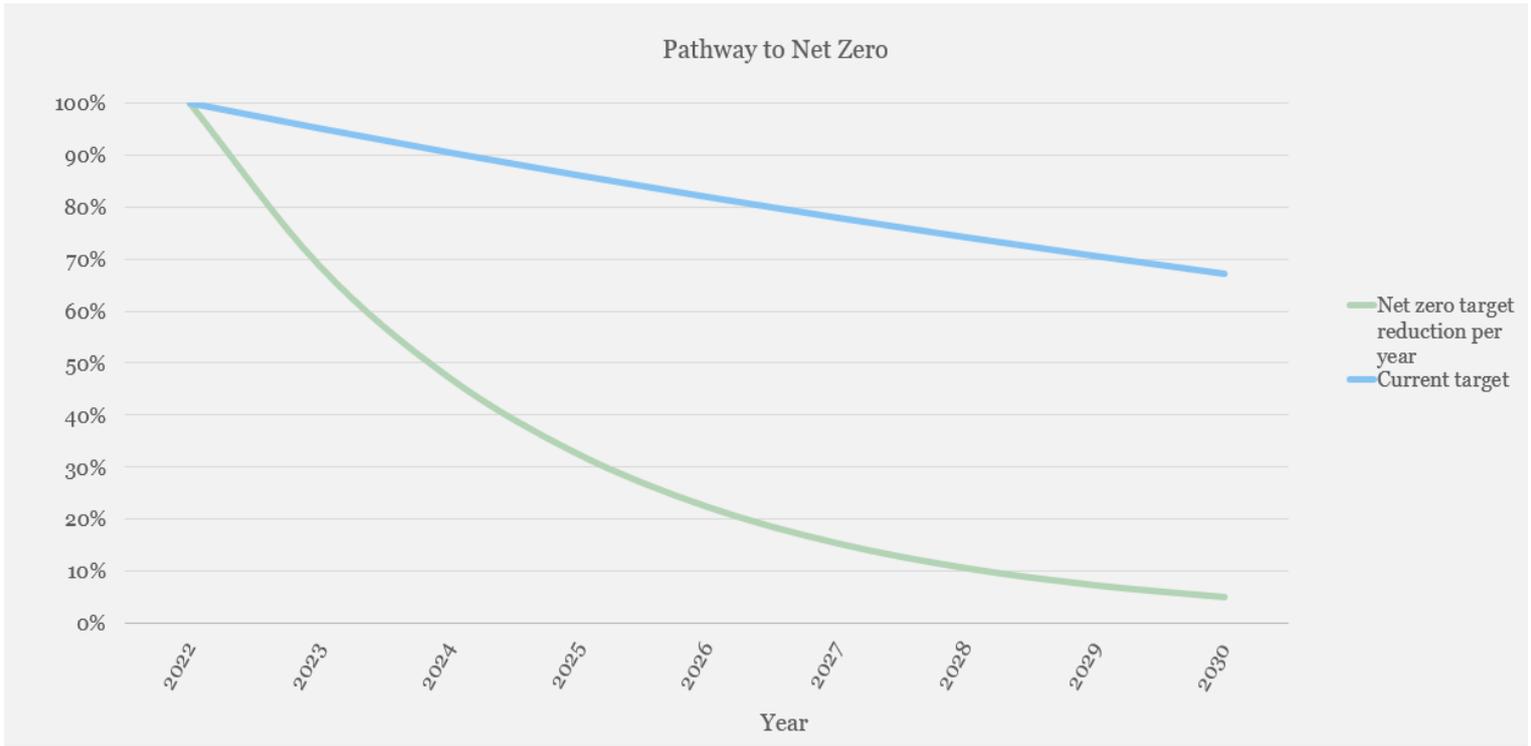
In response to the Net Zero Strategy set out by the UK government in 2021, Solo Service group is committed to take a proactive stance on reducing our scope 1,2,& 3 emissions as close to net zero as possible. As the first major economy to make a legally binding commitment to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, Solo Service Group recognises the importance of British businesses rising to the challenge to support a low carbon economy in the coming decade. To achieve Net Zero emissions both as a nation and a UK based company, a collaborative effort between Solo Service group and our suppliers and customers will be necessary. To encourage a proactive approach to tackling this important challenge, an optimistic but achievable target of achieving Net Zero emissions by 2030 has been set.

Working towards the Net Zero Goal will require the following steps:

- Firstly, establishing an accurate baseline of scope 1 and 2 emissions with independent verification of these records attained by Planet Mark will provide a clear understanding of the scope of the challenge involved with reducing direct emissions as close to zero as possible.
- Determination of scope 3 indirect emissions will require collaboration with suppliers. This will present opportunities to work with suppliers to better understand the indirect emissions associated with the businesses activity and finding methods of reducing the environmental impact both Solo Service Group and suppliers/contractors.
- Carbon offsetting will play an instrumental role in achieving net zero emissions, both from the perspective of direct offsetting from internal investment in renewable energy sources for company owned property and from supporting voluntary carbon offsetting schemes. This may come in the form of direct investment and planning of carbon offsetting schemes, or from purchasing carbon credits on the open market to offset any residual emissions.

In order to reduce scope 3 emissions in line with the target for net zero to be achieved by 2030, it will be necessary for emissions associated with suppliers to play an instrumental role in the awarding of contracts.

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SCOPE 1 & 2 Direct and purchased energy emissions	SCOPE 3 Indirect emissions	SCOPE 3 Residual emissions
Zero	As close as possible to zero	Offset by accredited carbon removal schemes
Total carbon footprint to take to net zero (%)		Scope 3 residual for offsetting (tCO₂e)
95%		5%

Net zero

Start year

Year to achieve net zero

2022

2030

Enter the year you will start your journey to net zero carbon.

Net zero target reduction per year
37%
Current Target
5%

When you purchase goods or services for your business or your customers travel to your location, you are indirectly responsible for the associated carbon emissions; but do you know how much they are? In many cases, these are the largest share of your carbon footprint.

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(Planet Mark , 2022)

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Strategy to Achieve Net Zero

To achieve Net Zero it will be necessary to reduce scope 1,2&3 emissions rapidly to as close to zero as possible before offsetting any remaining emissions with independently certified offsetting schemes. Continuous progress along the following roadmap will enable us to reach Net Zero emissions:

Reduction of scope 1 emissions:

At Solo Service Group the vehicle fleet is responsible for the majority of direct company emissions. All vehicles within the fleet are already euro 6 compliant and positive progress is already underway towards electrification of the fleet. Most head office based managers are already using Fully electric vehicles, with 3 PHEV's being in use. Rollout of PHEV Vauxhall Astras are due for delivery before the end of the year, PHEVs will be used as a stop gap over the next 12-24 months before viable fully electric replacements are available to cover the range/cost requirements of the contract managers. Currently 2 fully electric LCVs (one Vauxhall Combo and one Vauxhall Vivaro van) are on trial, however the scope of fully electric commercial vehicles within the fleet are planned to expand in line with greater availability and increased range of models on the market. In light of the UK governments commitment to prohibit the sale of purely internal combustion engine vehicles by 2030, Solo Service Group predicts that the availability of suitable vehicles/supporting infrastructure will improve significantly over the next 5 years, facilitating widespread adoption of zero emissions vehicles within the fleet.

- **2022:** continue trial of electric vans and complete the rollout of Tesla's for head office managers and PHEVs for contract managers.
- Increase the number of electric vans where appropriate on a contract by contract basis.
- **By 2025:** over 75% of all managers should have a fully electric vehicle pending supply shortages, more widespread rollout of fully electric commercial vehicles should be underway with at least 25% of commercial vehicles being fully electric. It is anticipated that full conversion to fully electric commercial vehicles will lag behind that of passenger vehicles due to the slower rate of development in this sector of the automotive industry in addition on-call mobile operatives requiring the flexibility that ICE vehicles provide.

According to the ALD Profleet 2 data, total fleet emissions for the year 2021 amounted to 361,624 kg. If fully electric vehicles are considered as zero emissions, by 2025 if a 75% replacement within contract managers and 25% within commercial vehicles is achieved in addition to inclusion of PHEVs, a total fleet emissions of < 100,000kg should be targeted.

- Following more widespread trials of fully electric vans, a push towards 75% of commercial vehicles being fully electric and 100% of passenger vehicles by 2030 should be targeted. This will bring overall fleet emissions close to zero. Ideally all fleet vehicles will be zero emissions, however this is unlikely to be achieved considering the limitations of electric vans in relation to emergency call outs.

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Reduction of scope 2 emissions:

The other source of direct emissions for Solo Service group is from the emissions associated with the energy consumption of both the Swansea head office and Oldbury regional office. This source of emissions will be eradicated using the following strategy:

- **2022:** Renewable energy supply will be sought out through our existing supplier (SSE), this will bring the emissions associated with office energy consumption down to zero.
- However, to demonstrate commitment to demonstrating sustainable business practices and achieving protection from volatile energy markets, the feasibility of onsite renewable energy generation at the Swansea head office will be evaluated. Due to the significant financial investment associated with such a scheme this may be considered a long-term goal, however implementation by 2025 would be ideally suited to meeting the 2030 net zero target.

Reduction of scope 3 emissions:

Recording and evaluation of scope 3 emissions will begin in July 2022, starting with an analysis of company commuting emissions. As scope 3 encompasses indirect emissions of which Solo Service Group may have little to no influence on, reduction of scope 3 emissions near to zero will require both collaborative efforts with suppliers and the potential requirement to change suppliers where necessary if efforts to meet net zero targets are not being reciprocated.

Planet Mark emissions verification and Net Zero Training:

Solo Service Group joined the Planet Mark organisation on the 11th of April 2022 as part of a commitment to increase the accuracy and transparency of our published emissions figures. We are currently in the process of collecting data for the emissions associated with the financial year July 31st 2021 to August 1st 2022. Following completion of data collection and analysis at the end of the current financial year, Solo Service Group will be sending all data related to the company emissions in this period to Planet Mark for independent verification. Assuming verification of our recordings is successful, we aim to achieve Planet Mark certification around September 2022. The emissions recorded for the present financial year will generate a baseline year for us to set our roadmap to Net Zero.

Additionally, on the 24th of May both our Health & Safety and Environmental manager attended a CIPD certified training sessions held by Planet Mark entitled- Net Zero Carbon Essentials Workshop, further demonstrating the ongoing collaboration between Solo Service Group and Planet Mark towards beginning our journey on a Net Zero pathway.

Following the attainment of the certification of independent verification of our emissions for this financial year, this document will be updated.

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Solo Service Group

Trial of Net Zero Pathway Tools*:

Solo Service group has joined the waiting list to become an early adopter of the currently in beta development form of 'Ecologi Zero' net zero emissions pathway analysis software ([Ecologi Zero: Real-time carbon footprinting for your business | Ecologi](#)). Following acceptance to use this tool, we will be trialing the use of this software alongside our Sage accountancy software to analyse and visualize our scope 3 emissions associated with third party suppliers. As Ecologi Zero calculates emissions alongside our expenditure on suppliers according to their specific industry sector, this provides an opportunity to more accurately develop a holistic view of our companywide indirect emissions. Pending successful use of this tool, the results gained will be used to inform our Net Zero strategy, while facilitating a more approachable avenue for our suppliers to become involved in reaching this target while also being used as a comparative tool for competing suppliers in the form of environmental impact.

**Caroline Cooper
Managing Director**

1st January 2022

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