

POSITION STATEMENT ON CURRENT CARBON EMISSIONS AND FUTURE TARGETS

Introduction

The impact of carbon emissions on the global climate system has become one of the most critical challenges of our time. As scientific evidence consistently points to the link between rising greenhouse gas emissions and the acceleration of climate change, it is imperative for all sectors of society—governments, businesses, and individuals—to adopt strong, sustainable practices aimed at reducing emissions and limiting global warming.

Current Carbon Emissions

Carbon emissions, primarily in the form of carbon dioxide (CO₂), continue to rise globally despite increasing awareness and calls for action. In 2022, global CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion were estimated to be around 36.6 billion metric tons, with a significant portion coming from energy production, transportation, industry, and agriculture. The largest emitters are typically high-income countries, but emissions are rapidly increasing in developing nations as they industrialise and increase their energy consumption.

The current trajectory of emissions is unsustainable and poses a significant threat to both the environment and human well-being. Without drastic changes in policies, technologies, and behaviours, we risk surpassing key climate thresholds that will lead to irreversible damage to ecosystems, rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and disruptions to food and water security.

The Urgency of Action

To avoid catastrophic climate impacts, the international community has set clear targets to limit global warming. The most widely accepted framework is the Paris Agreement, which aims to limit the global temperature rise to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, with an aspiration to limit the rise to 1.5°C. This goal requires unprecedented reductions in carbon emissions across all sectors, with a target to reach net-zero emissions by mid-century.

Future Targets for Carbon Emissions Reduction

Given the current pace of emissions, it is clear that a rapid transition to a low-carbon economy is essential. The following targets have been provided to guide future efforts:

- Net-Zero Emissions by 2050:** Governments and industries must commit to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050, with interim targets for 2030 to ensure meaningful progress. This involves reducing emissions across all sectors, including energy, transportation, agriculture, and manufacturing, and implementing carbon capture technologies.
- Phasing Out Fossil Fuels:** The burning of fossil fuels is the largest source of CO₂ emissions globally. A clear and rapid transition away from fossil fuel dependency is necessary, focusing on increasing the share of renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and geothermal. Phasing out coal and oil, in favour of cleaner energy sources, will play a central role in reducing global emissions.
- Decarbonising Transportation:** The transportation sector remains a major source of emissions, particularly in high-income nations. The future targets should include transitioning to electric vehicles (EVs), increasing the efficiency of public transportation systems, and reducing emissions from shipping and aviation.
- Promoting Sustainable Agriculture:** Agriculture, which contributes significantly to greenhouse gas emissions, must evolve toward more sustainable practices. Future targets should include reducing methane emissions from livestock, improving soil carbon sequestration, and advancing plant-based food systems to reduce environmental impact.

5. **Carbon Sequestration and Technological Innovation:** Achieving net-zero emissions will require investments in carbon sequestration technologies that remove CO₂ from the atmosphere, such as direct air capture, reforestation, and soil carbon management. Research and development in these areas should be accelerated to ensure their scalability.
6. **International Cooperation:** Climate change is a global challenge, and emissions reductions must be pursued collaboratively. Developed nations must lead by example while supporting developing countries with the necessary technology, financial resources, and expertise to reduce emissions and adapt to climate impacts.

Conclusion

The need for immediate and decisive action on carbon emissions cannot be overstated. While current levels of emissions are dangerously high, there is still a window of opportunity to mitigate the worst impacts of climate change by setting and meeting ambitious targets. Achieving net-zero emissions by 2050, phasing out fossil fuels, decarbonising key sectors, and supporting technological innovation are critical steps in the path forward. Global cooperation, policy action, and individual commitment will be required to ensure that future generations inherit a stable and sustainable planet.

Commitment to a Carbon Emissions Reduction Plan

At Westward Energy Services, we monitor our impact on the environment and follow a strategic framework, allowing informed directions to be taken to commit to an ongoing Carbon Emission Reduction Plan that includes:

1. Establish Baseline Emissions

- **Goal:** Assess current carbon emissions to understand where reductions are needed.
- **Action:** Frequent comprehensive audits to measure emissions
- **To Date:** Carbon planning tools are used to establish key metrics

2. Set Emissions Reduction Targets

- **Goal:** Establish clear, measurable emissions reduction goals.
- **Action:** Set short-term (5–10 years), medium-term (10–20 years), and long-term (2050) targets that align with national and international climate goals, such as net-zero emissions by 2050.
- **To Date:** Setting emission limits for company response vehicles

3. Implement Energy Efficiency Measures

- **Goal:** Reduce energy consumption and improve energy efficiency.
- **Action:** Upgrade buildings (insulation, energy-efficient appliances, etc.), invest in energy-saving technologies, and encourage energy-efficient practices across departments.
- **To Date:** Installation of energy saving light and power devices; Installation of heat saving materials into the fabric of our buildings; Encouraging recycling of waste materials.

4. Transition to Renewable Energy

- **Goal:** Reduce reliance on fossil fuels and shift toward cleaner energy sources.
- **Action:** Increase investment in solar, wind, hydropower, geothermal, and other renewable energy sources. Transition infrastructure to use green electricity.
- **To Date:** Installation of solar PV panels on our buildings.

5. Electrify Transportation

- **Goal:** Reduce emissions from transportation, one of the largest contributors to carbon emissions.

- **Action:** Promote electric vehicles (EVs), establish EV charging infrastructure, and encourage the adoption of public transportation, cycling, and walking.
- **To Date:** Installation of EV charging stations at company offices and employee homes; Introduction of hybrid and fully electric vehicles to the company fleet; Introduction of Cycle to Work schemes for office employees.

6. Promote Circular Economy Practices

- **Goal:** Reduce waste and extend the lifecycle of products to decrease emissions.
- **Action:** Encourage recycling, reusing, and upcycling materials. Reduce consumerism and encourage sustainable design principles in manufacturing.
- **To Date:** Provision of refurbished components to clients as a cheaper and environmentally friendly alternative; Reduction in use of paper based administrative practices.

7. Monitor, Report, and Verify (MRV)

- **Goal:** Track progress, adjust plans, and maintain accountability.
- **Action:** Implement a transparent system for monitoring emissions, reporting on progress, and verifying that emissions reductions are achieved. Regularly update the plan based on new data and technologies.
- **To Date:** Carbon Planner tool reports generated frequently to monitor progress against targets and adjust accordingly.

8. Public Engagement and Policy Advocacy

- **Goal:** Gain public support for carbon reduction initiatives and advocate for supportive policies.
- **Action:** Educate the public on the importance of carbon emissions reduction, encourage sustainable behaviour, and work with policymakers to introduce legislation supporting carbon reduction goals.
- **To Date:** Promote energy efficient products both through public engagement opportunities and during product development initiatives with clients where latest technological advances are showcased.

9. Collaboration with Stakeholders

- **Goal:** Ensure the plan is effective by involving all departments.
- **Action:** Work with clients, suppliers and local authorities to collaborate on emissions reductions and innovation.
- **To Date:** Addressed client requirements to improve their own carbon footprint reduction plans utilising innovative technologies; raising awareness of our actions to suppliers and clients to promote the same culture throughout our networks.



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