
Bennetts Associates

Carbon Footprint & Net-Zero Roadmap

March 2026

Baseline Year:	2018 (Jan-Dec)
Baseline Year Emissions:	167 tCO2e
Scope 1	14 tCo2e
Scope 2	23 tCO2e
Scope 3	130 tCO2e (full coverage based on third party review in 2023)
Comments	Scope 2 emissions targets are based on regional/time of use factors, which are more representative of actual emissions and provide more scope for reduction strategies. We also report publicly using generic government factors but do not use these for target purposes. For details of scope 3 sources and factors see narrative section below.

Current Emissions Reporting

Reporting Year	2025 (Jan-Dec)
Reporting Year Emissions:	101.4 tCOe2
Scope 1	14 tCO2e
Scope 2	6.6 tCO2e
Scope 3	80.8 tCO2e
Comments	Notes as per baseline emissions footprint. Public disclosure with various methodologies provided is here

Since 2012 we have been publicly reporting our GHG inventory, which from 2022 has included our full scope 3 emissions.

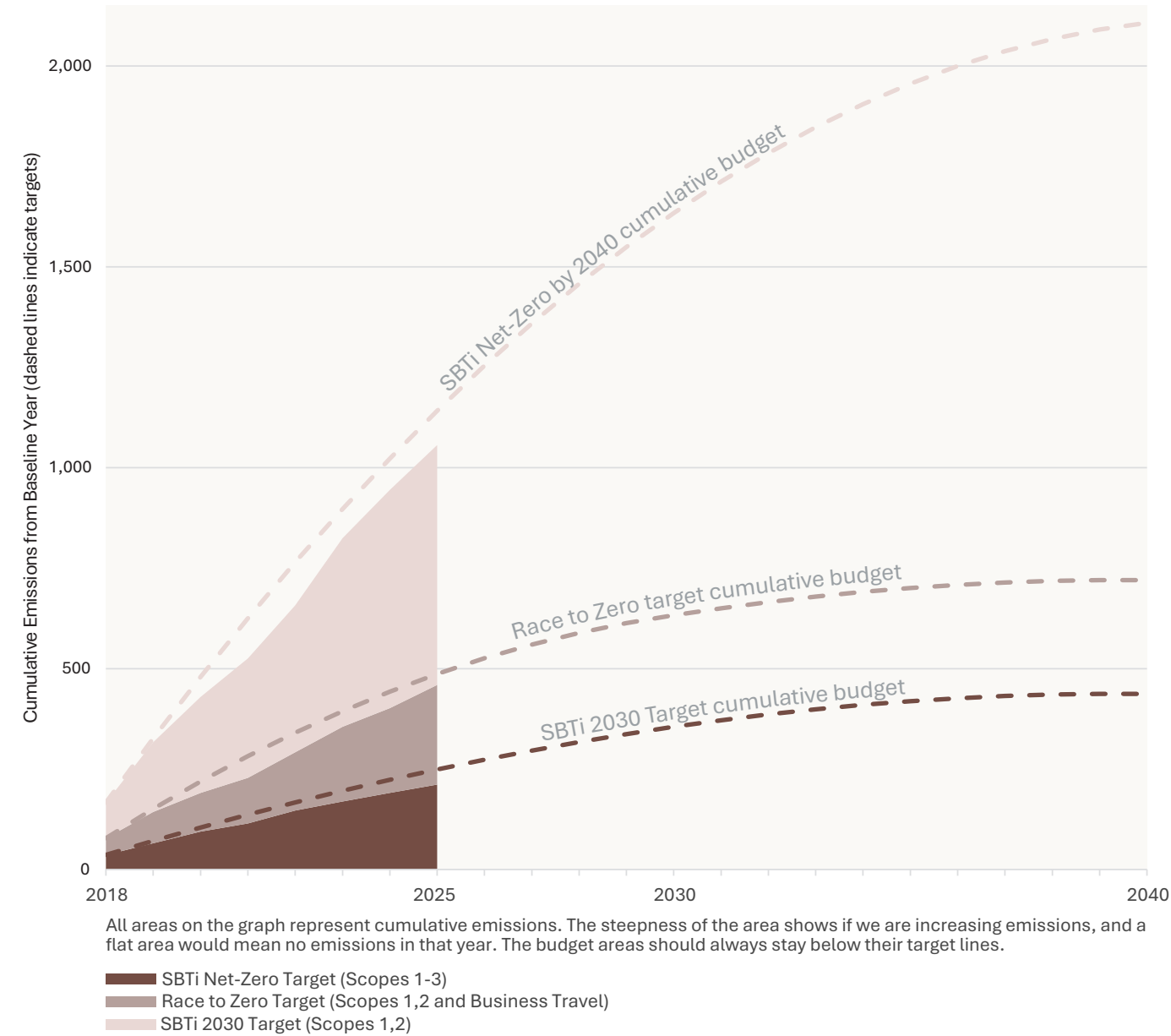
Since 2012 we have been publicly reporting our GHG inventory, which from 2022 has included our full scope 3 emissions. This roadmap covers everything from the energy that powers our offices to the coffee that powers our architects, and even includes goods and services we purchase from other organisations such as software licenses and insurance.

As the first architect in the world to have science-based targets we have been working to reduce our footprint for a long time, but we are now aiming to set out a longer-term pathway to meet our 2030 goals and beyond. The following Carbon Reduction Plan summarises our current footprint, its hotspots and how it is calculated and outlines the key areas where reductions are going to be made.

This first section covers elements specifically required for PPN 006, and is then followed by a narrative of the context, projects and future plans for various scopes. This Report is not third party verified, but elements of it have been verified in previous years.

We have three climate change targets that apply to our business. Two of these are verified by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) and form the backstop for our ambition. The first is that we will reduce Scope 1 and 2 (fuel/electricity) emissions by 50% by 2030 from a 2018 baseline year. The second is that we will reduce all emissions by 90% by 2040 from that same baseline.

The first target is relatively easy and is likely to be met by grid decarbonisation and general efficiency improvements with no major interventions required. The 2040 target is incredibly difficult due to the extent of our footprint which is dictated by a supply chain over which we have limited control, but we hope that we can compensate in the near term by reductions in those scopes we do have control over.



Narrative of Scopes, progress and reduction projects identified.

The last target is our 2030 stretch target. This is aligned with the Race to Zero principle of a fair and just transition, taking account of the fact that the UK has benefited from significant historical emissions and should therefore decarbonise faster than other countries.

All targets are based on cumulative budgets rather than end-year targets. Progress against targets is reported annually in our public Impact Report. Progress against targets is shown in the chart below (extracted from the 2025 Impact report, published in early 2026).

Lastly, for the purposes of PPN006 compliance, we confirm our commitment to net-zero by 2050, though all of our implemented targets are more ambitious than this.

Scope 1 - Gas (14%)

Our Edinburgh and Manchester studios are fossil-fuel free, but our London studio currently uses gas for space and water heating. We are currently investigating moving from gas to either heat pumps or a district heat network (or moving to an all electric premises) all of which would instantly reduce emissions by a significant amount due to the lower carbon factor for electricity and the free-heating provided by heat-pumps. Our studio is a complex building with a poor form factor in a conservation area, and as such is an exciting challenge.

Scope 2 - Electricity (10%)

Though we procure almost all our electricity through deep green contracts via Octopus this is ignored completely for location based reporting and our targets. Using traditional government carbon factors which lag behind actual grid intensity Electricity would be around 16% of our footprint. From 2024 however we started to use regional time-of-use factors from <https://carbonintensity.org.uk/> to better reflect the reality of our usage and to allow us to make reductions by load shifting. This is a position supported by the industry leading LETI organisation.

Our electricity usage has already reduced significantly due to moving to cloud storage and swapping from desktops to laptops. Around a third of our usage is the electric heating in our Edinburgh Studio, but under the new method this is considerably lower carbon due to the incredibly low grid factor in the south of Scotland. Our London studio therefore makes up the main share of our electricity footprint, and this will increase even further if heating is moved to heat pumps. We are planning further reductions in usage through changing our ageing lighting to LEDs with smart controls, and plan to reduce our the carbon impact of our electricity through installing a 9kWp PV array and 20kWh battery store which will allow us to shift loads when the grid is at its most carbon intensive. This lighting/PV project is now delivered and should show improvements during 2026.

Scope 3 - Business Travel (20%)

Business travel has historically been a significant part of our carbon footprint. This was a mix of London to Edinburgh flights connecting our two original studios and annual study trips within Europe for the whole office. Since declaring a climate emergency almost all of these types of flights have been eliminated, reducing from a peak of 63 tonnes in 2016 to 14 tonnes in 2024 (during pandemic years it was almost zero).

This was further improved by our travel policy which requires the use of a train for journeys in the UK and short-haul journeys in the EU which has resulted in staff travelling to the south of France, Ireland, Italy and Austria by train in the last two years.

The flights that do remain are almost entirely for international projects in India and Greece. To mitigate this, visits to India have been grouped to result in fewer but longer trips, and our team is proud to be the first consultants that have ever refused an offer of business class travel by their client.

In the long term, there is a clear pathway toward the decarbonisation of air travel, but we have now changed our method to use courier and route specific carbon factors (from Google's method with a 1.9x radiative forcing factor that BEIS uses added). This means that for flights that are needed we are selecting the best carrier, route and even time of day.

Scope 3 - Purchased Goods and Services

This is by far the biggest GHG Category, making up almost half of our total footprint. At first glance it is one of the sources of emissions that is furthest from our control but whilst we are not large enough to force our supply chain to decarbonise, we are able (sometimes) to select better suppliers and reduce consumption where possible. This category is traditionally calculated based on the amount of money that is spent on each service using generic sector factors that are rarely representative of the activities we are undertaking and as a result, are likely to be an overestimate. To counter this, we have worked hard to gather more data from our supply chain, either using public data or by asking questions to better understand their business, and through that we have started to make changes to the carbon factors we use. Any changes we have made have been re-baselined back to 2018, and so are not responsible for any progress against our targets.

Scope 3 - Purchased Goods and Services - Food & Drink (8%)

No normal company would ever calculate their footprint down to the coffee they use, but we love carbon counting and are always looking for ways to engage staff in the concept of carbon footprints. We keep track of everything we buy into the three studios and use bespoke carbon factors to work out the impact, meaning that when we buy oat milk rather than cow's milk, the impact we report is less (even though the cost is more).

A good example of how this benefits us is our London coffee sourcing, with coffee grounds making up 2% of our total footprint in 2025. During last year we moved to a local supplier in London that provides electrically roasted coffee with reusable packaging and a responsible supply chain.

Biscuits, milk, CPD sandwiches etc. all make up around 1% each, but this tends to be heavily weighted to the London office. Moving towards a healthier provision of snacks will likely provide a reduction in emissions (as well as cost).

Scope 3 - Purchased Goods and Services – IT & Software (11%)

This sub-category is one of the hardest to decarbonise as the majority of our spend is heavily dependent on number of multinational companies which have a near monopoly on their product sector (Autodesk, Microsoft, Adobe). They all have good carbon data which can be used to provide fairly accurate numbers (with Microsoft even providing consumption-based data) but reductions are mostly reliant on their decarbonisation pathways. In recent years their footprints have been increasing, likely reflecting the training of AI models, and it is likely that this element of our footprint may be harder than others to reduce in the short term. During 2025 as an organisation we were not heavily using AI beyond image generation R&D. During 2026 this is ramping up, but we have moved to a platform which allows us to have a good estimate of our usage and the associated carbon emisisions.

Scope 3 - Purchased Goods and Services – Consultancy (7%)

Like any business, we spend a significant amount of money on consultants: Bookkeeping, accounting, legal advice, tax consultants etc. If using generic spend based factors these could become a huge chunk of the carbon footprint of a business, bu thaving spoken to our suppliers to understand their businesses (often they work from home with very little travel or overheads) we have taken the decision to use our own carbon intensity as a very conservative benchmark for these types of business. We hope that over time we will be able to work with them to build up even more accurate pictures of their business and help them to decarbonise in a similar way to our own trajectory.

Scope 3 - Purchased Goods and Services – Premises (6%)

This category is made up of regular maintenance and utilities like broadband. Whilst we are fairly confident about the impact of broadband which makes up most of this sub-category, getting a footprint for tradespeople is much harder and so we have again used our own intensity as a conservative benchmark (albeit one that is much less than generic spend based factors).

Scope 3 - Purchased Goods and Services – Insurance (5%)

Similar to software, there is not a lot of flexibility in the types and quantities of insurance that an architectural practice can obtain, and at least in the short term it is likely that cost will dictate the suppliers that are used. In recent years however we have worked to obtain emissions data from the various insurance companies that we use and expect that this sector should reduce its intensity over time as a primarily service-based industry.

Scope 3 - Capital Goods – (0%)

Until the pandemic this sub-category was one of our least impactful, but moving to laptops has meant that we have more regular IT replacement cycles. This year there were no purchases and so the category has shown significant reductions, but overtime we will be aiming to extend the life of our IT to reduce the peaks. During 2025 a battery and PV array as well as LED lighting were installed within our London premises, but this has been installed by the landlord and so is not included within our capital goods budget.

Scope 3 - Employee Commuting & Homeworking – (10%)

This sub-category continues to be one of the biggest parts of our footprint, and commuting continues to dominate, with homeworking emissions being fairly insignificant (even with an average of around 1.5 days a week homeworking across all staff).The reduction in the number of days staff travel has been balanced by people living further away. As rail journeys electrify and decarbonise we hope that this element of the footprint will begin to decarbonise rapidly as almost all journeys by staff are made by rail, bus, bike or foot.

This Carbon Reduction Plan has been completed in accordance with PPN 006 and associated guidance.

Emissions have been reported and recorded in accordance with the GHG reporting protocol corporate standard and use appropriate emissions factors including government emissions factors where relevant. This Carbon Reduction Plan has been reviewed and signed off by the board of directors.



PETER FISHER
Director in charge of Sustainability for Bennetts Associates
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Bennetts Associates

London

1 Rawstorne Place
London EC1V 7NL
+44 (0)20 7520 3300
mail@bennettsassociates.com

Manchester

38-42 Mosley Street
Manchester, M2 3AZ
+44 (0)161 674 0135
manchester@bennettsassociates.com

Edinburgh

3 Boroughloch Square
Edinburgh EH8 9NJ
+44 (0)131 667 7351
edin@bennettsassociates.com