



Hertfordshire Chamber of Commerce Construction and Property Summit 21 July 2022

Adrian Shah-Cundy
Corporate Responsibility Director

adrian.shahcundy@volkerwessels.co.uk

A little bit about us...



Our sectors



Highways and airports infrastructure

30% OF TOTAL BUSINESS

 VolkerFitzpatrick
 VolkerStevin
 VolkerHighways
 VolkerLaser

P J DAVIDSON (UK) LTD



Commercial, industrial and education building

15% OF TOTAL BUSINESS

 VolkerFitzpatrick
 VolkerHighways
 VolkerLaser



Rail infrastructure

41% OF TOTAL BUSINESS

 VolkerRail
 VolkerFitzpatrick
 VolkerStevin
 VolkerHighways
 VolkerLaser



Marine, water, environment and energy

14% OF TOTAL BUSINESS

 VolkerStevin
 VolkerFitzpatrick
 VolkerLaser

Until now many of the impacts or concerns have been remote from our daily lives.

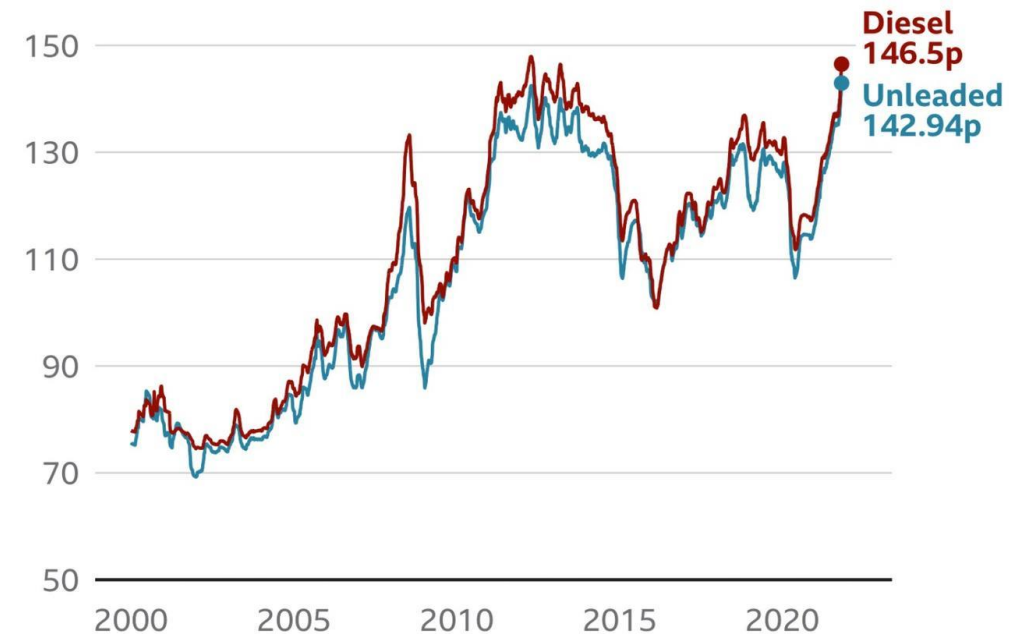
Scientists cleared of malpractice in UEA's hacked emails inquiry

The university set up the inquiry after the controversy caused by the release of thousands of emails from its climate scientists on the internet last November. Critics and climate sceptics used them to claim that the scientists behind many influential climate studies were up to no good, and that the problem was exaggerated.



UK fuel prices

Diesel and petrol at the pump, pence per litre



Source: Experian. Last update: 25 October 2021

BBC

UK Net-Zero emissions target

In June 2019 the UK became the first major economy to pass a net-zero emissions law.

The target requires the UK to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.

“Net-zero” refers to balancing the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced and the amount removed from the atmosphere.

It requires some element of offsetting through natural carbon sinks such as forests.

When the amount of carbon emissions produced are cancelled out by the amount removed, the UK will be a net-zero emitter.



Climate Change Conference

In November 2021, the UK hosted the 26th annual session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, or “COP26”, in Glasgow.

The UN Climate Chief pointed out that despite the accomplishments in Glasgow, the world is still far off track to stabilizing global temperature rise at 1.5 degrees and urged further and immediate international collaboration to get the world back on track to achieving this goal.



“Negotiations around a topic as complex as climate change are difficult. Reaching agreements even more so. Such is the nature of consensus building and inclusive multilateralism.

I am encouraged however, that we left Glasgow with clarity on the work we need to undertake to reach the 1.5-degree goal.

In that vein, I would like to highlight four accomplishments coming out of COP26 that represent significant progress in the world’s efforts against climate change.

- *First is the matter of **adaptation** [taking action to prepare for and adjust ecological, social, or economic systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli and their effects or impacts]*
- *The second matter is **finance**. All Parties agreed that much more support needs to be provided to developing countries.*
- *On another front we came into COP26 knowing we had a significant **emissions gap**.*
- *And lastly COP26 also saw the **finalization of guidelines** for the full implementation of the Paris Agreement. ”*

Read the summary at:

<https://ukcop26.org/cop26-goals/>

Carbon reduction strategy

It is important that our carbon strategy and target aligns to national and global targets designed to tackle climate change.

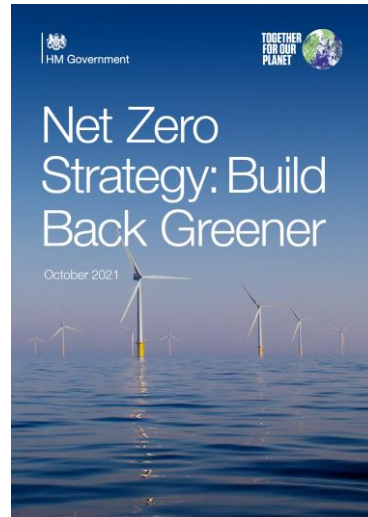
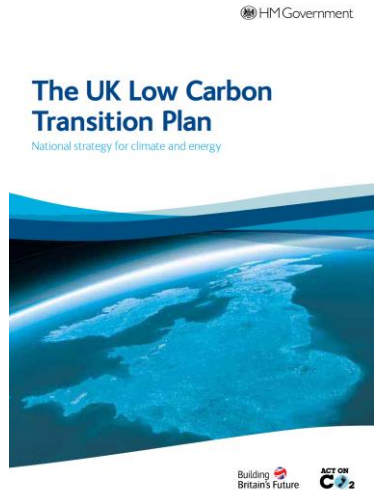
It's important though, not to just "kick the can down the road" and set a long term target for the next generation to achieve

The lower the emissions, the easier the net-zero target becomes as there will be less to offset.

We have to act now.



Requirements placed upon us



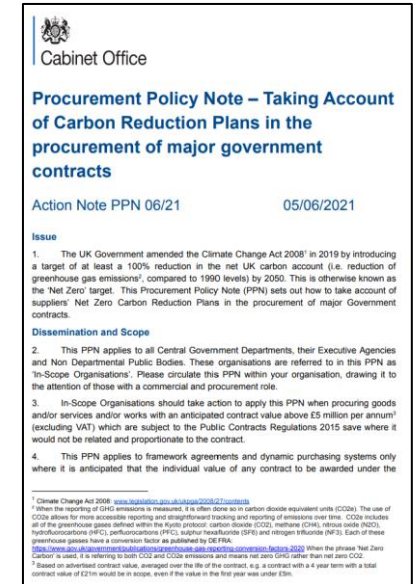
Press release

UK enshrines new target in law to slash emissions by 78% by 2035

- UK government to set in law world's most ambitious climate change target, cutting emissions by 78% by 2035 compared to 1990 levels
- for the first time, UK's sixth Carbon Budget will incorporate the UK's share of international aviation and shipping emissions
- this would bring the UK more than three-quarters of the way to net zero by 2050

Guidance

Procurement Policy Note 06/21: Taking account of Carbon Reduction Plans in the procurement of major government contracts



In 2019, the UK became the first major economy to adopt a legal commitment to achieve 'Net Zero' carbon emissions by 2050. To support this, the Government Commercial Function has developed a new commercial policy measure for all central government departments and arm's length bodies.

This measure requires suppliers bidding for major government contracts to commit to achieving Net Zero by 2050 and publish a 'Carbon Reduction Plan'.



Environmental Reporting Guidelines:
Including streamlined energy and carbon reporting guidance
March 2019 (Updated Introduction and Chapters 1 and 2)

The UK government's Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (SECR) policy was implemented on 1 April 2019, when the Companies (Directors' Report) and Limited Liability Partnerships (Energy and Carbon Report) Regulations 2018 came into force.

SECR aims to bring the benefits of carbon and energy reporting to more businesses. The reporting framework is intended to encourage the implementation of energy efficiency measures, with both economic and environmental benefits, supporting companies in cutting costs and improving productivity at the same time as reducing carbon emissions.

Plus (in no particular order):

- Morals and ethics
- Financial
- Clients
- Public
- Our children (...."needs of future generations"...)
- Citizenship
- Existing employees
- Prospective new employees
- Interested external parties
- Competition



What are the challenges?

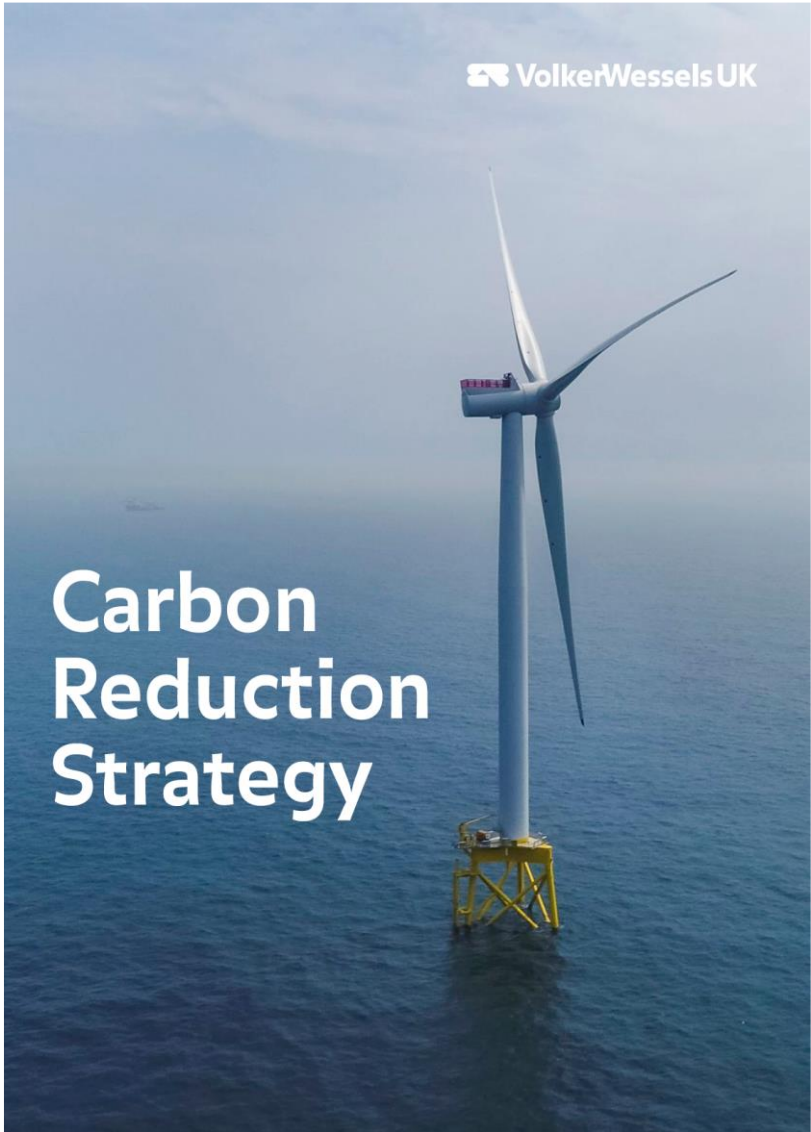
We need to set a date to achieve net-zero which is:

- Realistic
- Achievable
- Transparent

Targets are considered 'science-based' if they are in line with what the latest climate science deems necessary to meet the goal of limiting global warming to well-below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C.



"Spending more time and money claiming to be green through marketing rather than actually implementing business practices that minimise environmental impact."



OUR DRIVERS OF CHANGE

We have identified four drivers of change necessary to achieve our carbon reduction target.

1 Robust data

Good quality data enables good decision making. Our carbon footprint is calculated using an 'Operational Control' approach which means we capture data relating to the emissions over which we have direct control. We will continue to review carbon data, to close gaps and further improve quality.

2 Targeted reduction around known key emission sources

This element of our strategy is critical, to ensure we put targeted effort into our carbon reduction decisions. It will involve collaboration internally from our operational, procurement and design teams, plus engagement with our supply chain, supported by a commitment from our clients.

The emission sources in scope, as outlined on page 6, are those we have determined that we have control over. Each emission source will be analysed to identify quick win opportunities for carbon reduction, and we will explore those innovative technologies, along with opportunities to embrace digitisation and modern methods of construction which will require investment and longer-term commitments.

As we work towards achieving our targets, we will be guided by the IEMA GHG Management Hierarchy, using elimination, reduction, substitution and compensation as the consistent basis of our approach across all parts of the business, to achieve carbon reduction in the short, medium and long term.

Emission specific action plans will determine the desired outcome for each area of impact, for example removing our reliance on fossil fuels and shifting to renewable energy, seeking out new technologies to replace inefficient plant and equipment, and embracing modern methods of construction including digital solutions.

The action plans will also identify key risks and opportunities in relation to the desired outcomes and allow individual actions to be set at group and/or business unit level, enabling us to collectively achieve the desired outcome(s).



3 Development and implementation of an inspiring education and awareness programme

The cornerstone of our framework is our ability to inspire behavioural change through education, awareness and empowerment, and to ensure carbon management and reduction principles are embedded into our business processes.

As we continue to seek to fully understand the impact of our activities and the opportunities that exist to limit this impact, we will share our experiences, best practice and new technologies with our workforce to inspire, raise awareness and ensure our reduction strategies are far reaching across all parts of our business.

We will ensure 100% of our workforce receives carbon reduction training, awareness or an education programme relevant to their roles.

Our communications will be multifaceted, to meet the needs of everyone working on our behalf, and our external stakeholders.



4 Collaboration

In line with our People-Planet-Purpose sustainability strategy, it is our ambition to work with a like-minded and cooperative supply chain, to drive innovation. Collaborative relationships with our clients will enable us to deliver mutual benefits through carbon reduction, and working with our supply chain will ensure we stay abreast of new technologies and solutions to reduce our impact.



What else are we doing?

Meeting climate and biodiversity targets, as well as cutting **needs an all-society push for sustainability**

Shifting world views and putting nature at the heart of decision-making is key to achieving transformative change.

We continue to:

- Tackle waste
- Improve biodiversity
- Prevent pollution
- Improve the communities in which we work



So the reason is simple.....

It's the right thing to do but, it has to be done with integrity

The willingness to make a change is directly connected to a person's feelings about whether change is worthwhile [its importance] and whether it is achievable [confidence that it can happen]"

Karen Miller-Kovach

