Carbon Reduction Plan 2025

1. Summary and commitment to achieving Net Zero

The Rivers Trust and its fully owned trading subsidiary River Ecosystem Services Limited (RT/RES) are committed to achieving Net Zero emissions by 2050. We are aware that reducing our Greenhouse Gas Emissions represents significant benefits for us, our customers, suppliers, and the wider community. As an organisation that is seeking to restore the natural environment, it is vitally important that we exhibit the change in behaviour we expect from others.

Our Carbon Reduction Plan covers the strategies for RT/RES' ongoing commitment to the management and reduction of our business-related carbon emissions.

This is the first update of our Carbon Reduction Plan – having introduced it in 2023. This plan therefore focuses on our planned projects to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and achieve carbon net zero by 2050.

As a largely administrative, desk-based business, we will still be pushing our business and working with all our employees and contractors to embrace this plan and work collaboratively to achieve the overall goal of Carbon Net Zero by 2050.

The points below show the journey we are taking:

- RT/RES collected baseline data for the FY 2023
- RT/RES will aim to reduce its GHG emissions by 20% by 2030 based on its 2023 baseline
- Several staff training and behaviour change projects have been identified that will work to achieve net zero emissions by 2050
- We will deliver projects and help other organisations to deliver practical projects that increase carbon sequestration and offset GHG emissions

2. Meeting the reporting requirements

This Carbon Reduction Plan is completed in compliance with PPN 06/21 as published by the Cabinet Office June 2021. This document will be reviewed and updated annually in line with the RT/RES Annual Report and Accounts. It will reflect any changes in organisational structure and take account of the efforts made to reduce our emissions over time to achieve net zero by 2050.

2.1 Our low carbon vision

RT/RES is committed to integrating sustainable development into everyday practice by minimising environmental impact wherever possible. During the process of developing this Carbon Reduction Plan, a number of key areas have been selected that will allow us to demonstrate reductions in the carbon emissions generated by our activities.

3. Method of data collection

Due to the nature of our business, we have detailed below the methodology used for our report.

3.1 Carbon footprint methodology

In accordance with the GHG protocol's corporate standard, the reported emissions should be reported against an operational boundary using one of three types of reporting methodology:

- Equity share
- Financial control
- Operational control

The RT/RES carbon footprint will be reported using the operational control methodology based on our operational model being largely administration based and that our only office premises are controlled by a third party.

3.2 Baseline Year: FY2023

Baseline emissions are a record of the greenhouse gases that have been produced in the past and were produced prior to the introduction of any strategies to reduce emissions. Baseline emissions are the reference point against which emissions reduction can be measured.

This is the first year of our Carbon Reduction Plan and we have not previously assessed or reported our emissions. Therefore, we will use our first reporting period as our baseline.

Baseline Year: 2023

Additional Details relating to the Baseline Emissions calculations.

Scope 1

Company Facilities: we are tenants in buildings managed by a third party, this data will be reported in their annual reports and will be excluded from this to avoid double reporting.

Company Vehicles: we do not have any company vehicles, so there are no emissions from this category included in our emissions data.

Scope 2

Purchased electricity, steam, heating, and cooling for own use: we don't purchase any of the energy needed for our buildings as they are all leased and are covered by the landlord.

Scope 3

Category 4 and 9 upstream and downstream distribution: As RT/RES is largely an administration-based business, we do not purchase or sell any goods, so we can't report any figures against categories 4 and 9. However, we are investigating the emissions arising from our digital data storage and developing actions to minimise our digital footprint.

Category 5 waste generated in operations

We do not have specific data on the waste generated as an organisation as this is managed through a combination of the lease arrangements as part of the office operations and individual staff members that work from home. However, we do generate waste through employee printing along with brochures and events information, banners, and other materials. Waste would include the use of plastic non-recyclable cups and can even include lunchtime related rubbish at RT/RES events and when working remotely. We plan to address these areas through operational and behaviour changes in the Strategies for Carbon Reduction.

Category 6 business travel

Business travel had not previously been measured prior to 2023. For 2023 official business travel by road was calculated by obtaining data on staff travel in both personal vehicles and hire cars. The results are below.

Category	Mileage	CO^2 (Kg)	tCO^2
Hire Cars	10,563	2,058	2.058
Personal vehicles	70,864	14,537	14.537

Total	81,427	16,595	16.595

We have not calculated our footprint for air and rail travel in 2023, but intend to make a retrospective assessment.

Category 7 employee commuting

We do not have any firm data on employee commuting. However, we are a near fully remote organisation with only a few members of staff commuting short distances to regular places of work and therefore the emissions are likely to be negligible (< $XtCO^2$).

Baseline year emissions: 2023	
EMISSIONS	**TOTAL (tCO_2e)**
Scope 1	**0 – rationale above**
Scope 2	**0 – rationale above**
Scope 3 (Included Sources)	**16.595 (travel by road)** **X (employee commuting)** **Y (data storage)**
Total Emissions	**Not yet known – will be calculated for current reporting period**

3.3 Current Emissions Reporting: FY 2024

Our current reporting period is FY2024.

Reporting Year: 2024	
EMISSIONS	**TOTAL (tCO_2e) 0**
Scope 1	**0 (expected – see baseline)**

Scope 2	**0 (expected – see baseline)**
Scope 3 **(Included Sources)**	**14.267**
Total Emissions	**To be calculated in current reporting period.**

4. Emissions reduction targets

RT/RES has just embarked on the journey to properly assess its carbon footprint and we have not had any previous emission reduction targets beyond advocating best practice. However, as part of developing this carbon reduction plan, and in order to continue our progress to achieving Net Zero, we have adopted the following carbon reduction target.

We project that carbon emissions will be reduced by 20% by 2030.

5. Strategies for carbon reduction

To meet our reduction target of 20% by 2030 the areas we will focus on to develop and deliver reduction strategies are set out below. Progress will be reported to the Board of Trustees annually.

5.1 Business travel

Evaluate and, where possible, adopt means of reducing business travel, including expanded use of video conferencing, and encouraging employees to opt for lower emission options for travel. This is likely to be our principal cause of GHG emissions and so change is vital if we are to achieve a sustainable long-term reduction of emissions.

5.2 Employee commuting

We will continue to maintain a 'smarter working' culture for all employees to reduce the amount of business travel and commuting for our colleagues, helping to reduce our CO_2 emissions. The focus will be to enable employees to make the right decisions about where and how they work whilst making the best use of our workplaces and technology. This will include fostering a culture that focuses on outputs and outcomes, rather than presenteeism and supports the reduction of our carbon footprint by reducing unnecessary travel.

5.3 Digital carbon footprint

We will evaluate our data carbon footprint and look at ways in which we can minimise this whilst maintaining an effective organisational memory and meeting the requirements of data retention policies. In 2024 we implemented the following measures.

1. Policy to renew current mobile contract to SIM only and only replace handset when no longer fit for purpose.

2. Decommissioned Dropbox and removed approx. 6TB of duplicated data.
3. Policy to replace laptops only when performance is unrealistic for purpose and not on a generic lifecycle.

In 2025 we intend to.

1. Scan the entire SharePoint and Dropbox environment to reduce storage use and unnecessary files.
2. Set up appropriate retention schedules in line with GDPR and general data governance.
3. Recycle redundant IT kit.
4. Review file sharing and email best practise.
5. Increase staff awareness in reducing cyber emissions, e.g shut down laptops etc.

5.4 Environmental improvement projects

We will deliver projects and help other organisations to deliver practical projects that increase carbon sequestration and offset GHG emissions. We will need to develop a methodology for collecting and accounting for our contribution and ensuring double counting is avoided.

5.5 Communication

We will work with key partners (particularly local Rivers Trusts) and other stakeholders to achieve a better understanding of our emission contributions and actions that can be taken to reduce them.

5.6 Employee learning and behaviour change

Continue to raise the environmental awareness for all RT/RES employees, contractors, and interns. Working with all employees, we will encourage better energy use and reduced waste.

5.7 Catering at events

Carbon emissions will always be considered during the planning and delivery of Rivers Trust events. Where possible, event venues should be accessible by public transport to reduce the number of attendees travelling by car. Organisers should also aim to secure venues which have their own sustainability policies in place. Measures such as only using responsibly sourced refreshments or eliminating single-use plastics are relatively simple ways to keep our secondary emissions down.

5.8 Leadership

The Board and Senior Management Team (SMT) of RT/RES has given, and will continue to give, its full support to this carbon reduction programme and the team required to achieve RT/RES' Net Zero ambitions. The Board and SMT will lead by example, by modelling best practice behaviours in carbon reduction wherever possible, helping to direct and implement changes, along with making specific sub-project funding available when needed.

6 Declaration and sign off

This Carbon Reduction Plan has been completed in accordance with PPN 06/21 and associated guidance and reporting standards for Carbon Reduction Plans. Future emissions will be reported and recorded in accordance with the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the GHG Reporting Protocol corporate standard and uses the appropriate government emission conversion factors for greenhouse gas company reporting.

Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions will be reported in accordance with SECR requirements, and the required subset of Scope 3 emissions will be reported in accordance with the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Standard.

This Carbon Reduction Plan has been reviewed and signed off by the board of directors (or equivalent management body).

Signed on behalf of The Rivers Trust/River Ecosystem Services Limited



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M Lloyd
Chief Executive Officer

Date: 1st May 2025