



**UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

COP26 Carbon Management Plan Executive Summary

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Introduction

COP26 is the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) which will be hosted by the UK at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC) and the Glasgow Science Centre (GSC) in Glasgow between 31st October - 12th November 2021.

The Carbon Management Plan (CMP) has been developed for the delivery body for COP26 which comprises the Cabinet Office (CO) and Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). The CO and FCDO represent the planning and delivery organisation for COP26, by Her Majesty's Government (HMG) under the terms of the Host Country Agreement (HCA) in place between HMG and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The UK has committed to delivering a carbon neutral COP26.

The CMP covers how the planning and delivery of COP26 will be managed to ensure the event achieves carbon neutrality. It has been developed in order to align with relevant guidance on carbon neutrality, primarily PAS 2060 (carbon neutrality validation), and has been informed by internationally recognised standards on the measurement and reporting of Greenhouse Gases (GHG) impacts.

The CMP is intended to provide a clear source of information on how the carbon footprint of COP26 will be managed, the ways in which emissions from the event will be reduced and the residual carbon footprint of the event. This final account will inform the purchase of offsets for the event.

This document is an executive summary of the CMP and details the key points.

Carbon Management Approach

Commitment

The UK, as Host Country for COP26, is required by UNFCCC to deliver a climate neutral conference. This requirement applies to the delivery of the Blue Zone (the main conference), the transport of delegates who are attending the Blue Zone, and local impacts from delegate attendance (local travel and accommodation impacts).

The UK has decided to expand the commitment to carbon neutrality to include the Green Zone activities. It has also broadened the commitment to include key supporting activities such as the police operations, Green Zone attendee travel, and the activities carried out by HMG and key suppliers in preparation for the delivery of COP26.

COP26 will achieve and demonstrate carbon neutrality for HMG in accordance with *PAS 2060: 2014 Specification for the demonstration of carbon neutrality* for the period covering the preparation and delivery of COP26. Our declaration of achievement of carbon neutrality will be externally assured by Arup.

Carbon neutrality will be achieved by:

- Understanding and quantifying the impacts (ie GHG emissions) of the activities undertaken to prepare for and deliver COP26;
- Avoiding and reducing emissions against a business-as-usual approach, including engaging with delivery partners and suppliers to innovate, seek, identify and implement opportunities to reduce the scale of GHG impacts to the extent feasible; and
- Using appropriate carbon offsetting measures to account for the residual carbon footprint of the event, after carbon reduction opportunities have been implemented.

Carbon Management Plan Boundary

Following PAS2060 methodology the boundary (ie GHG emissions within scope) for the CMP has been defined based on the principle to include *all activities integral to the holding of the event and the achievement of its intended outcomes*.

The assessment considers emissions generated as a result of the event including those that can be directly managed and influenced by HMG, and other emissions attributable to the event but outside direct control of HMG, such as delegates' own transportation to the UK.

A summary of the main items within the boundary of the CMP for COP26 is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of COP26 CMP boundary (scope)

Category	Emissions sources included in the CMP and Offsetting Strategy
Pre-event planning	COP26 Unit staff business travel emissions during event preparation Travel and accommodation associated with the role of the COP26 President Travel emissions during event preparation for key suppliers
Venues + temporary structures at Blue & Green Zones Operations during the event	Emissions from transport of production equipment and materials used for temporary structures / construction Energy use for assembly of temporary structures, construction and event build processes Emissions associated with procurement of single use materials for the event construction and operation Venue energy, water, waste, catering, refrigerant emissions during COP26 for BZ and GZ Attendee packs, merchandise and gifts provided for delegates ICT related impacts within venue and for formal BZ virtual attendance
Travel / transport	Aviation to /from host country, national and local travel for Blue Zone attendees/delegates, exhibitors, official media, principal contractors, HMG staff, and Green Zone visitors
Accommodation	Energy, waste, water, service for all accommodation for Blue Zone attendees/delegates, exhibitors, official media, principal contractors, HMG staff, and Green Zone visitors

Policing and Security	<p>Travel and accommodation associated with the policing of the event and associated with single use security equipment procurement</p> <p>Energy use arising from use of MOD vehicles during the event</p> <p>Operational emissions from police, security, fire and rescue, and ambulance service vehicles</p>
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The activities included within the scope of the CMP are specified in more detail within the full Carbon Management Plan.

Initial Baseline

The methodology adopted for carbon footprinting is based on the [Greenhouse Gas \(GHG\) Protocol](#), primarily using [carbon activity factors](#) produced by the UK Government Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and augmented with publicly available sector-specific carbon factors where required.

The preliminary baseline assessment for COP26, for the determined scope of the Carbon Management Plan, is estimated at 102,500 tCO₂e.

This baseline provides the best working assessment of the emissions from the event based on planning parameters for the event, carbon reporting for previous COPs, and lessons learnt from the footprinting of previous similar events.

COP26 represents the largest summit ever hosted by the UK, and includes a large number of participant organisations and as such the baseline footprint provides an indication of scale in order to inform the wider activities within the Carbon Management Plan.

The majority of emissions are estimated to come from international aviation, equating to approximately 60% of the baseline footprint. Other large contributions arise from:

- Accommodation for delegates and participants
- Policing and Security for the event
- Transportation to and from venues during the event
- Venue energy, water and waste management
- Temporary venue space construction and transportation of materials
- Venue catering

Carbon Hierarchy

COP26's approach follows the carbon management hierarchy as shown in Figure 1.

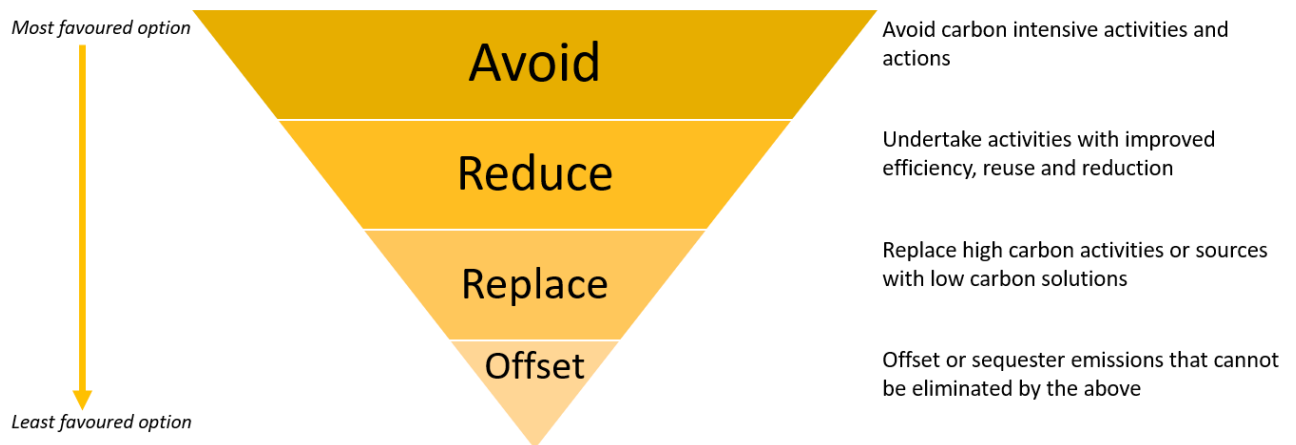


Figure 1: Carbon management hierarchy

In alignment with standards and guidance, carbon reduction/minimisation has been adopted as a priority and offsetting is used for 'residual' emissions only i.e. those that cannot be reduced to zero.

Carbon Avoidance and Reduction

Priorities for emissions avoidance and reduction for COP26 include:

- International aviation: This is the largest contributor to the baseline (>60%). The key opportunity for avoiding these emissions has been through promoting overland travel as an alternative travel option to air travel for those delegates where it is feasible and appropriate.
- Accommodation for delegates: Impacts have been reduced by prioritising accommodation that has adopted a wide-ranging approach to sustainability to reduce energy and resource use in the delivery of its services.
- Policing: Impacts will be reduced through the use of lower carbon transport options (where operational requirements allow), sharing of vehicles for transportation, and use of alternative fuel vehicles.
- Venue Energy: a new mains power supply has been installed at the BZ venue to provide power for temporary buildings to avoid the use of generators (except for backup power where some generators using HVO may be needed). Energy supply during the event will use a renewable energy tariff.
- Local Transport: Low carbon transport including public transport and low-carbon vehicles have been promoted. Delegates to the Blue Zone will be provided with public transport travel cards to facilitate their use and to avoid car transport where possible. A conference shuttle bus will operate during the event using an EV fleet, and opportunities for Active Travel will be promoted.
- Temporary Venue Space: The event is making use of demountable and reusable structures and, where possible, we are minimising the transport distance or associated emissions of bringing these to the event venues.

- Venue Catering: A low carbon catering approach is being taken which includes locally sourced and seasonal menus and considers the supply chain, transport, packaging, preparation and waste management associated with catering across event venues.
- Suppliers: The majority of commercial tenders communicated our sustainability and carbon ambitions and required carbon reduction as part of the contract requirements. Arup has been engaging with our supply chain partners directly to assist them in how to best avoid, reduce or replace high carbon activities.

Carbon Offsetting

The CMP requires that carbon avoidance and minimisation is adopted as a priority and that offsetting is used for residual emissions only. The offsetting strategy for COP26 will comply with PAS2060 requirements:

- All unavoidable emissions will be offset through the purchase and cancellation of UNFCCC-recognised offsets such as Certified Emission Reductions (CERs).
 - Sourced from a range of project types, across a geographically diverse range of countries. Examples of project types include:
 - Projects that replace electricity generated through fossil fuels with renewable energy;
 - Projects which implement energy efficiency measures to reduce energy consumption;
 - Projects which support sequestration of carbon through reforestation and forest regeneration.
 - Projects based in the UK
 - Gold Standard certified
 - Have UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) co-benefits;

Finalisation of the CMP

In order to finalise the declaration of carbon neutrality, HMG will (following the event):

- Finalise the quantification of the carbon footprint of the actual event i.e. once final data has been received and analysed;
- Balance the final volume of carbon offsets required to achieve carbon neutrality;
- Formally declare COP26 to be carbon neutral with Arup providing third party verification in line with PAS2060; and
- Share lessons learnt on our approach and particularly on carbon reduction to inform future HMG events and the wider events industry.