

*ACC Liverpool Group*

# SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

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2024 to 2030 - Year 2

# INTRODUCTION

At The ACC Liverpool Group, home to M&S Bank Arena, Exhibition Centre Liverpool, and the convention centre, we understand how important it is that we minimise the environmental impact of our buildings and events to do our bit to tackle the climate crisis. We want to be a leading voice in the industry encouraging sustainability practices, putting our best foot forward and working with our clients to deliver the most sustainable events possible.

Environment, sustainability and climate action are key focuses of our Social Value Impact Plan, which has been in place for two years. The ACC Liverpool Group Sustainability Strategy outlines six fundamental aims to ensure sustainability is at the heart of what we do. We are committed to learning and evolving towards a more sustainable future, pledging to achieve net zero by 2030 with the support and collaboration of our staff, clients, contractors, and stakeholders.



# OUR COMMITMENT

We commit to creating a sustainable and net zero event campus by 2030, ensuring that we continue to provide world class facilities whilst achieving sustainability excellence.

Our sustainability strategy aims to minimise our environmental impact, promote social responsibility, and contribute to the well-being of the communities we serve.



# CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

Developing and implementing a successful sustainability strategy involves considering a range of factors to address environmental, social, and economic concerns. In devising this strategy, the goals and commitments here were taken into consideration to help shape our own plans.



- **17 UN SUSTAINABILITY DEVELOPMENT GOALS** – achieving these goals would mean an end to extreme poverty, inequality, and climate change by 2030. These goals have not only been adopted in this strategy but also our wider Social Value plan.
- **NET ZERO CARBON EVENTS PLEDGE** – we have committed to support the goal of net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050, in line with global efforts set out by the Paris Agreement to limit warming to 1.5°C and reduce total global GHG emissions by 50% by 2030, and to actively promote and advocate for industry efforts throughout the value chain.
- **LIVERPOOL CITY 2030 NET ZERO GOAL** – the alignment of our strategy and goals to our landlord, Liverpool City Council is especially important to us as we share the passion and ambition of making a meaningful and sustainable impact on our city and region.

# OUR JOURNEY SO FAR



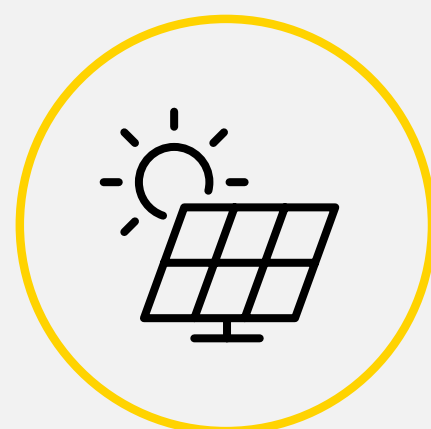
**33% of retail catering menus on offer are plant-based across the arena.**



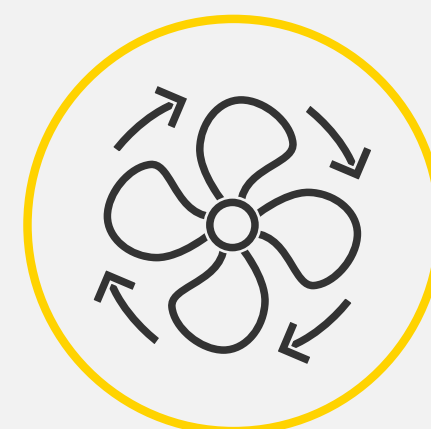
**Our food waste containers and consumable items are all made from compostable Vegware, and managed via a dedicated waste stream.**



**Usage of 100% renewable electricity across our entire campus.**



**925 photovoltaic panels on Exhibition Centre Liverpool's roof creating renewable energy.**



**Installed air sourced heat pumps in both the Convention Centre and M&S Bank Arena to replace our gas boilers.**



**Food waste processed on site via anaerobic digestion or donated to local charities across the city region.**



**Rainwater harvesting across venues to support with reusable water usage, providing 40% of water for flushing across the arena and convention.**



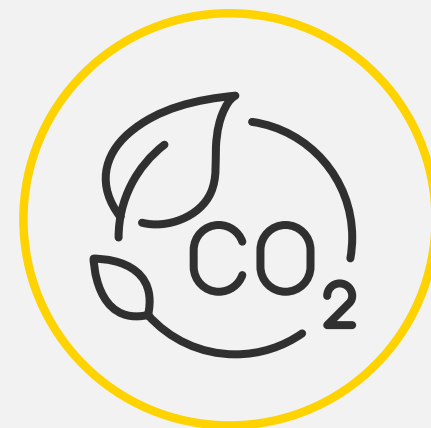
**Achieved Gold status as a Green Meetings accredited venue.**



**Championed sustainable industry events, including low carbon gigs, in partnership with Act 1.5 and Massive Attack.**



**Increased biodiversity and welcomed 3 beehives to our campus.**



**Carbon labelling on food menus, empowering clients to make sustainable food choices.**



**Including social value in our tendering processes, to encourage our supply chain to consider their impact on the environment and local community.**



**Achieved Platinum status as a Greengage ECOsmart accredited venue.**



**Installed LED lighting across the campus.**

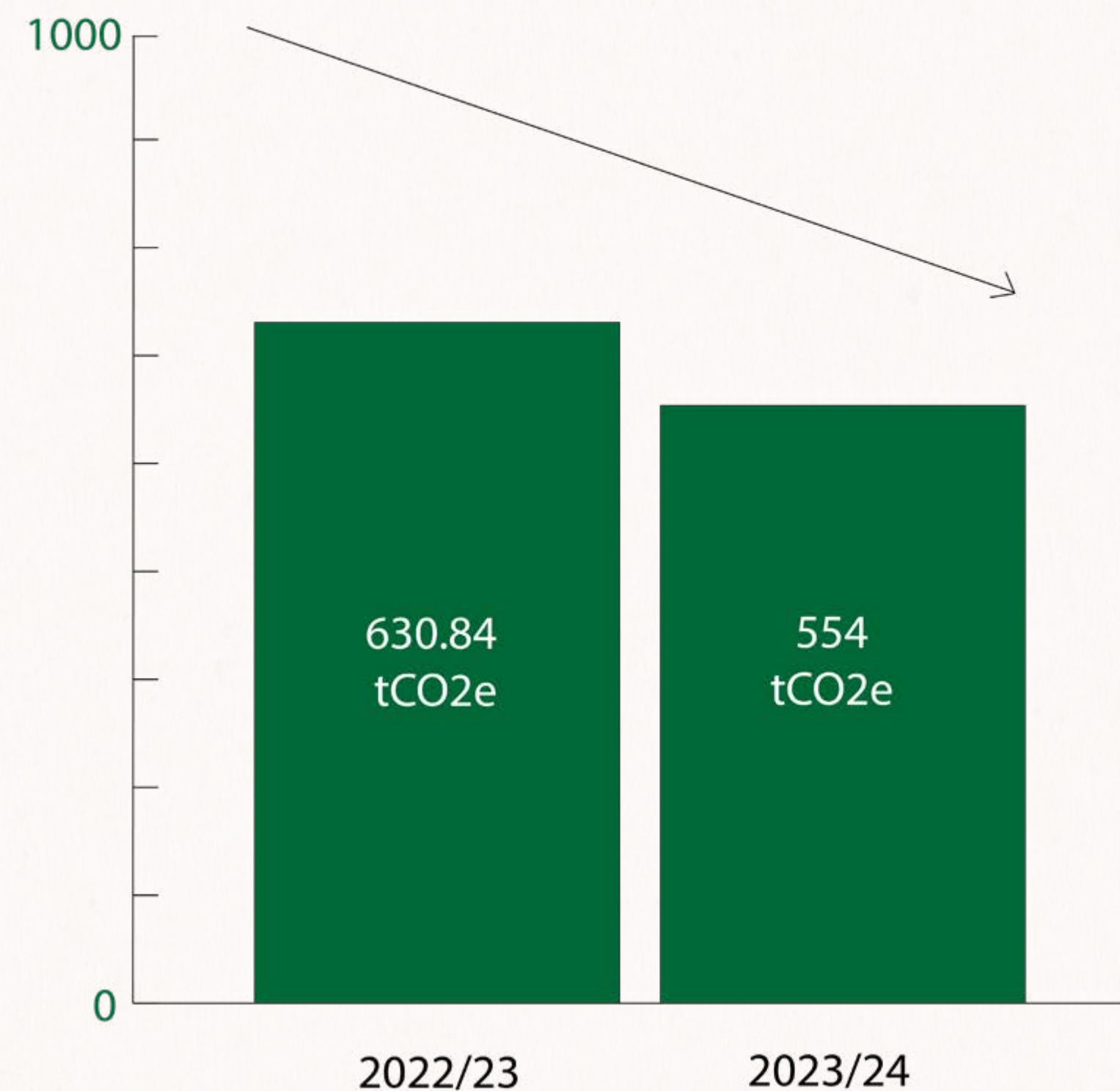
# CARBON REDUCTION

We are proud to have taken a significant step on our journey to net zero by becoming a carbon neutral event campus.

**2022 - 2023** **630.84 tCO<sub>2</sub>e**  
Total carbon footprint of the ACC Liverpool Group  
August 2022 – July 2023

This measurement is the baseline that all our reduction targets are based on against Scope 1, 2 and 3.

**2023 - 2024** **Year 2 results**  
The total level of emissions produced in July 2023 - August 2024 was 554 tonnes Co<sub>2</sub>e, a 12 per cent reduction against our baseline.



# OUR AIMS

1. Support the development of super low carbon events within our industry.
2. Manage all waste streams arising from our activities in a responsible manner and achieve zero waste to incineration.
3. Create a campus that runs on renewable energy only and operates in the most efficient way, reducing consumption.
4. Influence our suppliers and partners to ensure the environmental, social and economic impacts over the lifecycle of the products or services we procure support the goals outlined in this strategy.
5. Deliver a sustainable catering service centred around reducing carbon emissions, sourcing food ethically, minimising food waste and ensuring high welfare standards.
6. Promote sustainable travel alternatives and initiatives to staff, clients and all visitors to our campus.





# HOW WILL WE DO IT?

There are six primary areas we will consider in our strategy, including events, waste, energy, procurement, catering and travel.



EVENTS



WASTE



ENERGY



PROCUREMENT



CATERING



TRAVEL

# EVENTS

Through sustainable event management, we can advise our clients and help implement responsible decision making into the planning, organisation, and participation in an event.

We will ensure that our staff, clients, sub-contractors and suppliers are aware of their environmental responsibilities that will empower them to maximise the social and environmental impact of the long-term wellbeing of the communities and stakeholders involved.

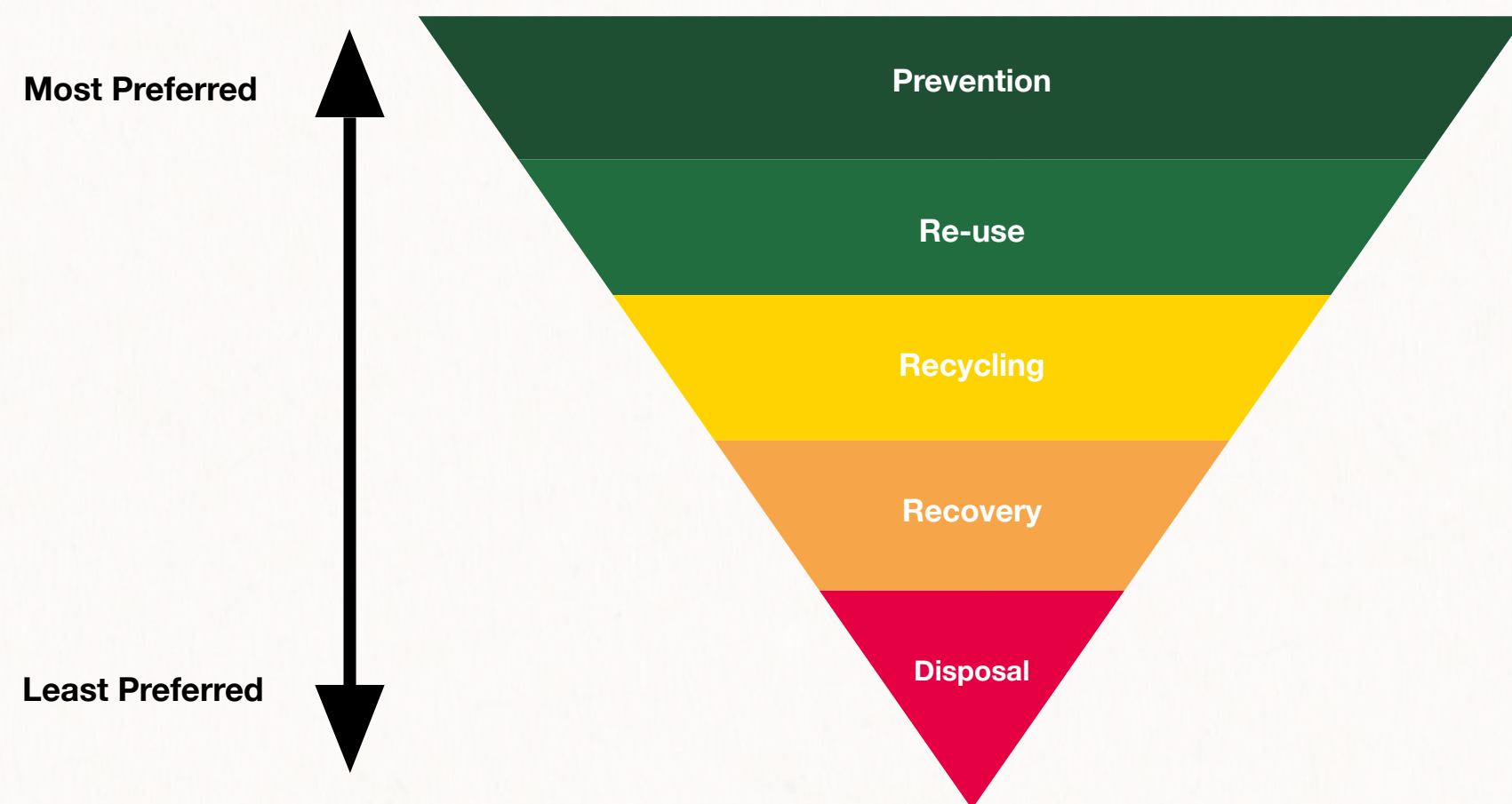


## WE WILL ACHIEVE THIS BY:

- Maintaining our green accreditations and continuing to explore new ones.
- Collaborating with our clients to develop materials that make it easy for them to make good decisions and consider sustainability in their event planning, including developing checklists and assets for clients.
- Collaborate with industry body Greengage, using their carbon measurement tool to track the impact of on-site and off-site event activities. This will mean that clients can make data driven decisions for future events.
- Create and share energy impact statements for all events to inform clients of their onsite carbon footprint and suggest a reduction plan.

# WASTE

## WASTE HIERARCHY



Our waste management approach is centred around implementing proper practices that have far-reaching consequences. Through proper waste management, we can prevent harmful chemicals entering the environment to help safeguard ecosystems.

Successful waste management will also protect natural reserves and decrease greenhouse gas emissions by turning organic waste into usable products.

### WE WILL LOOK FOR CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IN WASTE MANAGEMENT BY:

- Applying the waste hierarchy to all our processes.
- Maintaining our zero to landfill status.
- Increasing our percentage of recyclable waste to 75% by 2025 and 100% by 2030.
- Creating an on-site waste centre to sort all our waste streams at source.
- Continuing to build on technologies like ORCA to reduce the carbon miles associated with waste transport.
- Eradicating the use of single use plastics across all operations, and promoting the use of sustainable alternatives.

# ENERGY

Decarbonising our energy supply is vital to contribute to the fight against climate change. We effectively plan, monitor, and optimise our energy consumption to reduce our carbon footprint and embed the concept of energy management as a long-term component of our business operations, underpinned by efficient technologies and sustainable practices.

## **WE WILL ACHIEVE THIS BY:**

- Moving to a more sustainable and renewable gas source from 2026.
- Continuous reduction of energy wastage across the campus.
- Working with Liverpool City Council to design and install a carbon zero heating solution for our campus in line with our 2030 net zero pledge.
- Removing the use of company vehicles as well as introducing a range of fully electric MEWPs and Forklifts across campus.
- Collaborating with our Sustainability Innovation partner to explore innovative ways to accelerate our 2030 ambitions.
- Increasing renewable energy generation on campus and improving the control of building infrastructure and energy usage along with data gathering through our building management system.
- Continuing to upgrade and enhance existing facilities to improve sustainability and energy performance, ensuring targets in our 2030 roadmap are met.

# PROCUREMENT

Sustainable procurement plays a pivotal role in the positive environmental, social, and economic impacts over the entire lifecycle.



**OUR SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT APPROACH WILL INTEGRATE THESE FACTORS INTO RESPONSIBLE PROCUREMENT PROCESSES AND DECISION MAKING BY:**

- Procuring environmentally friendly products or services.
- Reducing or avoiding consumption when possible.
- Launching a sustainable procurement policy.
- Buying locally when possible.
- Purchasing products or services that are manufactured, used, and disposed of in an environmentally friendly manner.
- Educating our staff to understand the environmental impact of procurement, including how it should be applied throughout our purchasing procedures and how the social value effect of our procurement is measured through the National TOMS framework.

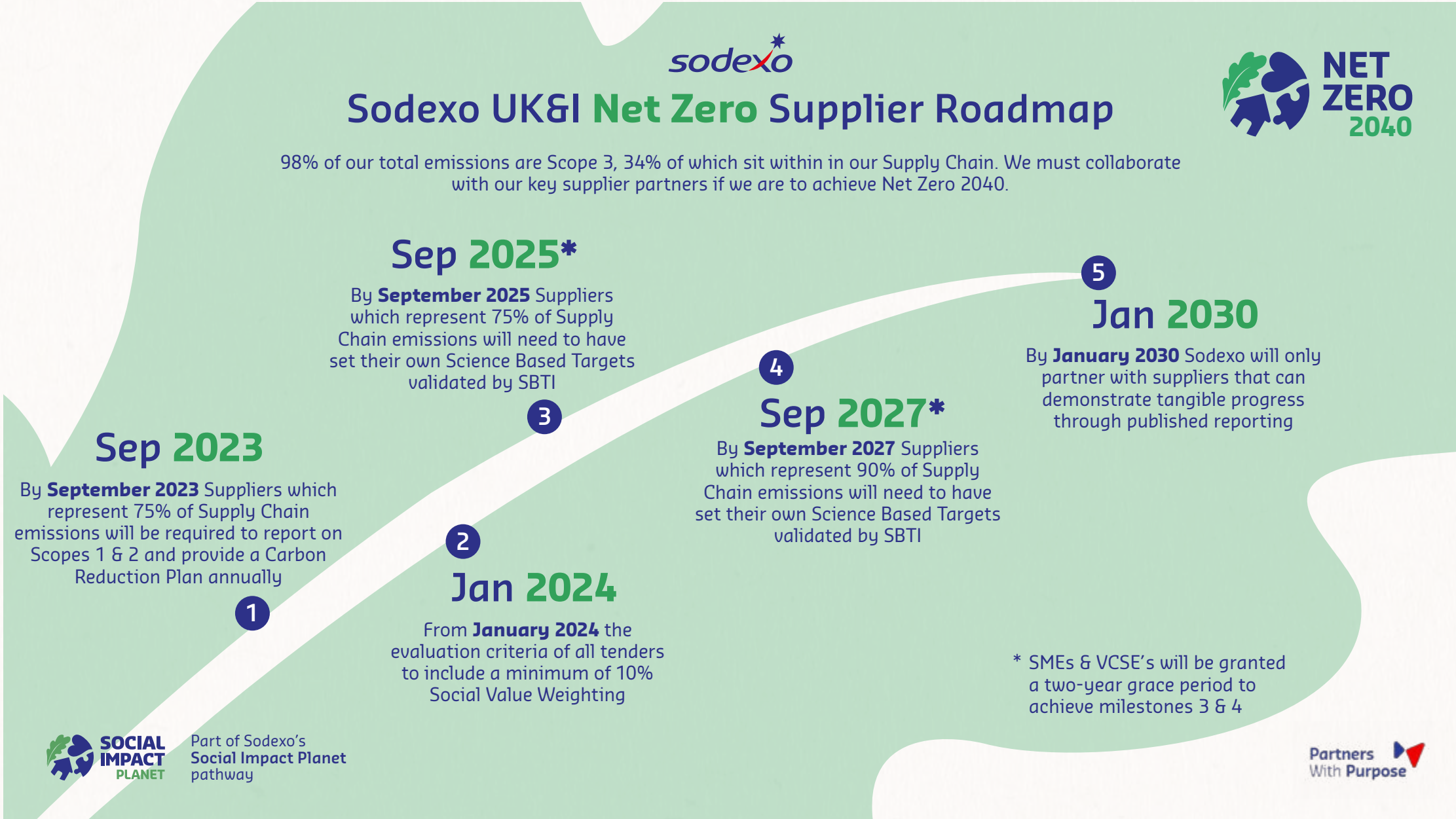
# CATERING

Choices made about food, equipment, logistics and materials used for catering of events influence environmental sustainability. By ensuring we opt for sustainable food choices, supplies and aligning sustainable catering with sustainable waste management, we can significantly reduce our carbon footprint and deliver meaningful health and environmental benefits.

**WE WILL DO THIS BY:**

- Working in partnership with our catering partner Sodexo Live!, clients and Klimato to reduce carbon emissions by 0.6 CO<sub>2</sub>e/kg. Increase the current percentage of menu items that are less than 0.40 CO<sub>2</sub>e/kg. Current achievement sits at 66%.
- Increasing the number of plant-based recipes in our Conference and Exhibition menus to 46%.
- Increasing the amount of social enterprise suppliers we work with, prioritising local suppliers, and exploring meat free offers.

- Achieving the key milestones set out in the net zero supplier roadmap.
- Continuing to tackle food waste in catering operations via the use of technology like ORCA.



# TRAVEL

We want all our clients and visitors to be equipped with the knowledge that enables them to make the most sustainable travel choice when visiting our campus. On average, travel contributes 60% to an event's carbon footprint, so by addressing this we can significantly reduce their environmental impact.



## WE WILL DO THIS BY:

- Working with local and national travel providers to incentivise the use of public transport on our events.
- Continuing to expand our cycle to work scheme, expanding bike storage facilities on site promote the use of bicycles by delegates and concert goers.
- Working with event clients to promote more environmentally friendly modes of transport to and from their event, i.e., car sharing, trains, making use of the scooters throughout Liverpool when in tenancy.
- Proactively communicating with our transport partners and travel providers to discuss possibilities of free/reduced cost of public transport with a delegate badge.
- Trialling and looking to adopt an integrate public transport and ticketing program for our consumer events.

# KEY DELIVERABLES FOR 2025



## EVENTS

Collaborating with industry body Greengage, using their carbon measurement tool EventSmart to create post-event carbon reports for all of the activity taking place across our campus.



## ENERGY

Collaborating with a green Sustainability Innovation partner to explore innovative ways to accelerate our 2030 ambitions.



## CATERING

Increasing the amount of social enterprise suppliers we work with via our catering partner Sodexo Live!, prioritising local suppliers, and exploring meat free offers.



## WASTE

Continuing to implement stage two of our waste management plan to reduce waste across our campus.



## PROCUREMENT

Launching a sustainable procurement policy to ensure our values are represented throughout our supply chain.



## TRAVEL

Trialling and looking to adopt an integrated public transport and ticketing program for our consumer events



# ROADMAP TO 2030

## Colour Key



Completed

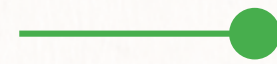


In progress



To be achieved

**2023 - 2026**  
Reduce gas consumption by installing air sourced heat pumps and improving building efficiencies



**2023 - 2026**  
Waste reduction and increase in recycling to 75%



**2023 - 2026**  
Reduce food waste by 50%



**2023 - 2026**  
Waste management plan and onsite waste centre



**2023 - 2026**  
Electric fleet of MEWPS and FLTs



**2023 - 2026**  
Removal of company cars



**2026 - 2030**  
Install new sources of renewable energy on site



**2026 - 2030**  
Achieve ZERO waste by 100% recycling



**2026 - 2030**  
Replace gas fired AHUs with heat pump solution



**Key Milestone**  
Reduce baseline emissions by 50%



**Achieve Net Zero**

**NET ZERO**

