

Carbon Reduction Strategy





INTRODUCTION

It is widely accepted that aspects of our modern lives are having a negative impact on our climate. The impacts of climate change, once considered to be in the 'future', are sadly ever-present in the 'now', with reports of forest fires and droughts, and documented evidence of rising sea levels common reading in the worldwide press.

There is an acceptance that, unless our trajectory shifts, the future looks socially, environmentally, and economically uncertain. Through the 2015 Paris Agreement, world governments committed to curbing global temperature rise to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and pursuing efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C. In 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned that global warming must not exceed 1.5°C, to avoid the catastrophic impacts of climate change. In response, the UK became the first major economy to pass net zero emissions law, which requires the UK to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050 and, as the world begins to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, the message from the UK Government remains clear; build back better, by building back greener. The publication of the Policy Procurement Notice 06/21 further cements this commitment, requiring Carbon Reduction Plans for all organisations bidding for major government contracts.

Recognising and accepting that the choices we make today have consequences that will affect the stability of our future is key; now is the time to act. The challenge in front of us, however, is not insurmountable and it is important that we remain optimistic.

At VolkerWessels UK, we recognise that the way we design, build and execute our projects has a carbon impact, and, critically, it is within our gift to reduce this impact through engineering excellence and working collaboratively to reduce operational carbon. The challenge is how we approach this and, importantly, that we sustain these efforts. It is therefore our intent to use education as the cornerstone of our approach to motivate our greatest asset - our people - to think innovatively about carbon reduction, in order to make a difference. We have targets and measures in place to help us focus our corporate roadmap, and we recognise that it will be our ability to engage people on the journey that will have the greatest impact.



Alan Robertson
CEO

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OUR APPROACH

Our approach is people centric and based around behaviours, with the belief that if our employees are presented with the facts and are empowered to initiate change, we can trust them to seek out innovation and make the right decisions at all levels in the business. Our plan is based on the need to educate, motivate and innovate.

EDUCATE – to raise awareness and engender a sense of responsibility

MOTIVATE – to be optimistic about our ability to make a difference

INNOVATE – to make the change and bring people on the journey

Our framework for carbon reduction, underpinned by our wider People-Planet-Purpose sustainability framework, outlines our collective ambition and approach, at the same time as allowing each of our businesses to contribute, by focussing on the activities specific to their operations.

This flexibility promotes alignment with clients' ambitions, as well as the ability to embrace technologies quickly and responsively. Our overall aim is to promote collective and collaborative learning, to enable us to become more confident in our ability to innovate and instigate the change necessary to sustain our efforts.

RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

In accordance with our People-Planet-Purpose sustainability framework, every VolkerWessels UK employee has a responsibility to make decisions informed by an inherent culture to do business in the right way. Our corporate responsibility, therefore, is that of a facilitator of change; to empower, encourage, make funds and resources available, share research and best practice, and to engender a culture of thinking differently and innovatively about carbon reduction. Our education and awareness programmes will reinforce and promote this.

The VolkerWessels UK board of directors has accepted its ultimate accountability for ensuring that our carbon reduction strategy is achieved. The leadership of our directors is key, demonstrating their willingness to steer and shape the way we do business and provide the resources and investment required to facilitate this.



The board is advised by a **Carbon Steering Group**, comprising senior, decision-making representatives, who will drive change in their respective businesses.

The **Carbon Working Group** informs the Steering group and is responsible for identifying, commissioning, governing and sponsoring Task and Finish groups, and driving forward our carbon agenda.



Task and Finish Groups are established to add focus and take action in specific areas of our carbon reduction strategy.

OUR CARBON REDUCTION TARGET

It is VolkerWessels UK's target is to be Net Zero by 2035 for all Scope 1 and 2 emissions, and for those Scope 3 emissions which are under our direct control (as detailed in the table below). To support this, VolkerWessels UK is a signatory of the Science Based Targets Initiative 'Business Ambition to 1.5°C', confirming that we have committed to set a science based target that is in line with a 1.5°C future*.



2035

Our target will be achieved primarily through ambitious carbon reduction, and secondly through robust and credible offsets for our unavoidable emissions**. We will introduce 10% year on year incremental offsetting, starting from 2025, culminating in full offset by 2035. We recognise the wider benefits of offsetting residual

emissions earlier in our Net Zero journey, at the same time as continuing to pursue reductions in overall emissions.

VolkerWessels UK will also continue to work with our clients, our supply chain and our procurement teams, to promote sustainable choices of materials and stimulate a downward trend in emissions resulting from the materials used on our projects.



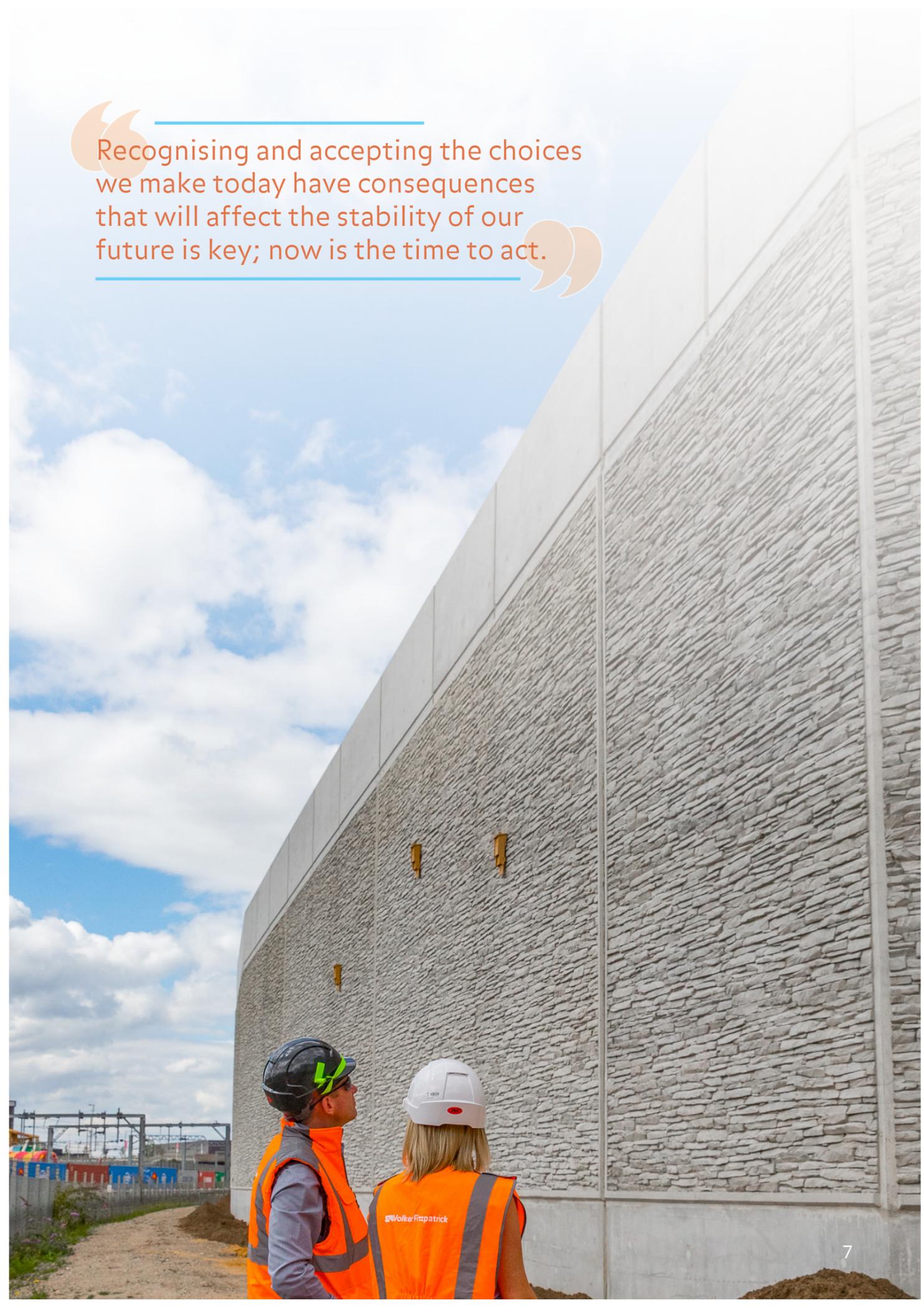
PlanetMark

Progress towards our target will be externally verified through our Planet Mark certification, to ensure credibility and transparency.

Emission sources	
Scope 1 Direct emissions resulting from sources that are controlled or owned by VolkerWessels UK	Natural gas, and fuels used in on-site equipment, our commercial fleet, and for business mileage in long-term leased company vehicles
Scope 2 Indirect emissions associated with the purchase of electricity, heat or cooling	The electricity used in our offices and on our sites
Scope 3 Indirect emissions from other sources, not already included in Scope 1 or Scope 2	Train travel, flights, hotel stays, water, waste, electricity transmission/distribution, and fuel for business mileage in short-term leases and grey fleet

* By signing the Science Based Targets Initiative 'Business Ambition to 1.5°C', VolkerWessels UK also becomes part of Race to Zero, a UN backed campaign, and will be showcased by the SBTi, UN Global Compact, and their partners, CDP and We Mean Business.
 ** Aligned to the UK Government's ambitions, 'Net Zero' means any residual emissions produced by VolkerWessels UK would be balanced by Gold Standard schemes to offset an equivalent amount of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.

Recognising and accepting the choices we make today have consequences that will affect the stability of our future is key; now is the time to act.



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.



For more information about our carbon reduction plans,
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