



# SWG3 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

2024





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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## WHAT WAS OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT?

In 2024, our total carbon footprint (Scopes 1, 2, and 3) was **963.91 tCO<sub>2</sub>e** - an increase of 35% compared to 2023. While this rise may initially seem concerning, it is largely due to the expanded scope of our carbon accounting, which now includes emissions from refrigerants and diesel. Additionally, the average distance travelled by our audience nearly doubled, resulting in a 34% increase in emissions from audience travel.

## WHAT WERE OUR KEY IMPROVEMENTS?

Despite the overall rise, we achieved improvements in several key areas:

- Emissions from gas consumption and business travel both **fell by over 50%**
- Staff commuting and waste/recycling emissions **decreased by over 20%**
- **Our recycling rate rose to 64%** - a 2% improvement - bringing us closer to our 70% recycling target for 2025

In 2021, we set an ambitious goal to become operationally net zero by 2025. For us net zero is defined as a 90% reduction from our baseline Scope 1 and 2 emissions of 123 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

**In 2024 our operational emissions were 28 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, meaning we have achieved a 77% reduction on the baseline data - a significant milestone.**

## WHY HAVE WE REVISED OUR TARGETS?

Each year, as our understanding of our environmental impact improves, we identify previously unmeasured areas and expand our reporting boundaries accordingly. We remain committed to reducing our emissions while ensuring that every potential impact is identified and measured – leaving no stone unturned. **In 2025 we will widen the scope again to include artist travel and supply chain emissions, which will further increase our footprint.**

This aligns with a key insight from our 2023 Sustainability Report: **“As the boundary of our carbon footprint expands with improved data collection, we will likely see our carbon footprint increase before it decreases.”**

Due to the continued expansion of the scope in our reporting, **we have made the decision to revise our net zero target to 2027.** To meet this goal, we will need to reduce operational emissions by approximately 25% each year. Achieving this will require investment, particularly in two key areas:

- Sourcing renewable energy (e.g. installing solar power and transitioning to 100% renewable gas)
- Improving the efficiency of our refrigeration and air conditioning systems

We remain fully committed to our sustainability goals and will continue to lead with transparency, ambition, and accountability as we progress toward net zero.

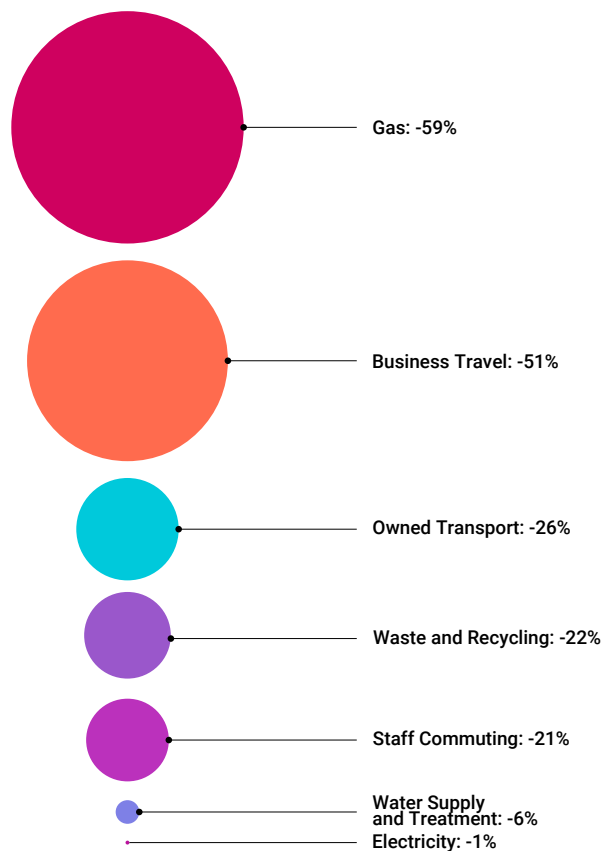






# EMISSIONS BREAKDOWN

## AREAS WHERE EMISSIONS DECREASED (VS. 2023)



## AREAS WHERE EMISSIONS INCREASED (VS. 2023)

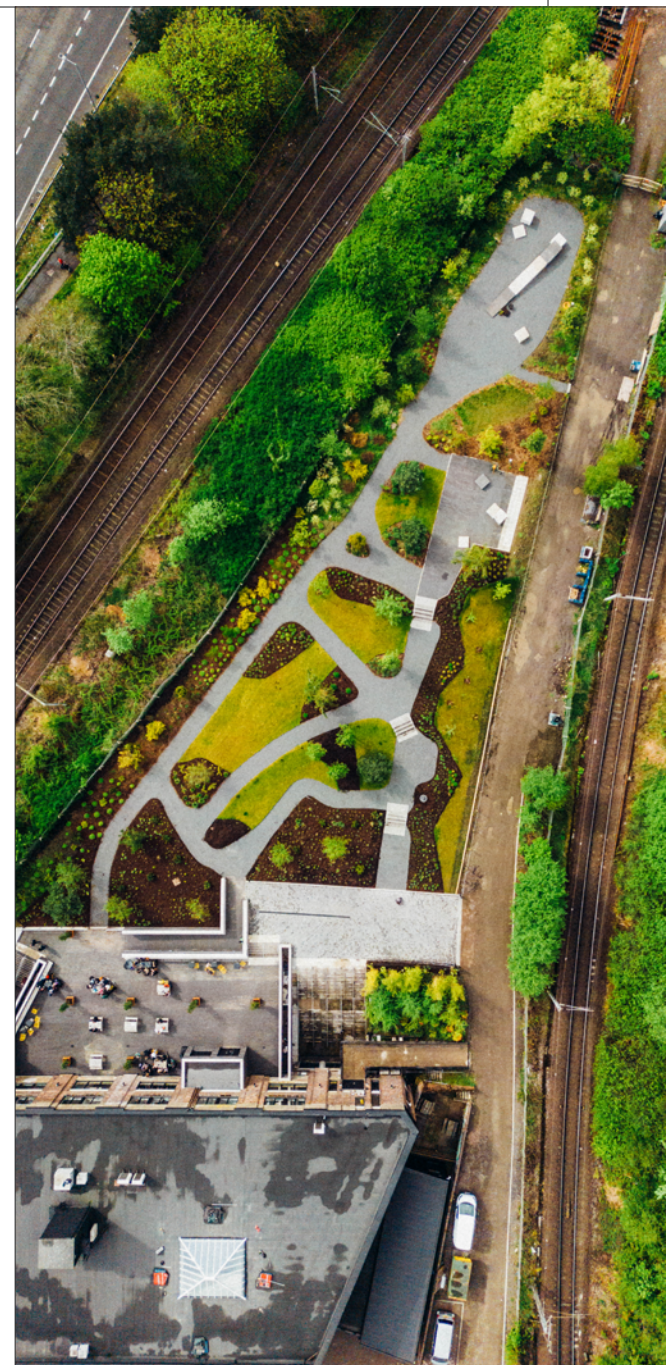
- Audience Travel: +37%
- Transmission & Distribution (T&D) Losses: +0.5%

## NEW EMISSION SOURCES INCLUDED IN 2024

- Refrigerants
- Diesel

## PLANNED ADDITIONS FOR 2025

- Artist Travel
- Supply Chain Emissions







# THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY IS NOW

## GLOBAL CARBON LEVELS<sup>1</sup>

In 2024, the **annual mean global concentration of carbon dioxide** reached approximately **430 parts per million (ppm)** - around **40% higher than pre-industrial levels**. This is an unprecedented threshold; Earth has not experienced atmospheric carbon levels this high in **at least 2 million years**. This sharp rise is a direct result of **human activity**, primarily the **burning of fossil fuels** such as coal, oil, and gas.

The impacts of this accelerating climate crisis are already evident and manifest in the following ways:

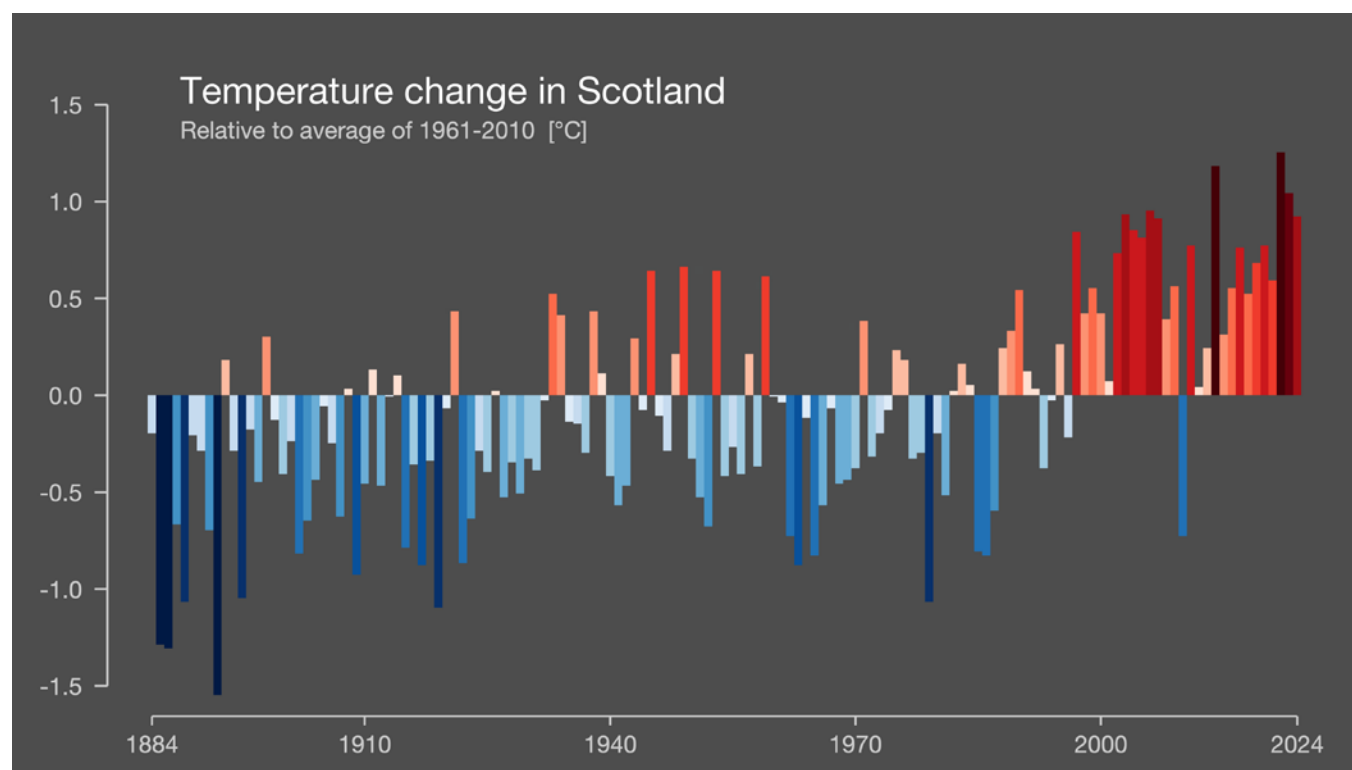
- Rising global temperatures
- Increased and more intense rainfall
- Rising sea levels
- Reduced snow cover

## SCOTLAND IN A CHANGING CLIMATE<sup>2,3</sup>

Scotland is already experiencing the effects of climate change:

- **2022 was the warmest year on record** for Scotland, with temperatures reaching as high as **35°C** in some areas.
- The **decade from 2014 to 2023** was **1.02°C warmer** than the 1961–1990 average.
- Rainfall patterns have also shifted significantly:
  - **Annual average rainfall** during the same period was **10% higher** than the 1961–1990 average
  - **Winter rainfall** increased by **29%**

The visual below, from Ed Hawkins (University of Reading), illustrates **Scotland's temperature change from 1884 to 2024**, highlighting the stark and rapid warming over the last century:







# OUR AIMS

As a major cultural destination which values the natural world, sustainability is of utmost importance to SWG3. It is imperative that we reduce our environmental footprint as soon and effectively as possible. We are collectively working to ensure it is not seen as separate but embedded through all aspects of the organisation and its activities.

Since 2021 our overarching aim is to become Net Zero on our operational emissions (Scope 1 and 2) by 2025. With the writing of this report, we have recognised that as we increase our scope and better understand our impacts, this target has been revised and updated to become Net Zero on our operational emissions (Scope 1 and 2) by 2027. We have also revised and updated our other Net Zero aims (adapted from the Net Zero Carbon Events Initiative):

## ENERGY

- By 2027 we aim to power our events with 100% renewable energy.
- By 2027 we aim to improve the efficiency of our refrigeration systems
- We aim to reduce the carbon emissions year on year by 10%.
- We aim to increase energy efficiency by 10% each year.

## WASTE

- By 2025, we aim to achieve a recycling rate of 70% and by 2030, a rate of 85%.
- By 2030, 50% of our supply chain will be committed to going Net Zero.
- Work with our suppliers to source materials, services, and food sustainably by designing out waste.

## TRAVEL

- By 2030, our objective is for 50% of audience travel to the venue to be via sustainable methods. We will work with and influence partners in the travel sector to reduce and mitigate the emissions of travel to events.

## RENEGERATE

- Go beyond carbon reduction to embrace circular economy principles and regenerative practices that positively impact people and the planet.







# METHODOLOGY







# METHODOLOGY

We calculated our carbon footprint using the UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting. You can find our full GHG inventory in the Appendix. All emissions are calculated in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent or tCO<sub>2</sub>e. We use a 'market-based' accounting approach\* to set and track progress towards our Scope 2 targets but also report on our 'location-based' emissions for full transparency (see p.18).

Here is the current scope of the emissions sources included in this report:

## SCOPE 1

Gas, refrigerants, owned transport.

## SCOPE 2

Purchased electricity.

## SCOPE 3

Diesel, business travel, staff commuting, audience travel, waste and recycling, T&D losses, water supply and treatment.

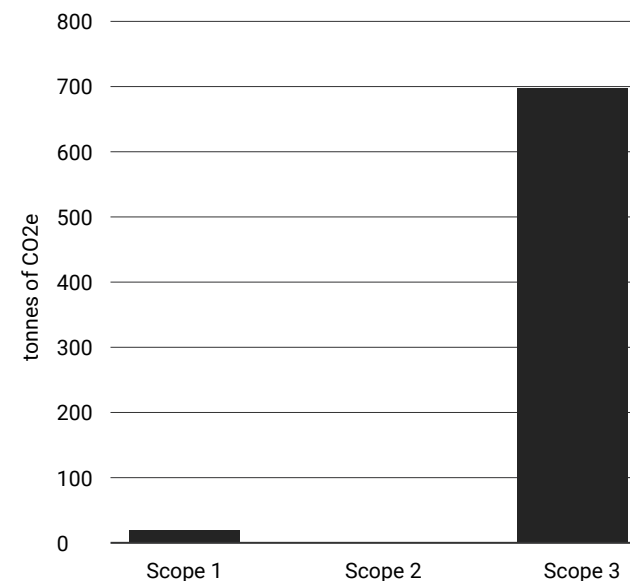
## OUT OF SCOPE

Artist travel, supply chain (to be included in 2025 reporting).

## BASELINE EMISSIONS

Our baseline carbon footprint was calculated in the period 2018-20 and was 131 tCO<sub>2</sub>e. As the boundary of our carbon footprint expands with improved data collection, we will likely see our carbon footprint increase before it decreases. We are committed to measuring all direct and indirect operational emissions and externally reporting our emissions data every year.

SCOPE BREAKDOWN 2024

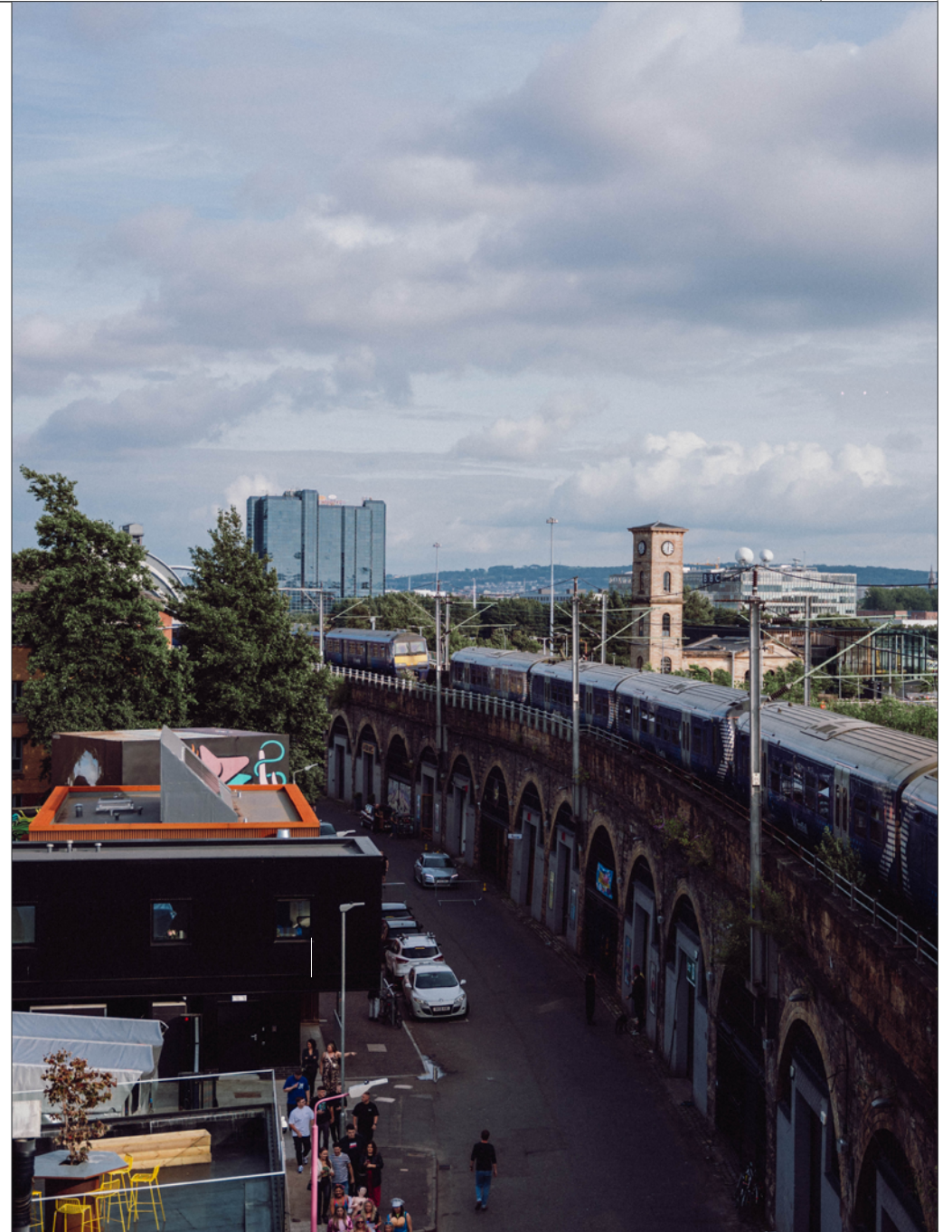


*\*A note on dual-disclosure: As part of our Net Zero Strategy, we are using a 'market-based' accounting approach to set and track progress towards our Scope 2 targets (in line with SBTi guidance). However, as outlined in our strategy, we remain committed to increasing energy efficiency each year to reduce our demand on the UK grid, so we will also report our 'location-based' emissions. The current Greenhouse Gas Protocol Scope 2 Guidance states that, where possible, companies are required to report Scope 2 electricity-based emissions according to both a 'location-based' method and a 'market-based' method. Location-based means electricity emissions from the general grid emission factor for a particular geographical region (e.g., a country). Market-based means emission factors specific to electricity from a particular supplier. This method considers the impact of purchasing renewable energy.*





# NET ZERO TARGETS







# NET ZERO TARGETS

## WHAT IS NET ZERO?<sup>4</sup>

Net zero refers to the balance between the greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere and those removed from it. **The aim is to reduce emissions as much as possible before then removing via offsetting.**

Achieving net zero - particularly for carbon dioxide - is essential, as it represents the point at which global warming stops. This concept underpins the Paris Agreement target to limit global temperature rise to **1.5°C above pre-industrial levels by 2050**, in order to avoid the worst impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss.

(Source: University of Oxford – What is Net Zero)

## OUR COMMITMENTS AND TARGETS

In 2021, we committed to becoming **operationally net zero by 2025**, which for us means, aiming for a **90% reduction in Scope 1 and 2 emissions** from our baseline of 123 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (based on average emissions from 2018–2020). However, as our carbon accounting has become more comprehensive - particularly in 2024 with the inclusion of refrigerants and diesel - we have revised this target to reflect the expanded scope. **Our updated target is to achieve operational net zero by 2027.**

In addition, we are setting a longer-term goal to reduce our **absolute Scope 3 emissions by 90% by 2035**. Both targets will continue to be reviewed and refined annually in line with improvements in data quality, operational changes, and industry best practices.



## PATHWAY TO OPERATIONAL NET ZERO

To meet our revised 2027 target, we must reduce operational emissions by approximately 25% year-on-year. The projected pathway is as follows:

*Note: Any remaining emissions in 2027 will be addressed through credible offsetting mechanisms.*

## OFFSETTING

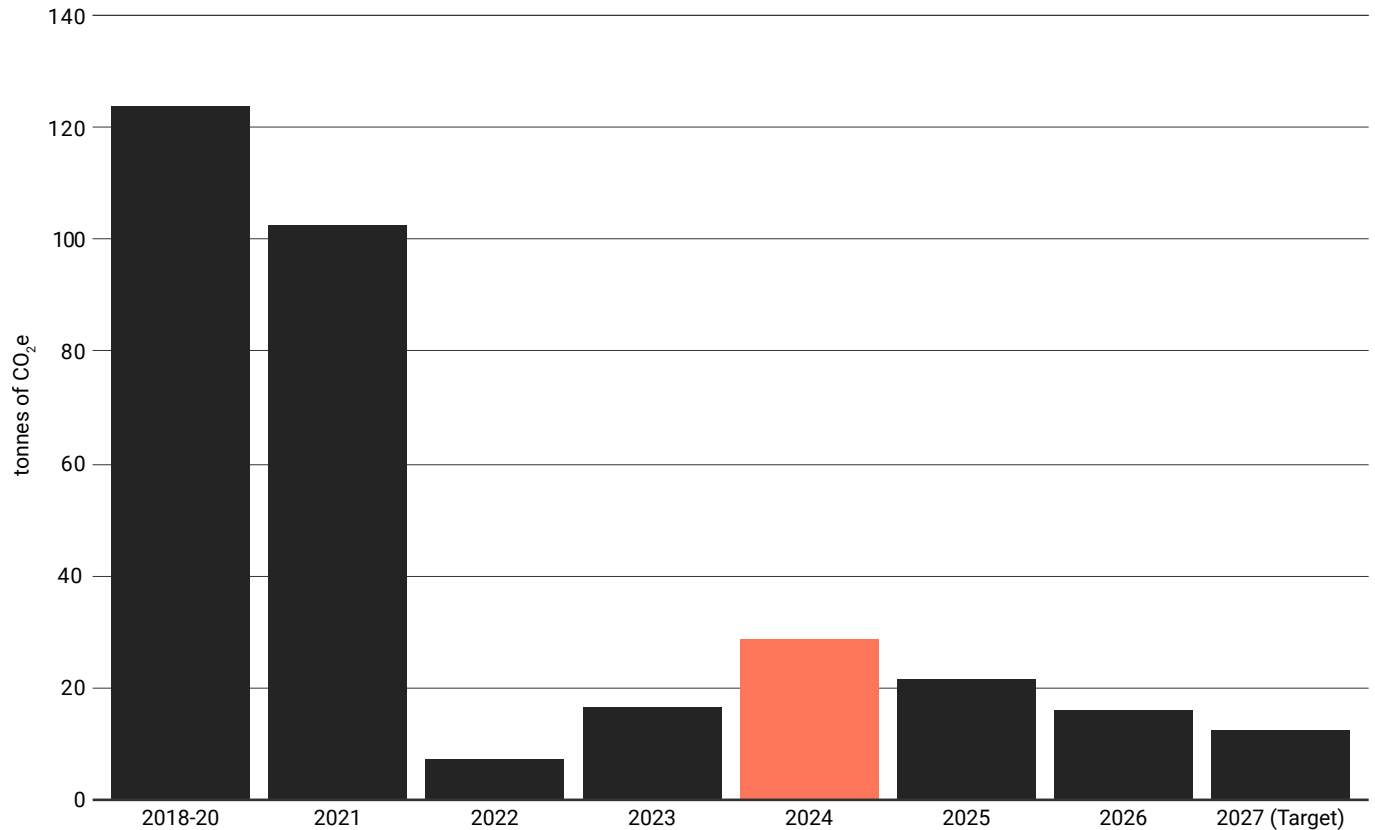
Since 2021, we have committed to annually offsetting our operational emissions. While our primary focus remains on reducing emissions through efficiency improvements, behavioural change, and investment in low-carbon infrastructure, we recognise that some residual emissions are unavoidable.

This is why our net zero target is based on a 90% reduction from our baseline emissions, rather than a full 100%. The final 10% represents those persistent emissions that cannot currently be eliminated through operational changes alone.

In these cases, carbon offsetting plays a supporting role in our broader carbon management strategy. However, we view offsetting as a last resort or an additional extra, not a substitute for real reductions. Carbon offsetting is just one small piece of the carbon reduction puzzle, and we will always prioritise emission reduction first.

In 2024 we offset our (location based) operational emissions of 133.72 tCO<sub>2</sub>e via Carbon Footprint, a Verified Carbon Standard offsetting programme.

TARGET OPERATIONAL EMISSIONS

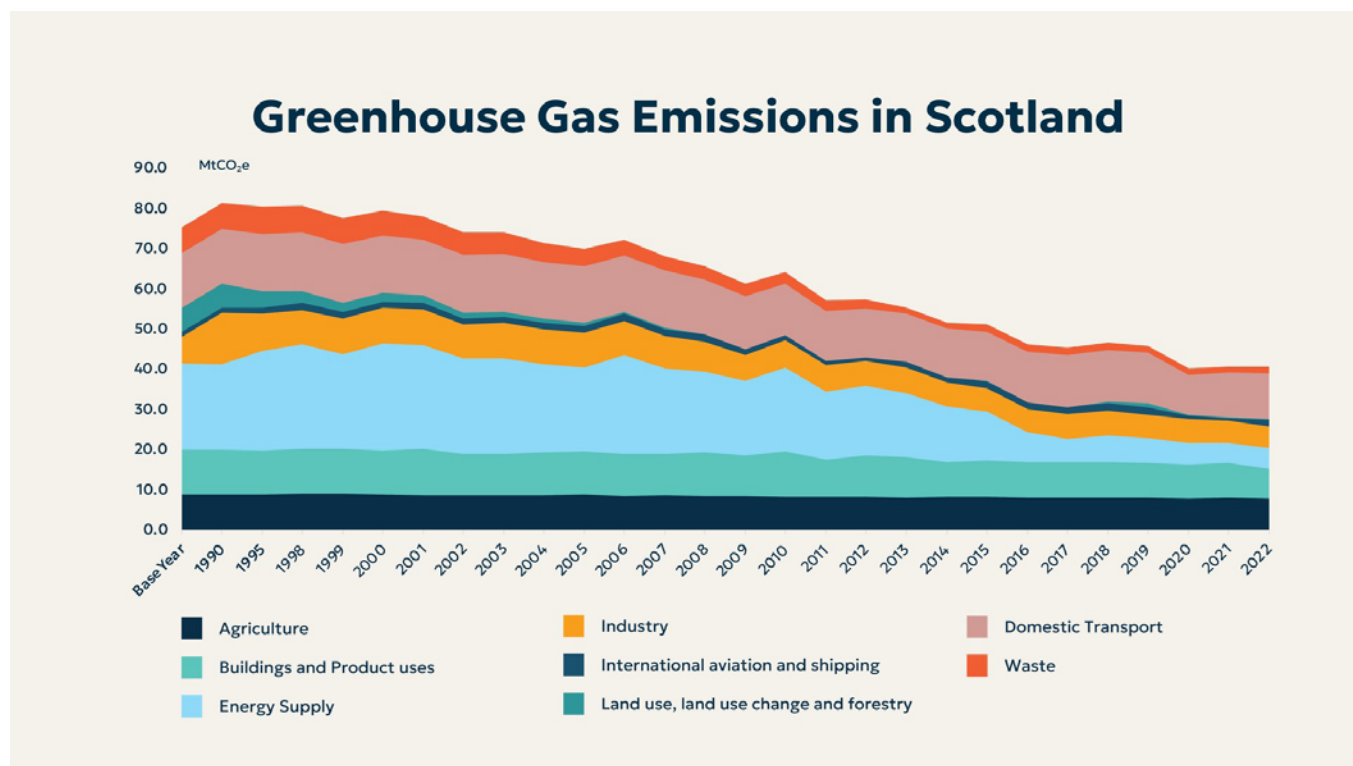






# NATIONAL TARGETS AND PATHWAY TO NET ZERO

The Scottish Government have proposed a legally binding target to reach Net Zero by 2045, five years ahead of the UK Government. Positively, the country's footprint has reduced by over 50% since 1990 as can be seen below. This reduction is mostly down to changes in the energy supply, moving away from coal and increasing renewables and nuclear.



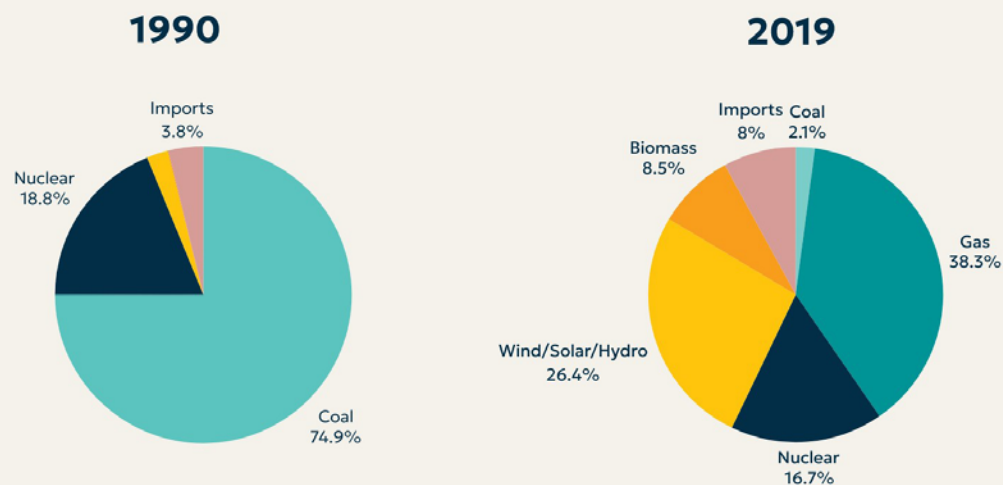
[Source: The University of Edinburgh, Climate Springboard]



# NATIONAL TARGETS AND PATHWAY TO NET ZERO

Electrification will be a huge part of our transition to Net Zero alongside improving efficiency and reducing energy demand. The IPCC states that individual behaviour change combined with supporting policy, industry and technological transformations will transform our footprint.

## Generation Source of National Grid



[Source: The University of Edinburgh, Climate Springboard]





# OUR NET ZERO PROGRESS

## 2018-20

We calculated our average baseline emissions between 2018-2020 to account for fluctuations caused by the pandemic. Our baseline carbon footprint (Scopes 1, 2 and 3) was 131 tCO<sub>2</sub>e and our baseline operational emissions (Scopes 1 and 2) were 123 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (this is our benchmark for tracking progress towards Net Zero operations by 2025).

## 2021

In 2021 our total carbon footprint was 109.7 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, resulting in a 16.26% emissions reduction from our baseline. Our total operational emissions were 102 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

## 2022

At the end of 2021 we switched to a 100% renewable energy tariff and in 2022 we switched on BODYHEAT, which brought our carbon footprint down to 67.42 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, a massive reduction of 38.54% on the previous year. We also measured and included emissions from staff commuting for the first time. Our operational emissions were 7.36 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

## 2023

In 2023, our main aim was to build a fuller picture of our Scope 3 emissions to better understand our impact and identify areas of influence. We successfully measured our water usage and estimated the impact of audience travel to the venue. This has resulted in a big leap in our total carbon footprint, but this only inspired us to take more ambitious steps towards increasing active travel to the venue. Our total carbon footprint in 2023 was 714.33 tCO<sub>2</sub>e and our operational emissions crept up slightly to 15.89 tCO<sub>2</sub>e. However, we are still well within our operational carbon budget for the year and on track to Net Zero operations by 2025.

## 2024

In 2024 we have made significant reductions within our carbon footprint while further widening its scope. Our total carbon footprint was 963.91 tCO<sub>2</sub>e which was up by 34.9% on 2023. This was due to including the emissions related to refrigerants meaning our operational emissions (Scope 1+2) were 28 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, a 79% increase on 2023. With this information we have decided to update the target of becoming operationally net zero by 2025 to 2027. The operational emissions are still 77% less than the baseline year but it is with this realisation that we still need to reduce these by a further 13% to achieve our net zero target of reducing the baseline year by 90%.





# CARBON BUDGET

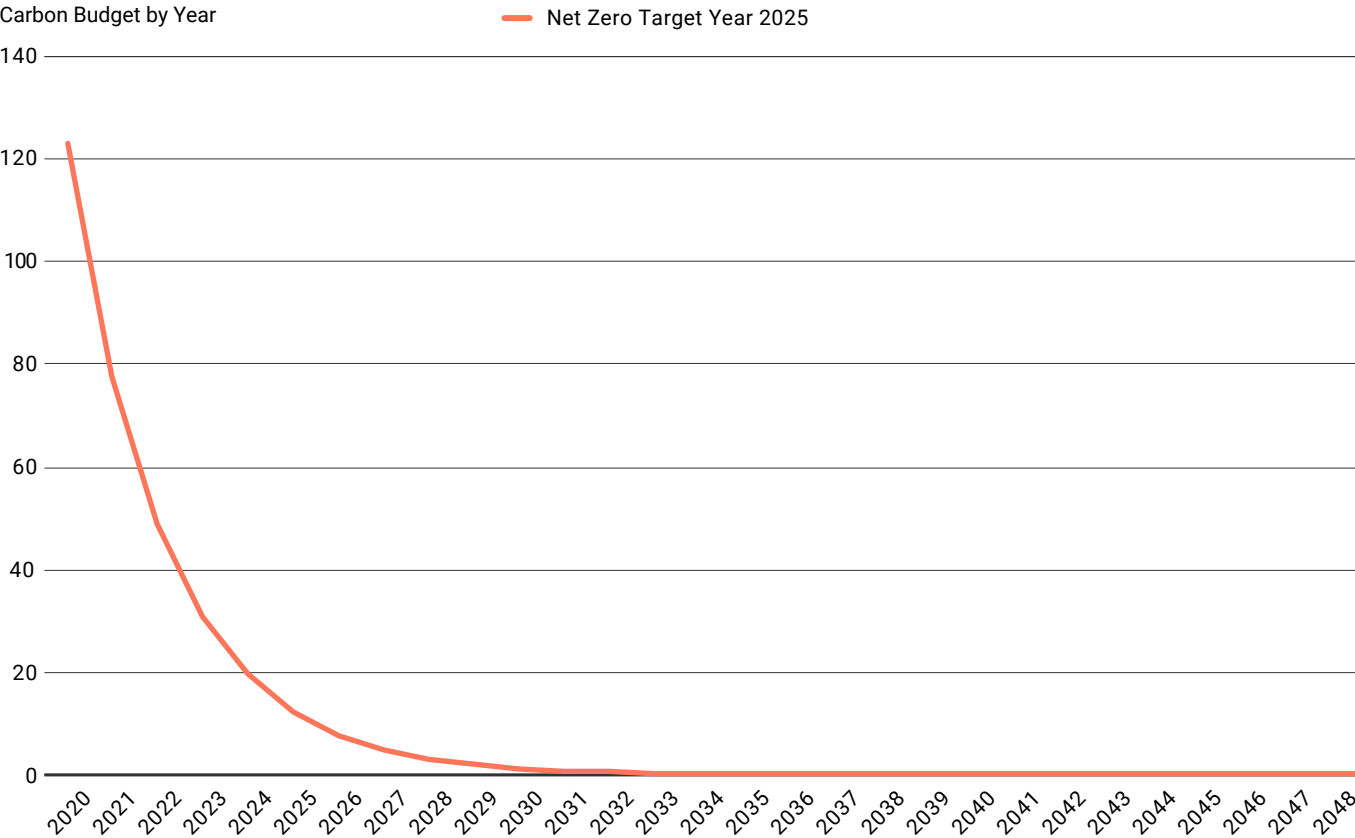
In 2023, we introduced a carbon budgeting process for our Scope 1 and 2 operational emissions, using Creative Carbon Scotland’s Carbon Budget Calculator (V3). This tool helped us define a clear emissions reduction pathway based on our 2018–2020 average emissions, which we use as our baseline.

For 2024, our carbon budget was set at 19.49 tCO<sub>2</sub>e. However, our actual operational emissions for the year totalled 28.39 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, meaning we exceeded the budget by 46%.

This overspend is largely attributable to the expansion of our emissions reporting to include refrigerants, which fall within Scope 1 and were not previously accounted for. This inclusion aligns with our commitment to transparency and comprehensive emissions tracking.

This overspend provides further evidence of our need to update the Net Zero target to 2027, ensuring it remains both ambitious and achievable within our expanded emissions scope.

SWG3 CARBON BUDGET (SCOPE 1 & 2)







# CARBON FOOTPRINT

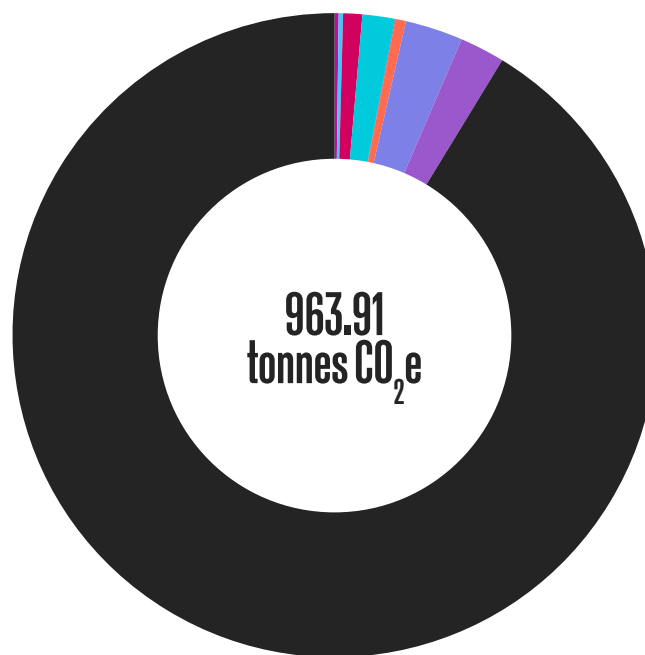
## 2024

In 2024, SWG3's total carbon footprint (Scopes 1, 2, and 3) was 963.91 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, representing a 34.94% increase compared to 2023.

This increase is primarily the result of three key factors:

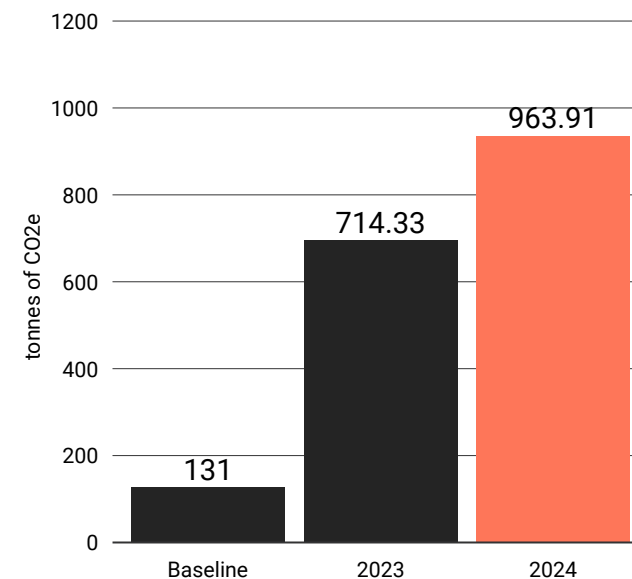
- Inclusion of Scope 1 emissions from refrigerants (newly accounted for in 2024)
- Addition of Scope 3 emissions from diesel
- Significant rise in audience travel emissions, due to increased average travel distance

The following graph illustrates the total emissions (in tCO<sub>2</sub>e) for our baseline year (2018–2020 average), 2023, and 2024, highlighting the key changes over time:



- Waste & Recycling: 0.20%
- Water Supply & Treatment: 0.22%
- T&D Losses: 0.96%
- Energy: 1.62%
- Owned Transport: 0.04%
- Business Travel: 0.53%
- Staff Commuting: 2.90%
- Refrigerants: 2.26%
- Audience Travel: 91.28%

The following graph shows the % breakdown of the carbon footprint:





# ENERGY







# ENERGY

Since 2023, we have continued to make progress in reducing our overall energy consumption and related emissions.

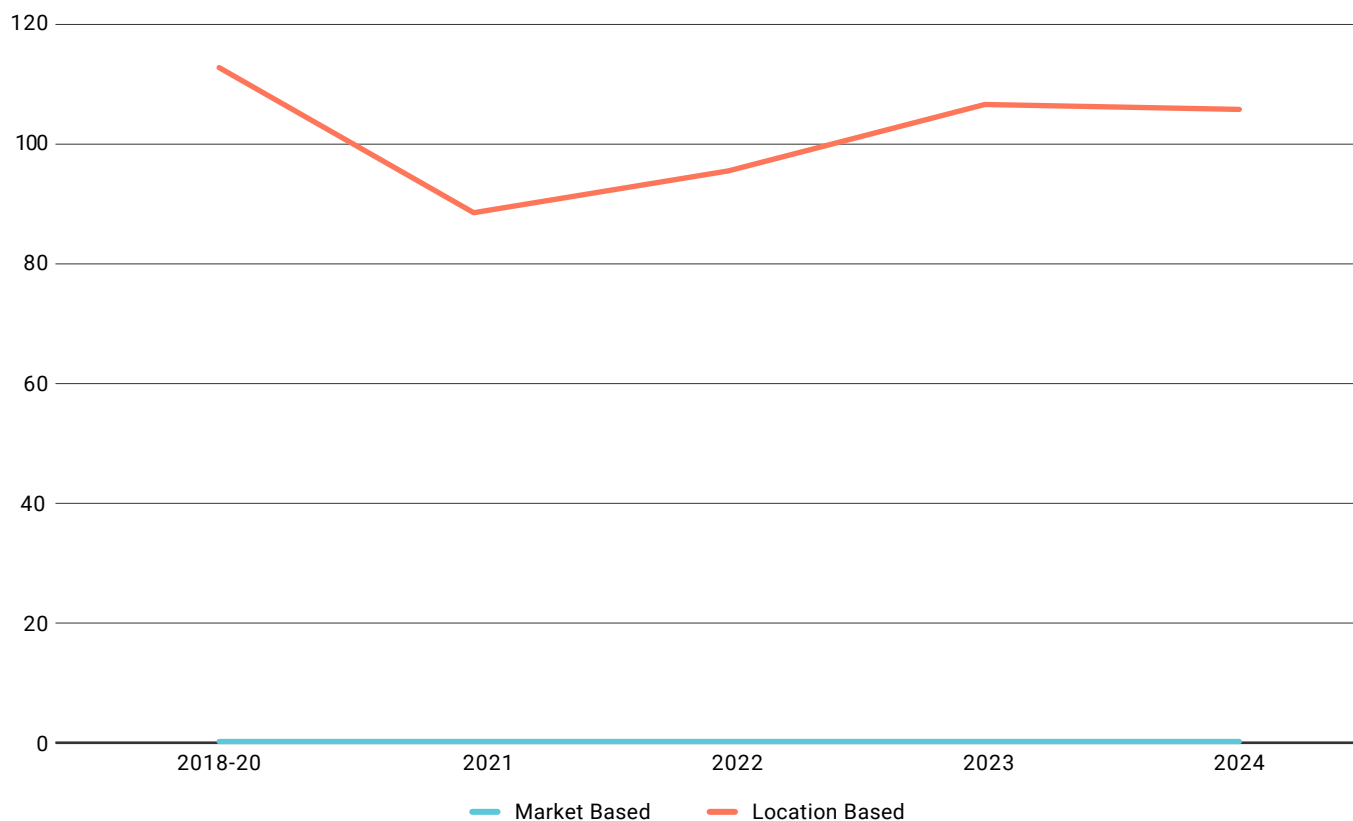
## GAS (SCOPE 1)

In 2024, our gas consumption generated 6.26 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, representing a significant 59% reduction compared to 2023. It is important to note that 2023 was an unusually high consumption year, which remains unexplained. Despite this anomaly, our 2024 gas emissions still reflect a 49% decrease from our baseline period (2018–2020 average).

## ELECTRICITY (SCOPE 2)

Our electricity consumption in 2024 totalled 508,732 kWh, a modest 1% reduction compared to 2023. Using the location-based emissions calculation, this equates to 105.33 tCO<sub>2</sub>e. However, since our electricity supply contract is 100% renewable, we apply the market-based method, which reduces our emissions to zero. Our energy provider guarantees that all electricity is certified renewable, sourced directly from their own facilities, and backed by Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin (REGOs).

Market Based vs Location Based





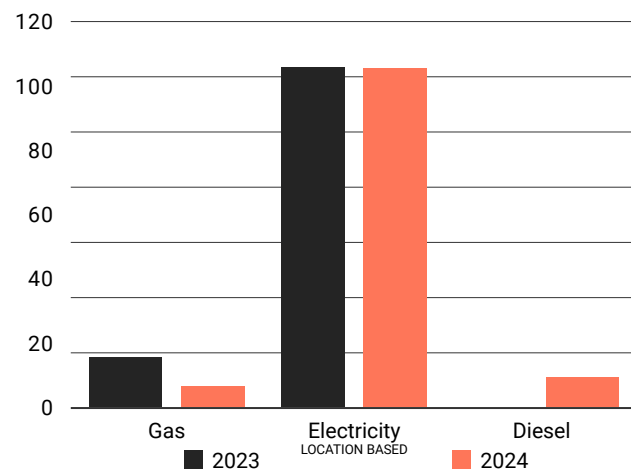
# ENERGY

## TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION (T&D) LOSSES (SCOPE 3)

Energy losses during transmission and distribution accounted for 9.21 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2024. As an indirect emission source, these losses fall under Scope 3.

## DIESEL (SCOPE 3)

In 2024, we consumed 3,541 litres of mineral diesel to power our outdoor events, resulting in 9.31 tCO<sub>2</sub>e of emissions. This category was a new category in our carbon footprint calculations this year.



## PATHWAY TO FURTHER REDUCTIONS

Achieving operational net zero will require significant investment, especially in reducing Scope 1 emissions. While our electricity is already sourced from renewables, transitioning to renewable gas and replacing mineral diesel with hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) or, where possible, battery power for event generators is critical. HVO is a fossil-free, sulphur-free alternative that can reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by up to 90% however it comes under some criticism with regards to its origins.

In addition, we will continue prioritising energy efficiency through ongoing consumption reductions and regular implementation of energy-saving measures.

Reducing Scope 1 emissions often demands upfront investment - whether upgrading equipment, switching fuels, or integrating low-carbon principles into procurement and R&D. While these actions may involve initial costs, they deliver lasting benefits including improved operational efficiency, lower energy costs, reduced regulatory risk, and enhanced brand reputation in a market increasingly valuing climate leadership.

## ACTION TAKEN IN 2024

- Introduced site-wide switch-off procedures for air conditioning, heating, lighting, and screens
- Commissioned a report to evaluate the efficiency and impact of the BODYHEAT system
- Requested multiple solar panel quotes to assess the feasibility of onsite solar generation
- Offset operational emissions to address residual footprint

## NEXT STEPS

- Continue rolling out energy efficiency initiatives, aiming to implement one new measure each quarter
- Transition to a 100% renewable green gas contract by the end of 2025
- Switch to battery power or HVO fuel for outdoor event generators as soon as practicable.





# REFRIGERANTS

**Refrigerant-related emissions** were introduced into our carbon footprint for the first time in **2024**, reflecting our commitment to expanding the scope and accuracy of our environmental reporting.

Air conditioning and refrigeration systems can release greenhouse gases through leaks, contributing significantly to Scope 1 emissions due to the high **Global Warming Potential (GWP)** of many refrigerants. To estimate these emissions, we used the Screening Method, which calculates operational emissions based on the type of equipment used and associated emissions factors. Due to insufficient data on installation dates and end-of-life disposal, our 2024 figures include **operational emissions only**.

In total, refrigerants accounted for **21.7 tCO<sub>2</sub>e** in 2024. Notably, **98% of these emissions** came from two **condensing units** that are part of the building's air conditioning system.

## ACTION TAKEN IN 2024

- As this is a newly measured emissions category, **no specific mitigation actions** were taken in 2024.

## NEXT STEPS

- Conduct a full **audit of refrigeration and air conditioning units** to assess efficiency, lifespan, and replacement needs
- Develop an **end-of-life replacement policy** for all refrigeration equipment
- Improve understanding of how the **BODYHEAT system interacts with our air conditioning infrastructure**
- Increase efficiency of condensing units by:
  - Optimising airflow and operating conditions
  - Maintaining system cleanliness
  - Upgrading thermostats
  - Planning phased replacement of units with lower-emission alternatives
- Include **installation and disposal-related emissions** in the 2025 carbon footprint reporting



# TRAVEL

As in previous years - and consistent with trends across the events industry - **travel remains the largest contributor to our carbon footprint**. In 2024, emissions from travel accounted for the vast majority of our total emissions, with **audience travel alone generating 879.90 tCO<sub>2</sub>e**, equivalent to **91.3% of our overall footprint**. This marks an increase of **over 37%** compared to 2023.

In contrast, **business travel and staff commuting emissions both decreased** in 2024:

- **Business travel:** 5.09 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (**down 51.3%** vs. 2023)
- **Staff commuting:** 27.6 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (**down 21.6%** vs. 2023)

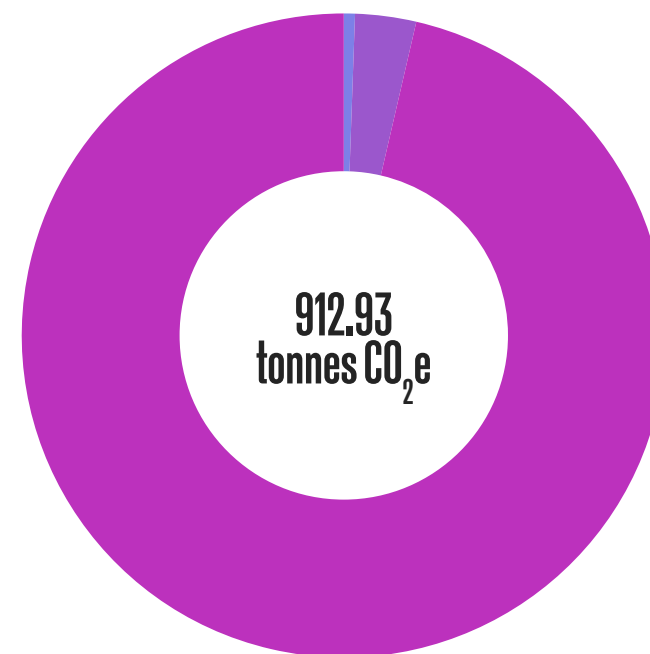
## ACTION TAKEN IN 2024

- Conducted comprehensive **staff and audience travel surveys**
- Secured funding from **Cycling Scotland** to install a **bike shelter and maintenance stand**
- Purchased **four staff-use bikes** through **Bike for Good** to support active commuting

## NEXT STEPS

- Implement key actions from the **Active Travel Plan**, including:
  - Installation of dedicated staff showers and lockers to encourage cycling and walking
- Build partnerships with **Glasgow City Council** to explore improved **active and public transport options** for audiences
- Collaborate with the marketing team to develop an **awareness and engagement campaign** promoting low-carbon travel
- Begin **calculating emissions from artist travel**, to be included in future footprint reporting

TRAVEL EMISSIONS 2024



- Business Travel: 0.60%
- Staff Commuting: 3.10%
- Audience Travel: 96.40%





# AUDIENCE TRAVEL

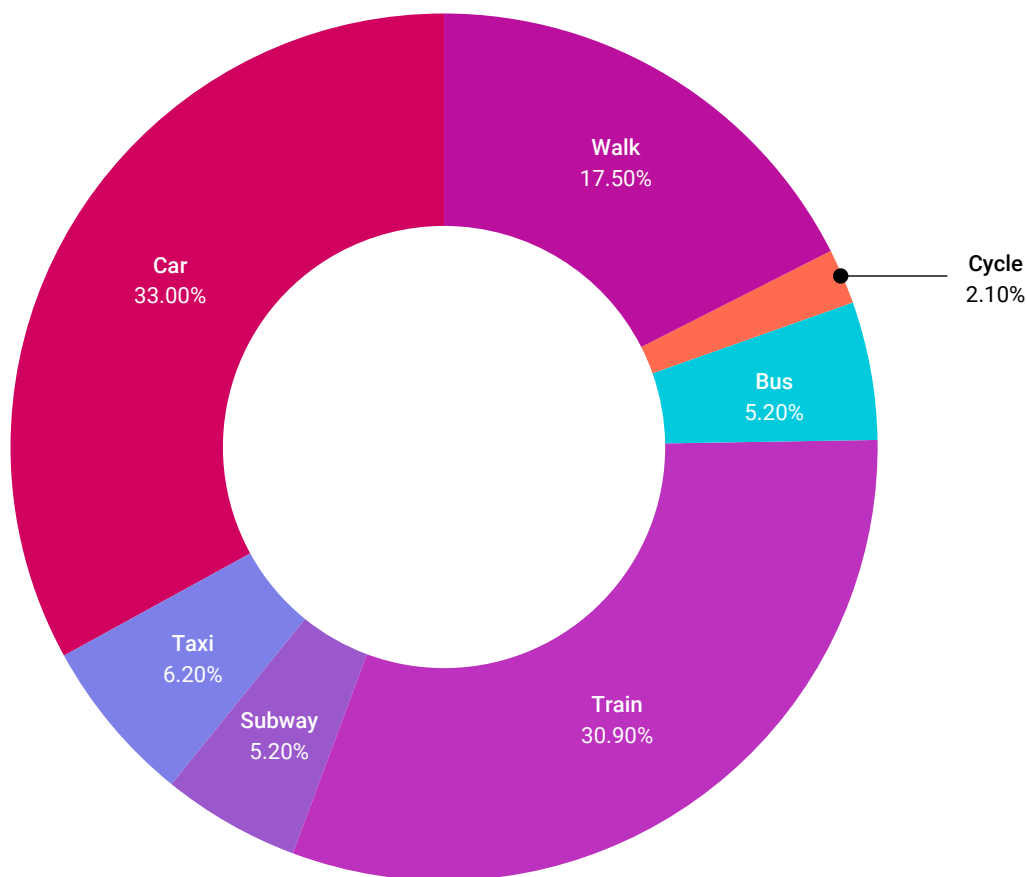
Audience travel emissions increased by **37.8%** compared to 2023. This growth is primarily due to the **doubling of the average distance travelled per attendee**—from **19.35 km in 2023 to 40.26 km in 2024**. While this reflects the venue's growing appeal and wider reach, it also significantly impacts our carbon footprint.

To address this, we recognise the need for a more strategic approach, which includes:

- **Raising awareness** among audience members about the environmental impact of travel choices
- **Strengthening engagement with Glasgow City Council** to advocate for improved, sustainable travel infrastructure and services
- **Implementing the Active Travel Plan** in full and promoting active and public transport options through targeted campaigns

Reducing emissions from audience travel will require collaboration, long-term planning, and a shift in behaviour - and we are committed to leading that change.

AUDIENCE TRAVEL EMISSIONS 2024





# WASTE AND RECYCLING

In 2024, emissions from waste management decreased from **2.50 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2023 to 1.94 tCO<sub>2</sub>e**, representing a **22.2% reduction**. In addition, our **recycling rate increased to 63.7%**, up from 61.7% in the previous year - bringing us closer to our goal of achieving a **70% recycling rate by 2025**.

We continue to prioritise waste reduction and improved recycling practices across all areas of operation. By conducting **regular waste audits** and collaborating closely with our waste management partners, we aim to reduce the volume of general waste and identify materials that can be either **recycled or replaced with reusable alternatives**. Addressing the causes of **waste stream contamination** is also a key focus to ensure more effective diversion from landfill.

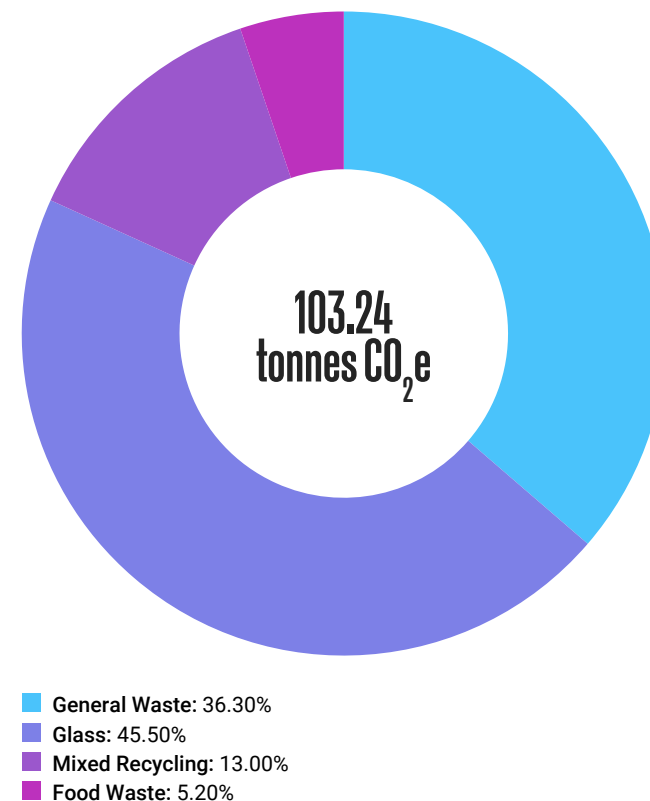
## ACTION TAKEN

- Introduced **fully compostable Vegware cups** and the **On The Loop** recycling system
- Increased staff and resident engagement and understanding through the development of key resources:
  - SWG3 Supply Chain Mapping Document
  - SWG3 Recycling Guide
  - Artists' Waste Disposal Policy
  - Laptop and Electricals Recycling Policy

## NEXT STEPS

- Conduct **monthly waste audits** to better track and analyse primary waste types
- Explore full implementation of **Stack Cups** at all events and phase out single-use cups permanently
- Build partnerships with similar local institutions to form a **waste and sustainability working group**, identifying shared barriers and collaborative solutions (e.g. **In The Drink**)

WASTE AND RECYCLING EMISSIONS 2024





# WATER

Our water usage in 2024 created **2.13 tCO<sub>2</sub>e** which was a **6.82% reduction since 2023**. This could be attributed to a slight reduction in visitor numbers. We aim to keep on reducing our water consumption and will continue to implement water management actions as well as creating a **Water Management and Reduction Strategy**.

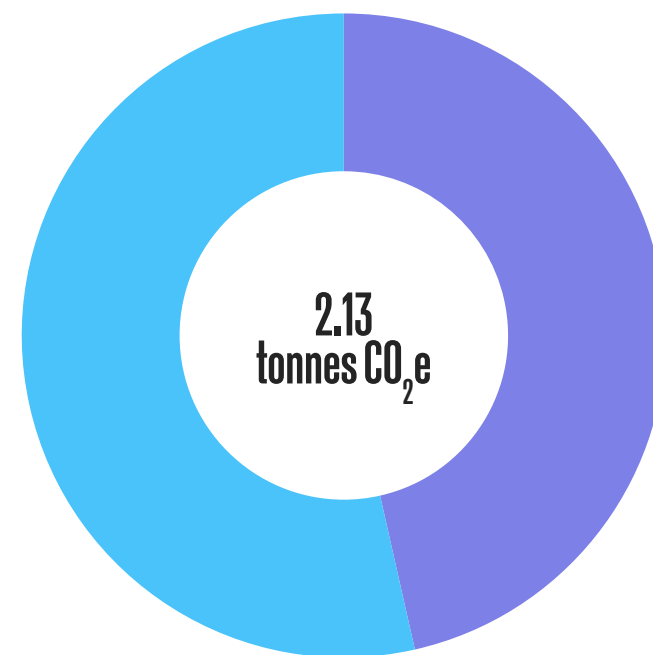
## ACTION TAKEN IN 2024

- Introduced water refill stations at events

## NEXT STEPS

- Create and implement Water Efficiency Action Plan with actions such as:
  - Install water saving devices e.g. tap aerators
  - Purchase rainwater harvesting tank for watering garden
  - Implement rainwater harvesting system across the site
  - Research greywater capture system

WATER EMISSIONS 2023



■ Water Supply: 46.46%  
■ Water Treatment: 53.53%





# SUSTAINABILITY AT SWG3





# ACTIONS

While reducing greenhouse gas emissions has a key role to play in the sustainability of SWG3 and our planet, it isn't the whole picture. We recognise the need to approach our environment holistically and find ways to shift the culture at SWG3 and beyond. Our wider sustainability strategy centres around six themes: circularity, biodiversity, cultural programme, creative placemaking, leadership & collaboration and climate adaptation & mitigation. Here are some of the ways we have embedded sustainability into our programme and operations so far:



## CIRCULARITY

Embedding circular economy principles into our programme and operations.

- We continued our relationship with Circular Glasgow in delivering the Circular Support Club.
- We created the SWG3 Circular Directory which highlights local organisations working to create a circular economy.



## BIODIVERSITY

Enhancing biodiversity across our site to mitigate carbon emissions.

- We partnered with Glasgow Caledonian University to host a student from their Urban Climate & Sustainability Masters programme who carried out a Biodiversity and Carbon Audit of the garden. The resulting report provided us with an assessment of the land cover and ecosystem services that the garden provides.



## CULTURAL PROGRAMME

Inspiring positive behaviour change through education and outreach.

- We commissioned a dance piece by the company STASIS who performed in the Garden launching the space as a dedicated performance space.
- Stephen Dunbar-Johnson President of the New York Times came to announce the opening of the garden, talked about the legacy piece we have with them with the donated trees from the NYT Climate Hub. The VKR Foundation also visited and gave a speech about their involvement and donation of £250,000.



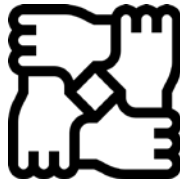
# ACTIONS



## CREATIVE PLACEMAKING

Regenerating vacant and derelict land through new facilities and public art.

- We are turning GRID into a Street Art District - a bold open air gallery celebrating creativity, community and place.
- We created 41 new artworks - including three large scale gable end murals and 38 vibrant pieces across shopfronts and electrical boxes
- We are activating Active Travel - connecting vacant land and derelict sites into inspiring trails that promote walking, wheeling and cycling.
- We are investing in local people - with investment, training, equipment and support to run their own projects in their own way - including cycling tours of public art sites for local people and visitors.
- We are employing tactical urbanism - activating underused or run down streets to help communities imagine and build better places.



## LEADERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

Influencing the sector by taking ambitious climate action, sharing knowledge, collaborating and developing partnerships.

- We won three major awards in recognition of our environmental work:
  - 2024 VIBES Scottish Environment Business Awards - Winner of the Vision in Business Award
  - 2024 Glasgow Business Awards – Winner of the Green Champion Award
  - 2024 Glasgow Business Awards – Winner of the Sustainable Development Award
- Once again, we hosted Glasgow Chamber of Commerce's Congress of Business event which focusses on environmental sustainability for businesses.
- The Green Team continued to meet and provide support, develop ideas and act within individual departments.



## CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION

Reducing our carbon emissions and developing strategies to adapt to our changing climate.

- We continue to measure and report on our footprint to better understand our environmental impacts and work towards Net Zero.
- We plan to develop a Climate Adaptation Strategy in 2025 using Creative Carbon Scotland's Cultural Adaptations Toolkit.
- We will attend Adaptation and Mitigation events to better inform ourselves





# SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN 2025-2028







NET ZERO

1.1  
NET ZERO

Key Area	Action	Outcome	Timing	Priority
Net Zero Operations	Complete recommended Scope 1 and 2 actions to achieve Net Zero Operations.	Net Zero Operations achieved by 2027. Progress report published on website.	By 2027	High
Monthly Reporting	Implement a monthly carbon reporting process for operational emissions to accelerate action and decarbonisation.	Carbon reporting system designed and in place. Monthly feedback at management meetings.	2025	Medium
Annual Reporting	Continue to report emissions annually on SWG3 website. Widen scope to include artist travel and supply chain (2025).	Publish carbon footprint report annually. Report on full scope by 2025.	Annual	Medium
Influence and Partnerships	Share Net Zero progress with professional network and identify partnerships to increase supply chain collaboration and emission reductions.	Identify networking events and strategic partners.	Ongoing	Medium
Data Collection	Design a system to measure event specific emissions, enabling SWG3 to test carbon reduction solutions.	Event system designed and in place. Event specific emissions reported externally.	2026	Medium



NET ZERO

1.2  
ENERGY

Key Area	Action	Outcome	Timing	Priority
Renewable Energy	Investigate the potential for onsite renewable energy generation and obtain quote for solar panel installation.	Solar panel quote obtained and timeline for installation discussed with senior management.	2025	High
BODYHEAT	Work with TownRock Energy to quantify cost and carbon savings generated by BODYHEAT.	Implement findings from the HH report.	2025	High
Energy Efficiency Audit	Conduct a monthly energy efficiency audit to find ways to reduce operational energy use. Report findings back to the Green Team.	Engage staff with regularly occurring inefficiencies and find strategies for habit change.	Ongoing	High
Energy Efficiency Action Plan	Implement strategies outlined in SWG3's Energy Efficiency Action Plan such as PIR sensors and LED lighting.	Implement <b>one strategy per quarter</b> and continually update action plan with new ideas and emerging technologies.	Ongoing	Medium
District Heating	Work with partners in GRID to explore the feasibility of local heat networks including linking into Peel's Clyde Heat District Heating Network.	Conduct feasibility study with GRID.	2027	Medium





NET ZERO

1.3  
NET ZERO  
BUILDINGS

Key Area	Action	Outcome	Timing	Priority
Retrofitting	Conduct a building fabric audit to identify priority works. Adopt learnings from Agile City and BE-ST in retrofitting industrial buildings.	Commission a building fabric audit and reach out to Agile City and BE-ST.	2026	High
Building Fabric	Reduce the overall energy demand required to operate buildings through improved insulation, airtightness and ventilation to create a highly efficient thermal enclosure.	Building fabric improvements identified and timeline for implementation agreed.	2026	High
Building Management System	Raise funding to install a Building Management System to monitor energy usage and increase efficiency.	Funding secured and BMS implemented and in use.	2026	Medium
Capital Developments	Identify requirements for new capital developments including materials, efficiency and net zero standards. Ensure sustainable design principles are at the heart of capital developments.	Create a policy outlining requirements for capital developments or improvements commissioned by SWG3.	2027	Medium



NET ZERO

1.4  
TRAVEL

Key Area	Action	Outcome	Timing	Priority
Active Travel Plan	Update and implement SWG3's Active Travel Plan, encompassing how SWG3 will address business, staff, audience and artist travel.	Active Travel Plan updated in collaboration with key stakeholders and first steps implemented.	2025	High
Cycling Facilities	Install shower and changing rooms for staff who walk or cycle to work.	Provisions made for active travel to work.	2025	High
Artist Travel Emissions	Calculate the emissions caused by artists travelling to SWG3.	Develop data collection method and begin engaging with artists to understand patterns of behaviour.	2025	Medium
Increase Public Transport Provision	Collaborate with the local council to increase public transport options to SWG3.	Begin engaging with the council and identify action plan to increase public transport provision to the venue.	2028	Medium



NET ZERO

1.5  
WASTE  
AND  
RECYCLING

Key Area	Action	Outcome	Timing	Priority
Increase Recycling	Work with the Green Team to identify ways to increase recycling onsite, such as awareness campaigns and introducing Recycling Champions.	Trial ideas to increase recycling rates and achieve target of 70% recycling by 2025.	2025	High
Food Waste	Work with food traders, corporate event hires and Acid Bar kitchen residents to reduce food waste by distributing food that is good to eat with projects such as FareShare. Work with gardeners to increase composting of food scraps.	Ultimately, no food should be wasted. Edible food should be redistributed and food scraps composted.	2025	High
Single Use Items	Building on the 2023 Single Use Items Audit, find solutions to eliminate all single-use items from SWG3's operations to reduce waste. Expand the use of reusable options such as reusable coffee cup schemes.	Agree methods for implementation and embed into operations. Calculate the volume of waste reduced by eliminating single use items. Also consider opportunities for educating and engaging staff.	2026	High
Material Flow Analysis	Conduct a Material Flow Analysis to identify key areas of waste and opportunities for circular solutions.	Publish the results and identify key actions.	2025	Medium





NET ZERO

1.6  
WATER

Key Area	Action	Outcome	Timing	Priority
Water Efficiency	Conduct a water efficiency review to identify and address key areas of inefficiency.	Review conducted and actions identified. Create a Water Efficiency Action Plan.	2025	High
Rainwater Harvesting	Purchase a rainwater harvesting tank for the community garden to reduce the use of mains supply for watering plants.	Rainwater tank purchased and installed.	2025	Medium
Greywater System	Research feasibility of installing greywater system at SWG3 to recycle water.	Research conducted and presented to senior management to discuss next steps.	2026	Medium
Water Saving Devices	Install water saving devices such as tap aerators, toilet hippos and aerating shower heads.	Devices installed and efficiency measured and recorded.	2026	Medium
Plastic Water Bottles	Eliminate the sale of plastic water bottles from bars. Replace with water stations and reusable cups.	Timeline agreed to phase out plastic water bottles and increase water stations across the venue.	2026	Medium



NET ZERO

1.7  
SUPPLY CHAIN

Key Area	Action	Outcome	Timing	Priority
Green Events Guide	Update Green Events Guide annually to reflect changes in the industry. Work with promoters to embed environmental considerations into artist riders.	The Green Events Guide is sent to all incoming events and considerations are implemented.	2025	High
Supply Chain Emissions	Calculate supply chain emissions using spend-based method with tools such as Sage Earth.	Publish supply chain emissions in 2025 Sustainability Report.	Q1 2026	High
Supply Chain Engagement Plan	Engage with key suppliers using the Exponential Roadmap Initiative framework.	Top 10 suppliers identified and engaged with. Support sourcing local, sustainable materials and circular business models.	Q4 2025	High
Food and Drink	Quantify carbon impact of food and drink in the venue. Consider introducing carbon labelling to encourage audiences to make sustainable choices.	Get in touch with Klimato to discuss opportunities for food and drink labelling. Work towards 100% plant-based food options.	2026	Medium
Digital Emissions	Audit digital footprint and identify ways to reduce digital emissions and maximise efficiency of IT equipment. Calculate website carbon emissions using websitecarbon.com.	Engage staff with the concept of digital emissions and how they can reduce them e.g. switch to Ecosia browser, change website host.	2028	Medium



WIDER STRATEGY

2.1  
CIRCULARITY

Key Area	Action	Outcome	Timing	Priority
Circular Village	Explore how the Circular Village concept can be developed; increase opportunities for circular and sustainable SMEs in Glasgow; and promote Circular Economic principles to people visiting and attending SWG3.	Through events, partnerships, resources, and the capital development of a Circular Hub, SWG3 will support a cluster of likeminded, sustainability-oriented creatives, businesses, social enterprises, and academic groups.	Ongoing	High
Culture Climate Hub	Review the market demand for a workspace hub from organisations addressing climate change within culture.	Potential organisations identified and in place for Culture Climate Hub project.	2025	Medium
Circular Operations	Continue to incorporate circularity into operations.	Implement suggestions from Material Flow Analysis and Single Use Audit.	Ongoing	Medium
Lettings Policy	Support residents on their sustainability journey by creating resources for artists and archway residents to embrace circular economy principles.	Sustainable value requirements designed in collaboration with residents and embedded in lettings policy.	2026	Medium





WIDER STRATEGY

2.2  
BIODIVERSITY

Key Area	Action	Outcome	Timing	Priority
Food Growing	Work with the local community to increase food production in the community garden.	All 20 raised beds actively in use for food growing by the local community.	Ongoing	High
Biodiversity Audit	Read the Biodiversity and Carbon Audit which was produced by a GCU student in 2024.	Implement recommendations.	2025	Medium
Community Garden Programme	Facilitate participatory events that explore climate related topics through public art commissions and the community garden programme.	Local people involved in public art projects will be introduced to the garden where they can learn about nature and biodiversity through our programme that will build skills and knowledge in gardening, biodiversity, and soil health.	2025	Medium
Art in the Garden	Commission a new public artwork, sculpture and performance each year to be installed or performed in the garden.	The commissions will engage the public with nature and biodiversity and encourage the local community to engage with the space in new ways.	2026	Medium



WIDER STRATEGY

2.3  
CULTURAL  
PROGRAMME

Key Area	Action	Outcome	Timing	Priority
Climate Advocacy	Commission work that responds to local contexts and the anticipated effects of climate change in communities.	Yardworks GRID – 25% of public art commissions to have an environmental theme or message. Award one climate- focused residency each year.	2025	High
Yardworks Sustainability Strategy	Identify if the 2024-25 Yardworks Sustainability Strategy was utilised at Yardworks 2025	Meet with Yardworks team to discuss. Measure impact and set reduction targets.	2025	High
Spray Paint	Measure the impact of all spray paint used by the Yardworks programme and find solutions to reduce and find alternatives.	Measure spray paint impact of Yardworks Festival and programme 2025. Set reduction targets and implement solutions.	2025	High
Artist Travel	Encourage artists, performers and musicians to choose more sustainable ways to travel, i.e. trains over flights. Consider offering incentives.	Travel guide for artists developed and shared with all invited artists. Report on impact of artist travel to raise awareness and encourage reduction.	2025	Medium



WIDER STRATEGY

2.3  
CULTURAL  
PROGRAMME

Key Area	Action	Outcome	Timing	Priority
Sustainable Materials	Source local and sustainable materials and find innovative ways to reuse leftover materials e.g. workshops that utilise waste as a resource.	Introduce Sustainable Procurement Policy to Yardworks programme.	2025	Medium
Circular Cultural Events	Explore ways to reduce waste and increase the circularity of materials at cultural events and workshops. Yardworks to become a circular festival by 2026.	Develop a toolkit to guide all cultural events towards becoming circular and waste free by 2028.	2026-2028	Medium
Environmentally Conscious Partners	Collaborate with artists, arts organisations and venues that share our commitment to environmental sustainability and are ethical in their approach and programme.	Share Environmental Policy with partners in advance of events and align vision.	Ongoing	Medium

WIDER STRATEGY

2.4  
CREATIVE  
PLACEMAKING

Key Area	Action	Outcome	Timing	Priority
Green Graffiti	Research and develop outdoor living walls in the form of green graffiti art.	Explore existing options for creating public art that have a positive impact on the local environment.	2025	High
Regenerate Vacant Land	Quantify the area and impact of vacant and derelict land that has been brought back into use through the programme.	Impact quantified and communicated.	2026	Medium
XR Technology	Explore how XR technology can be used to enhance experiences and engage artists and audiences with environmental issues.	Commission exhibitions and artworks that engage with XR technology to raise climate awareness.	2026	Low





WIDER STRATEGY

2.5  
LEADERSHIP  
AND  
COLLABORA-  
TION

Key Area	Action	Outcome	Timing	Priority
Communication	Environmental communications strategy developed in collaboration with marketing team. Continue to develop informal networks.	Sustainability updates posted on social media every quarter. Pursue opportunities for collaboration.	Ongoing	High
Circular Glasgow	Continue partnering with Circular Glasgow on Circular Supper Club. Explore potential to collaborate on a circular festival event.	Continue to be active members of Circular Glasgow and attend networking meetings. Biannual events delivered in collaboration with Circular Glasgow.	Ongoing	Medium
Board Membership	Recruit a board member with experience in environmental sustainability and / or the circular economy.	Board member recruited.	2025	Medium
Influence and Partnerships	Develop partnerships with key industry companies including SEC Hydro and DF Concerts to set up an informal network to share experiences and best practice.	Informal network set up and channels for communication agreed on.	2025	Low



WIDER STRATEGY

2.6  
CLIMATE  
ADAPTATION  
PLAN

Key Area	Action	Outcome	Timing	Priority
Climate Adaptation Plan	Develop a Climate Adaptation Plan using Creative Carbon Scotland's Cultural Adaptations Toolkit.	Climate Adaptation Plan written and approved.	2025	High
Organisational Resilience	Work with Green Team to identify key risks and opportunities presented by climate change and build into plan. Consider enrolling the Green Team on a Carbon Literary training to expand staff knowledge and awareness.	Green Team suggestions and ideas built into Climate Adaptation Plan.	2025	High
Climate Risk Assessment	Assess how a changing climate could impact the SWG3 venue and programme in the future.	A report will be produced that takes into account the regulatory measures due to be introduced to Glasgow and consider physical risks, e.g. the risk of flooding from the River Clyde and extreme weather events. It will also assess changing attitudes amongst our audiences and communities.	2026	High
Clyde Causeway Group	Discuss Climate Adaptation with the Clyde Causeway group; a network of organisations based close to the river. The group is led by the University of Glasgow and includes the BBC, Pearce Institute, and Glasgow Science Centre.	Continue to meet regularly to share knowledge and present a collective response to initiatives, such as local district heating systems and develop a collaborative approach to climate adaptation.	Ongoing	Medium



# OWNERSHIP

Primary responsibility for the implementation of SWG3's Sustainability Strategy lies with the following people:

**Andrew Fleming-Brown** — Managing Director

**Eilidh McLaughlin** — Sustainability Coordinator

**Bob Javaheri** — Operations Director

**Alison Fullerton** — Appeal Director & Strategic Impact Lead

All SWG3 team members have a responsibility to uphold the environmental principles outlined in the Sustainability Strategy. The policy will be reviewed annually by the Sustainability Coordinator and senior management to ensure that it reflects SWG3's business activities, net zero targets and the changing nature of the climate emergency.

Date of next review: April 2026





# APPENDIX





# LINKS

1. <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/24042025/global-carbon-dioxide-concentration-in-atmosphere-soared-2024/>
2. <https://eciu.net/analysis/infographics/climate-science-indicators-2025>
3. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate\\_change\\_in\\_Scotland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_in_Scotland)
4. <https://netzeroclimate.org/what-is-net-zero-2/>



# GHG INVENTORY

	tonnes CO2e
Scope 1	
Natural Gas	6.26
Refrigerants	21.78
Owned Transport	0.34
Scope 2	
Electricity (Location Based)	105.33
Electricity (Market Based)	0
Scope 3	
Business Travel	
Taxi	2.10
Air (Short Haul)	2.08
Air (Long Haul)	0.00
Rail	0.25
Hotel (UK)	0.36
Hotel (London)	0.30



# GHG INVENTORY

	tonnes CO2e
Staff Commuting	
Petrol or Diesel Cars	22.15
Electric Cars	2.12
Subway	0.00
Train	0.78
Bus	2.90
Cycle	0.00
Walk	0.00
Audience Travel	
Car	564.03
Taxi	129.66
Subway	14.41
Train	110.43
Bus	61.37
Cycle	0.00
Walk	0.00



# GHG INVENTORY

	tonnes CO2e
Waste and Recycling	
Waste Collection	0.71
Dry Mixed Recycling	0.09
Glass	0.30
General	0.80
Food Waste	0.05
Utilities	
T&D Losses	9.21
Water Supply	0.99
Water Treatment	1.14
Diesel	9.31