



Climate Action Report

Our emissions, impact and commitments.



Introduction

The **Centre for Sustainable Energy** (CSE) is a charity supporting people and organisations across the UK to tackle the climate emergency and end the suffering caused by cold homes.

We believe we owe it to current and future generations for the UK to reduce carbon emissions rapidly in line with the national target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. It's what we mean by 'sustainable energy' and it's why we exist.

All of our work is dedicated to achieving this positive vision as part of a socially-just energy transition. This document will explore **our carbon footprint, actions we have taken to reduce it, and our future commitments.**



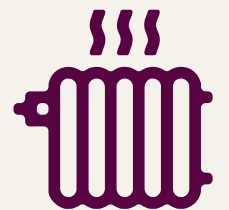
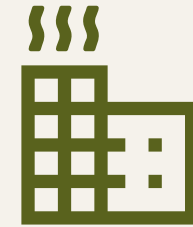
Our footprint

We measure our emissions across [three scopes](#), as most organisations do.

Our direct emissions, **Scope 1**, come from **natural gas** to heat the building and **refrigerant leaks**.

Our **Scope 2** emissions are those created when generating the **electricity we use**.

Our **Scope 3** emissions are taken from **each step in our value chain**, such as emissions resulting from gas and fuel vouchers we've supplied to people who can't afford to heat their homes.





The impact we enable

Most organisations can only report the emissions they produce, but we can also account for the emissions our work prevents.

In 2023-24, we facilitated retrofit measures in homes including heat pumps, insulation, heating controls, draught-proofing, and more resulting in these significant emissions reductions:

900 tonnes of CO₂ in avoided emissions

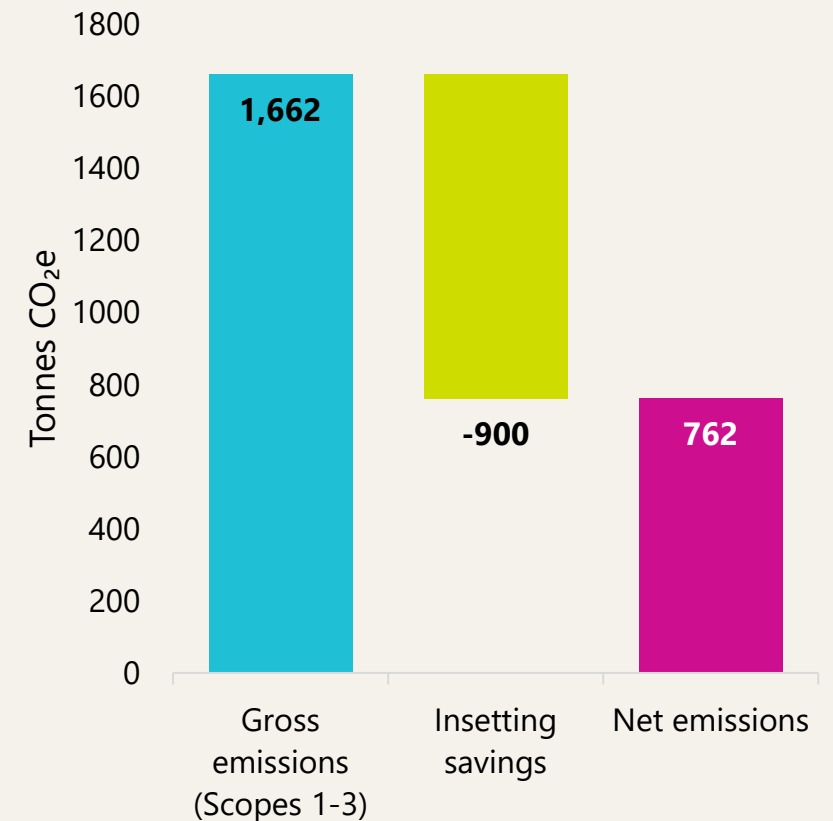


What that means for our footprint

By counting the emissions our work prevents, **we reduce our total reported footprint by around 54%**. This is called **insetting** - reducing emissions through activities within our own sphere of influence.

A significant proportion of our gross emissions comes directly from distributing fuel vouchers and funding retrofit measures for people who cannot afford to heat their homes - activities that are central to our mission. Alongside these, we also report the downstream carbon savings resulting from our retrofit activities to provide a fuller picture of our overall climate impact.

We report insetting separately from our Scope 1, 2 and 3 figures to keep our accounting transparent.



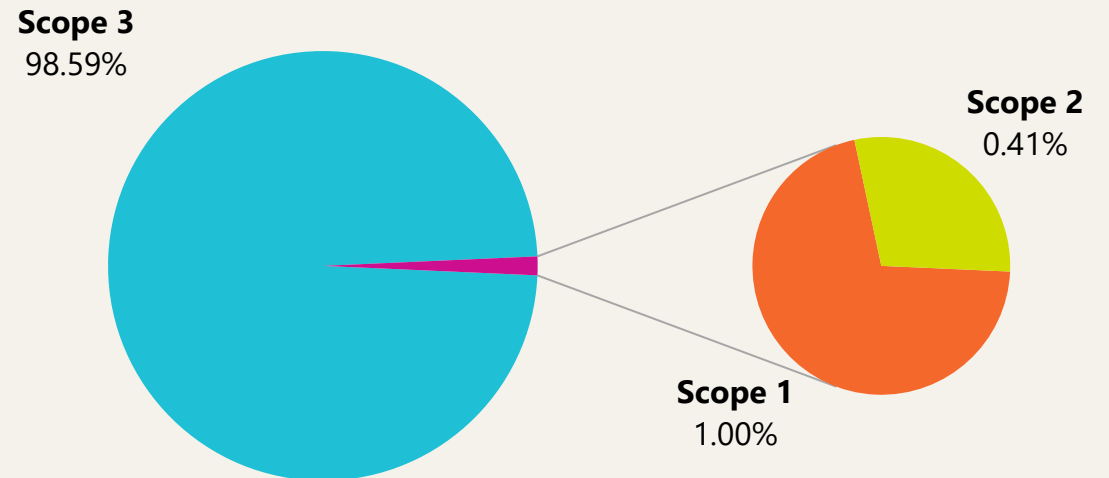


Emissions from our mission

In 2023-24, **Scope 3 made up almost 99% of our total footprint.**

Most of our Scope 3 emissions (**77%**) come from distributing fuel vouchers and funding retrofit measures for people in fuel poverty. These aren't activities we want to cut. They're the cost of supporting people who can't afford to heat their homes. A warm enough home is something we believe everyone has a right to.

Very few organisations can say that a large share of their reported emissions is the direct cost of helping people in need. We think it's worth saying clearly.





Our direct emissions

Our direct emissions are small, and we've kept them down as we've grown.

Scope 1 and 2 emissions represent just **1.4% of our total footprint**, primarily from heating and running our office.

Since 2019, **CSE has tripled in size**. In the same period, our **electricity use has only risen by 33% and gas use by 14%** - significantly less than our rate of growth.

As tenants in a shared building, we don't control everything, but we continue to push for more.



What we've done so far

Over five years we've taken action across every part of how we operate. Our Climate Action Working Group, developed with input from staff across the organisation, has driven changes in four areas:

Energy: Carbon literacy training for all staff, energy-saving defaults on all equipment, a low-energy mode on our website.

Travel: No domestic flights, two company e-bikes, an EV charging point, cycle to work scheme, and converted car parking spaces to cycle storage.

Purchasing: Sustainable sourcing policy, meat-free catering at all events, ethical pension fund under review.

Waste: Responsible disposal of electronic equipment, composting, reduced printing



Our targets

We are ambitious, transparent and honest about what we will and won't do.

We're committed to:

- **Net zero Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2030.**
- **A 30% reduction in Scope 3 emissions by 2030,** with our 23/24 emissions as a baseline.
- **Net zero across all scopes by 2040,** with year-on-year reductions in line with that goal.

We won't reduce the support we provide to people in fuel poverty to hit these numbers. And we'll keep quantifying and reporting the emissions our work prevents, as part of an honest account of our total climate impact.



Our climate action plan

Our internal Climate Action Plan sets out the steps we're taking. It was developed with input from across the organisation and is led by our Climate Action Working Group. It covers actions across a range of topics:

- Office and facilities - including our planned relocation.
- Procurement and finance.
- Travel and transport.
- IT and digital emissions.
- Staff engagement and reporting.



What we're doing next

We're focusing on what's within our control and will make the biggest difference.

Our priorities for the next two years:

- Minimise emissions from our planned office relocation.
- Formalise our sustainable and ethical purchasing policy.
- Complete our move to more ethical banking provision (having already established a Charities Aid Foundation savings account).
- Quantify and reduce IT related emissions, including AI use and data storage.
- Measure and report Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions annually from 2024-25.
- Measure and report carbon savings resulting from more of CSE's work.



We're a charity (298740) supporting people and organisations across the UK to tackle the climate emergency and end the suffering caused by cold homes.

cse.org.uk