



# Environmental Sustainability and Carbon Net Zero Policy

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**Created:** June 2025

**Next Review:** June 2026

**Responsible Person:** Chief Executive

## 1. Introduction

The Institute for Social Value (ISV) recognises the climate emergency as one of the most pressing challenges of our time. We are committed to reducing our environmental impact, supporting the UK's net zero targets, and promoting sustainable practice through all aspects of our operations, partnerships and influence.

This policy builds on our earlier commitments to workplace health, responsible sourcing, and local engagement, and updates them in light of new standards and expectations in 2025.

## 2. Our Commitments

ISV will:

- Work towards becoming a carbon net zero organisation by 2040 or earlier
- Monitor and reduce greenhouse gas emissions across our operations

- Integrate environmental considerations into our governance, procurement and project planning
- Collaborate with our members, contractors, suppliers and partners to reduce collective environmental impact
- Comply with all relevant environmental legislation and aim to exceed statutory requirements where possible
- Regularly review our practices and set improvement targets

### **3. Areas of Action**

#### 3.1 Workplace and Remote Operations

- Ensure that all physical working environments are energy efficient where possible
- Encourage remote and hybrid working to reduce commuting-related emissions
- Use environmentally responsible digital tools and avoid unnecessary data storage

#### 3.2 Travel and Events

- Avoid unnecessary travel by prioritising virtual meetings
- Choose lower-carbon transport options when travel is essential
- Select venues for events based on their environmental performance
- Minimise single-use materials at events and provide recycling options

#### 3.3 Procurement and Resource Use

- Favour suppliers who demonstrate strong environmental credentials
- Source goods and services locally and sustainably where possible
- Reduce consumption of paper and non-recyclable resources
- Avoid unnecessary purchases and reuse equipment and materials

#### 3.4 Partnerships and Influence

- Collaborate with aligned organisations to champion environmental and social sustainability together
- Promote environmental responsibility within the social value community
- Share learning, case studies and guidance to support others in reducing their environmental impact

### 3.5 Training and Culture

- Provide all staff, volunteers and contractors with relevant environmental awareness training
- Encourage an organisational culture of sustainability and shared responsibility
- Empower team members to suggest and implement greener ways of working

## **4. Implementation and Review**

This policy will be implemented through annual action plans and ongoing monitoring. The Chief Executive is responsible for the oversight of this policy and ensuring its integration into our core processes.

We will:

- Conduct a carbon footprint assessment annually
- Report progress to our Board and publicly where appropriate
- Review and update the policy at least once every year

# Key Legislation and Standards

- Climate Change Act 2008 (as amended):  
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents>
- Environment Act 2021  
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents/enacted>
- UK Government Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (2021):  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/net-zero-strategy>
- The Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHG Protocol):  
<https://ghgprotocol.org/>
- DEFRA Environmental Reporting Guidelines (2023):  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-reporting-guidelines-including-mandatory-greenhouse-gas-emissions-reporting-guidance>