



Sustainability report 2025



Introduction

Dogs Trust is committed to reducing the impact of its activities on the environment. We understand that a successful future for our charity depends on the sustainability of the environment, communities, and economies in which we operate across the UK.

Prior to starting our sustainability journey at the end of 2021, we were leading the way with rehoming centres in terms of energy efficiency and sustainable design, and our retail shops have been a fantastic example of sustainability by reselling, reusing, and recycling items. Since then, we have built on the foundation laid and expanded our commitment to become sustainability leaders.

2025 was the year we started to step into that leadership role for both the animal welfare and wider charity sectors. We are receiving recognition externally for the progress we've made, and I also became a Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv), the globally recognised gold standard for sustainability professionals. This report covers our journey, the reporting year, and the road ahead.

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Environmental and Sustainability Manager



Our mission

Our sustainability mission is to become a truly sustainable charity by reducing the environmental impact of our activities, making the most cost-efficient use of our resources, and complementing the core mission of Dogs Trust.

Our commitments

At Dogs Trust, we are committed to:

- achieving net zero before 2050
- becoming a sustainability leader.



The journey so far

Since the start of our sustainability journey in 2021, we have:

- calculated our carbon footprint and reduced emissions
- produced the Sustainability Action Plan to meet goals
- raised thousands of pounds using recycling schemes
- planted thousands of trees at our rehoming centres
- installed solar panels, EV charging and heat pumps.



Sustainability in 2025

2025 has been a milestone year in our sustainability journey. We started by wrapping up the circular solution we had developed with a local recycling company to turn clothing and textiles that we can't sell or use at one of our retail shops into dog products such as beds, jackets and mats. During the four-month trial, 793kg were collected, raising £396 for the charity and creating 99 dog products, which we plan to eventually sell and is an example of a circular solution that is perfect for Dogs Trust.

We released our first sustainability report on Earth Day (April 22nd) that covered our journey so far, the reporting year (2024) and the road ahead. We also improved how we calculate, monitor, and report our emissions and energy usage through Greenly, which led to greater accuracy in data collection.

We've made important steps forward, making great progress against the Sustainability Action Plan leading up to 2030.

In summary, we delivered the following results during 2025:

- released our first (2024) sustainability report on Earth Day
- installed air source heat pumps at three rehoming centres
- switched to a 100% renewable energy tariff, saving £250k!
- completed our circular trial, turning textiles into dog beds
- introduced food and glass collections for sites in England
- achieved the carbon and energy annual reduction targets
- reached our milestone of planting 5,000 trees by 2025.



Sustainability Action Plan

The Sustainability Action Plan (2024 – 2029) provides a roadmap for us to achieve our commitments, objectives, and targets over the next five years, with four internal working groups dedicated to delivering the plan and a steering group overseeing progress.

We used the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as our framework to ensure the commitments, objectives, and targets address the global issues we face. This will also enable us to benchmark ourselves against other organisations from both within and outside of the animal welfare sector in the UK.

The action plan is focussed on impact in eleven key areas:

Awareness – highlighting environmental importance to staff

Biodiversity – enhancing green spaces and protecting wildlife

Carbon – calculating carbon footprint and reducing emissions

Community – sharing knowledge and supporting our networks

Engagement – driving staff behaviour change and best practice

Improvement – monitoring our progress against annual targets

Legislation – ensuring full compliance while staying up to date

Procurement – minimising the impact of all goods and services

Resources – reducing electricity, gas, and water consumption

Travel – adopting more sustainable methods of transportation

Waste – monitoring waste generation to improve recycling rates

The contents of the action plan will be reviewed annually by the Management Board with a report on our annual performance to ensure we're on the ball, dream big, and make things happen.

Environmental Policy

We also have our first **Environmental and Sustainability Policy**, which declares our intentions to become a sustainable charity, and will also be reviewed annually by the Management Board.

We intend to deliver our commitments through the introduction of suitable policies and the implementation of the Sustainability Action Plan. The day-to-day implementation of this policy is the responsibility of our Environmental and Sustainability Manager.

This policy applies to all Dogs Trust staff and volunteers and is displayed across our sites, including on our Dogs Trust website.



Streamlined energy and carbon reporting (SECR)

Reporting period – 1 January to 31 December 2025

Carbon use

Source category	2025	2024
Scope 1 emissions (tCO ₂ e)	1,460 (-9%)	1,600
Scope 2 emissions (tCO ₂ e)	516 (-20%)	642
Scope 1 & 2 total emissions (tCO ₂ e)	1,976 (-12%)	2,242

Carbon intensity

2025 (reporting year) = 1.4 tCO₂e per employee (-21%)

2024 (previous year) = 1.8 tCO₂e per employee

Energy use

2025 (reporting year) = 10,735,602 kWh (-11%)

2024 (previous year) = 11,998,019 kWh

When direct consumption data was unavailable, the following estimation methods were applied:

- Electricity consumption was estimated based on building surface area using industry benchmarks.
- Gas consumption was estimated based on building surface area using industry benchmarks.

- Fuel consumption from cars in litres was converted to kWh using Defra guidelines.
- Biomass (mt) and LPG (l) were converted into kWh using the SECR conversion calculator.

Energy saving

We undertook the following energy efficiency measures in 2025:

- installed air source heat pumps at Basildon, Canterbury, and Kenilworth rehoming centres.
- switched existing mixed electricity tariff for sites to a 100% REGOs renewable energy tariff.
- started the process of decarbonising our laundry operations through Washco partnership.
- submitted ESOS Action Plan Progress Update 1 detailing the measures taken in the year.

Methodology

We have employed the services of a specialist adviser, Greenly, to quantify and calculate the GHG emissions associated with our operations for the reporting year (2025) and to recalculate the previous year (2024). The following methodology was applied by Greenly in the preparation and presentation of this data:

- The Greenhouse Gas Protocol published by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and the World Resources Institute (the “WBCSD/WRI GHG Protocol”).
- Appropriate emission factors, sourced from UK GHG CONVERSION FACTORS & MITECO were applied to data provided by Dogs Trust to calculate GHG emissions, expressed in tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (tCO₂e).
- Scope 2 reporting method – application of location-based method for electricity supplies.
- Appropriate energy conversion factors were applied to data provided by Dogs Trust to calculate energy usage, expressed in kilowatt-hours (kWh).

The road ahead

What we have achieved over the last few years is just the start of what we intend to do, and while we are proud of the progress made from 2021 until now, we still have a long way to go before net zero.

As part of the Sustainability Action Plan, we intend to achieve the following milestones over the next five years:

- halving carbon emissions generated
- transitioning our fleet to electric
- phasing out natural gas sources
- achieving zero waste to landfill
- planting 10,000 trees by 2030.

We have already begun to make great strides towards achieving these by installing electric vehicle charging points, solar panels, and air source heat pumps, along with planting over 5,000 trees. In 2026, we are aiming to reach our milestone of achieving zero waste to landfill for all sites and developing an EV roadmap for our fleet. There will also be greater focus on scope 3 emissions through Greenly, and we are looking to create an ESG code of conduct for suppliers to ensure they align with commitments.

There's much to look forward to over the next few years, and as a charity, we understand there will always be challenges to overcome. However, we are not in this alone, and we work with fellow charities through networks and groups to address them. Whether that be understanding the needs of charity supporters, sharing knowledge, or finding solutions that benefit all.

Only together, can we build a more sustainable future.

