



# **Sustainability report 2024**



# Introduction

Dogs Trust is committed to reducing the impact of its activities on the environment as 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, with two rehoming centres (Loughborough and Shrewsbury) achieving an ‘outstanding’ rating from BREEAM (Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method). Our retail shops have also 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 across everything we do. This report highlights our journey so far (2021 to 2023), the reporting year (2024), and the road ahead (2025 to 2030) to becoming a sustainable charity.

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**Stephen Last**

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 across scopes 1, 2, and 3
- identified key issues through our materiality assessment
- raised thousands of pounds through recycling schemes
- planted thousands of trees across rehoming centres
- reduced scope 1 and 2 emissions by 31% since 2019.

## Sustainability in 2024

This year has marked a significant step forward in our journey as we launched the Sustainability Action Plan, our overarching five-year strategy, our first Environmental and Sustainability Policy, and achieved several milestones, objectives, and annual targets.

We have spent the last few years gaining a better understanding of our environmental impacts with the calculation of our carbon footprint for the first time (also known as the Carbon Pawprint Project) and understanding the priorities of our stakeholders through a materiality assessment. We also co-commissioned the first sustainability survey for charity supporters in 2023.

The results of these projects helped shape the commitments, objectives, and targets that we now have, and ensure that all impacts, priorities, and stakeholders have been incorporated within the Sustainability Action Plan and supporting policy.

Along with this, we also delivered the following during 2024:

- achieved our 10% reduction targets for carbon and energy
- planted an additional 825 trees (4,110 in total since 2022)
- trialed a recycling scheme to turn textiles into dog beds
- introduced recycling zones to improve waste segregation
- launched internal reuse network to rehome office items
- surveyed staff to find 96% feel sustainability is important.



# 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 2024

## Carbon use

Source category	2024	2023
Scope 1 emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	1,229 (-10%)	1,435
Scope 2 emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	630 (-19%)	780
Scope 1 & 2 total emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	1,860 (-16%)	2,215

## Carbon intensity

2024 (reporting year) = 1.50 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per employee (-10%)

2023 (previous year) = 1.67 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per employee

## Energy use

2024 (reporting year) = 8,005,761 kWh (-13%)

2023 (previous year) = 9,200,169 kWh

## Energy saving

We undertook the following energy efficiency measures in 2024:

- completed the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging points across rehoming centres

- completed the installation of additional solar (PV) panels for remaining rehoming centres
- replaced old lighting with LED lights as part of refurbishments and upgrades for our sites
- declared our intention to move towards an electric fleet, and remove natural gas sources
- minimised employee travel and flights by using video conferencing and hybrid working
- submitted ESOS (Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme) Phase 3 report and action plan.

## Methodology

We have followed the 2019 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. We have also used the GHG Reporting Protocol – Corporate Standard and have used the 2023 UK Government’s Conversion Factors for Company Reporting.

Vehicle emissions, where relevant, have been calculated using:

- passenger vehicles: an average size for cars and vans
- delivery vehicles: average laden for HGVs.

Natural gas consumption has been calculated using a kWh conversion factor on a gross CV basis, as per most energy bills. In assessing whether the 40,000 kWh threshold is met, we have considered, all the energy from gas, electricity, and transport fuel usage in the UK that we are responsible for.

Computations have been completed using an online calculator supplied by CertifiedCarbon.com.

# 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 initial progress made, 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 by 2030:

- halving carbon emissions generated
- transitioning our fleet to electric
- phasing out natural gas sources
- achieving zero waste to landfill
- planting 5,000 additional trees.

We have already begun to make great strides towards achieving these by installing electric vehicle charging points, solar panels, and our first air source heat pumps, which we are looking to do across all our rehoming centres. In 2025, we are aiming to reach our target of planting 5,000 trees (with 5,000 more by 2030) and achieve zero waste to landfill for all our sites. There will also be greater focus on sustainable procurement, our vehicle fleet, and improving data quality for multiple scope 3 categories.

There's much to look forward to over the next few years, and as a charity, we understand there will always be challenges for us to overcome. However, we are not in this alone, and we work with charities not only in animal welfare but the sector as a whole, through networks and groups dedicated to tackling shared challenges and finding opportunities for all of us.

Only together, can we build a more sustainable future.

