

2020 Carbon Positive Approach Overview



We are proud to have become the first housebuilder to have carbon positive operations, offsetting more than our operational carbon emissions annually since 2017/18.

Background

The development of new homes and places involves highly carbon-intensive site activities. This is particularly true for the large-scale regeneration schemes undertaken by the Berkeley Group; transforming brownfield sites requires heavy plant and machinery to demolish existing structures that are no longer fit for purpose and to extensively remediate and move soils, especially on our sites which historically housed gas works.

Under our business strategy, Our Vision, we had a 2018-2020 commitment to 'Implement energy efficiency measures across our activities to reduce operational carbon emissions intensity by 14% and continue to implement and evolve our carbon positive programme'.

Taking action to reduce our emissions remains a priority. Our project teams continue to draw upon our guidance on how to address out-of-hours electricity consumption together with minimum recommendations for site set up and operation. Sites complete a Carbon Management and Action Plan to detail energy consumption and efficiency measures and many have retrofitted more energy efficient measures or are including these from site start. For example, motion sensors have been installed during the site set up of The Arches to ensure lighting is only active when needed, whilst a master switch has also been implemented to turn off all unnecessary equipment at the end of the working day to reduce out of hours consumption. Welfare cabins with improved energy efficiency have also been specified, including for the set up of Horlicks Quarter. Recognising that taking action to reduce emissions resulting from fuel consumption is our biggest challenge, this year we have switched to using biodiesel on our Green Park Village site, whilst on other sites such as Trent Park we have collaborated with our contractors to trial the industry's first fully electric mini excavator.

The Berkeley Group's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in 2020 were 24,846 tCO₂e, based on our operational boundary and accounting for location-based emissions under Scope 2 (please refer to the Annual Report 2020 Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy Consumption Supporting Information available [here](#) for details on the methodology adopted to calculate emissions). This is a 14% decrease in absolute emissions compared to both the baseline year (2015/16) and 2018/19 when an increase in emissions occurred due to a number of regeneration sites commencing.

We acknowledge that the cyclical nature of our business, along with the need to significantly change behaviours, procedures, technology and equipment, mean that fundamentally reducing carbon emissions will be an ongoing process over a number of years. We therefore procure 100% renewable electricity for our site, office and UK-based sales activities and are committed to voluntarily supporting verified projects in realising carbon emissions reductions elsewhere.

2020 carbon positive approach

To become carbon positive, the Berkeley Group has completed the following actions for our different energy sources:

Purchased UK electricity (5,724 tCO₂e):

- Retired Deep Green Renewable Energy Guarantee of Origins (REGOs) from an off-shore wind project based in the UK, accounting for 100% of the Berkeley Group's consumption of purchased UK electricity (22,383 MWh).

Purchased fuel (directly and via contractors); business travel; purchased heat; purchased international electricity; transmission and distribution losses of purchased electricity (UK and international) and heat; and upstream emissions (19,122 tCO₂e):

- Offset 21,100 tCO₂e through verified projects which are closely aligned to the Berkeley Group's key areas of focus within the Our Vision business strategy (e.g. protecting and enhancing nature) and/or provide a multitude of economic and social benefits for the communities in which they operate. These offset projects are as follows:
 - Mangrove Preservation and Restoration Project in Myanmar (1,700 tCO₂e): we are one of the first companies to support this blue carbon project by introducing it into our offset portfolio for 2020. The project aims to preserve mangrove zones, and replant and restore degraded mangrove zones in Myanmar. The overall objective is to establish an ecosystem of mangrove management that is sustainable and includes carbon sequestration, preservation of coasts from natural disasters, and improved livelihoods of local fishing communities.
 - TIST Programme Project in India, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda (1,200 tCO₂e): we support The International Small Group and Tree Planting Programme (TIST) which is a combined tree planting, development and carbon programme enabling community groups to plant trees on their land to improve their livelihoods and address environmental issues. In addition, the project delivers positive social impacts including educating communities on HIV, malaria and other health matters.
 - Madre de Dios REDD Project in Peru (4,200 tCO₂e) – we have continued to support this project which is focused on the protection and enrichment of communities, flora and fauna in the Peruvian Amazon. The project protects 100,000 hectares of rainforest, monitors 35 endangered species and has created more than 470 jobs.
 - Bokhol Solar Project in Senegal (3,400 tCO₂e) – we have newly supported the first solar photovoltaic (PV) project in Senegal, which is one of the largest in West Africa. The project provides 160,000 people with access to renewable energy and funds investments in the local community to improve living conditions.
 - Wind Power Generation in India (10,600 tCO₂e) – we have continued to support this project focused on improving renewable energy supplies in India to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.