

Carbon Reduction Plan

Development Trusts Association Scotland

May, 2025

TOTAL EMISSIONS

20.78 tCO₂e
(Jan - Dec 2024)

NET ZERO BY

2045

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Introduction

Development Trusts Association Scotland – known as DTAS – was established in 2003. We are a member-led organisation that promotes, supports and represents close to 350 development trusts across Scotland. As part of our membership support offer, DTAS staff provide members with wrap around support in the development of their community organisations, which can require a lot of face-to-face engagement.

DTAS operates out of an office space in Edinburgh. However, the majority of the staff team work remotely from locations across Scotland.

Our own journey to net zero will be made up of understanding our organisational emissions which can be improved through policies and practices, our staff and their behaviour. We will then consider how DTAS can support our membership to move towards net zero, as we feel one of our biggest opportunities comes from our membership network and the work we and they can do to reach communities and take collective action in emission reduction.

Drivers

Our drivers for reaching net zero are detailed below.

DTAS 2024 - 2027 strategy

Strategic goal two, action eight in DTAS' 3 year strategy reads:

Support our members and clients to be part of the transition towards a green economy

By advancing DTAS' environmental work, we are better positioning ourselves to support member groups on their journey to net zero.

Staff concern

In January 2025, we circulated an environment survey to staff with the aim of gathering information on staff attitudes towards environmental issues. It became clear that the majority of the staff team were concerned about the impacts of their work on climate change.

By focussing on Net Zero and improving our environmental credentials, we can simultaneously take steps to address staff concern.

Member-led organisation

As a large, member-led organisation it is our responsibility to lead by example and set a precedent for actively addressing the environmental impact of our work activities.

Given the size of our membership and the reach of each organisation, there is real opportunity for large-scale positive environmental change.

We also recognise that many of our members groups are ahead of us on their journeys to net zero. We want to learn from these members, and identify and publicise best practice to support others.

Net Zero

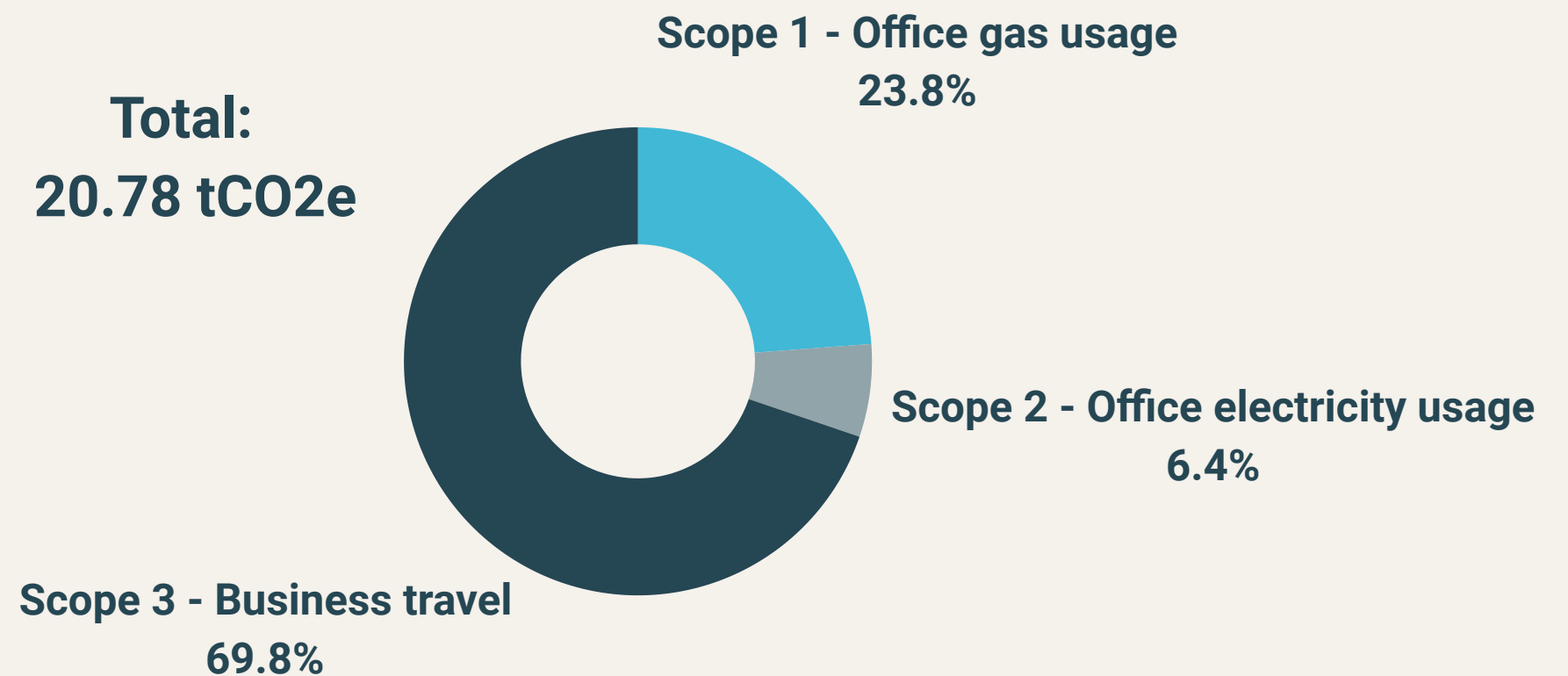
Scotland has set an ambitious target to reach Net Zero by 2045.

This requires a rapid transformation across all sectors and it is the responsibility of Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS) to help meet this target of Net Zero by 2045.

Our strategy follows the principles of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol.

Our baseline emissions were calculated as 20.78 (tCO₂e) for the annual year of 2024 and included Scope 1, Scope 2 and Business Travel.

Our scope 1 emissions accounted for 24%, scope 2 accounted for 6% and our included scope 3 accounted for 70%.



Emissions Boundary

Emissions boundary for 2024 carbon footprint

Our operational boundary has been created in line with the principles of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol. Therefore, we chose to report on all scope 1 and 2 emissions and business travel as part of the baseline measurement.

We chose to report on emissions associated with business travel over other scope 3 emissions because:

- Staff are frequently travelling for business and it likely contributed significantly to DTAS' overall footprint
- There is opportunity to influence the behaviour of staff, and has potential for significant emissions savings
- Accurate data readily available

Our boundary will be reviewed and reset in year 2027 to include more emission sources.

Scope 1



Gas boiler in DTAS office

Scope 2



Electricity purchased
from national grid in
DTAS office

Scope 3



Business travel

Emission scopes to be revisited when boundary reset in 2027

| Emission Scope | Reason for excluding in baseline |
|---|---|
| Scope 3 - Waste generated in operations | DTAS produces minimal general waste, therefore the emissions savings to be made are limited. |
| Scope 3 - Commuting and homeworking | The majority of the DTAS staff team work remotely and many of those who do commute use public transport. Therefore the emission savings to be made are limited. |
| Scope 3 - Purchased goods and services | DTAS doesn't purchase a huge number of goods, therefore the emissions savings to be made are limited. |
| Scope 3 - Capital goods | DTAS doesn't purchase a huge number of capital goods, therefore the emissions savings to be made are limited. Furthermore, the majority of technology equipment purchased, are second-hand. |
| Scope 3 - Conference and events | Whilst it is important that we establish a baseline for the DTAS Annual Conference, our largest in-person event, we are unable to currently due to limited internal capacity and the complexity of gathering event data. This will be a priority for use when resetting DTAS' operational boundary. |
| Scope 3 - Grants | This scope is not included in the baseline due to limited capacity. We aim to include this scope when resetting DTAS' operational boundary. |
| Scope 3 - Upstream leased assets | DTAS have limited upstream leased assets, therefore the emissions savings to be made are limited |

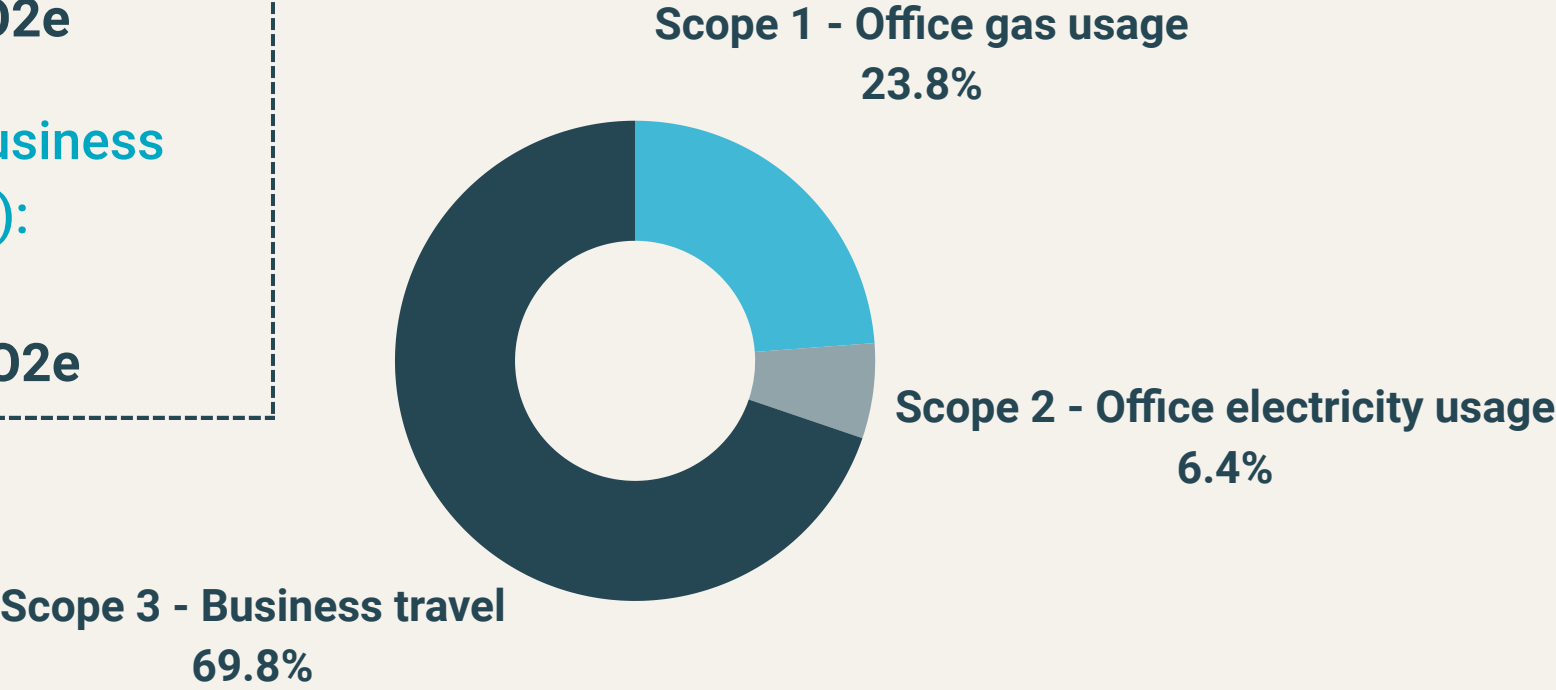
The following scope 3 emissions categories are not present in DTAS operations and therefore will not feature in our reporting: franchises, upstream transportation and distribution, processing of sold products, end-of-life treatments of sold products, downstream leased assets, fuel and energy-related activities.

Our carbon footprint

Total footprint
20.78 tCO2e

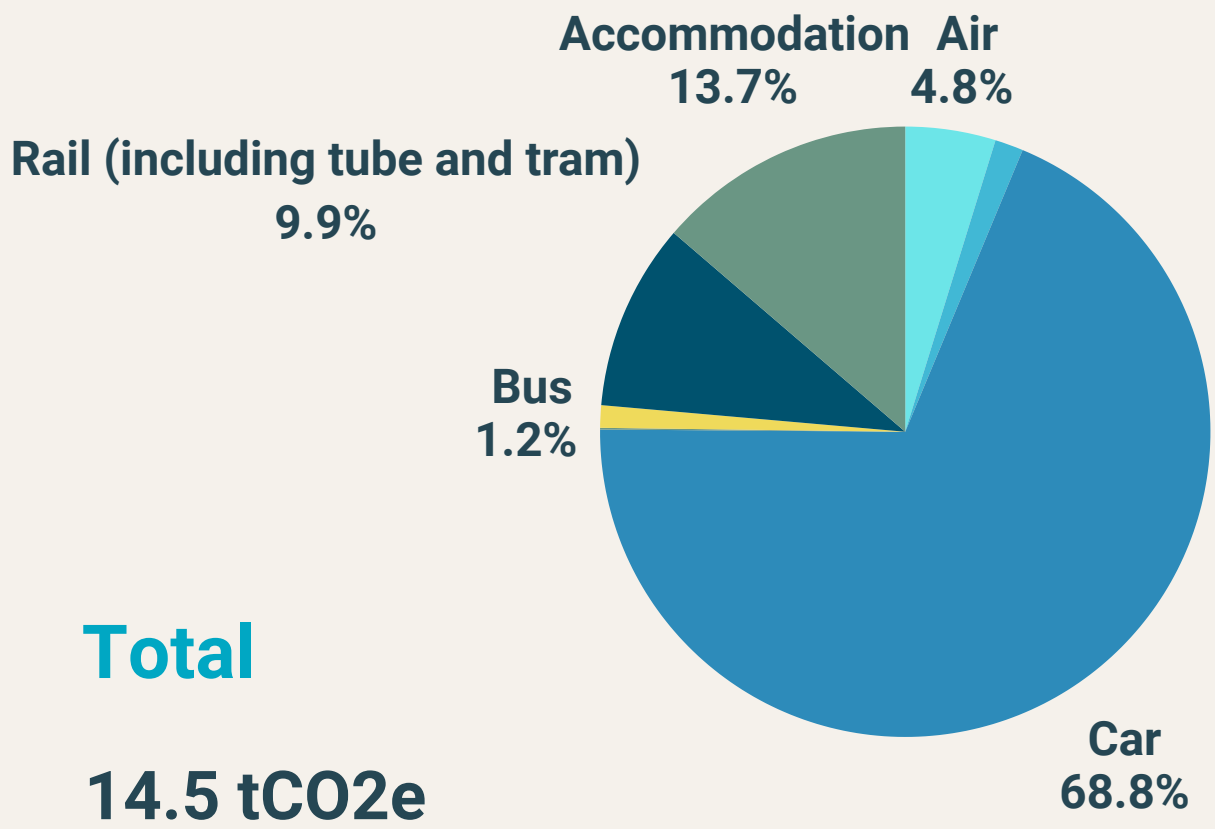
By metric footprint:
0.8 tCO2e per employee

Scope 1 and 2:
6.28 tCO2e
Scope 3 (business travel):
14.5 tCO2e



Breakdown of business travel data

Below is a breakdown of business travel emissions by mode of transport, including accommodation.



Total
14.5 tCO2e

Net Zero Targets

Our capacity to reduce the emissions associated with scope 1 and 2 are limited as DTAS operates out of a shared office building and are charged a proportion of the building's total use through an annual service charge.

Whilst there are still actions we want to take forward to reduce our scope 1 and 2 emissions, we also want to prioritise reducing emissions associated with business travel, as it is responsible for 70% of our baseline emissions.

To reach Net Zero by 2045, we have to set several nearer-term targets.

LONG-TERM TARGET:

- Net Zero by 2045
- We will reduce our scope 1,2 and 3 emissions by at least 90%; or to a residual level that is consistent with reaching net zero emissions, by 2045. We will then neutralise any residual emissions through recognised carbon offsetting schemes.

SHORT-TERM TARGET:

- Additional emission scopes added to operational boundary in 2027
- 32% reduction in business travel emissions by 2030
- 42% reduction in scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2030

YEARLY REDUCTION TARGET:

- 10% reduction of Scope 1 and 2 per year to 2030
- 8% reduction of business travel emissions per year to 2030

Targets relating to scope 1 and 2 are reliant on successful engagement with our landlord and building tenants to improve energy efficiency across the entire shared office building.

Carbon Reduction Action Plan

Our baseline indicates our emissions are 20.78 tCO₂e. To reduce our emissions by 90% by 2045 – we will need to reduce our footprint by at least 18.7 tCO₂e.

We will do this by implementing the following environmental management projects and measures to reduce emissions associated with scope 1, scope 2 and business travel. When our operational boundary is reset in 2027, we will add carbon reduction efforts associated with additional scopes.

Reducing scope 1 and 2 emissions

- Make contact with other tenants in shared office building and discuss group energy efficiency efforts
- Take regular monthly metre readings to improve accuracy of emission data
- Explore energy efficiency improvements

- Ensure all lights in office are LED
- Install smart plugs to measure energy consumption of devices in office
- Get Business Energy Scotland to do free energy audit of office
- Switch to renewable energy provider

Business travel

- Share/create resources that raise environmental awareness across the organisations
- Share/create resources and run engagement activities with staff to help identify worthwhile carbon savings when travelling
- Provide organisation-wide sustainable travel guidelines, produced through consultation with staff
- Explore public transport incentives
- Introduce Cycle to Work scheme
- Join EV salary sacrifice scheme
- Implement carbon budgets for each staff team

Carbon Reduction Action Plan

Although the emissions associated with Events and Conference and Grants have not been quantified as part of our baseline, these are significant activities within the organisation, and are anticipated to be notable contributors to our footprint. Therefore, there are some emission reduction projects we will be delivering prior to 2027 when we aim to complete the full analysis of associated emissions.

Events and Conference

Completed

- Caroster, a lift sharing platform, promoted for all in-person DTAS events
- Conference Environmental Policy updated and improved for the DTAS Annual Conference 2025
- All vegetarian catering for regional gathering events

Future projects

- Circulate travel survey to attendees of the DTAS Annual Conference 2025
- Use feedback from travel survey to inform implementation of sustainable travel measures for DTAS Annual Conference 2026
- All vegetarian catering for lunch at DTAS Annual Conference 2025
- Write venue brief that details our environmental requirements when selecting a suitable venue for in-person events, including waste management measures
- Yearly review of Conference Environmental Policy

Grants

Completed

- Deliver a facilities management service that supports grantees to improve the energy efficiency of their assets (ongoing)
- Implement online grant management system

Future projects

- Support grantees to reach net zero by signposting carbon reduction training opportunities and relevant funding opportunities
- Collaborate and build partnerships with anchor organisations that can support grantees on their journey to net zero
- Conduct internal evaluation of grant approval process
- Consider how the assessment of environmental credentials could be built into approval process of grantees

Wider sustainability initiatives

In addition to the carbon reduction efforts relating to our baseline emissions, DTAS also commits to delivering work in the following action areas:

Encourage staff behaviour change

DTAS commits to raise awareness of environmental matters, implement policies and encourage staff to play an active part in addressing them.

Actions:

- Survey staff annually to gather information on staff attitudes towards environmental issues and identify areas where DTAS as an organisation can support staff
- Raise awareness of environmental matters and implement policies and encouragement for staff to play an active part in reducing their carbon footprint
- Explore relevant training opportunities for staff

Provide membership support

DTAS recognise that many of our members groups are ahead of us on their journeys to net zero. We want to learn from these members, and identify and publicise best practice to support others.

Actions:

- Collaborate with partners across the community sector to support member organisations on their journey to net zero
- Identify and publicise best practice in the membership and the sector
- Signpost members towards useful resources and training opportunities
- Map the existing support across the community sector and identify any gaps in support available to member organisations who are trying to reach net zero

Progress to date

The following actions have already been delivered, demonstrating DTAS' commitment to improving our environmental impact.

Staff behaviour change

- Carbon reduction training exercise delivered to Central Support Services Team
- Staff member completed Carbon Footprinting and Reporting Course (IEMA Certified)
- Staff-led Climate Working Group set up and meets every two months
- Staff Climate Survey 2025 written and circulated to staff
- Feedback from Staff Climate Survey 2025 written up into report with recommendations made to the organisation
- Staff member completed Climate Springboard Programme by the Edinburgh Climate Change Institute on Carbon Reduction

Membership support

- Meetings held with organisations in sector to discuss how best to support DTAS member groups
- Workshop at DTAS Annual Conference 2025 on Climate Adaptation and Resilience, delivered by Verture
- DTAS Annual Conference 2025 Environmental Statement updated and improved
- Signposting carbon reduction training opportunities and relevant funding opportunities to members

DTAS office

- Reviewed and improved bin signage
- Improved waste management systems – organic waste and plastic wrap now recycled
- 'How to act sustainably in the office' resource made and shared with staff team

Next steps

We will monitor and review our plan on a regular basis to make sure we stay on track to meet our emission reduction targets.

Whilst we make meaningful strides towards reducing our baseline emissions, we will also focus on creating an environmentally-aware work culture, in which staff are encouraged and supported to reduce the environmental impact of their work.