



Bristol Climate &
Nature Partnership

CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAMME

CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAMME YEAR FIVE REPORT

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BID

The Climate Action Programme offers free, practical support to help organisations reduce their carbon emissions, protect and restore nature and build resilience in a changing climate, regardless of their size, sector or starting point. Over the last five years, this programme has helped shape a community of ambitious organisations committed to positive change, through expert-led events, peer-to-peer learning opportunities, resources and solution-orientated case studies.

The Bristol business community continues to demonstrate strong climate leadership and ongoing ambition to reduce their emissions alongside limiting their impact on nature. In the programme's fifth year, we have expanded our offering of support across sectors and starting points, recognising the diversity of needs present in the city. This year saw growing engagement from organisations of all sizes and sectors.

The support from our programme sponsors Bristol City Council and the Bristol Business Improvement District enables us to deliver tailored climate support, shaped by the needs and ambitions of local businesses.



EVENTS

We host a series of events that are free and open to organisations at any stage of their climate action journey across any sector. Our events provide a space for attendees to learn from experts and each other, fostering a sense of community amongst organisations in Bristol that are committed to positive change.

Our series of events cover a breadth of topics and interests that reflect the challenges that businesses are facing.



In year five we held:

- ✱ May 2025: Intention to Action Clinic — Supplier engagement
- ⌚ June 2025: Conversations with Climate Leaders — Resetting climate targets with We The Curious
- 🌿 June 2025: Climate Action Breakfast — Understanding and reducing your organisation's impact on nature
- 🚶 July 2025: Climate Action Breakfast — Transforming travel
- ✱ September 2025: Climate Action Breakfast — Building resilience
- 🌱 November 2025: Intention to Action Clinic — Making climate action part of business as usual
- 🌿 February 2026: Climate Action Breakfast — Reducing Digital Emissions

272

Event attendees in year five



On average, **94%** of attendees who attended a Climate Action Programme event in year 5 rated the event 4 or 5 out of 5.



“These events are always amazing, incredibly insightful and impactful. The speakers are always great, and I always leave very inspired. Definitely the best range of sustainability events.”

CHLOE



Business West, Climate Action Breakfast:
Reducing digital emissions

“It has helped me refocus on the bigger picture when, as the only person in my organisation dedicated to sustainability, I can get stuck focussing on specific areas day to day. The content was helpful for structuring action moving forward and I also made some useful contacts.”

CONNIE



Intention to Action Clinic: Making Climate
Action part of Business as Usual

“I felt empowered after the reducing digital emissions Climate Action Breakfast event, and came away with enough understanding of AI and its environmental impacts to confidently engage with our AI lead on the topic. We now have regular meetings to discuss how sustainability can be considered as AI initiatives are developed and implemented”.

JESSICA



ARAG, Climate Action Breakfast:
Reducing digital emissions

131

organisations attended our events in year five

558

organisations have attended our
events over five years



SECTOR-SPECIFIC WORK

This year we expanded our work to provide sector-specific support, providing a space for organisations working in the same space to tackle issues unique to their operations and sector collaboratively. A legal roundtable has been set up, supporting a small group of UK-leading law firms to overcome shared challenges. Topics covered so far include supplier engagement, data collection and SBTi targets.

We're now turning our attention to visitor attractions. Bristol has a vibrant tourism industry with many organisations at the forefront of climate action. The newly formed Visitor Attraction Climate Forum will provide a space for visitor attractions to connect, learn from each other and work towards solutions to common challenges. So far 16 visitor attractions have been involved, and we hope to expand this in year six.



SUPPLIER ENGAGEMENT

In year five we continued our focus on supplier engagement due to the challenge it poses and the huge potential it holds to cut emissions. Working again with 3Adapt, we held an Intention to Action Clinic to take a deeper dive into supplier engagement, working with attendees to tackle specific challenges they are facing and identify practical solutions.

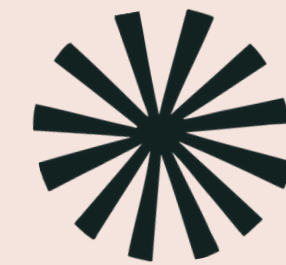


GETTING STARTED

This year we launched our Getting Started Programme to support organisations at the very start of their climate action journey, in collaboration with our consultancy partner Eunomia. It consisted of three group workshops to provide participants with a solid grounding in the steps needed to start taking effective climate action. The focus of the workshops were:

- * Workshop 1: Jargon busting and demystification
- * Workshop 2: Measuring and monitoring carbon footprint
- * Workshop 3: Creating a Climate Action Plan and setting targets

“I found the programme extremely useful - the biggest progress has been feeling empowered with the tools and confidence to start conversations with clients and colleagues.”



80%

of participating organisations said the programme enabled them to take steps forward

All of the participating organisations reported they would recommend this programme to others.



“We really enjoyed being a part of the programme and have learnt a lot from it. We're now hiring for an Operations & Sustainability Manager to head up our next steps and champion our climate action plan.”

THEA



Raised In CIC, Getting Started
Participant



RESOURCES

We've created a suite of tools, guides, articles and case studies to support organisations at every stage of their emissions reduction journey. They can all be found in our [resource library](#).

The resources in our Climate Action Programme Library have now been accessed approximately 17,900 times.



Our new resources from year five are:

- ✳ Resource: [Collecting and reporting carbon emissions](#)
- 🕒 Resource: [Engaging senior leaders](#)
- 🌿 Spotlight on: [How Bristol businesses can prepare for heatwaves](#)
- 📖 Resource: [Communicating climate and nature action](#)
- ✳ Resource: [Overcoming supplier engagement challenges](#)
- 🌿 Case study: [Roman Baths & Pump Room](#)
- 🌿 Case study: [Spike Island](#)
- 🌒 Spotlight on: [understanding what it means to be a TNFD early adopter](#)
- 👤 Spotlight on: [Business succession through employee ownership](#)
- 💬 Resource: [Transforming travel at your organisation](#)
- ➡ Resource: [Resetting climate targets](#)
- 📖 Resource: [Taking nature action within your organisation](#)
- 🌿 Case study: [Clarke Willmott](#)

BID PARTNERSHIP

We continued our collaboration with Bristol BID – with the newly unified BID zone consisting of City Centre BID, Redcliffe & Temple BID and Broadmead BID expanding our partnership reach.

Working with the BID team we have strengthened our tailored approach to the Climate Action Programme and deepened our relationships with a diverse range of organisations across Bristol. Since our partnership with the BID began, 197 Bristol BID businesses have engaged with the programme through 1:1 meetings and events.

We continue to foster a strong and engaged community. We have been supported by 41 BID businesses who have actively contributed to the programme by either hosting our events or sharing their experiences of delivering robust climate action at an event or through our resources.



CLIMATE LEADERS

The Climate Leaders Group is composed of organisations who are leading the way on climate action in Bristol. It is for those with ambitious and credible climate targets, a plan for meeting them and significant action underway. Working together, the group shares experiences and best practice, identifies solutions to common challenges, and amplifies the progress of members to support, motivate and inspire others.

The criteria for membership, reporting requirements and governance details can be found in the [Terms of Reference](#). If your organisation is interested in joining the group, please complete [this expression of interest form](#).

This year our Climate Leaders Group have tackled subjects such as resetting climate targets and how to engage senior leaders, and they went on a tour of the Bottle Yard Studios to learn about their sustainability and community initiatives.

We have also welcomed three new members – Arnolfini, Spike Island and Clarke Willmott, bringing our group membership total to 32 organisations as of 31 March 2026.



“Over the last year, the Climate Action Programme has become an important part of Arnolfini's sustainability journey. Through the Climate Leaders Group, we've gained valuable knowledge and support that has strengthened our approach to climate action, particularly around delivering a just transition that benefits the communities we serve.

Being part of a city-wide network of organisations committed to ambitious climate action has enabled us to share learning, tackle common challenges, and build relationships that have already led to new collaborations. These connections have also helped us benchmark our progress, align our ambitions with our peers towards a fairer and more resilient future.”

JACK FRISWELL



Technical and Sustainability Manager, Arnolfini

Part of being a Climate Leader is being transparent about carbon emissions, any progress made, as well as any challenges.

We ask all members to share their top line emissions data and have included some of the headlines in this report.

Scope 1, 2 & 3 Trends

The overall trend is for a reduction in emissions compared to 2024 and the baseline year of 2020. On average the Climate Leaders emissions have changed in the following ways:

-  Scope 1 emissions have decreased by 2% in 2025 compared to 2024 and by 19% since 2020, the baseline year.
-  Scope 2 location-based emissions have decreased by 1% in 2025 compared to 2024 and by 38% since 2020, the baseline year.
-  Scope 2 market-based emissions have decreased by 2% in 2025 compared to 2024 and by 22% since 2020, the baseline year.
-  Scope 3 emissions have decreased by 13% in 2025 compared to 2024 and by 41% since 2020, the baseline year.

The most common scope 3 categories reported against are category 6: employee business travel, category 5: waste generated in operations and category 7: employee commuting. The least reported categories are category 12: end-of-life treatment of sold products, category 13: Downstream leased assets, and category 15: Investments. In 2025, category 14: franchises and category 11: processing of sold products wasn't reported against at all.

Over the years there has been a general increase in the Scope 3 categories that Climate Leaders report against, however 2025 saw one less category reported against at 14, compared to 2024's 15. While the reduction in categories reported against could account for some of the decrease in emissions, the category that was not reported on had a small level of emissions in comparison to other categories.



Other trends

Since 2020, the baseline year, revenue on average has increased while emissions have reduced, with emissions per £ of revenue having decreased by 11% in 2025 compared to 2024 and by 41% compared to the baseline year (using scope 2 location emissions).

Seven out of the reporting 29 Climate Leaders offset emissions, similar to previous years (in 2024 eight offset). Offsetting is applied through various measures including:

- 🕒 Business Travel
- ✳️ Scope 1 and 2 residual emissions
- 🌱 Green gas certificates
- 👤 Using verified Gold Standard offsets, in line with SBTi draft guidance, and providers who adopt best practices for environmental integrity.

Considerations

All emissions are provided before offsetting. This year we clarified that green gas certificates couldn't be used to offset scope 1 emissions. While we saw a reduction in scope 1 emissions overall, this could still have impacted some organisations' reporting. Each year we refine our data collection methodology to improve the consistency of reporting.

Some Climate Leaders have updated previous year's data and increased the categories they report on. Changes in emissions can sometimes reflect more thorough reporting, rather than a change in activity.

Assumption made: any organisation that has put zero for scope 2 market-based emissions are reporting that these emissions are zero due to using REGO renewable energy certificates, rather than not reporting them.





Reductions in emissions since the previous year were achieved through:

- 🕒 Sustainable travel policies and reducing business travel
- ✳️ Electricity fuelled delivery fleets
- 🌒 Reusing build materials
- 👤 Investing in energy efficient equipment and buildings
- 🌿 Lowered winter heating temperatures
- 🔧 Improving data collection and carbon calculation methodology
- 💡 Changing lighting to LED
- 🌟 Implementing decarbonising heat measures: electric boilers, heat pumps and infrared heaters
- 🔌 Procuring renewable electricity and the instalment of owned renewable energy e.g. solar panels
- 🌿 Low carbon procurement and strengthening supply chain requirements
- 🌿 Improving governance and guidelines, outlining clear responsibility of carbon reduction actions.
- 🗑️ Waste reduction measures and increased focus on food waste recovery
- 🌱 Office relocation to a more energy efficient building

Actions Climate Leaders are planning to prioritise in the year ahead include:

- ⌘ Limiting the impact of staff, business and visitor travel
- ✱ Seeking investment for decarbonisation projects
- ⤿ Supply chain engagement and introducing contractual clauses
- 👤 Using efficient cloud hosting solutions
- 🌿 Procuring locally produced renewable electricity
- ➡ Upgrading building fabric and HVAC systems
- 🌱 Improving data accuracy through investing in emission reporting platforms
- ✳ Researching opportunities for increasing owned renewable energy infrastructure
- 🏠 Removing natural gas from sites and prioritising low carbon heating, such as installing heat pumps
- 👥 Increasing staff and senior leaders' engagement in climate action
- ♻ Embedding circular economy principles, eliminating single use items and increasing waste recycling
- 🚗 Decarbonising fleet and increasing support for EV adoption





Steps Climate Leaders are taking to support a just transition and nature/biodiversity include:

- ✱ Including nature and biodiversity risks within sustainability impact assessments
- 🌒 Implementing targets for net biodiversity gain on projects and client tenders
- 👤 Implementing biodiversity action plans
- ➡ Endorsing the Bristol Just Transition declaration
- 🌱 Supporting rewilding and green infrastructure projects on owned property
- ✳ Building partnerships with organisations that support nature and provide benefits back to the community
- 🏠 Offsetting impact via funding UK-based rewilding projects and local community schemes
- 👏 Offering employee volunteering opportunities that improve local nature
- 👏 Nurturing employee wellbeing and resilience through conducting risk assessments of climate change impacts on staff alongside adopting the Bristol Living Wage
- 🏠 Implementing nature prescribing initiatives

There continue to be challenges with collecting and monitoring emissions data for the group including:

- ✱ The small number of organisations means that data can be misleading as one outlier can skew the average
- ⤿ Misaligned reporting periods resulting in unavailable data
- 🌿 Delays getting data from other teams
- While more Climate Leaders have provided their emissions than last year, out of the 32 organisations part of this group, 22 provided full data sets and seven provided partially complete (the Climate Leader has stated data is missing or a clear category is missing, such as scope 2 market-based). Only three climate leaders have not provided any quantitative data for 2025. This is partially because of staff capacity, time lags in recording periods, missing data due to Covid-19, staff changes and incorporating into larger organisations. One more organisation has joined in 2026, their data will be included in next year's reporting.
- 📦 Organisations switching reporting periods
- 🌿 Differences in reporting across Climate Leaders
- 🌿 Being part of a national / global organisation where Bristol operations emissions can't be isolated
- 📦 External bodies that calculate emissions changing assumptions
- 👤 Limited capacity and time



GET INVOLVED

Wherever you are on your climate action journey, there are steps you can take and support available. Become part of a growing community of Bristol organisations taking positive action for climate and nature through the Climate Action Programme, and make sure you've signed up as a Partnership member.

The Climate Action Programme is kindly sponsored by Bristol Business Improvement District and Bristol City Council. Their generous support enables us to deliver a practical, accessible programme that is shaping a more sustainable future for our city.

You can become a sponsor of our Climate Action Programme, to help your organisation connect with hundreds of businesses and support meaningful action in Bristol. To find out more, please get in touch with our Head of Communications & Partnerships Claire Jacob, claire@bristolclimatenature.org.

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CATALYSING COLLECTIVE CITYWIDE ACTION TOWARDS A ZERO CARBON, SOCIALLY JUST, AND NATURE-RICH BRISTOL

If you have any questions about the Climate Action Programme or want to find out more about the Partnership, please contact the team: contact@bristolclimatenature.org