

Climate Change Commitment

With the close of COP26, you might be asking whether the commitments made went far enough, how governments and nations will be held accountable to these commitments and how progress will be tracked?

In June 2019, the UK Government set a national target of achieving net zero emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050. More recently, the UK government has set an additional target to reduce emissions by 78% by 2035 compared to 1990 levels. This is set to make the UK's commitments to reducing emissions the fastest rate of any major economy. In line with this target, all UK businesses will have to play an important role in helping to achieve these carbon reduction targets.

With the latest IPCC report giving a stark warning of “now or never”, this is the time to turn commitments into meaningful action, at Orms we are committed to driving down our emissions and making meaningful change both as a business and within the projects we deliver in order to demonstrate clear climate leadership to our clients and collaborators in a sector which accounts for 40% of the UK's carbon budget and a quarter of global emissions.

A climate crisis requires all levels of cultural change so what are we doing to address this?

1. We are committing to a reduction target in line with the science based target initiative SME programme and commit to reduce our scope 1 & 2 emissions by 46% over a 2019 baseline, and to measure and reduce our scope 3 emissions. Through hot spot analysis and reduction recommendations we will set actions in motion to reduce our carbon emissions and report these annually. Target pending validation April 2022
2. We will offset our scope 1 & 2 emissions. This action which is not counted towards our impact reduction, is a recognition that whilst our efforts are focused on the reduction of our impact, until our impact is Net Zero investment in projects that help address climate inequality and carbon reduction represent a valuable contribution to the fight against climate change.
3. All our projects are mapped against the RIBA sustainable outcomes recommendations and UN sustainable development goals through our in house sustainability toolkit.
4. To support our sustainability toolkit we are also committing to the RIBA 2030 climate challenge. We will endeavour to meet these targets on all new and major refurbishment projects and submit data where available. The RIBA Climate Challenge provides an excellent framework to start this conversation, benchmark our progress and share our knowledge with the wider architectural community in order to help the industry move forwards at pace.

