

The UN's Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) presented a pivotal moment of opportunity to reach a global agreement on critical reductions in CO₂ emissions. More fundamentally, nearly every industry is under grassroots pressure from clients and stakeholders to go "cleaner and greener". The decisions business leaders make every day, to adapt and survive, need to be aligned to society's expectations.

91% of leaders believe that how they respond to events that impact society reflects on their brand and overall client perception of their business. In this crucial Decade of Action, Beever and Struthers wants to ensure that we are a force for good: positively transforming society and the planet by measuring its own impact on the environment.

From the obvious physical effects of climate change such as extreme weather conditions and resource scarcity, to regulatory changes and compliance, and increased demand for sustainability: the climate crisis has a clear and direct impact on business and business costs.

Beever and Struthers is committed to becoming a truly sustainable business through minimising any adverse effects our activities have on both the local and wider environment.

How do we reroute our business towards sustainability and eventual de-carbonisation?

We aim to:

- Reduce emissions to levels at which adverse impacts on the environment are minimised.
- We aim to ensure the impact that our consumption has on the natural environment is contributing to future generations having access to sufficient resources.
- We aim to take resources from the environment while respecting the importance of consuming within our planetary means.
- Do all we can to comply with and, where possible, to exceed statutory obligations.
- Conserve and protect the environment and, wherever possible, improve it through the services we provide.
- Operate in a socially responsible manner.
- Be fully prepared to cope with operational emergencies that might affect the environment; and
- Lead by example within our regions in contributing towards its sustainable development and integration into business practice.

To achieve our aims we will:

- Apply strict quality controls in all we do.
- Seek to design, operate, and maintain our offices to the highest practical standards in order to meet our environmental objectives.
- Continuously improve our environmental working practices; and
- Involve stakeholders in our environmental planning, liaising with local groups and individuals where changes to working practices or our office environment may affect them.

Planet Mark

The [Planet Mark certification](#) is an internationally recognised sustainability certification for businesses acknowledging continuous progress, encouraging action and building an empowered and informed community of like-minded individuals.

Beever and Struthers has achieved the Planet Mark certification by reporting a reduction in our carbon footprint, engaging our stakeholders and increasing our social value. In the past year we have reduced our carbon footprint by 0.6% and contributed over £1,310,725 in social value. This takes into consideration our current carbon emissions which were reduced over 2023 due to our new hybrid working model that has been in place from August 2023 and our moves into more sustainable offices, which encourage the use of public transport.

Over the next year, we will continue to reduce our carbon emissions and will be engaging our staff in sustainability workshops. We are committed to following Planet Mark's robust three-step process: Measure, Engage and Communicate, as we are keen to inspire others in our business community. By being more strategic about our environmental responsibility, we will be able to significantly increase a positive impact and hope to encourage continual improvements with all stakeholders.



PlanetMark

We also track and report on our social value contributions using the TOMs methodology – Themes, Outcomes and Measures – which is a framework for delivering excellence in measuring and reporting social value. This refers to the net social and environmental benefits generated by teambeever. Our Social Value contribution amounted to £88k, in categories including people, community and volunteering, donations, and environmental impacts.

Measuring our social value gives a holistic insight into our positive contributions to not only the environment but also to society, demonstrating its commitment to meaningfully contribute to a better planet for all.

Through Planet Mark, Beever and Struthers has helped protect an area of endangered rainforest inhabited by the Asháninka Indigenous community through a collaboration with Cool Earth, a charity working alongside rainforest communities to halt deforestation.

Employees are central to Beever and Struthers achieving its sustainability goals. Their engagement, knowledge, skills, and influence will drive further change in the practice. Beever and Struthers is championing collective change by asking for 12 volunteers each year to visit the Eden project, benefitting from the learning this brings.

We are proud to have over 30 members of the team who are now carbon literate and have received their certification from attending external Carbon Literacy courses which we organise each year. We want our team to know the basics of climate change science, what's already happening globally and locally, and to understand how their and our actions may be affecting climate change and what we, as individuals, can do to help.

Through this certification, we are committing to strengthen our Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) strategy and contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals also known as the Global Goals, are a collection of 17 interrelated goals set by the United Nations. By measuring and reducing our carbon footprint, we directly and measurably contribute to up to 9 SDGs addressing 17 SDG targets. They are:



Beever and Struthers is also proud to be part of The Green Business Membership, a membership organisation helping to champion sustainable business in the North West of England.

The Green Business Membership

The scheme, delivered by Groundwork Manchester, Salford, Stockport Tameside and Trafford (MSSTT), will enable our business to enhance and improve environmental performance and keep us up to date with the latest Environmental, Health and Safety Legislation. Groundwork MSSTT is a federation of not-for-profit trusts who work to inspire and improve local areas, businesses and the lives of local people.



Zellar

Beever and Struthers is also proud to have been awarded a “First 50 badge” from Zellar. Zellar is a sustainability platform providing SMEs everything they need to become a sustainable business, all in one place. They provide personal plans to suit the organisation in order to achieve the best results.



We attained the 'First 50' badge by Zellar for becoming one of the first 50 businesses in Manchester to commit to a sustainability journey.

How we monitor our commitments:

As stated above, we [provide evidence](#) of **Scope 1 and 2** as well as some core **Scope 3** emissions through our Business Certification with Plant Mark, we have committed to reducing our carbon footprint each year and you can have a copy of our yearly submission which covers our buildings, travel, waste, water, procurement, and homeworking measures in place.

Not only are we committed as a firm to our sustainability journey but have champions across all our locations. We hold monthly lunch and learn sessions, which cover our sustainability journey and we are delighted to announce that we have moved offices in Manchester. Our new home is environmentally smart and also accessible to both major train stations and the Metrolink systems, encouraging our colleagues and clients to travel by public transport or to take advantage of our cycle to work scheme.

As a firm which started its journey in Manchester, we are a key supporter of the Greater Manchester Climate Change (GMCC) programme and are committed to tackling the global climate emergency. As a city a commitment has been made to reduce CO₂ by at least 50% during 2020-2025 with that reducing down to zero by 2038 at the very latest!

While measuring and reducing Scopes 1 and 2 emissions are the first step on any net zero journey, as this constitutes the emissions that fall under our direct operational control, a full transition to net zero will require planning to measure our full Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions. Once we have this complete baseline, covering all emissions scopes, the next step is to set a near term target to reduce emissions in line with the 1.5°C° pathway (e.g., 50% reduction by 2030), reduce emissions by at least 90% by 2050 at the latest and balancing the remaining unavoidable emissions through accredited Carbon Removal offsetting schemes.

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