

# Carbon Reduction Plan (CRP)

## Arborforce Group Ltd – UK Vegetation Management

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This Carbon Reduction Plan (CRP) has been prepared to support pre-qualification and tender submissions for Network Rail vegetation management frameworks. It confirms Arborforce Group Ltd's commitment to achieve Net Zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 for our UK operations and sets out a proportionate, SME-appropriate programme of environmental management and carbon reduction measures. The CRP is designed to align with UK Government Carbon Reduction Plan guidance referenced in Procurement Policy Notes (including PPN 006, formerly PPN 06/21).

### 1. Organisation profile and scope

Organisation	Arborforce Group Ltd (privately owned SME)
Primary services	Vegetation management (arboriculture and associated rail corridor services), project management and consultancy support
Operational boundary	UK operations under operational control (office/yard activities and contract delivery sites)
GHG reporting approach	GHG Protocol Corporate Standard (Scopes 1–3) and UK Government conversion factors (to be applied)
Material emissions sources	Road vehicles, plant and equipment fuel; purchased electricity (if applicable); waste and travel associated with delivery

As an SME, our carbon footprint is dominated by fuel used by fleet vehicles and site plant. Our approach therefore prioritises fuel efficiency, pollution prevention, responsible waste management and practical procurement decisions that reduce emissions without compromising safety or operational performance.

### 2. Policy framework and governance

Carbon reduction is embedded within our environmental management framework. We operate documented policies and procedures that set expectations for planning, pollution control, waste management, incident response, staff competence and supplier compliance. Key documents include:

- POL 03 Environmental Policy Statement (commitment to preventing pollution, complying with legislation/rail standards and annual objectives/targets, with a stated intention to work towards ISO 14001:2015).
- Waste Management Procedure (duty of care, segregation of controlled/hazardous waste, use of licensed carriers, documentation and audits).
- Air Pollution Control Procedure (site appraisal, risk assessment and monitoring of dust/emissions, and implementation through site EMP controls).
- Water Pollution Control Procedure (spill prevention, spill kits/trays, training and monitoring, and escalation/notification requirements).
- POL 016 Bio-Security Policy Statement (preventing spread of pests/pathogens/invasive species; cleaning, safe handling/disposal and reporting).

- POL 12 Corporate and Social Responsibility Policy (stakeholder responsibility, sustainable practices and ethical business conduct).

## **2.1 Roles and responsibilities (proportionate SME model)**

The Managing Directors hold overall accountability for environmental performance and this CRP. Contract delivery managers and supervisors are responsible for implementing site controls (including Environmental Management Plans (EMP), waste and pollution controls) and for ensuring operatives are briefed, competent and supervised.

- Directors: set policy, approve objectives/targets, provide resources, review performance and ensure corrective actions are implemented.
- Managers/Supervisors: plan works to minimise environmental impact; enforce controls (waste, air, water, biosecurity); record evidence; manage incidents.
- Operatives/Subcontractors: follow briefed controls; report spills/near misses; segregate wastes; comply with anti-idling and good housekeeping.
- Supply chain: comply with site rules; provide required evidence (e.g., waste carrier licences; disposal site details; fuel/transport data when requested).

## **3. Commitment to Net Zero by 2050**

Arborforce Group Ltd commits to achieving Net Zero GHG emissions by 2050 for our UK operations. We will deliver this through a combination of:

- Measured reductions in Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions (primarily fuel and electricity).
- Progressive engagement and reduction across material Scope 3 categories as data improves (e.g., waste, business travel, upstream transport).
- Maintaining robust environmental controls during works to prevent pollution and avoid environmental harm (including biosecurity controls).
- Ongoing monitoring, reporting and annual management review of progress.

We will adopt a practical and evidence-based approach aligned to our scale: focusing first on initiatives with clear carbon impact (fuel reduction and efficient mobilisation), then extending measurement and supplier engagement as the business grows.

## **4. Carbon footprint reporting approach (baseline and ongoing reporting)**

### **4.1 Scope definitions and boundaries**

We will report emissions using the GHG Protocol scopes:

- Scope 1 – Direct emissions: fuel combusted in company-owned/controlled vehicles and plant (including mobile plant used for vegetation works).
- Scope 2 – Indirect emissions from purchased energy: electricity used in offices/yards (location-based method; market-based where tariff evidence exists).
- Scope 3 – Other indirect emissions: selected categories relevant to an SME contractor, prioritising those that are measurable and material.

### **4.2 Data sources and calculation method**

Our footprint will be built from activity data and standard conversion factors. Primary data sources include fuel invoices/receipts, fleet/plant logs (hours/usage), electricity bills, waste transfer notes and carrier documentation, and business travel/expenses records.

- Apply UK Government GHG conversion factors to activity data to calculate tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e.
- Use supplier-specific data where available (e.g., fuel cards, electricity supplier disclosures) to improve accuracy.
- Retain an audit trail for inputs and assumptions (suitable for customer review).

### 4.3 Baseline year and current emissions (initial position)

At the time of issue (January 2026) we are consolidating data to confirm our baseline year and first complete organisational footprint. Once confirmed, quantified Scope 1 and Scope 2 totals (and selected Scope 3 categories) will be inserted into this CRP and reported annually.

Reporting year	Scope 1 (tCO2e)	Scope 2 (tCO2e)	Selected Scope 3 (tCO2e)
Baseline year (to be confirmed)	TBC	TBC	TBC
Most recent year (to be confirmed)	TBC	TBC	TBC
Included sources	Fleet + plant fuel	Purchased electricity	Fuel & energy related; business travel; waste; upstream transport (as data allows)
Assurance	Internal review	Internal review	Internal review / supplier evidence where available

We will publish an updated CRP with quantified baseline and current emissions once the first complete dataset is finalised (target: within 12 months).

### 5. Emissions reduction targets (SME-appropriate)

Targets are set to be stretching but achievable for an SME contractor, and will be refined once the baseline is confirmed.

- Net Zero target: 2050 (UK operations).
- Near term (by 2028): reduce fleet/plant fuel use intensity by 10% (litres per productive hour / per job), through planning, maintenance and behaviour change.
- By 2030: adopt a 'best available' approach to lower-emission replacements (Stage V plant, Euro VI vehicles, and alternative fuel trials where suitable/approved).
- Waste: achieve 100% compliant waste segregation and documentation on all sites; reduce waste to landfill year-on-year.
- Energy: reduce office/yard energy use through controls (LED, shutdown routines) and move to renewable electricity tariffs where available.

### 6. Carbon reduction measures (how we will deliver reductions)

Our action plan focuses on the sources most material to an SME vegetation contractor: vehicle/plant fuel, efficient mobilisation, and waste and resource use. Measures are applied through planning, site control, competence, procurement and audit.

#### 6.1 Fleet, plant and fuels (Scope 1 – primary focus)

- Efficient mobilisation: route planning and job bundling to reduce mileage and repeated visits; preference for local supply chain where practicable.
- Anti-idling: switch-off expectations for vehicles and plant when safe; reinforced through briefings and supervision.
- Preventive maintenance: scheduled servicing to maintain fuel efficiency and emissions performance; prompt repair of leaks and defects.
- Operator behaviours: practical 'eco-driving' and equipment-use briefing (smooth driving, correct tyre pressures, avoiding unnecessary revving).
- Plant selection: favour appropriately sized equipment to avoid overspecification (reducing fuel and noise).

- Low-carbon fuel trials: evaluate the suitability of HVO or other approved alternatives for specific plant/vehicles (subject to compatibility and customer requirements).
- Procurement: when replacing vehicles/plant, consider whole-life emissions and choose best available options for the duty cycle (e.g., Euro VI vans, hybrid/EV where workable).

### **6.2 Energy use (Scope 2)**

- Reduce electricity demand in offices/yards through LED lighting, timed controls and shutdown routines for IT and equipment.
- Where we control the electricity contract, select renewable electricity tariffs where available and cost-effective.
- Monitor energy use (kWh) and set annual reduction actions aligned to workload and headcount.

### **6.3 Waste and resource efficiency (Scope 3 – waste, and operational best practice)**

- Segregate waste at source into clearly identified areas/containers; separate general, controlled and hazardous wastes.
- Use only licensed waste carriers and licensed disposal/recycling facilities; retain waste transfer notes and supporting documentation.
- Monitor storage, handling and disposal arrangements; audit waste contractors where practicable.
- Seek reuse/recycling options for arisings (e.g., timber/woodchip) where permitted by client requirements and environmental controls.
- Reduce consumables and paper through digital records (RAMS, briefings, inspection checklists) where client systems allow.

### **6.4 Travel, commuting and logistics (Scope 3)**

- Minimise non-productive travel via remote planning meetings and digital briefings where operationally feasible.
- Encourage car sharing and efficient site attendance patterns where safe and practicable.
- Record business travel and mileage to support annual reporting and targeted reductions.

### **6.5 Supply chain engagement (Scope 3)**

- Set minimum environmental expectations for subcontractors (compliance with site EMP, waste and pollution controls, anti-idling).
- Request key supplier information where practicable (e.g., fuel consumption for hired plant; waste contractor evidence; transport arrangements).
- Prefer responsible and sustainable suppliers for consumables/materials (e.g., FSC/recycled paper and timber products) where practical.

## **7. Environmental controls that enable carbon reduction and compliance**

This section summarises the core environmental controls we apply during delivery which also support carbon reduction. In a Network Rail context, these controls provide assurance that our carbon actions are embedded into day-to-day working practices, and they create an auditable evidence trail (EMP, inspections, waste records and incident reporting).

These controls are proportionate for an SME contractor and are implemented through site-specific Environmental Management Plans (EMP), briefings and supervision.

### **How the controls link to carbon performance:**

- Anti-idling, efficient mobilisation and planned maintenance reduce fuel use and emissions from fleet and plant (Scope 1).
- Waste management reduces waste to landfill and improves the quality of Scope 3 waste reporting (through complete waste transfer documentation and segregation).
- Pollution prevention avoids clean-up and rework activities and supports efficient delivery, reducing avoidable travel and resource use.
- Biosecurity controls prevent the spread of pests/pathogens/invasive species and reduce the likelihood of remedial works and additional interventions.

**Cross references (procedures and policies):**

- POL 03 Environmental Policy Statement.
- Procedure: Waste Management (Doc 29).
- Procedure: Air Pollution Control (Doc 31).
- Procedure: Water Pollution Control (Doc 32).
- POL 016 Bio-Security Policy Statement.
- POL 12 Corporate and Social Responsibility Policy.

**8. Monitoring, KPIs, assurance and continual improvement**

We will monitor performance using practical KPIs suited to an SME and maintain evidence for customer audit. Findings from inspections/audits and incidents are reviewed and corrective actions are tracked to close-out.

**8.1 Key performance indicators (initial set)**

KPI	Measure	Reporting frequency
Fuel use (fleet + plant)	Litres and £; intensity (litres per productive hour / per job)	Monthly / per contract period
Mileage	Total miles and intensity (miles per job) where measurable	Monthly
Electricity	kWh (office/yard) where applicable	Quarterly
Waste compliance	% sites with complete waste transfer documentation and correct segregation	Per job / monthly
Waste diversion	% recycled / reused; waste to landfill (where measurable)	Quarterly
Environmental incidents	Number, severity, corrective actions closed	Monthly
Training/briefings	% workforce briefed on environmental controls and anti-idling expectations	Quarterly

**8.2 Audit and management review**

- Routine site inspections to verify controls (waste segregation, spill readiness, housekeeping, biosecurity).
- Minimum annual compliance audits against environmental procedures, with corrective actions tracked to close-out.
- Annual management review of environmental objectives/targets and this CRP, updating actions based on performance and client feedback.

**9. Evidence pack for Network Rail framework delivery (typical)**

To support Network Rail assurance and customer audit requirements, we will maintain a contract evidence pack (electronic where practicable) including:

- Project Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and site environmental appraisals/risk assessments (air, water, waste, biosecurity).
- Toolbox talks/briefing records (including anti-idling, spill response, waste segregation, biosecurity).
- Waste transfer notes / hazardous waste consignment notes and waste carrier/disposal site evidence.
- Environmental inspection and audit records; incident/near-miss reports and corrective actions.
- Fuel and travel records, where required, to demonstrate carbon reduction measures and trends.

## 10. Declaration and sign-off

This Carbon Reduction Plan is approved by senior management and will be reviewed annually. Arborforce Group Ltd will update this CRP to include quantified baseline and current emissions once the first complete organisational footprint is finalised, and will thereafter report progress annually.

Signed for and on behalf of Arborforce Group  
Ltd:

Name / Title:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_