

*ACC Liverpool Group*

# SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY



# INTRODUCTION

At The ACC Liverpool Group, home to M&S Bank Arena, Exhibition Centre Liverpool, and the convention centre, we understand how important it is that we minimise the environmental impact of our buildings and events to do our bit to tackle the climate crisis. We want to be a leading voice in the industry encouraging sustainability practices, putting our best foot forward and leading by example by working with our clients to deliver the most sustainable events possible.

Environment, Sustainability and Climate Action are key focuses of our Social Value Impact Plan, which has been in place for two years. The ACC Liverpool Group Sustainability Strategy builds on those key focuses and outlines six fundamental aims to ensure sustainability is at the heart of what we do. We are committed to learning and evolving towards a more sustainable future, pledging to achieve net zero by 2030 with the support and collaboration of our staff, clients, contractors, and stakeholders.





# OUR COMMITMENT

We commit to creating a sustainable and net zero event campus by 2030, ensuring that we continue to provide world class facilities whilst achieving sustainability excellence.

Our sustainability strategy aims to minimize our environmental impact, promote social responsibility, and contribute to the well-being of the communities we serve.





# CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

Developing and implementing a successful sustainability strategy involves considering a range of factors to address environmental, social, and economic concerns. In devising this strategy, the goals and commitments below were considered to help shape our own commitments and aims.



- **17 UN SUSTAINABILITY DEVELOPMENT GOALS** – achieving these goals would mean an end to extreme poverty, inequality, and climate change by 2030. These goals have not only been adopted in this strategy but also our wider Social Value plan.
- **NET ZERO CARBON EVENTS PLEDGE** – we have committed to support the goal of net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050, in line with global efforts set out by the Paris Agreement to limit warming to 1.5°C and reduce total global GHG emissions by 50% by 2030, and to actively promote and advocate for industry efforts throughout the value chain.
- **LIVERPOOL CITY 2030 NET ZERO GOAL** – the alignment of our strategy and goals to our Landlord Liverpool City Council is especially important to us as we share the passion and ambition of making a meaningful and sustainable impact on Liverpool as a City and region.



# OUR JOURNEY SO FAR



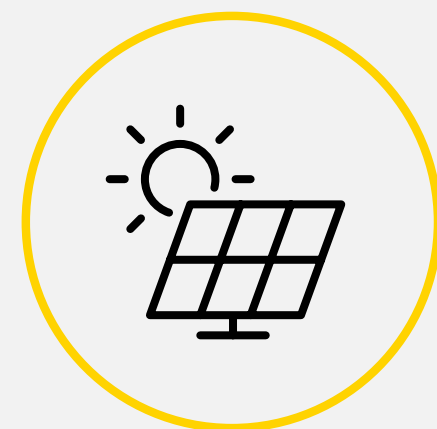
**33% of retail catering menus on offer are plant-based across the arena**



**Biodegradable cups that break down into wax, and return to nature in less than a year, without microplastics are in use in the arena**



**Usage of 100% Renewable electricity across our entire campus**



**925 photovoltaic panels installed in Exhibition Centre Liverpool creating renewable energy**



**Zero waste to landfill policy**



**Food waste processed on site via anaerobic digestion or donated to local charities across the city region**





**Rainwater harvesting across venues to support with reusable water usage, providing 40% of water for flushing across the arena and convention**



**Achieved Silver status as a Green Meetings accredited venue in 2022**



**Sponsored sustainable industry events, delivered sessions alongside Sodexo Live! on foodwaste, and hosted event legacy workshops for clients**



**First large - scale venue in the UK to join ISLA**



**Carbon labelling on food menus, empowering clients to make sustainable food choices.**

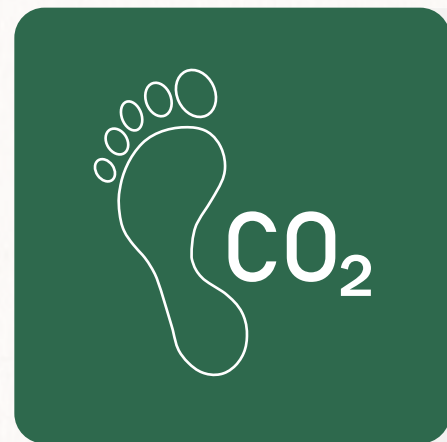


**Including social value in our tendering processes, to encourage our supply chain to consider their impact on the environment and local community.**



# OUR BASELINE

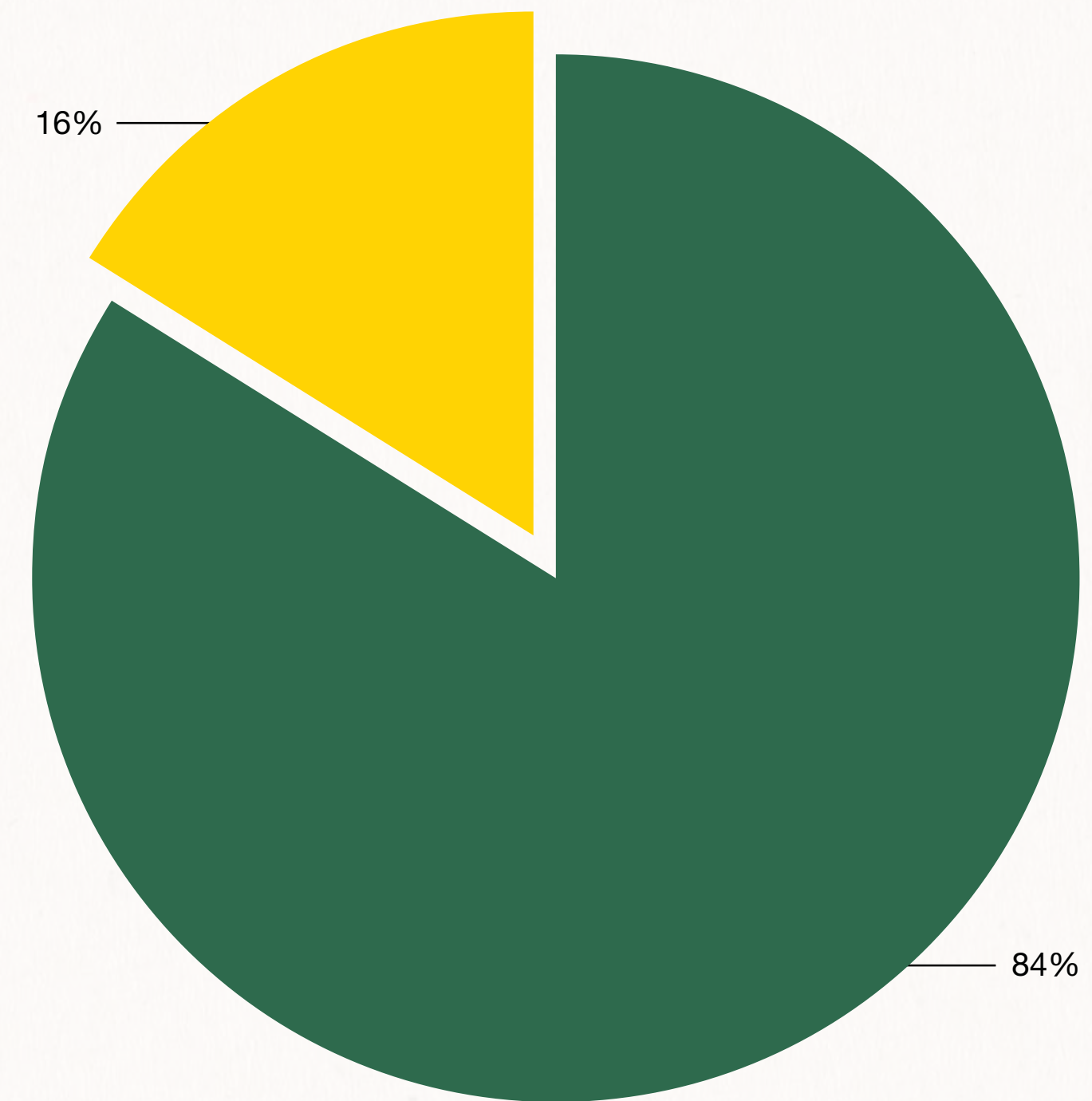
We are proud to have taken a significant step on our journey to net zero by becoming a carbon neutral event campus.



**630.84 tCO2e**

Total carbon footprint of the ACC Liverpool Group  
August 2022 – July 2023

This measurement is the baseline that all our reduction targets are based on against Scope 1, 2 and 3.



■ Scope 1: 84%    ■ Scope 2: 0%    ■ Scope 3: 16%



# OUR AIMS

1. Support the development of super low carbon events within our industry.
2. Manage all waste streams arising from our activities in a responsible manner and achieve zero waste to incineration.
3. Create a campus that runs on renewable energy only and operates in the most efficient way reducing consumption.
4. Influence our suppliers and partners to ensure the environmental, social, and economic impacts over the lifecycle of the products or services we procure support the goals outlined in this strategy.
5. Deliver a sustainable catering service centred around reducing carbon emissions, sourcing food ethically, minimising food waste and ensuring high welfare standards.
6. Promote sustainable travel alternatives and initiatives to staff, clients, and all visitors to our campus.





# HOW WILL WE DO IT?

There are six primary areas we will consider in our strategy, including events, waste, energy, procurement, catering and travel.



EVENTS



WASTE



ENERGY



PROCUREMENT



CATERING



TRAVEL



# EVENTS

Through sustainable event management, we can advise our clients and help implement responsible decision making into the planning, organisation, and participation in an event.

We will ensure that our staff, clients, sub-contractors and suppliers are aware of their environmental responsibilities that will empower them to maximise the social and environmental impact of the long - term wellbeing of the communities and stakeholders involved.



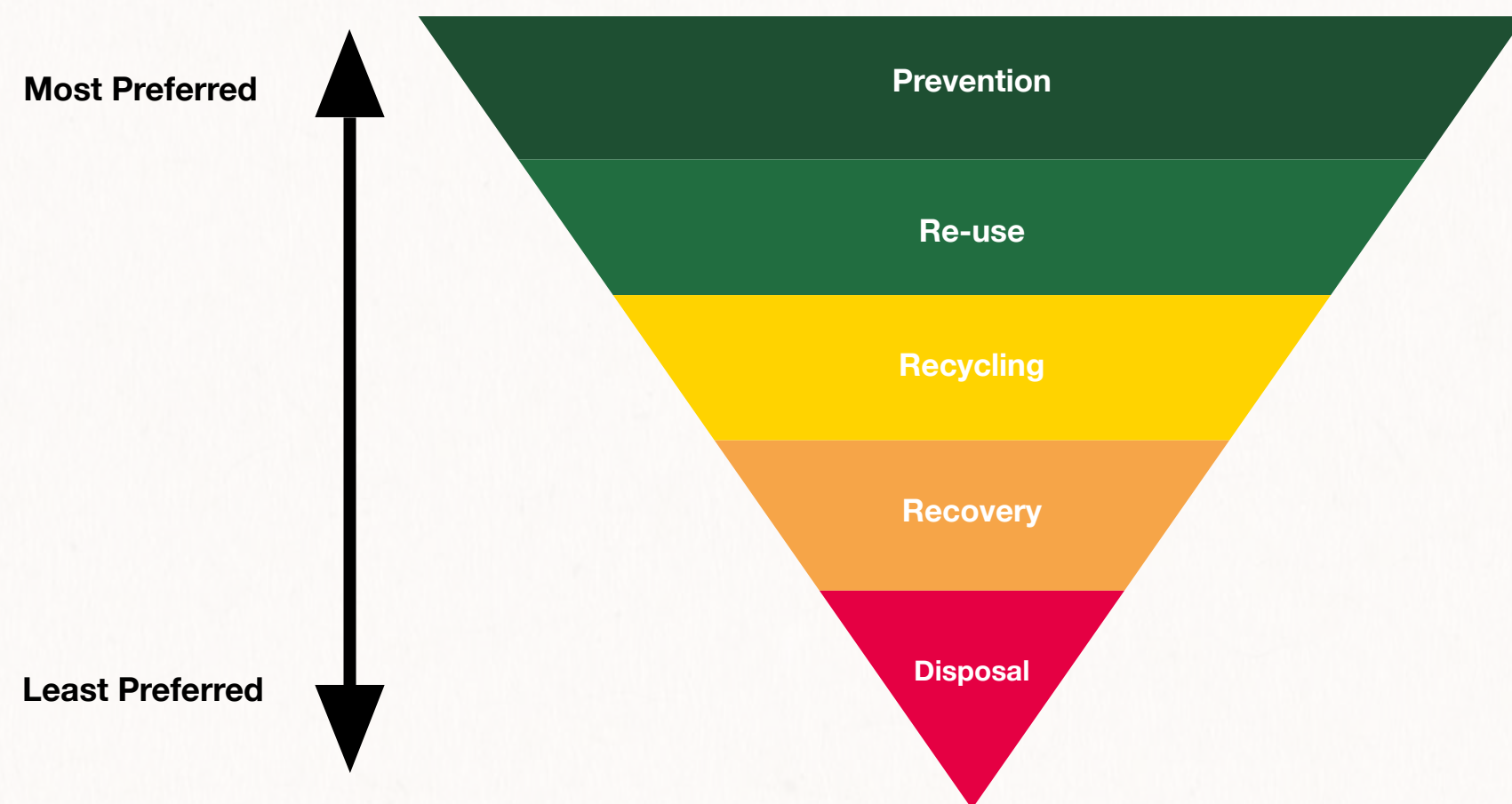
## WE WILL ACHIEVE THIS BY:

- Attain Gold in the Green Meetings accreditation.
- Collaborating with our clients to develop materials that make it easy for them to make good decisions and consider sustainability in their event planning, including developing checklists and assets for clients.
- Collaborating with industry body ICE to promote a free event carbon measurement tool called SAM to help planners track the impact of their offsite activities. This, alongside our own venue reporting system which measures onsite activity, will mean that clients can make data driven decisions for future events.
- Create and share Energy impact statements for all events to inform clients of their onsite carbon footprint and suggest a reduction plan.



# WASTE

## WASTE HIERARCHY



Our waste management approach is centred around implementing proper practices that have far-reaching consequences. Through proper waste management, we can prevent harmful chemicals entering the environment to help safeguard ecosystems.

Successful waste management will also protect natural reserves and decrease greenhouse gas emissions by turning organic waste into usable products.

### WE WILL LOOK FOR CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IN WASTE MANAGEMENT BY:

- Applying the waste hierarchy to all our processes.
- Maintaining our zero to landfill status.
- Increasing our percentage of recyclable waste to 75% by 2026 and 100% by 2030.
- Creating an on - site waste centre to sort all our waste streams at source.
- Continue to build on technologies like ORCA to reduce the carbon miles associated with waste transport.
- Eradicate the use of single use plastics and promote the use of sustainable alternatives in our operations and events.



# ENERGY

Decarbonising our energy supply is vital to contribute to the fight against climate change. We effectively plan, monitor, and optimise our energy consumption to reduce our carbon footprint and embed the concept of energy management as a long-term component of our business operations, underpinned by efficient technologies and sustainable practices.

## **WE WILL ACHIEVE THIS BY:**

- Converting to LED lighting across our entire campus.
- Installing Sensor taps to minimise water wastage across our entire campus.
- Moving to a more sustainable and renewable gas source from 2026.
- Installing air sourced heat pumps in both the Convention Centre and M&S Bank Arena to replace our current gas boilers.
- Working with Liverpool City Council to design and install a carbon zero heating solution for our campus in line with our 2030 net zero pledge.
- Removing the use of company vehicles as well as introducing a range of fully electric MEWPs and Forklifts across campus.
- Increasing renewable energy generation on campus and improving the control of building infrastructure and energy usage along with data gathering through our building management system.
- Continuing to upgrade and enhance existing facilities to improve sustainability and energy performance, ensuring targets in our 2030 roadmap are met.



# PROCUREMENT

Sustainable procurement plays a pivotal role in the positive environmental, social, and economic impacts over the entire lifecycle.



**OUR SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT APPROACH WILL INTEGRATE THESE FACTORS INTO RESPONSIBLE PROCUREMENT PROCESSES AND DECISION MAKING BY:**

- Procuring environmentally friendly products or services.
- Reducing or avoiding consumption when possible.
- Buying locally when possible.
- Purchasing products or services that are manufactured, used, and disposed of in an environmentally friendly manner.
- Educating our staff to understand the environmental impact of procurement, including how it should be applied throughout our purchasing procedures and how the social value effect of our procurement is measured through the National TOMS framework.



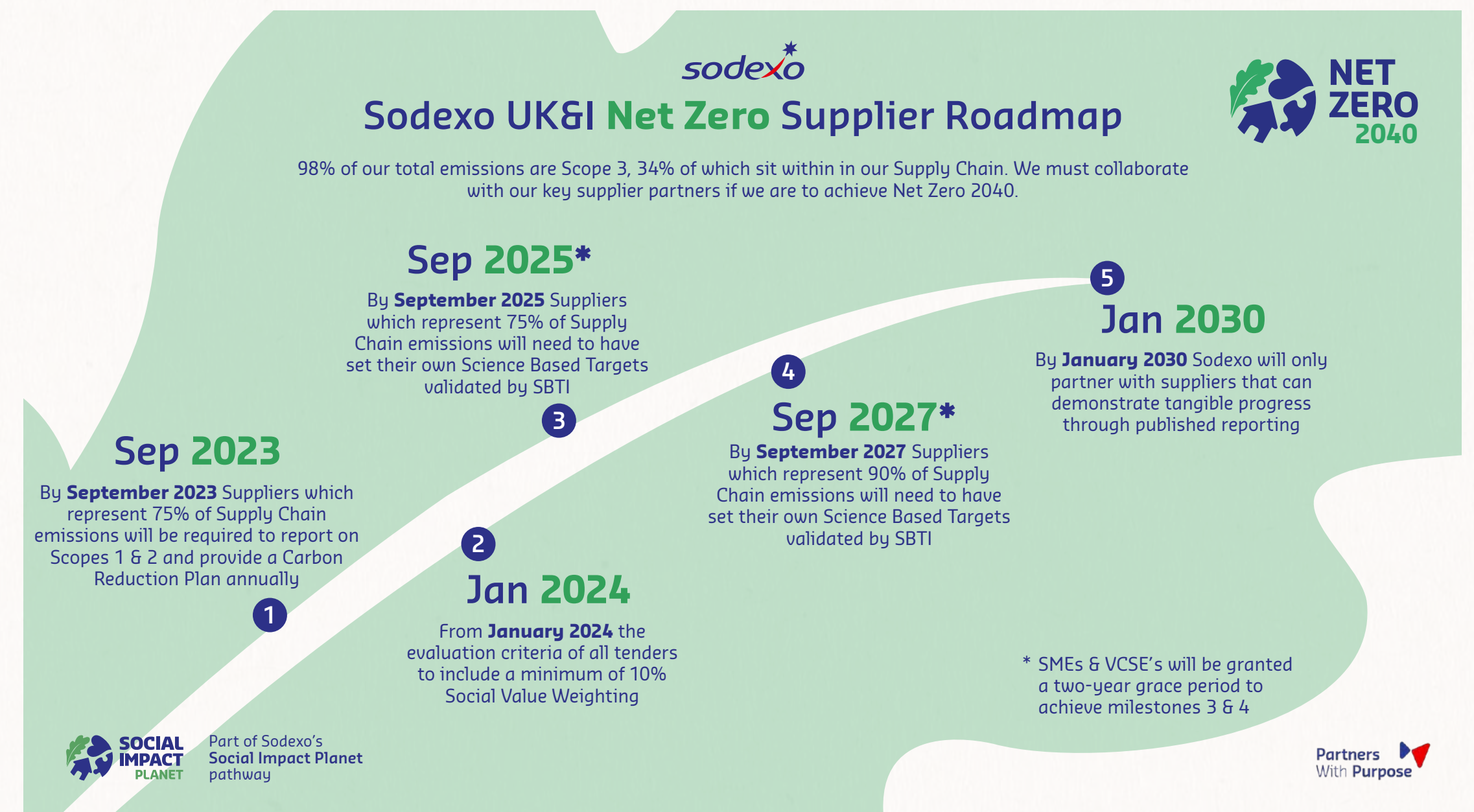
# CATERING

Choices made about food, equipment, logistics and materials used for catering of events influence environmental sustainability. By ensuring we opt for sustainable food choices, supplies and aligning sustainable catering with sustainable waste management, we can significantly reduce our carbon footprint and deliver meaningful health and environmental benefits.

## WE WILL DO THIS BY:

- Moving to 100% reusable, recyclable or compostable foodservice packaging by 2025.
- Working in partnership with our clients and Klimato to reduce carbon emissions by 0.6 CO<sub>2</sub>e/kg. Increase the current percentage of menu items that are less than 0.40 CO<sub>2</sub>e/kg. Current achievement sits at 66%.
- Increasing the number of plant-based recipes in our Conference and Exhibition menus to 46%.

- Achieving the key milestones set out in the net zero supplier roadmap.
- Tackling food waste in catering operations and reduce food waste by 50% by 2025.





# TRAVEL

We want all our clients and visitors to be equipped with the knowledge that enables them to make the most sustainable travel choice when visiting our campus. On average, travel contributes 60% to an event's carbon footprint, so by addressing this we can significantly reduce their environmental impact.

## WE WILL DO THIS BY:

- Working with local and national travel providers to incentivise the use of public transport on our events.
- Continuing to expand our cycle to work scheme, expanding bike storage facilities on site and look to promote the use of bicycles by delegates and concert goers.
- Working with event clients to promote more environmentally friendly modes of transport to and from their event, i.e., car sharing, trains, making use of the scooters throughout Liverpool when in tenancy. Proactively communicating with our transport partners and travel providers to discuss possibilities of free/reduced cost of public transport with a delegate badge.





# KEY DELIVERABLES FOR 2024

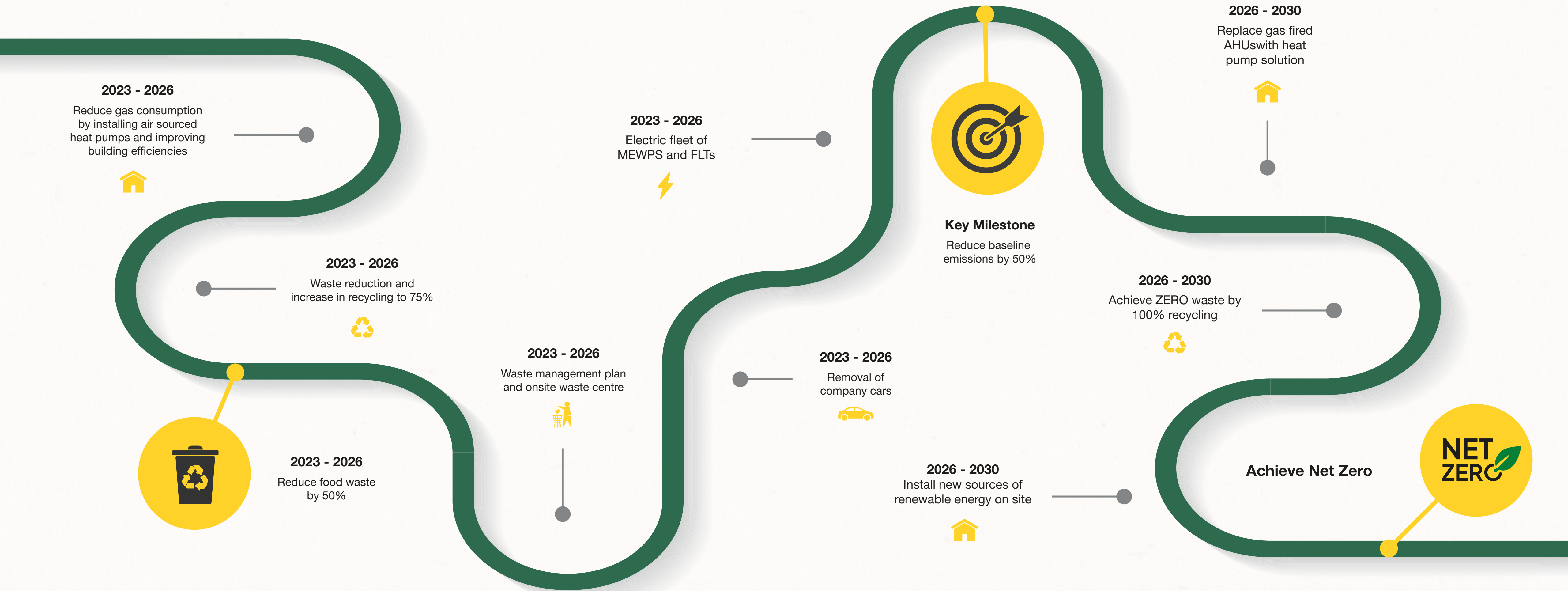
We know that it will take time to embed new practices and appreciate that not all aims can be addressed at once. Therefore, these are the priorities we have identified for this year.

- Upgrade of metering system and strategy to allow us to analyse energy use accurately and specifically per area and events.
- Complete the LED Conversion of campus.
- Install air sourced heat pump to replace gas boilers in Arena and Convention Centre.
- Create and implement a staged waste management plan that will culminate in an onsite waste centre.
- Create green spaces and introduce a beehive initiative to increase biodiversity on our campus.
- Achieve ISO 50001– Energy management accreditation.





# ROADMAP TO 2030



**2023 - 2026**  
Reduce gas consumption by installing air sourced heat pumps and improving building efficiencies



**2023 - 2026**  
Waste reduction and increase in recycling to 75%



**2023 - 2026**  
Reduce food waste by 50%



**2023 - 2026**  
Electric fleet of MEWPS and FLTs



**2023 - 2026**  
Waste management plan and onsite waste centre



**2023 - 2026**  
Removal of company cars



**2026 - 2030**  
Install new sources of renewable energy on site



**2026 - 2030**  
Replace gas fired AHUs with heat pump solution



**2026 - 2030**  
Achieve ZERO waste by 100% recycling



**Key Milestone**  
Reduce baseline emissions by 50%



**Achieve Net Zero**

