

Environmental Sustainability at BDC London

A Guide for Events

BDC.LONDON



NET ZERO CARBON EVENTS





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Don't forget to connect with us on our main channels:





Our Journey So Far

Sustainability has long been a core part of our business activities at the BDC, prioritising a positive impact on the people in our venue and wider community as well as improving our impact on the planet.

We are now B Corp Certified, showing that we have high standards of environmental and social impact and will continue to grow and develop in line with best practice. As an events venue, we're fortunate to be given a platform to educate, influence and share our knowledge with those who enter our doors as well as working closely alongside the wider industry. We are constantly striving for ways to benefit the world where we can, and that will remain a key objective of the BDC's focus each year, which we outline in more detail in our current [environmental sustainability policy](#).

For the second year, we have detailed our activities in our annual impact report. This includes updates on targets set in the previous year across the environment, our community and charitable work and our support of the events industry; [A Platform for Good is available on our website](#).

We prioritise many initiatives to improve our environmental impact, including being a certified

CarbonNeutral® Venue since 2010. Over this time we have continued to reduce our carbon footprint year on year, sending zero waste to landfill and making the switch to using 100% renewable electricity, as well as implementing venue efficiency measures, all whilst continuing to offset any residual carbon emissions we cannot avoid through verified projects.

Now, we look to the future and have set out our journey to reach Net-Zero before 2030. We signed the Net Zero Carbon Events Pledge in 2022 and are already well on our way. Our mission now is to make innovative changes and support clients and wider stakeholders on our collective sustainability goals that will see the industry as a whole take the lead on improving the world we live in. We hope this guide provides an insight into the work we do and how you can join us on this journey.

Through collaboration, we will better affect change, so participate across the AEO, AEV and ESSA's Sustainability Group and have joined isla's membership. We believe that with our collective power, we can best learn and share knowledge. The BDC team are receiving training on this topic as part of our ongoing annual development, so please feel free to reach out and talk to us about your ideas or with questions. You will find pointers throughout this guide to some of the content or other people that we work with, but you can always find out more on our [website](#).



Kate Vandenburg
Marketing and Communications Director
BDC London

A B Corp Certified Venue

At the BDC we are on a journey of continual improvement, that's why becoming a B Corp Certified organisation means so much to us.

B Corp Certification shows that a business is meeting high standards of verified performance, accountability, and transparency on factors from employee benefits and charitable giving to environmental impact improvements. In order to achieve certification, a company must undergo a rigorous review of the impact of their operations and business model on their workers, customers, communities and environment – meeting a minimum score across the assessment. Companies must also make a legal commitment by changing their corporate governance structure to be accountable to all stakeholders.

B Corp is a gold standard framework when it comes to holistically operating a business in a way that supports the needs of people today whilst leaving a better world for the people of tomorrow. We undertook certifying with B Corp because it sat so well with the way in which we are already working and gave us a model to build and develop on.

We believe in doing business better. That's why we have been working to support our local community since 1989 through our charitable arm, the Morris Charitable Trust, and why we have been making strides in improving our environmental impact since 2010.

We are proud to be a CarbonNeutral® venue that is aiming to meet Net-Zero before 2030, but it's not just that though, it's about supporting the people that make us the business that we are today.



“This is a huge milestone in the Company’s history. To be able to meet the rigorous standards set by the B Corp model shows that we are moving along on exactly the right path when it comes to the way we take care of both our people and the planet. Receiving B Corp status is the next step on our journey of continual improvement across all aspects of our business and one that we are extremely proud to celebrate. We are a purpose-driven business that holds a strong belief in doing things better, for the people under our roof, our community and for the world around us and look forward to working alongside B Corp and the B Corp community.”



Dominic Jones
CEO, BDC London

First Things First



Energy

Since 2019 100% renewable electricity has been used in the venue, a key factor in directly reducing the carbon emissions of the building.

This has been followed by introducing many energy efficiency measures including low energy (LED) lighting, automatic taps, motion sensors in a number of communal areas, as well as a plug and play system for exhibition stands to reduce waste cabling.

We also encourage all staff, tenants and other venue users to switch off any power, air conditioning and heating overnight or when not in use, this helps to avoid unnecessary usage. This is mirrored on shows, where we switch off all power as soon as possible at the end of the show.

Meeting Net-Zero 2030: Our next steps are to reduce then remove our reliance on gas at the venue. This means we need to replace our kitchens and our heating system. The kitchen replacement was completed in August 2023, and we are excited to plan our next steps!



Waste

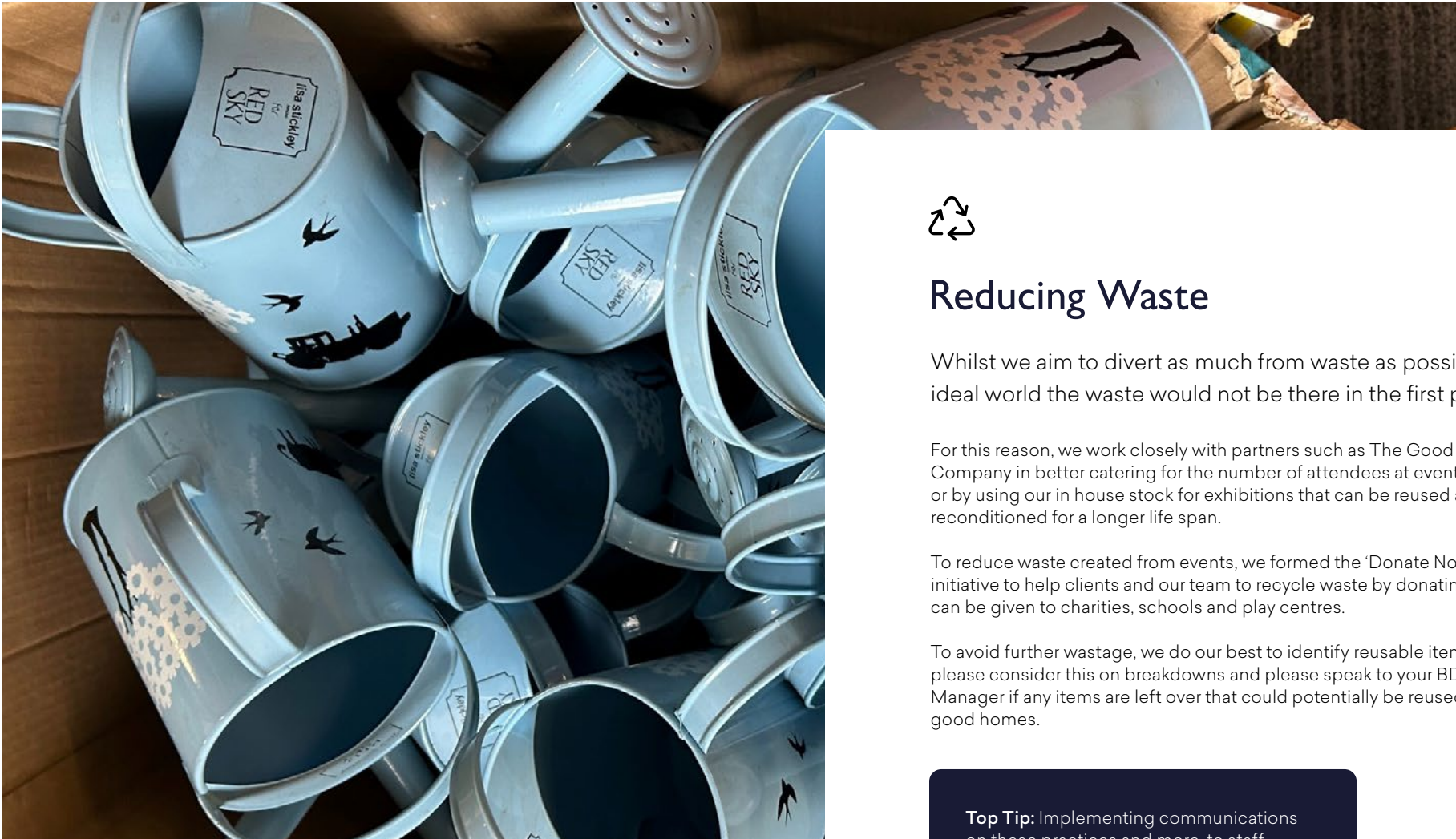
Our key waste commitment that we follow is sending 0% to landfill.

We work closely with the commercial waste team at Islington Council, to ensure our waste is recycled or composted or if it can't be then it's still diverted from landfill by being sent to energy recovery.

Food waste is disposed of and returned to the community by our local borough, as cost price compost for their gardens and allotments. In 2019, our catering partners began removing plastic packaging and using compostable options where takeaway services are provided.

Did you know: Our venue is fully carpeted, this means you don't need to bring any in for an event! Even better, our carpet tiles are from Interface's programme, Net-Works™, which is run in collaboration with the Zoological Society. Net-Works™ is designed to tackle the growing environmental problem of discarded fishing nets in some of the world's poorest coastal communities and to support Interface's ambitious goals for recycled content for its carpet tile. You can find out more about the project in this [short video](#).





Reducing Waste

Whilst we aim to divert as much from waste as possible, in an ideal world the waste would not be there in the first place.

For this reason, we work closely with partners such as The Good Eating Company in better catering for the number of attendees at events, or by using our in house stock for exhibitions that can be reused and reconditioned for a longer life span.

To reduce waste created from events, we formed the 'Donate Not Waste' initiative to help clients and our team to recycle waste by donating items that can be given to charities, schools and play centres.

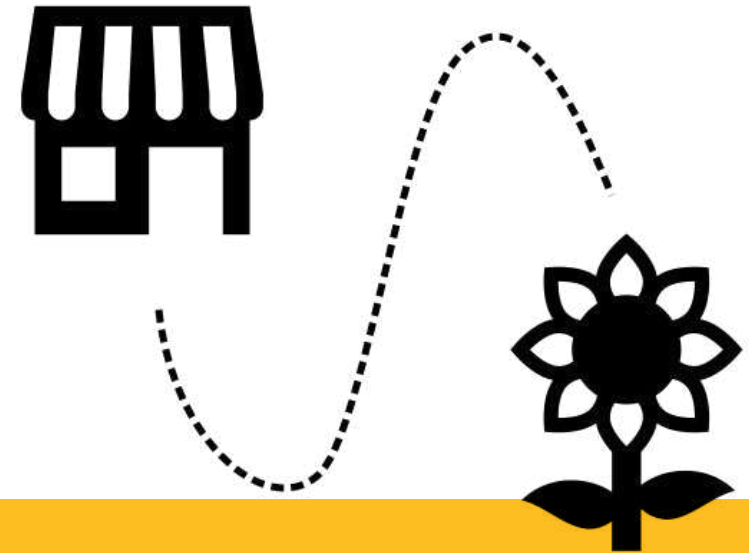
To avoid further wastage, we do our best to identify reusable items, so please consider this on breakdowns and please speak to your BDC Event Manager if any items are left over that could potentially be reused or sent to good homes.

Top Tip: Implementing communications on these practices and more, to staff, guests and other stakeholder through means such as social media channels, email newsletters and your website is also key, and should occur before, during and post event.



A GOOD THING

We are excited to share that we have begun partnering with A Good Thing...



A Good Thing CIC is a platform that allows any form of business of any size to quickly donate to local charities, meaning less is sent to waste and more to a good cause. We have begun working with the team at A Good Thing and have begun to donate items whilst also connecting our residents and events with them too.

Laptops, bags, candles, stationery, gardening equipment, end-of-line clothing, packaging, crafting materials and half-used tins of paint have all been

successfully donated to local charities via the platform... alongside the more traditional items like furniture and IT equipment.

It is really easy for you as an event to get involved: it takes 30 seconds to register for an account and then you can immediately begin listing any surplus items your company no longer needs, donating them to local charities and preventing them from going to waste.

The team at A Good Thing love to see things being saved from the bin and companies can make such a difference to their communities through supporting the wonderful work of local charities. We are delighted to be able to work with A Good Thing to divert reusable items at the venue and on events to go on to a better life; find out more at www.agoodthing.org.uk



Event Specifics

We have installed a number of measures within the venue to contribute to sustainability on our events. We have water coolers throughout the venue available for all to use, which reduces the use of single-use plastics being brought into the venue.

We have a variety of bins available to separate waste on site. As well as general waste bins we have compostable packaging bins, food waste bins and recycling waste bins. This gives the opportunity for as much to be diverted from energy recovery as possible.

Every show we have at the venue has use of our digital screens for promotional or event signage. This helps to reduce the amount of graphic waste generated on an event. We also have additional screens available for hire for branding on our escalators. If you need more information, please do not hesitate to speak to your BDC Event Manager on how you can transition to digital promotional branding.

Top Tip: We encourage you to include this in your exhibitor manuals and communications to inspire exhibitors, visitors and contractors to bring their own reusable bottles. If people bring in keep cups suitable for hot drinks, they will also receive a discount in the onsite restaurant, Jack's.

Did you know? Onsite graphics supplier and BDC resident Onward Display, who in fact create most of our BDC and event signage, can advise the best solutions for printing – do consider not dating your event branding for reuse. They also print onsite, which reduces transport to the venue. Contact them on events@onwarddisplay.com

Top Tip: Excess coffee granules? Going to have a large quantity of glass to recycle? If you want to create bespoke waste streams, then we can designate bins to this and support the necessary arrangements. If so, please do not hesitate to contact your BDC Event Manager.





Transport

We aim to reduce the amount of transport to the venue by supporting local suppliers and those based on-site. Ranging from stand build services to audio visual, we make an ideal base and can reduce the amount of travel required when it comes to organising events.

We also have the facility to accommodate coach drop offs and have a number of nearby public transport links to Angel, Highbury and Islington and London Kings Cross, by using which improves the carbon footprint of an event. [Find out more here.](#)

Building traffic schedules to manage vehicles heading to the venue means the organised arrival of those building up, avoids busier times such as rush hour and will reduce any unnecessary idling and congestion of our local roads.

In addition to our existing EV charging points, we have increased the amount available in the car park and the loading bay.

Please communicate the above in your own exhibitor manuals and to your guests and logistics teams, where appropriate.



Measuring our footprint

We have been measuring (and offsetting) our footprint since 2010, having dramatically reduced this since then.

In 2022, we began working with our carbon consultants, ecollective and for the second year worked with them to calculate and refine the measurements of our carbon emissions.

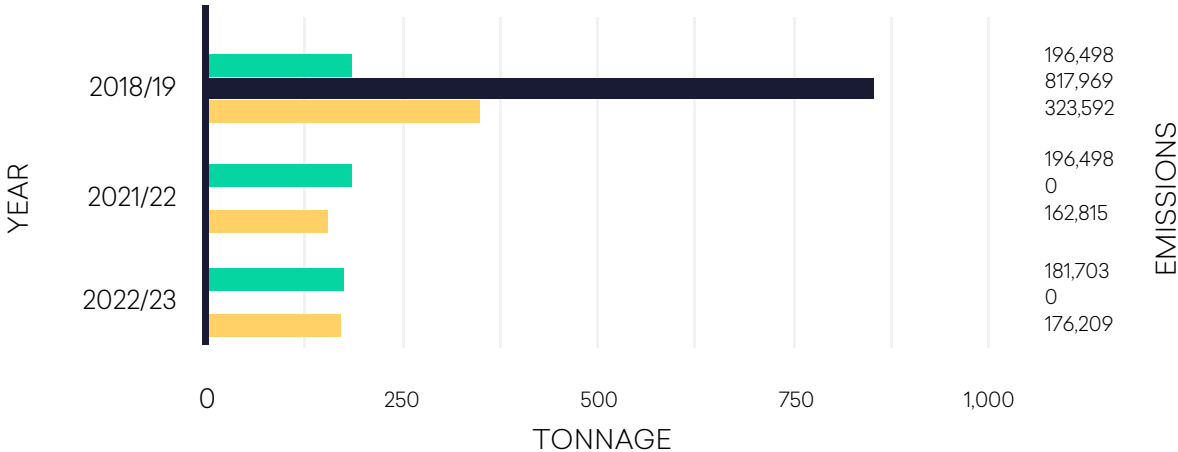
To get started on a journey to Net-Zero, the first thing to do is set your baseline year. This for us was the year, 2018/19. You can take a look at our measurements below.

We offset and will continue to offset all of these emissions each year. This means that we also offset some of the elements that pertain to your event, including the following amongst others:

- Any type of waste disposed of onsite at events
- The energy used to power the venue and the events themselves
- Water that is used during events

Working with the CarbonNeutral® Company and Climate Impact Partners, we continue to offset all our measured emissions through verified carbon offsetting projects. We are committed to reducing our footprint each year whilst offsetting any residual emissions and reporting our results transparently so are always happy to talk to you about this.

We understand that measurements are not always perfect, but we commit to improving the accuracy of these every year. You can take a look at the detailed methodology behind [our calculations here >](#)

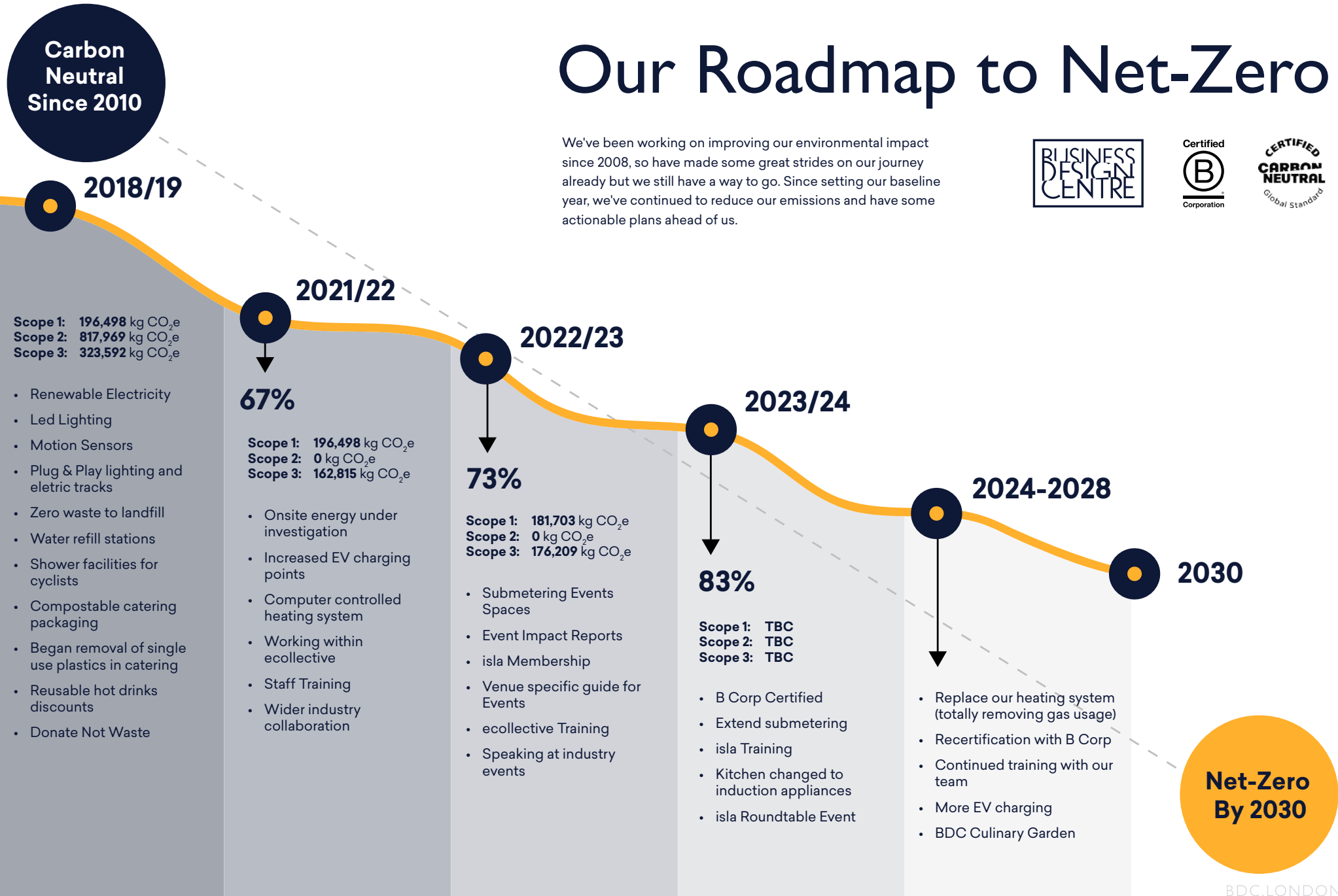


- = Scope 1 (kg CO2e)
- = Scope 2 (kg CO2e)
- = Scope 3 (kg CO2e)

* Scope 2 is calculated based on the market based method.

Our Roadmap to Net-Zero

We've been working on improving our environmental impact since 2008, so have made some great strides on our journey already but we still have a way to go. Since setting our baseline year, we've continued to reduce our emissions and have some actionable plans ahead of us.



Post-event Environmental Reporting

Our Post-Show Environmental Impact Report is given to all events once the tenancy has ended.

The report provides an insight into your performance in terms of waste levels, energy usage, catering information, logistical data, and more. This form of benchmarking was created with the intention of monitoring your emissions and will help us to discuss how to move forward from an environmental standpoint, highlighting areas of improvement for your next show.

Your Event Manager will send this to you once your event is complete and will be on hand to answer any further questions you may have after you have taken a look. You can see the format of the form here.

BUSINESS RESILIENT CENTRE

Your Environmental Impact Report

Event Name		
Tenancy Dates		
Build Up		
Live Days		
Breakdown		
Space Hired		Space in SQM
Mezzanine & Ground		2559.50
Gallery Bays		1468.00
Gallery Hall & Atrium		1395.00
Auditorium		391.51
Room A		263.58
Room B		63.22
Room C		64.01
Room D		56.60
Room E		86.05
Room F		71.94
Room G & H		124.49
Executive Centre		135.45
Total Venue Space (sqm)		6679.35
Event Measurements	Totals	More Information
Energy Usage		
Renewable Electricity (kw/h)	<i>Insert Total</i>	Our electricity is from 100% renewable resources. If you would like to know more then please ask.
Event Waste		
Mixed Recycling (Bins)	<i>Insert Total</i>	For now we are measuring your waste as accurately as possible by counting the number of large waste bins filled from your event. We are working with our commercial waste team to be able to better measure this in the coming year by weight. This waste is all included in our annual carbon offsetting, so you don't need to do this.
Food Waste (Bins)	<i>Insert Total</i>	
General Waste (Bins)	<i>Insert Total</i>	
Compostable Packaging Waste (Bins)	<i>Insert Total</i>	
Coffee Granule Waste (Bins)	<i>Insert Total</i>	
Catering by The Good Eating Company		
Surplus Food Donated	<i>Insert Total</i>	The Good Eating Company are currently implementing measurements in this area.
Food Waste	<i>Insert Total</i>	
Freight / Logistics		
Exhibition Build Transport (if required)	<i>Insert Total</i>	Our in house stock caters for most exhibition builds, but if we need to bring this in, then here's the impact from the transport of kit.
Rigging Transport (if required)	<i>Insert Total</i>	
Carpet Saved		
Minus individual stand orders	<i>Insert Total</i>	The BDC is fully carpeted, so you don't need to lay this. This shows how much you saved by using a carpeted venue. Our carpet tiles are made from recycled fishing nets.
Water		
This currently can't be measured specific to an event, but we are looking into it.		









We hope that this gives you a better picture of the impact of your event at the venue, but if you have any questions or feedback, then please email us at environmentalimpact@bdc.london and we'll be happy to help.

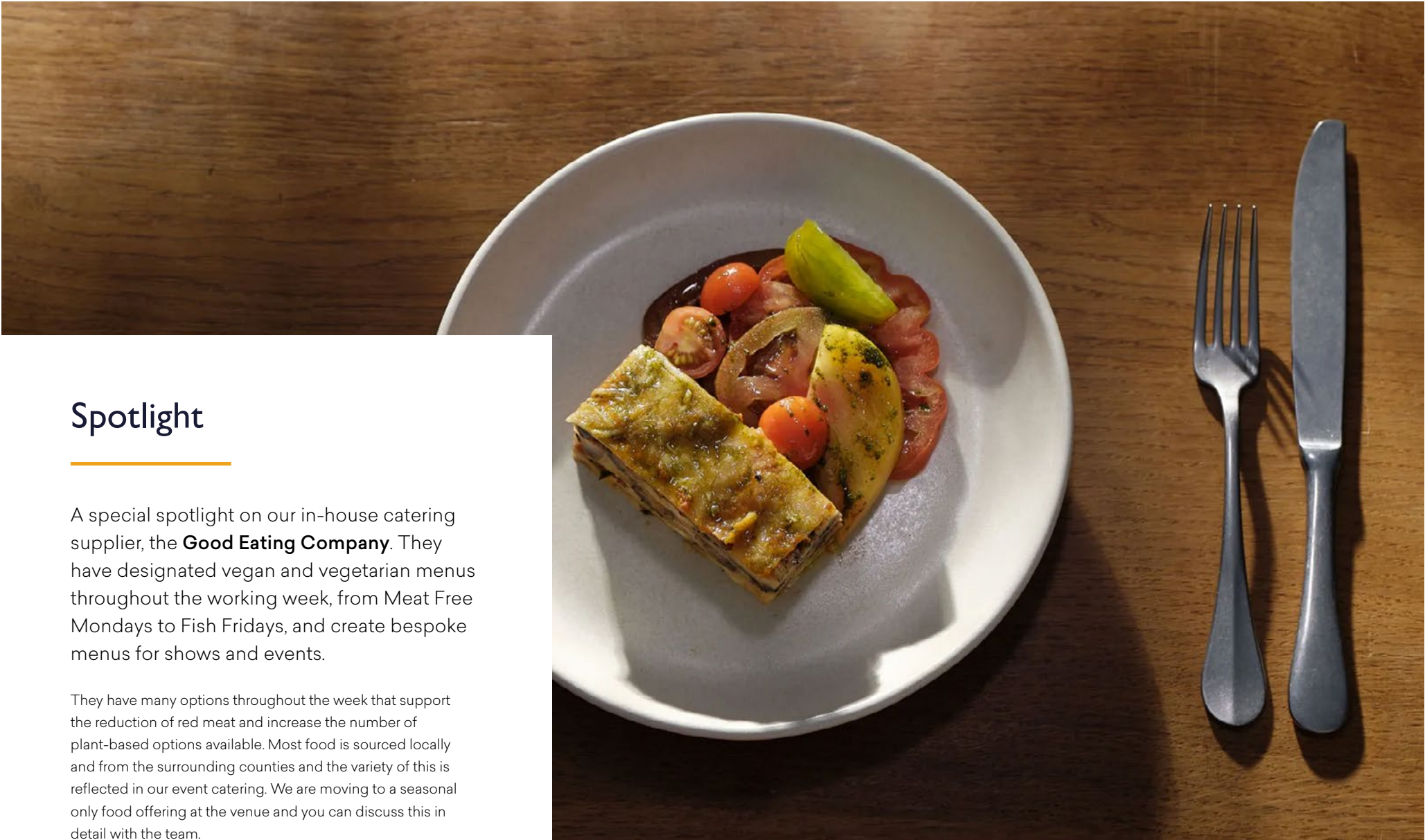
Our Suppliers

We are lucky to have a number of fantastic suppliers, who we have worked with for many years and most of these work from offices right here inside the BDC.

Not only does this create great relationships, but it allows us to have on-site stock of AV, graphics, electrics, stand fitting and furniture. This also means that there is less travel involved in the production of live events, reducing the carbon emissions of the events themselves.

We aim to support our suppliers on their own journeys to net zero and having these close relationships allows us to work together to ensure mutual sustainability goals are achieved. This relationship also allows us to have challenging conversations with our suppliers to reach and exceed our targets.

 <p>The Good Eating Company Catering Services</p>	 <p>Onward Display Large Format Signage</p>	 <p>Aztec Events Audio Visual Services</p>	 <p>Teamwork UK Facilities Management</p>
 <p>Granite Consulting Internet and Networking</p>	 <p>Teamex Event Security Services</p>	 <p>Full Circle Standfitting Services</p>	 <p>GD Electric Electrical Services</p>



Spotlight

A special spotlight on our in-house catering supplier, the **Good Eating Company**. They have designated vegan and vegetarian menus throughout the working week, from Meat Free Mondays to Fish Fridays, and create bespoke menus for shows and events.

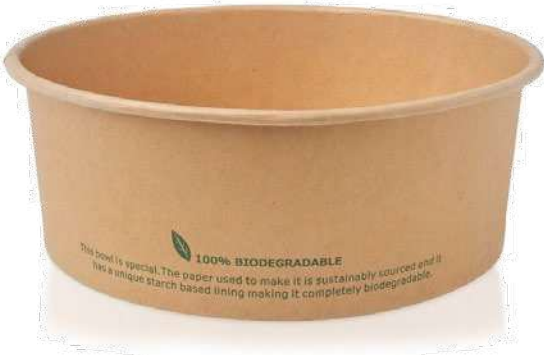
They have many options throughout the week that support the reduction of red meat and increase the number of plant-based options available. Most food is sourced locally and from the surrounding counties and the variety of this is reflected in our event catering. We are moving to a seasonal only food offering at the venue and you can discuss this in detail with the team.



GEC Packaging

Our in-house caterers at the Good Eating Company prioritise the use of reusable glassware, cups, crockery and cutlery. They are however, committed to utilising compostable packaging for food containers and cups, where disposable items are required. On limited items where they cannot currently source this type of packaging, it is recyclable.

Join us in our commitment to removing the use of single use packaging entirely on events, recommending to guests that they bring their own cups and bottles. Please also communicate this to exhibitors, reminding them if they need to provide such items on their events they opt for these product types.



Tips for Greener Events

As a busy exhibition and conference venue, welcoming almost a million people through our doors each year, we are focused on working with all organisers to improve their sustainability.

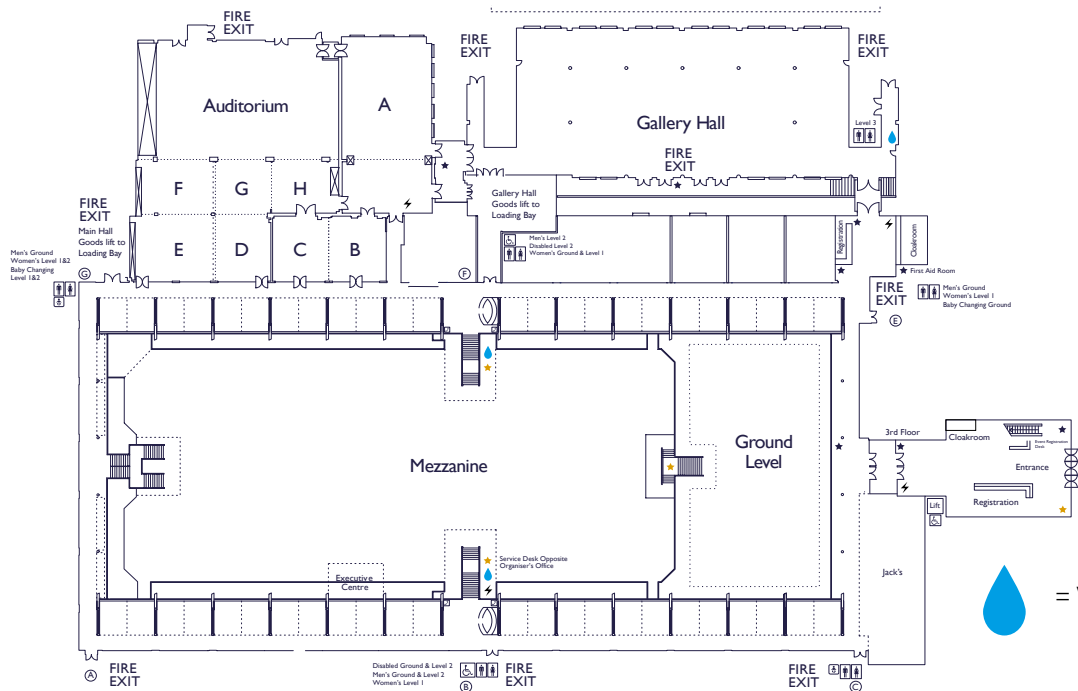
We have created a list of tips on how to incorporate better decisions into each event and to spark continued conversations around improving our environmental impact. We work alongside best practice as outlined in isla's venue pathway and the Net Zero Carbon Events Pledge – these are linked in the resources section at the end of this guide for more information.

Venue

- Ask your Event Manager on how to best manage energy and electricity for each event, including sharing down times in the rooms you may not be using at certain times in order to switch off where they aren't needed.
- Consider the best transport links to the venue for your audience and promote these in the exhibitor manual and visitor information.
- Review the venue's sustainability policy, sharing yours to see how our goals can be aligned and supported by each other.
- Obtain an Environmental Impact Report for energy and waste from the venue making it easier for you to track your own carbon reduction progress.
- Work with the venue to ensure adequate signage to highlight the number of different waste bins or streams available for exhibitors and visitors, especially if you have something in relation to your show that's different to usual!
- Think about ways to reduce the amount of waste that will be generated, such as cutting down on single-use or disposable items.
- Highlight to your teams and guests that we operate as a venue striving to remove single-use plastic as a whole and promote the use of our water refill stations and encouraging people to bring their own bottles.
- Create a link with A Good Thing or another route to divert reusables from waste - our venue has the ability and connections to assist in any donations to local charities or businesses, so always consider these options before sending items to waste – if you want to discuss this further, please speak to your Event Manager.
- Always add environmental sustainability as a discussion point in early event meetings with the team onsite.

Exhibitors

- Create open lines of communication with exhibitors on sustainability goals – theirs, yours and ours.
- Collect data from exhibitors on mode of travel, distance of travel and number of vehicles used – where possible, using a logistics company to deliver and reduce on unnecessary transport.
- Challenge space only stands on build construction and design to encourage them to use sustainable or recyclable materials – planning to see them reuse that stand year after year.
- Where wood is used, recommend opting for certified wood (FSC or PEFC) or other sustainably managed forest resources. Aim for at least 50% of recycled wood material and wood-based products with 50% reduced formaldehyde emissions.
- When painting, recommend the use of acrylic paint from plant-derived pigments (not petrol).
- Remind exhibitors that we are a fully carpeted venue, they don't need to carpet their stands!
- Encourage exhibitors to only bring necessary material to avoid excess shipping and waste.
- Reduce the use of single use plastics or replace polystyrene in shipment packages with environmentally friendly or reusable alternatives.
- Encourage exhibitors to bring their own cups, water bottles and other reusable items where they can.
- We ask you to tell exhibitors not to bring single use plastic bottles or cups as part of give aways on their stands.
- Highlight in the exhibitor manual the main ways exhibitors can help achieve the sustainability goals set by the event.
- Make exhibitors aware that left over waste will incur a fine from the venue and encourage them to speak with the venue directly to see if any items can be donated to local charities or businesses, before assuming this will have to be disposed of as waste.
- Promote the use of logistics companies to reduce the number of vehicles needed as well as car-sharing; encouraging exhibitors to create a network of their visitors to travel together if planning to use a car from the same area. Remind them we have EV charging points available in the car park too.



Suppliers

- Tell suppliers who are delivering that we have EV charging points in the loading bay to use while they unload.
- When considering show signage, discuss with the company about the reusability and recyclability of your graphics, removing dates on lanyards or signage. And a thought, do you even need lanyards?
- Ensure all graphics are proofread and confirmed early in the process to reduce any mistakes and therefore reduce the amount of late printing and wastage.
- Consider the use of an event-specific app instead of printing out collateral such as leaflets and brochures for your guests.
- Customise your catering menu with vegetarian and vegan options, rather than having meat or fish as a predominant ingredient. Consider providing plant-based milk options as well as opting for seasonal and local choices, which also improve your environmental impact.
- Think about communicating your food and drink options to educate your guests. If you do this, refer to the first bullet point in this section which provides insight into material options.
- For exhibition or conference catering points, liaise with the Good Eating Company to only offer China, glass or reusable drinkware and crockery.
- Speak to suppliers early on, for example, our AV suppliers at Aztec Events can recommend lower carbon packages, that have a lesser impact on your footprint.

Attendees

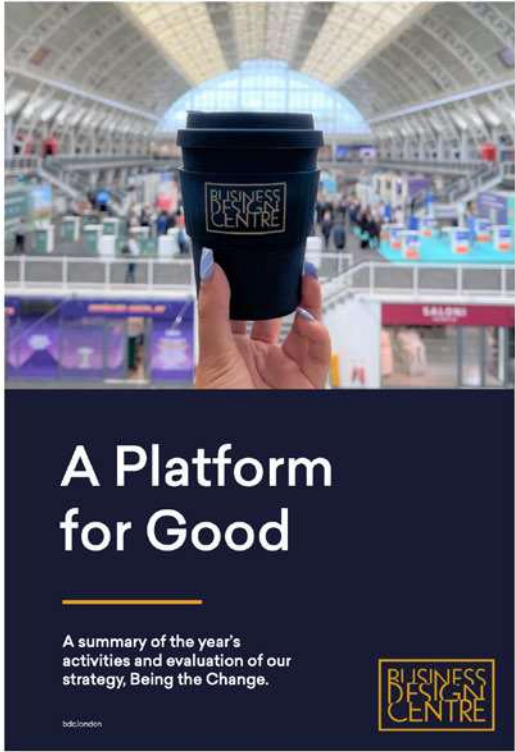
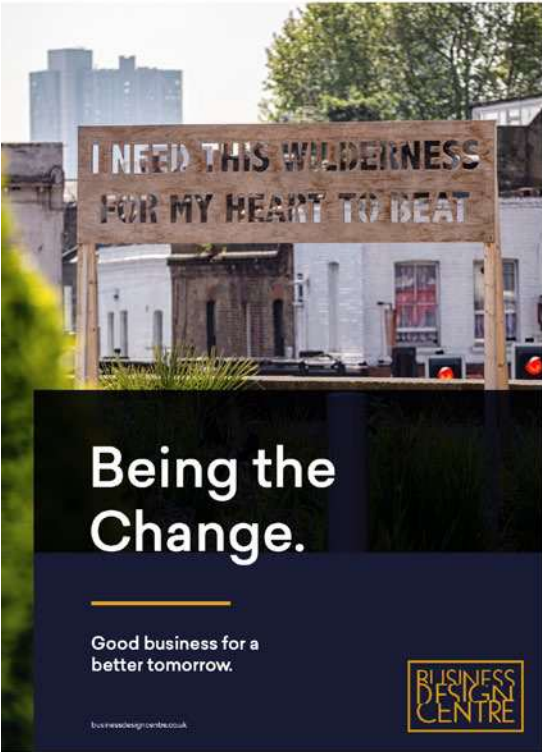
- Consider any promotional items or gifts used for visitor goody bags or VIP goody bags to be made from environmentally conscious materials or replace these bags for a more sustainable option.
- Consider if these are really needed at all?!
- Encourage public transportation or provide coach services and promote local hotels. You can access our network of these from [our website](#).
- Collect travel data from attendees to calculate carbon emissions related to visitor journeys and to inform future decisions on your travel advice.



Our Impact Reports









Each year we publish details on our impact as a venue, in 2022 we shared **'Being the Change'** and in 2023, we published **'A Platform for Good'**.

You can find the latest report [here](#) and 2022's report [here](#).



Further Resources

If you need further guidance or help, please find some helpful frameworks and organisations here:

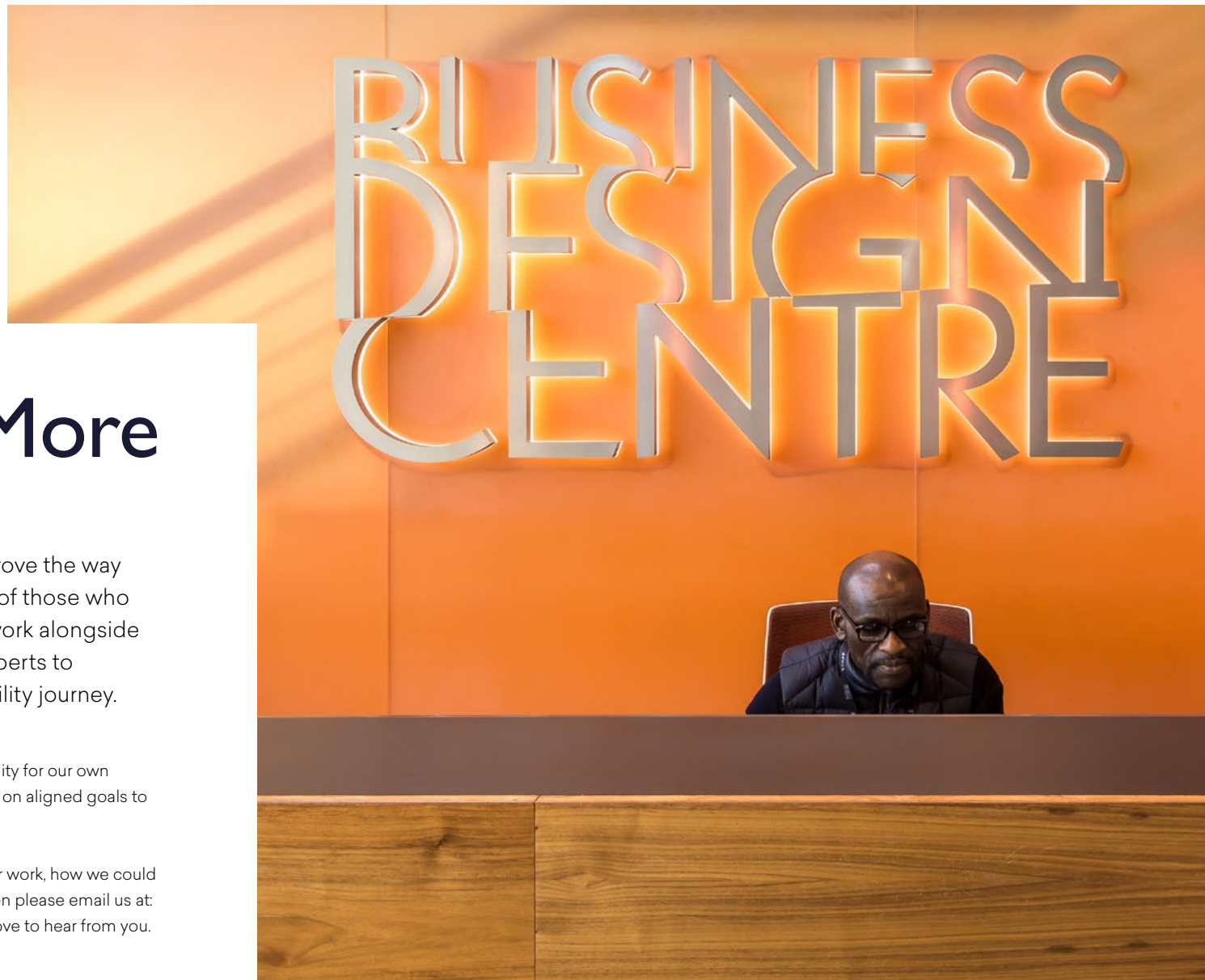
 ecollective	 CarbonNeutral Company	 Climate Impact Partners	 ISLA framework
 Association of Event Venues	 Association of Event Organisers	 Net-Zero Carbon Events	 Net-Zero Carbon Events Pledge

Find Out More

We are continuously looking to improve the way that we work collaboratively with all of those who use the venue and will continue to work alongside professional bodies and industry experts to evaluate and progress our sustainability journey.

We should all take responsibility and accountability for our own impact on this journey, so why not work together on aligned goals to save our planet.

If you would like to get in touch with us about our work, how we could work collaboratively or provide any feedback, then please email us at: environmentalimpact@bdc.london – we would love to hear from you.



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NET ZERO CARBON EVENTS

