



## **Red Balloon-Norwich**

### **Carbon Reduction Strategy – January 2026 (Version 2.0)**

Red Balloon-Norwich is a long-established Charity who operate on a national basis supporting the education of vulnerable children with severe anxiety and mental conditions. Our aim is to not only educate children through their secondary academic years, but to also help them integrate into society by delivering a number of initiatives such as the young apprenticeship scheme, therapeutic interventions and enhanced transition support, offering valuable life skills which can help define their career journeys.

With the Charity gaining vital funds through both the Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils, a Carbon Baseline Assessment, along with a Decarbonisation Strategy have been raised in recent funding requirements in line with the Government’s Net Zero protocols. This is with a view to the Charity tracking its emissions and looking to reduce on these where possible.

As part of our Net Zero Strategy, Red Balloon-Norwich has conducted a yearly Carbon Report of all emissions across our 2024/25 financial year. This review supersedes our initial Carbon Baseline Report for our 2023/24 financial year and demonstrates any progress in which the Charity has made to reduce on its emissions so far.

#### **Our Commitment To Achieving Net Zero**

After reviewing our initial 2023/24 Carbon Baseline Report, Red Balloon-Norwich is committed to achieving Net Zero emissions across our school portfolio by 2050. The Charity is also committed to making a significant impact on its existing emissions and achieving a 75% reduction against its 2023/24 Carbon Baseline by 2040.

#### **Baseline Emissions Footprint**

Baseline emissions are a record of the Greenhouse Gases that have been produced in the past and were produced prior to the introduction of any strategies to reduce emissions.

Below states the Charity’s total carbon emissions in metric tonnes (t) throughout both our initial 2023/24 baseline year and our recent 2024/25 reporting year, which have been broken down into the various scopes.

<b>Baseline year: 2023/24</b>
Additional Details relating to the Baseline Emissions Calculations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Prior to 2023, the Charity has not recorded any of its CO2e emissions with this year representing the Charity’s first full Carbon Baseline Report along with the introduction of our Carbon Reduction Strategy.</b></li><li>• <b>Our Scope 1 emissions section within the 2023/24 Baseline Report covers all fuels burned directly under our control and also accounts for any natural refrigerant losses (F gases) through the use of our air conditioning systems.</b></li></ul>

- Emissions for all gas and electricity usage as part of this report have been produced against estimated annual consumption figures due to regular reads not being submitted to the supplier throughout the reporting period.
- All staff travel emissions have been based on each employee commuting approximately 20 miles to work with 40 miles considered as a round trip.
- All waste for the Charity has been based on weekly collections with it assumed that each bin is full at the point of collection.

**Baseline year emissions: 92.43 t/CO<sub>2</sub>e**

Emissions	Total t/CO <sub>2</sub> e
Scope 1	5.80
Scope 2	4.79
Scope 3	81.84
<b>Total Emissions</b>	<b>92.43</b>

**Current year: 2024/25 financial year**

Additional Details relating to the Reporting Years Calculations

- A new support annex based at Saxon Air was taken on in May 2025 as part of the Charity's expansion to support further pupils in the local area. This has resulted in additional electricity, water and waste usage in our 2024/25 carbon report, with it expected that all usage will further increase going forward as the Charity expands. Intensity Ratios will be introduced as a result in order to better understand any progress made in reducing our emissions against Charity growth.
- The utility and waste contracts for the support annex have been included as part of the landlord's lease. All volumes for these sections have therefore been based on both employee and pupil headcount and calculated against any emissions for our employee and pupil headcount at our Drayton Road premises.
- A proportion of all meter readings for our gas and electricity usage at the Drayton Road premises have been produced against estimated consumption figures due to regular meter readings not being submitted for all months throughout the reporting year.
- All staff travel emissions have been based on each employee commuting approximately 20 miles to work with 40 miles considered as a round trip.
- Waste collections at the Drayton Road premises have been based on weekly collections with it assumed that each bin is full at the point of collection due to the weight of each bin not being included on monthly invoices.
- Emissions for Employee Homeworking have been newly accounted for and have not been recorded in previous years reports.



<b>Current year emissions: 92.43 t/CO2e</b>	
<b>Emissions</b>	<b>Total t/CO2e</b>
<b>Scope 1</b>	<b>5.35</b>
<b>Scope 2</b>	<b>4.34</b>
<b>Scope 3</b>	<b>88.85</b>
<b>Total Emissions</b>	<b>98.54</b>

**Emissions Reduction Targets**

The Charity appreciates that the majority of its carbon footprint is made up through its supply chain under its Scope 3 emissions. Following our initial Carbon Baseline Report for the 2023/24 financial year, a clear focus has been made on lowering all Scope 3 emissions, with the Charity aiming to significantly reduce on these over the next 15 years. Whilst its thought that any business growth may hinder this, in particular as we grow our Norfolk presence, targets will still be set in order to reduce key areas and challenge our supply chain where possible. Intensity Ratios will be introduced as part of our yearly Carbon Baseline Reports, with it thought that these will allow the Charity to accurately track and demonstrate any reduction in emissions against all Charity growth.

Red Balloon-Norwich will also look to continue reducing on its Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions, with a view to achieving a 95% reduction across both Scopes by 2040.

**Scope 1 Emissions**

Our Scope 1 emissions from our recent report contributed to producing **5.35 t/CO2e** which was a 0.74% reduction against our initial 2023/24 baseline report recorded at **5.39 t/CO2e**. 95% of all Scope 1 emissions produced were from the use of burning gas for heating purposes with the Charity making it a priority to transition away from gas over the next 5 years.

A goal has been set to review the cost of implementing an efficient electric heating setup in replacement of our gas boilers, such as air source heat pumps in early 2026 and in line with any local Government Grants available. This is with the hope of understanding both costs and ROI (return on investment) from any changes made. By making this transition, our Scope 1 emissions would reduce significantly by **5.01 t/CO2e** per annum.

With a view to reducing our emissions in the short term, an energy audit was also carried out at the end of our last financial year in order to ascertain ways in which we could operate more efficiently. Various measures were recommended, such as improving all lagging on our piping in our plant room, the regular bleeding of radiators, changing our circulation pump and making sure all controls are set appropriately in order to ensure greater efficiency from our boilers. It's hoped that by carrying out the above, we will see a difference in our energy usage in next year's carbon report along with an immediate reduction in emissions by approximately **0.25 t/CO2e**.

The school will target removing all dependence on gas by 2030 with our Scope 1 emissions set to decrease to **0.35 t/CO2e**.



## **Scope 2 Emissions**

Scope 2 emissions for the Charity totalled to **4.34 t/CO<sub>2</sub>e** which is a 7.7% reduction against our 2023/24 baseline report, reducing from **4.79 t/CO<sub>2</sub>e** and saving **0.45 t/CO<sub>2</sub>e**.

Much of this reduction was due to the impact from making minor amendments to our energy setup following our energy audit, along with starting to take regular monthly meter readings in order to ensure better accuracy of our energy usage.

The school also benefitted from a significant reduction in the UK emission rate for electricity from the Governments 2025 reporting standard, due to further renewables being introduced to the grids fuel mix and the rate reducing accordingly.

With the introduction of the annex hub at Saxon Air and long-term thoughts on expanding Red Balloon in the local region, its likely our emissions for electricity will increase in the short term as the school looks to take on further sites. Any transition to air source heat pumps from our gas boilers at the main school will also increase our energy demand.

We appreciate that as further renewable generators are introduced to the market over the next few years, the annual carbon reporting figures for electricity are therefore likely to reflect this, meaning that the annual emissions rate through the grids electricity supply will continue to decrease year on year (as the Charity reports on its emissions) allowing the school to gradually transition towards achieving our Net Zero goal for our Scope 2 emissions naturally.

In the meantime, the Charity is committed to doing what it can to still keep both its energy demand and emissions down. A number of initiatives have been introduced to help this, such as implementing our Sustainability Team along with having a comprehensive Switch Off Plan. The School also plans to invest in the most efficient electrical equipment where possible, along with installing further PIR sensors for our lighting in our main school building, as only 50% of our light circuits have these.

Solar PV will be considered for the short term, in order to combat our existing and increased demand (through expansion), also allowing the Charity to mitigate against any increased electricity charges from suppliers as time goes on. We plan to review this area in early 2026 along with any Government Grants available.

Green energy contracts will also be looked into at renewal so the Charity can understand both any impact and costs associated with this.

The Charity is committed to achieving zero across our Scope 2 emissions by 2040.

## **Scope 3 Emissions**

Our Scope 3 emissions again formed a significant part of our footprint for the year with this area responsible for nearly 90% of the Charity's emissions and producing **88.85 t/CO<sub>2</sub>e**.



Staff travel contributed to a total of **85.75 t/CO<sub>2</sub>e**, which is an increase of **7.13 t/CO<sub>2</sub>e** from last year's report at **78.62 t/CO<sub>2</sub>e** and accounts for all regular commuting to and from our Norwich sites.

With the Charity having 30 employees in total (19 full time and 11 part time), this will be an area of focus for us going forward with a view to driving travel emissions down throughout 2026.

A staff travel survey will be conducted in early 2026 in order to better understand if our employees would be willing to car share or even be interested in taking advantage of a cycle to work scheme. The Trustees will also discuss the possibility of incentivising any scheme.

We will also look to understand a clearer picture on the number of miles that each member of staff would commute to and from their homes, as our previous figures within both our 2023/24 and 2024/25 reports were based on an estimated figure at 20 miles each way. This will help the Charity to better understand a more accurate picture of all travel emissions going forward so any appropriate action can be taken. A target has been set on reducing all travel emissions significantly by 2030.

All waste used by the Charity contributed to **0.757 t/CO<sub>2</sub>e** which is a decrease of **0.583 t/CO<sub>2</sub>e** against our initial baseline report, which was recorded at **1.34 t/CO<sub>2</sub>e**. The Charity has worked hard throughout the recent financial year to promote the reduction of waste to landfill at its schools. A project has been carried out involving pupils with a view to reducing all single use plastics across both sites. An emphasis has also been made to recycle more waste where possible, with the leadership team making sure all cardboard and recyclable goods are removed from all general waste bins. It's our goal to continue to reduce and separate all waste going forward in order to limit as much waste going to landfill. A target has been set on achieving zero waste to landfill by 2030.

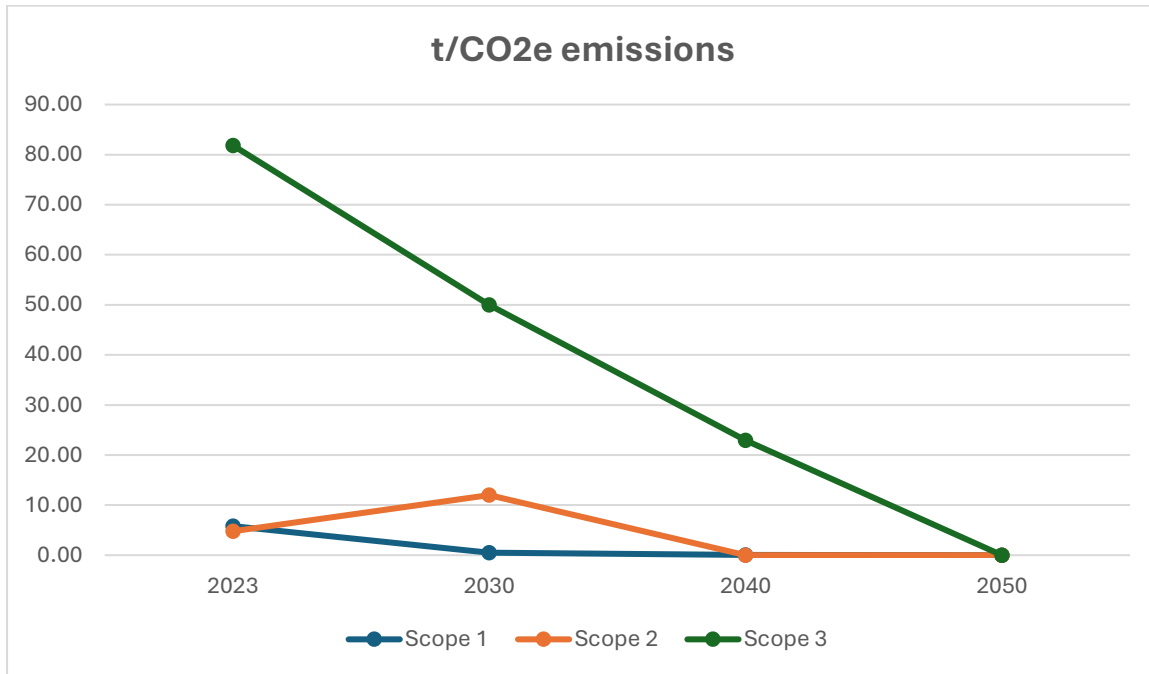
Upstream purchases such as stationery and food contributed to a total of **1.42 t/CO<sub>2</sub>e**, which was an increase of **0.13 t/CO<sub>2</sub>e**. This accounted for the Charity taking on the new annex, where the requirement for both stationery goods along with food deliveries has increased. A change in the UK Governments emission factor for commercial vehicles has also resulted in a higher emission rate being applied. Its thought that as more commercial electric vehicles become available, our emissions for all upstream purchases will gradually decline over time.

Lastly all employee homeworking has been accounted for within the latest report as the Charity tries to gain better accuracy on its emissions. This has added a further **0.279 t/CO<sub>2</sub>e** to our carbon footprint.

### **Targets**

**In order to continue our progress to achieving Net Zero, we have adopted the following carbon reduction targets. We project that our carbon emissions will decrease over the next fifteen years to 23 t/CO<sub>2</sub>e by 2040. This is a reduction of 69.43 t/CO<sub>2</sub>e.**

Progress against these targets can be seen in the graph below:



The increase in Scope 2 emissions reflects the Charity’s transition to electric based technologies such as electric vehicles and air source heat pumps/electric heaters for heating. This will eventually go down as the UK’s grid fuel mix rate declines as we move to a more sustainable grid.

### **Carbon Reduction Projects - Completed Carbon Reduction Initiatives**

The following environmental management measures and projects have been completed before our 2024/25 baseline. The carbon emission reduction achieved by these schemes equates to an estimated **5.5 t/CO2e**, and these measures will be in effect when performing any new contract.

1. The Charity opted for efficient electric heaters with timers to be installed for our fixed mobile office units instead of using our mains gas supply. By doing this we saved approximately **3 t/CO2e**.
2. LED lighting has been installed throughout the main school building and fixed office units at Drayton Road allowing us to lower our electricity demand and save on our carbon footprint. Exchanging from 80W fluorescent bulbs to 25W-38W LED bulbs has helped reduce demand by 50% and save approximately **1 t/CO2e**. PIR Sensors have also been installed on 50% of light fittings enabling further energy to be saved. This has been calculated at approximately **0.5 t/CO2e**.
3. The school’s first 7kW EV Charger was installed to cater for both employee and visitor electric vehicles. It is thought that this acquisition will save approximately **1 t/CO2e** from our staff travel emissions.



**Declaration and Sign Off**

This Carbon Reduction Plan has been completed in accordance with PPN 06/21 and associated guidance and reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans. Emissions have been reported and recorded in accordance with the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the GHG Reporting Protocol corporate standard and uses the appropriate Government emission conversion factors for greenhouse gas company reporting. Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions have been reported in accordance with SECR requirements, and the required subset of Scope 3 emissions have been reported in accordance with the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Standard. This Carbon Reduction Plan has been reviewed and signed off by the board of Trustees (or equivalent management body).

**Signed by:** .....

**Position:** .....

**Date:** .....