



Report to: The Portchester Crematorium Joint Committee - 12 December 2022

Report by: The Property Manager and The Crematorium Manager

Subject: Portchester Crematorium Carbon Reduction Plan 2022

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out our plans to reduce carbon emissions.

1.2 The recommendation is that this report is approved

2. Introduction

2.1 Tackling climate change will pose a significant challenge in the coming years. It will take planning and initiative to bring about positive change and brings the opportunity to build on what we have already achieved. We can play our part in a society that is more sustainable and one that understands its impact on the environment.

2.2 We want to ensure that every generation has a positive future. We are seeking to mitigate climate change and are already underway with several projects. Having established our carbon footprint, we are looking at opportunities to eliminate and reduce our emission with offsetting schemes being explored for any residue.

2.3 This document sets out the challenges that Portchester Crematorium will face in meeting carbon neutrality. It outlines the actions we will undertake in the short term, including those already underway, and describes how we will address the longer-term goals.

2.4 Planning for neutrality in the long term will be driven by where the greatest carbon savings can be made. These projects require comprehensive work exploring costs, carbon savings and resources. This strategy sets out an overarching plan of delivery rather than focusing on the detail of every project.

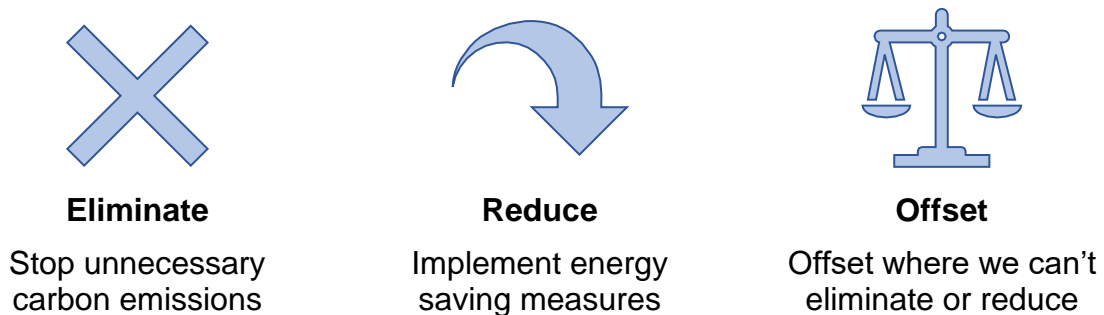
3. What is Climate Change

3.1 Climate change looks at average weather patterns and temperature over a long period, determining whether there is a change within a region. The term 'climate change' is usually used in the context of man-made effects on the environment - largely resulting from the amount of carbon dioxide that we have put into the atmosphere.

3.2 Greenhouse gases trap heat in the atmosphere, warming the Earth's surface. The increase in the release of these gases by human activity is well documented by scientists globally. By reducing our emissions, we can help to prevent a further rise in global temperatures.

4. Our Key Principles

4.1 Our strategy to become carbon neutral is centred around 3 principles:



These principles will provide a framework for our carbon reduction actions and help to guide us when making key decisions.

5. Projects to Date

5.1 Over a long period, the Joint Committee has understood its responsibility to the environment. The Crematorium was quick to install mercury abatement equipment and worked with other Crematoria across the country as part of the CAMEO scheme to remove mercury from cremation emissions.

5.2 As part of our commitment to reduce carbon emissions we have changed our electrical supply contract to a non-fossil fuel scheme.

5.3 Over the last few years, the Crematorium has worked to reduce emissions from its buildings with schemes to replace inefficient equipment such as lighting.

5.4 Our grounds maintenance contractor has moved to peat free compost and used more sustainable planting. As petrol powered equipment has become due for replacement electrical equipment has been purchased where appropriate.

5.5 We have reduced our waste by the splitting of flowers and other memorials into recyclable and non- recyclable waste

5.6 We are proud of what we have achieved, especially in more recent years. However, we acknowledge that there is much more work to be done. This document is only the start and lays out the foundation of what we hope to achieve in years to come.

6. Our Carbon Footprint

6.1 We are using our 2021/22 carbon footprint calculation as our baseline for improvements. This is what we will use to measure our progress and highlights where the biggest savings need to be made.

6.2 Our carbon footprint was 559.89 tCO₂e in 2021/22. When we calculated our emissions, we used the HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. This helps us to categorise our emissions into three 'scopes':

Scope 1 – These are all **direct** emissions released from our activities such as which is from natural gas used in the cremation process and heating.

Scope 2 – These are any **indirect** emissions from electricity purchased and used on site.

Scope 3 – These are **any other indirect** emissions from our activities, where data is unavailable i.e., water supply or from activities we don't directly control such as grounds maintenance activities by our contractor.

6.3 Under the HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines, we didn't have to report our Scope 3 emissions.

6.4 Our most significant emissions from Scope 1 and 2 (those sources we own or control) are detailed below:



492.27 tCO₂e - From cremation process and heating our buildings




67.62 tCO₂e - From the electricity in our buildings


7. Reducing the Crematorium’s Carbon Footprint

7.1 Our commitment is to escalate our existing carbon reduction actions and focus on the improvements we can make immediately. We know that we still need to carry out investigations to fully understand where we can make the most progress. We also know that we must make these improvements within existing agreed budgets.

7.2 Short Term


These are our actions for the short term:


 <p>Eliminate</p>	<p>Stop unnecessary carbon emissions (existing / short term actions)</p>
<p>We will do this by:</p>	<p><i>As part of the replacement of cremation equipment investigate revised working procedure to reduce energy use including the use of ‘hold over’ facilities.</i></p>

 <p>Reduce</p>	<p>Implement energy saving measures (existing / short term actions)</p>
<p>We are doing this by:</p>	<p><i>Installation of low energy lighting</i></p> <p><i>Encourage our grounds maintenance contractor to purchase further electric hand tools to replace petrol hand tools</i></p> <p><i>Investigate the recovery of energy from waste heat in the cremation process</i></p> <p><i>Exploring Government funding options for energy savings in our buildings</i></p>

7.3 Medium Term

These are the actions we are proposing for the medium term:

 <p>Eliminate</p>	<p>Stop unnecessary carbon emissions (medium term actions)</p>
<p>We will do this by:</p>	<p><i>Investigation into the installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Points</i></p>


 <p>Reduce</p>	<p>Implement energy saving measures (medium term actions)</p>
<p>We will do this by:</p>	<p><i>Site assessment for the installation of solar electricity panels (PV) to the buildings and car parks</i></p>
	<p><i>Develop plans for energy efficiency improvements to our buildings</i></p>
	<p><i>Look at options to harvest wastewater for toilets and watering of the grounds</i></p>
	<p><i>Understand revised grounds maintenance procedure that could limit unnecessary energy use</i></p>

8.0 Offsetting Carbon Emissions

8.1 Carbon offsetting is the process of compensating for carbon emissions through a quantifiable and accredited programme designed to make equivalent reductions in CO₂.

8.2 By the nature of our cremation process we will need to utilise offsetting and plan to investigate the most appropriate scheme to achieve our goal.

8.3 Several schemes are currently available some involving trees or for peatland restoration, and it is unclear if these meet our requirements. With the market rapidly developing, with no regulatory process we plan to closely scrutinize new and existing schemes before bringing forward proposals to the joint committee in the longer term.

 <p>Offset</p>	<p>Offset where we can't eliminate or reduce (existing to long term actions)</p>
<p>We are doing this by:</p>	<p><i>To monitor the market, accreditation schemes and any regulations in the offsetting market with the plan to bring forward a scheme in the long term.</i></p>

9.0 Long Term - 2025 and Beyond

9.1 We want to ensure that we fully understand what we need to do to be carbon neutral.

9.2 We will continuously review our progress, any areas that still require a reduction in emissions will be examined and further projects investigated.

9.3 We have a number of schemes already agreed that support our ambitions. These now need to be developed and the results reviewed to understand how these relate to our longer term aims.

9.4 We are also going to continue to explore new projects that reduce our emissions as we do not want this strategy to be a simple snapshot in time. We are committed to a programme that is responsive, using all the most recent data, legislation, and technology.

9.5 The projects outlined in this strategy are only the beginning. Technology will continue to advance and outside influences, such as Government funding, will assist us further in delivering our commitment to carbon neutrality.

10.0 Next Steps

10.1 It is our goal to be carbon neutral by 2030.

10.2 To ensure we continue to reduce our emissions and meet this target we will calculate and report on progress to reduce our carbon footprint on an annual basis. This will help us identify areas for further work and inform / enable delivery of additional projects. In addition, we plan to review this document during the 2025/26 financial year.

10.3 We will not rest on our laurels but will continue to explore all options to reduce our carbon emissions.

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1 December 2022

Background List of Documents –
Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972: None