



CLIMATE ACTION PROTOCOL

January 2025

1. Executive Summary

The Chartered Surveyors Climate Action Protocol acknowledges the critical impact of buildings on carbon emissions, contributing approximately 40% of the total. As a founding member of the Livery Climate Action Group since 2021, the Worshipful Company of Chartered Surveyors (WCCS) is well positioned to support significant carbon reduction initiatives in alignment with government policies. Our proactive protocol centres on four main goals:

1. **Alignment:** Support the Lord Mayor and the City of London Corporation climate goals, the Livery Climate Action Group's action plans and adhere to and assist in developing the RICS sustainability guidelines in their 2024 Sustainability Report. (For respective website details please Appendix 1)
2. **Educate and Inspire:** Motivate and support Livery peers and the broader property community towards sustainable practices. Enhance climate awareness and action within the Livery and the property industry.
3. **Support and Mentor Future Generations:** Promote climate awareness among students and educational institutions to nurture a climate-conscious future workforce, to put sustainability at the heart of their future business activities.
4. **To be balanced in our assessment of climate change initiatives** ensuring they are practical, deliverable and based on evidence-based principles.

This Climate Action Protocol lays out actionable steps and measurable targets for fulfilling these goals across our Livery practices, investments, and educational efforts.

2. Vision Statement

Encourage a climate-resilient future for both the WCCS Livery and the built environment generally and contribute to reduced emissions and a strengthened environmental ethos through sustainable practices in our activities and the property sector.

3. Baseline Assessment

Our current initiatives include participation in the Livery Climate Action Group as a founding member and educational support for future surveyors with climate-focused studies and bursaries (for Livery Climate Action Group website details please see Appendix 1).

4. Strategic Priorities

4.1 Internal Practices:

- 4.1.1 Streamline traditional communications to online sustainable alternatives, where appropriate, taking advantage of digital and online facilities.
- 4.1.2 Evaluate resource consumption and financial viability as appropriate across key operational areas, including meetings, communications, and events to reduce their carbon impact.

4.2 Meetings:

- 4.2.1 Establish hybrid meetings to allow online in conjunction with in-person as the default for the Court and WCCS groups.

4.3 Catering and Venues:

- 4.4 As a Livery Company without property follow the Livery Climate Action Group's guidance note on how Livery Companies should engage with their caterers and supply chains to improve the sustainability of their choices. For the Livery Climate Action Group's guidance note on caterers and supply chains

4.5 Investments:

- 4.1 Ensure that any appointed investment manager follows the United Nations Principles of Responsible Investment and meets ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) principles in terms of their investment strategies and in accordance with the WCCS Court decision. For the United Nations Principles of Responsible Investments please see website link in Appendix 1

4.2 Carbon Footprint Awareness:

- 4.2.1 Encourage members to consider the environmental impact of their decisions and act positively to protect the environment.
- 4.2.2 Aim to develop a custom carbon footprint calculator for Livery members and establish a carbon footprint baseline within the Livery, identifying areas for significant reductions.

4.3 Education

- 4.3.1 **Support for Students:** Provide bursaries for students studying estate management and support climate-conscious curricula through partnerships, such as with the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability.
- 4.3.2 **Selection of students:** Hand to them our climate action protocol so they are aware of the importance the Livery Company places on sustainability and the impact that they can have working in the Built Environment.
- 4.3.3 **Knowledge Sharing:** Support the Livery Climate Action Group by creating an alumni of ex-students supported by the Livery Company to promote sustainability within the profession. Conduct thinktanks, webinars, and seminars with the next generation of surveyors to boost awareness and sustainability literacy among members.
- 4.3.4 **Industry Collaboration:** Encourage members to engage in sustainability committees across various property organizations, enhancing Livery's collective influence on climate action.

5. Action Plan

Each priority is supported by specific, measurable actions:

- 5.1 **Internal Practices:** Streamline digital communications where feasible and in accordance with members wishes following a survey by end of 2025
- 5.2 **Meetings:** Conduct 90% of Court and WCCS meetings in hybrid form by 3rd quarter 2025
- 5.3 **Catering and Venues:** By mid-2025 be able to demonstrate that the Company is following LCAG guidance.
- 5.4 **Investment Strategy:** Review and adjust portfolio in line with ESG standards by Q1 2025.
- 5.5 **Carbon Calculator:** Aim for the release of a carbon footprint calculator tool by end 2025.
- 5.6 **Deliver Workshops and online seminars:** 2/3 in number during 2025

6. Stakeholder Engagement

- 6.1 **Internal Stakeholders:** The Court, WCCS members, and all Livery participants are invited to support this transition.
- 6.2 **External Stakeholders:** Third-party events and ESG-aligned investment events. Broaden influence by encouraging students and WCCS members to support other property organizations in building a foundation for a climate-conscious industry.

7. Monitoring and Reporting

- 7.1 **Data Collection:** Establish KPIs on emissions, energy use, food and other activities, particularly for internal practices, meeting formats, and event practices. (For detailed KPIs see Appendix 2)
- 7.2 **Reporting Frequency:** Issue annual progress reports to measure effectiveness and adjust strategies as needed and report to Court progress against KPIs.
- 7.3 **Ongoing Adjustments:** As climate goals evolve, update action steps to reflect new standards, technologies, and feedback from stakeholders.

8. Budget and Funding

- 8.1 **Budget Allocation:** Allocate funds for digital transformation, educational support, and other sustainability initiatives.
- 8.2 **Funding Sources:** Explore partnerships, grants, and sponsorships to support our environmental initiatives and student bursaries.

9. Risk Management

- 9.1 **Risk Assessment:** Identify risks such as budget constraints, resistance to virtual meeting formats, and limited ESG-compliant investment opportunities.
- 9.2 **Mitigation Strategies:** Develop solutions, including phased digital transition and continued member engagement to support buy-in and alignment.

10. Conclusion

Through the Chartered Surveyors Climate Action Protocol, we are committed to tangible and long-lasting contributions to climate action, with a vision to inspire the property sector for generations to come.

This Protocol positions the Worshipful Company of Chartered Surveyors as a leader in climate responsibility within the property sector, inspiring impactful change across generations.

We call upon all Livery members and partners to join us in this vital endeavour.

11. **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Supporting Resources

1. City of London Corporation Climate Action Strategy [Climate Action Strategy 2020-2027](#)
2. Livery Climate Action Group's Climate Action Plans [Climate-Action Plans - Livery Climate Action Group](#)
3. RICS Sustainability Report 2024 [Sustainability Report 2024](#)
4. Livery Climate Action Group [Home - Livery Climate Action Group](#)
5. Livery Climate Action Group's guidance note on caterers and supply chains [Food - Livery Climate Action Group](#)
6. United Nations Principles of Responsible Investments [What are the Principles for Responsible Investment? | PRI Web Page | PRI](#)

APPENDIX 2 - KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Action Plan	KPI	Responsible	Status	Target Date
Internal Practices: communication	Member questionnaire to establish communication preferences, with a view to transitioning to digital communication	D Reynolds	Ongoing	Q2 2025
Internal Practices: Meetings	Meetings of either a physical or virtual basis to be determined by the organiser as best supports the purpose of the meeting and those required to attend	D Reynolds	Ongoing	Q1 2025
Internal Practices: Resource consumption	Review resource consumption report to ensure that a climate-conscious financial system is fully integrated	D Reynolds	Complete	Q1 2025
Catering and Venues	Checklist to establish adherence to Livery's' Climate Action Policy or a sustainable property policy (as appropriate) for future catered events.	R Davies	Ongoing	Q1 2025
Catering and Venues	For any future formal dining and master luncheon events held at a Livery property, confirmation that the hosting Livery Hall has adopted a Climate Action Policy	A Jackson / R Davies	Ongoing	Q4 2024
Catering and Venues	Where possible, for any future event held at third party property, satisfactory assessment of the sustainable property policy	A Jackson / R Davies	Ongoing	Q4 2024
WCCS Investment Strategy	Review WCCS investment strategy to confirm alignment with Chartered Surveyors Climate Action Protocol	G Chase	Complete	Q1 2025
Education – students	Feedback to confirm student bursaries support climate conscious curricula	A Heywood	Ongoing	Q2 2025
Education – ex students	Establish ex-student alumni, support network and networking events	A Heywood	Ongoing	Q2 2025
Education – livery members	Informal introduction to the Company's Climate Action Protocol	A Heywood	Ongoing	Q2 2025
Education – livery members	Annual webinar programme to update on the company's climate action group activities and KPIs	A Heywood	Ongoing	Q2 2025
Carbon Calculator:	Create custom carbon calculator	I Martin	Ongoing	Q4 2025
Carbon Calculator:	Member questionnaire to calculate livery carbon footprint	I Martin	Ongoing	Q4 2025
Engagement	Reconvene Livery Climate Action Group to assess and report to the Court KPI progress	R Davies	Ongoing	Q3 2025
Engagement	Annual update on engagement Livery Climate Action Group, Corporation of London's climate objective and RICS, as appropriate.	R Davies	Ongoing	Q1 2026