

EI NET ZERO 2020 PROGRESS REPORT

January 2021

This report provides an update on progress achieved towards the EI's [Net Zero Pledge](#) during 2020, plus an outline of the next steps planned for 2021.

The EI's net zero pledge and science based targets

In May 2020 the EI embarked on an ambitious net zero journey:

- pledging to end the impact of its operations on the climate well before 2050
- setting Science Based Targets for a 1.5°C warming pathway - GHG emission reductions of 26.2% by 2025, 47.9% by 2030 and 67.9% by 2035

The commitments have been developed within the Society for the Environment's [Pledge to Net Zero](#) framework. The EI has also similarly signed up to the [SME Climate Commitment](#), which is recognised by the United Nations [Race to Zero](#) campaign.

Progress during 2020

The table below summarises performance during 2020 and supports comparison with the 2019 baseline year, and 2025, 2030 and 2035 targets.

2020 performance vs. baseline & target years

	2019 Baseline year (Tonnes CO _{2e})	2020 Performance (Tonnes CO _{2e}) %	2025 Science Based Targets for a 1.5°C warming pathway (Tonnes CO _{2e}) %	2030 (Tonnes CO _{2e}) %	2035 (Tonnes CO _{2e}) %
Scopes 1 & 2: Head office emissions*	50.9	42.4 17%	34.4 32%	21.2 58%	14.0 72%
Scope 3: Business travel (of which flights)	307.2 297.7	21.5 93% 20.9 93%	229.8 25%	165.3 46%	100.8 67%
	358.1	63.9 82%	264.2 26%	186.5 48%	114.8 68%

* includes a small quantity of scope 3 emissions relating to electricity transmission and distribution

2020 was a unique year as coronavirus brought about dramatic reductions in business travel, as well as reductions in head office emissions resulting from reduced occupancy of the building. In aggregate, these represented an 82% reduction in GHG emissions against the 2019 baseline year.

During 2020 we have set the foundations in place to hold on to as much of these savings as possible in future years, as well as to continue to improve the quality of our reporting and to expand the scope of our target. Primary activities have included:

- **Launching a low carbon travel policy:** This year we consulted with our staff and developed a travel policy that promotes alternatives to flights, be that online, or via other modes of transport. We also developed department-level GHG emissions reporting and will be assigning travel GHG budgets to each team, allowing them to track and manage their contributions to our net zero journey.
- **Launching a new expense form:** In order to better track our GHG emissions from business travel, we have developed a new expense form that will capture the travel mode, class and distance of journeys claimed.
- **Quantifying our commuting and homeworking emissions:** We are currently finalising estimates of our GHG emissions from staff commuting and homeworking. This will help us to review the impact of recent changes in working patterns and to decide how to best manage developments as these new modes of working evolve.
- **Switching our head office contract to 100% renewable electricity.**
- **Continuing to benefit from our onsite solar array:** Our solar array onsite provided us with 6.1% of our electricity consumption during 2020.
- **Sharing our experience and fostering wider action:** During 2020 we engaged with the wider energy community on the development of the net zero journey. This included:
 - [Conference: Energy Efficiency- the road to net zero](#)
 - [EI LIVE webinar: Targeting Net Zero](#)
 - [UKGBC Task Group for Renewable Energy Procurement and Carbon Offset Guidelines](#) (assigned an EI member of net zero team to the steering group)
 - [Interview on net zero pledge and process with the society for the environment](#)

Next steps in 2021

These activities will continue into 2021 as our journey towards net zero progresses. One of the further areas we are exploring is the future balance between online and in person engagements, using learning from 2020 to inform our plans. We will continue to explore this during 2021 as we look to expand the Scope 3 part of our GHG targets and reporting to see how we can best track and influence the impact of our conferences, training, membership, publications, and branch activities.

APPENDIX - 2020 performance in more detail

		GHG Emissions (Tonnes CO _{2e})	
		2019	2020
Head office emissions	Scope 1 Natural gas	25.37	25.72
	Scope 2 Purchased electricity (excl. Transmission & Distribution)	25.49	15.33
	Scope 3 Purchased electricity (Transmission & Distribution)	2.16	1.32
Business travel, commuting & homeworking	Flights	297.67	20.90
	Rail (UK and international)	1.15	0.39
	Vehicle (taxi, car, uber, bus)	6.24	0.19
		358.08	63.85