

# Carbon Jargon Buster

## Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)



A gas that naturally makes up about 0.04% of our atmosphere and something that all living things emit when they breathe. CO<sub>2</sub> is only a problem when there's too much of it, as it traps more heat and makes the world hotter than it needs to be (the 'greenhouse effect').

## Greenhouse gases (GHGs)



Carbon dioxide and other gases that have a 'greenhouse effect' (e.g. methane, nitrous oxide, ozone) – these are measured collectively as the 'carbon dioxide equivalent' (CO<sub>2</sub>e).

## Climate change



Changes caused by the planet's average temperature increasing due to trapped heat, such as rising sea levels, melting glaciers, heavier storms, and more frequent droughts.

## Carbon emissions



The CO<sub>2</sub> and other GHGs we release into the atmosphere when we burn fossil fuels like coal, natural gas and oil, or organic matter like trees – this releases the GHGs locked inside them.

## Carbon footprint



The amount of carbon emissions associated with a person, activity, organisation or country.

## Carbon offsetting



Balancing GHG emissions from activities with the removal of an equivalent amount of GHGs from the atmosphere (e.g. growing trees that take CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere).

## Carbon neutral



An activity or organisation that has no net emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> by reducing or offsetting or a combination of both.

## Net zero



The condition in which emissions of GHGs to the atmosphere are balanced by removals of GHGs from it – this is different to 'carbon neutral' as it covers all GHGs and is on a global scale.

## Renewable energy



Energy that comes from natural sources and processes that are constantly replenished e.g. solar, wind, hydro, tidal, geothermal and biomass energy.

## Scope 1 emissions



Scope 1 emissions – Direct emissions from owned or controlled sources (fuels such as natural gas, diesel, LPG, gas oil).

## Scope 2 emissions



Scope 2 emissions – Emissions from purchased electricity, heat, and steam.

## Scope 3 emissions



Scope 3 emissions – Indirect 'upstream' and 'downstream' emissions that are a consequence of the company's activities, but occur from sources not owned or controlled by them.