

RSB's Climate and Nature Strategy

Climate Change, as a result of global greenhouse gas emissions, poses an unprecedented global threat. Failure to reach Net Zero in an appropriate time-period, based on current expert projections, will lead to disastrous environmental, social and economic consequences for the UK and the wider world. Coupled with the issues of biodiversity loss and pollution by chemicals and other wastes, the world is facing unprecedented challenges. Urgent action is needed on international, national and local scales. It is important that everyone and every business plays a role in reducing our carbon footprint. Coupled with this, we must reduce, and where possible reverse, our negative impact on nature and the wider environment in which we live. Our society depends on a healthy planet to survive – there is no alternative. Changing to a Net Zero and nature positive society also presents a wide range of economic and developmental opportunities - for the science sector, the wider UK economy, and beyond. Biologists are at the heart of this; supporting and engaging them, alongside the wider public, is vital in facilitating positive change.

The Royal Society of Biology recognises its environmental and societal responsibilities, and as a unifying voice for biology, we are committed to:

- becoming a carbon neutral and nature positive organisation, through quick and sustainable actions, in a way that will provide long-term benefit to the environment, biodiversity and people of our planet.
- helping both our individual and organisational members to reduce their respective carbon footprints and negative impact on nature, with flexibility and recognition of community and organisational differences.
- advocating for evidence-based government policies that address environmental sustainability challenges. RSB will continue to lead in convening, championing and synthesising bioscience expertise and evidence, to provide recommendations to policymakers.

In light of these commitments, the Society aims to:

- become a carbon neutral organisation ahead of national targets, encompassing our [Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions](#), with a plan to consider our Scope 3 emissions as soon as possible thereafter
- reduce our negative impact on nature, in tandem with reducing our carbon footprint
- further reduce our environmental impact from other processes such as resource use and chemicals and waste pollution, including through working towards a zero-waste-to-landfill policy
- undertake a complete review of RSB internal policy to ensure sustainability and minimal environmental impact is embedded throughout
- continue to consider and promote training, research and development in sustainability, and the biologists involved in this. We'll advance these efforts through our professional development work, and [science](#) and [education](#) policy outputs, including consultation responses, and engagement with government ministers, the civil service and Parliament, as well as our members and Member Organisations.
- support our Member Organisations in reducing their own carbon footprints and negative impacts on nature, through information sharing and knowledge exchange
- develop resources that will support and reward our members in both understanding and reducing their carbon footprints and environmental impacts
- be open and transparent about our progress in this sector, communicating with our members about the actions we are taking and our future ambitions.

As this process develops, we will look to update this Climate and Nature Strategy, describing both our progress so far, and the developments we hope to make in the future. We will then continue to share our progress with annual reporting.

We will seek to both communicate with and learn from our Member Organisations and members throughout this process, by providing a space for communication and knowledge exchange, alongside the dissemination of useful resources and media.

The Royal Society of Biology, 1 Naoroji Street, London WC1X 0GB - Tel: +44 (0)20 3925 3440 - www.rsb.org.uk – science.policy@rsb.org.uk