

Sustainability

Alongside animal welfare, we are committed to reducing our environmental impact and contributing to a more sustainable future. This report establishes our baseline, identifies key areas for improvement, and sets out our long-term ambitions for change.



Protecting animals also means protecting the environment they depend on.

Our current position

- 1.** We employ over 70 staff and are supported by more than 300 volunteers, with hybrid working offered where possible to support flexibility and reduce commuting impacts.
- 2.** We operate three vehicles for transporting donations between sites, none of these vehicles are electric.
- 3.** We run eight charity shops across Leicestershire, Rutland and Peterborough, as well as our rehoming centre in Leicester. Whilst none of these operate on renewable energy, our retail operations support sustainability by extending the life of donated goods and reducing waste through a circular economy.

Our carbon baseline

This is our first formal Carbon Reduction Plan, establishing a 2025 baseline. Our total Scope 1 and 2 emissions are 45 tonnes CO₂e, based on UK Government reporting factors.

Breakdown:

- 63% electricity
- 19% mains gas
- 16% diesel
- 2% air conditioning (F-gas)

We will work with the RSPCA Environment and Sustainability team to develop our approach to Scope 3 emissions.

Our Commitments

Scope 3 emissions

These emissions include those not directly produced by the charity but resulting from our wider activities, including:

- 1) **Upstream Activities** - emissions from purchased goods and services, including production, transport and waste
- 2) **Downstream Activities** - emissions linked to the use and disposal of products and services

Our pledge

As part of our journey towards Net Zero, in line with UK Government targets, we have set the following priorities:

- 1) Transition all sites to renewable energy by 2029
- 2) Phase out diesel vehicles and replace them with electric alternatives
- 3) Install EV charging at Woodside
- 4) Provide Carbon Literacy training by 2027
- 5) Establish Sustainability Champions by 2027
- 6) Develop Scope 3 measurement from 2027

Engaging our people

Our people will play a vital role in delivering our sustainability ambitions. From small, everyday actions to organisation-wide initiatives, we are committed to embedding sustainability into our culture.

Through the introduction of Sustainability Champions and Carbon Literacy training, we will empower colleagues and volunteers to take an active role in reducing our environmental impact.

Looking ahead

Sustainability will be embedded across our culture, supported by training and Sustainability Champions to empower employees and volunteers to take action.

Future priorities include exploring solar energy, improving insulation and upgrading heating systems to maximise efficiency.



**This is just the beginning but
it's a crucial step towards
lasting change.**