

Environmental Sustainability Commitment

October 2022



Hospitality has a proud history of sustainable practices, which have accelerated in recent years.

Across the sector, businesses are viewing sustainability as a key priority, as we enter a crucial phase in dealing with the climate crisis.

UKH's Commitment to tackling this challenge is set out in a series of pledges outlining how we intend to support businesses in our sector on their journey to reach net-zero by 2040.

The external landscape

Across the hospitality sector, various initiatives have been established to address the scope of the sustainability agenda. To ensure synergy, and to avoid duplication of work within the Commitment and pledges, UKHospitality will be continuing to work closely with the respective groups and organisations across the workstreams.

At Governmental level, we will work through the Hospitality Sector Council's Sustainability Committee.

UKH provides the secretariat for the Committee and the Waste sub-group. This will ensure a joined-up approach and delegation of work, with the separate entities well positioned to progress their respective workstreams.

Overall, much of the work within the Commitment is cross-sector, collaborating with other organisations to bring a unified voice to sustainability across hospitality.



Sector Commitment

The UK's hospitality sector has developed a series of action areas to support its move to being a leading sustainable industry. The areas set out below reflect the workstreams on which UKHospitality is focusing its efforts: packaging, supply chain, biodiversity and skills. These targets have been developed by UKHospitality, in addition to being taken from the sector roadmap to net-zero, and alignment with WRAP and the devolved nations. The targets have been set out in the Annex.

The sector has developed several Commitments to ensure that the hospitality industry is aligned on the path to sustainability. To support the delivery of the targets, UKHospitality has developed ten sustainability pledges:

UKH environmental sustainability pledges

1. Deliver on 2040 net-zero aims for the sector
2. Roll out the UKH Environmental Sustainability Guide to members focusing on providing SMEs with tips, templates and best practice resources
3. Eliminate unnecessary single-use packaging by 2025
4. Reduce food waste by 50% by 2030
5. Incorporate sustainability skills in relevant training courses and promote the appointment of site-based sustainability champions
6. Support the Government's sustainability agenda across the Hospitality Sector Council, Food Strategy and Tourism Recovery Plan
7. Promote sign-up to the Courtauld Commitment and Plastics Pact
8. Facilitate engagement across supply chains to reduce environmental impacts
9. Promote the roll out of EV charging points across the sector
10. Work with the Hospitality Sector Council to align industry objectives and share best practice amongst businesses

Delivery of the pledges

➔ 1. Deliver on 2040 net-zero aims for the sector

The Zero Carbon Forum (ZCF) [Roadmap](#) provides a comprehensive outline for hospitality businesses to follow to ensure they can achieve the ambitious 2040 net-zero target. Achieving this goal is reliant on a focus on the supply chain, which can amount to 80% to 90% of emissions.

A vast number of sector businesses have pledged their ambition to deliver on the 2040 net-zero aims, and businesses will measure their progress to ensure they are on track to achieve the net-zero aim.

Ahead of the 2040 target, signatories of the roadmap are on target to eliminate all operational emissions by 2030, with interim targets in 2022, 2025 and 2028. Businesses can follow in detail the various aspects within each milestone, creating a clear path to follow.

The sector's roadmap to net-zero by 2040 additionally ensures that hospitality businesses can play their part in delivering the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7.2, to increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

Net-zero Targets

Area	Goal	Date
Net-zero	1a. Achieve net-zero for scope 1 and 2 emissions	2030
	1b. Achieve net-zero for scope 3 emissions	2040

➔ 2. Roll out the UKH Environmental Sustainability Guide to members focusing on providing SMEs with tips, templates and best practice resources

Alongside the UKH Sustainability Commitment, we will publish a flagship Sustainability Guide in October 2022, aimed at providing tips, templates and best practice resources to SMEs on how to become more sustainable in a simple and cost-effective manner.

The templates include a packaging audit, and supplier mapping template, for example, which will be easily accessible for businesses to use. The impact of the Guide will be measured through discussions with SME members in the UKH Sustainability Expert Group.

→ 3. Eliminate unnecessary single-use packaging by 2025

Identifying single-use plastics that can be eliminated will help to limit overall waste. Legislation on the single-use plastics ban came into effect in Scotland on 1st June 2022, and new policy proposals are estimated to be implemented in England from April

2023. Reduce unnecessary single-use packaging by setting three interim targets in 2022, 2023 and 2024, to reach 100% elimination by 2025.

[Aligning with action 2e](#)



We will publish a flagship Sustainability Guide in October 2022, aimed at providing tips, templates and best practice resources to SMEs

→ 4. Reduce food waste by 50% by 2030



To deliver against UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12.3, businesses must achieve a 50% per capita reduction in food waste by 2030. This would equate to businesses reducing food waste by around 6% on an annual basis. To understand what this looks like, businesses will be recommended to use [WRAP's food waste calculator](#), allowing businesses to determine the amount of food waste they produce and take steps to reduce it.

[Aligning with action 2f](#)



→ 5. Incorporate sustainability skills in relevant training courses and promote the appointment of site-based sustainability champions

The UKH Commitment recognises that each pledge will only be achievable with the sector's workforce delivering the goals every day. Therefore, a skills component is fundamental to ensure that businesses can engage their teams and get them on board to deliver the vital change.

Apprenticeship standards, T-levels and other sector qualifications should embed sustainability learning within them.

[Aligning with the Skills targets](#)

→ 6. Support the Government's sustainability agenda across the Hospitality Sector Council, Food Strategy and Tourism Recovery Plan

The Sustainability Committee of the Hospitality Sector Council was established to deliver not only the three environmental targets within the Government's [Hospitality Strategy](#), but also to ensure a joined up approach across the sector within the sustainability scope. As referenced within the Commitment, UKH plays a supportive role in both groups, and provides strategic input.

Released in June 2022, the Government's Food Strategy sets out the Government's ambition to

deliver a resilient agri-food sector. UKH will continue to represent the sector through the Food and Drink Sector Council and ensure that the needs of the industry are prioritised at high level decision making.

Finally, the Tourism Recovery Plan frequently references the need to ensure the sector contributes to the enhancement and conservation of the UK's environment. Sharing best practice will be a key asset to deliver this ambition.

→ 7. Promote sign-up to the Courtauld Commitment and Plastics Pact

Businesses across the food chain, including many within hospitality, are signatories to the UK Plastics Pact, bringing members to the forefront of generating fundamental change in the way we design, produce, use, re-use, dispose and reprocess plastics. UKH works closely with WRAP, promoting both pledges and will continue to amplify their work, and the tools available, identifying where businesses need support to ensure every business is able to get behind such initiatives.

The target will be to ensure that every UKH member is signposted to sign up to the Courtauld Commitment and [Plastics Pact](#) by 2023. Signing up to the Courtauld Commitment, aligns businesses with the overall target that by 2030, 50% of fresh food is sourced from areas with sustainable water management.

[Aligning with the Waste Targets](#)

→ 8. Facilitate engagement across supply chains to reduce environmental impacts



To deliver this Commitment, there are various workstreams to ensure businesses receive support in tackling their supply chain emissions and overall environmental impact. Firstly, a section of UKH's Guide has been devoted to providing SMEs with support on how to approach the conversations with suppliers, the forms to share and the right questions businesses should ask their suppliers and the expectations. These resources have been developed to simplify the process for SMEs within the sector, comprising 70% of businesses.

Secondly, as referenced within the first Commitment, the sector is also collaborating under the ZCF to deliver net-zero by 2040 within the supply chains, aligning with the Commitment's net-zero and supply chain targets.

Broader waste issues are covered within the Guide and will also include collaboration with groups such as WRAP who are already working within this space.

➔ 9. Promote the roll out of EV charging points across the sector

UKH has already begun discussions with organisations operating within this space and will continue to work closely with Government to promote the demand and convenience for both operators and consumers of delivering EV charging points in hospitality venues across the nation. More specifically, this involves collaboration with the UK automotive industry to present a strong case to Government. This will also include securing grants and funding for the sector to roll out the charging points.

The first target is to provide the sector with an understanding of how they can go about installing EV charging points, including access to finance and best practice.



➔ 10. Work with the Hospitality Sector Council to align industry objectives and share best practice amongst businesses

UKH will continue to work with the Hospitality Sector Council to ensure that the entirety of the sector is aligned on the path to sustainability. This will include aligning the various sector targets that have been established by the trade bodies and organisations

within the industry, to set out clear ambitions for businesses to work towards. To further support businesses, UKH will also support the Council to gather and share best practice across the sector.



UKH will continue to work with the Hospitality Sector Council to ensure that the entirety of the sector is aligned on the path to sustainability.



Governance and reporting

UKH's Sustainability Expert Group will be the driving force behind the Commitment and ensure the various workstreams continue to be developed with the appropriate organisations. The Group will also facilitate the conversations for businesses to discuss their progress with the targets, such as reducing food waste and eliminating single-use plastics.

Whilst a large portion of this work will be delivered through external organisations Commitments such as WRAP's Courtauld Commitment, UKH

will continue to provide businesses with updated resources and ensuring that businesses are aligned with the Government's agenda within the various sustainability related issues.

The Commitment will be revisited within member meetings, occurring quarterly, and an overhaul of target achievements will be assessed on an annual basis, allowing for the addition of amendments depending on the Government's legislative agenda.

Stakeholder engagement

The Commitment will only be deliverable by engaging with the stakeholders within this puzzle, including suppliers, operators, sustainability organisations, trade associations, Government departments and officials. UKH will continue the frequent communication between the stakeholders identified by ensuring a robust approach.

Ongoing work and discussions have shown that key stakeholders within the sector recognise the importance of delivering a joined-up approach, and UKH will continue to facilitate discussions and the tools to ensure the sector is able to deliver on the Commitment and being a leading sector in the sustainability landscape.

Annex

To assist businesses on their sustainability journey we have set out a number of steps that they can take to make improvements to their environmental performance.

Area	Goal	Date
Waste	2a. Work with suppliers to design packaging for recyclability e.g. compostable and biodegradable packaging	2023
	2b. 100% of plastic packaging to be reusable, recyclable or compostable	2025
	2c. Work with suppliers to conduct life cycle analysis on all packaging	2025
	2d. Sign up to the UK Plastics Pact	2023
	2e. Eliminate unnecessary single-use packaging	2025
	2f. Businesses to achieve 50% reduction in food waste	2030
Supply Chain	3a. Work with suppliers to identify GHG reduction and removal opportunities	2023
	3b. Develop a supplier engagement programme	2023
	3c. Engage suppliers to source low carbon food alternatives for menus	2023
Skills	4a. Appoint multiple sustainability champions across the business and each outlet	2023
	4b. Adopt a sustainability plan within your business, using UKH template	2023
	4c. Ensure that all employees have completed WRAP's 15-minute course on food waste	2023
Biodiversity	5a. Review of menus, to incorporate more locally produced goods, plant dishes and meet MSC, free range standards.	2023
	5b. Work with your supply chain to ensure goods are responsibly sourced, protecting and enhancing biodiversity	2023

Looking Ahead

In summary, the Commitment aims to provide guidance and hard targets to deliver sustainable businesses within our sector, outlining the work that UKH will be undertaking to support hospitality businesses across the country.

Whilst the ongoing work of UKH's Sustainability Expert Group will lead on delivering the Commitment, collaboration with bodies across the sector will be crucial to ensuring that every business is equipped to fulfil their sustainability ambitions.





About UKH

Prior to COVID-19 the hospitality sector employed 3.2 million people, representing 10% of all employment, 6% of businesses and 5% of GDP. UKHospitality, UKHospitality Scotland and UKHospitality Cymru are the unified voice for the sector, and seek to unlock the industry's full potential as one of the biggest engines for growth in the economy, and to ensure that the industry's needs are effectively represented by engaging with Governments, the media, employees and customers.

Our key priorities are the revival of a sector hardest hit by COVID-19, safeguarding the future workforce of the sector, tackling the excessive tax burden the sector faces and ensuring that regulation on business is proportionate.

UKHospitality has a diverse membership, including pubs, restaurants, contract catering, hotels, holiday parks, coffee shops, food-to-go, leisure, wedding venues, visitor attractions, night clubs, membership clubs, industry suppliers and much more.

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