A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a black Optima pen, drawing on a technical blueprint. The blueprint shows various lines and diagrams. In the background, another person is partially visible, looking at the work. The image is overlaid with a dark grey diagonal shape.

# Our journey to Net Zero Carbon

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Strategy 2021

**Optima**

# Contents

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- Introduction
- Best practice
- Carbon footprint
- Next steps
- Pathway to Net Zero
- Glossary/terms



# Introduction

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At the historic 2015 Paris Agreement, 196 nations from around the world committed to undertake actions to limit global warming to an increase of 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels. This landmark, legally binding agreement marked the first time nations united for a common cause to fight climate change.

Since then, based on robust scientific evidence, individual nations, industry groups and organisations have identified the pressing need to go further than the Paris limit and drive down emissions to limit average global temperature rise to 1.5°C. In response to this, the UK has set a legally binding Net Zero Carbon emissions target for 2050, based on 1990 levels, through the Climate Change Act.

This 100% emissions reduction would fully meet the UK's obligations under the Paris Agreement. The construction sector has been shown to produce a significant proportion of the UK's greenhouse gases through energy use and the embodied carbon of materials used. Consequently, action in this industry is paramount to the success of the UK in meeting this ambitious but critical target.

In line with this objective, we have set the following related targets:

- **Optima Contracting and Optima Installations to: Be operationally Net Zero Carbon (Scope 1 & 2) by 2030**
- **Optima Products to: Be operationally Net Zero Carbon (Scope 1 & 2) by 2035**

Absolute emissions will need to be reduced to near zero before residual, unavoidable, emissions are offset externally using robust and verifiable schemes to reach Net Zero Carbon. In committing to these targets, we acknowledge that bold actions must be undertaken with urgency and clear leadership.

Success in achieving our targets will bring benefits for the business, opening up new market opportunities as well as efficiency gains, and will contribute to the overall success of the UK in meeting the climate goals.

# Best practice

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In the interest of standardisation and efficiency, we wish to utilise existing best practice guidance and published initiatives. We aim to develop robust and reliable mechanisms for collecting, processing and reporting data.

We will also seek and investigate opportunities for joining others within our industry in agendas, networks and commitments relevant to our individual and common goals.

“The climate change crisis has brought into sharp focus the responsibility on us all to reduce the impact our actions have on the environment.

Achieving the challenge of operational Net Zero Carbon emissions across our business is crucial, and through collaboration and innovation with stakeholders, and the wider construction industry, we will make environmental improvements for the benefit of everyone”

Nick Caley, Group CEO



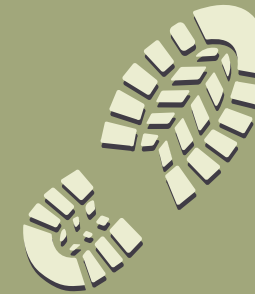
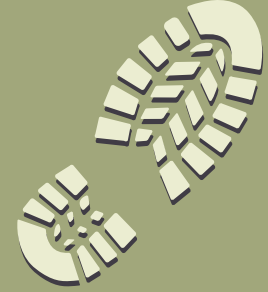
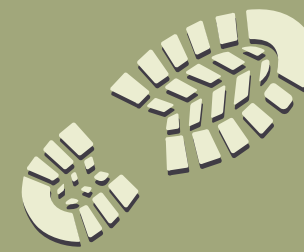
# Carbon footprint

A baseline Carbon Footprint has not yet been established due to partial availability of Scope 1 and 2 emissions data. Priority work shall be undertaken to obtain the missing data and calculate our operational carbon footprint.

We use natural gas (Scope 1 emissions) during product manufacture. Currently a sustainable replacement for natural gas in industrial manufacturing is not mainstream. Future options include Hydrogen however the infrastructure does not currently exist. At this time, therefore, no alternative low-carbon fuel is available to replace significant gas usage during product manufacture.

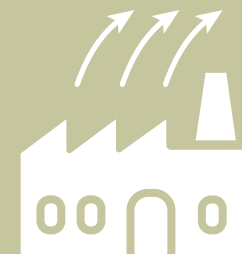
We recognize we are not yet in a position to monitor our full Scope 3 emissions; however we are committed to continually exploring our wider Scope 3 emissions and will work to include an increasing number of identified emissions along our journey. As we develop mechanisms to record these emissions we shall include them in our reporting to Net Zero and strengthen our quantified Carbon Footprint.

Our Pathway includes actions to establish robust data collection for all Scope 1 and 2 emissions and introduce Scope 3 emission monitoring as capability improves.



## Scope 1

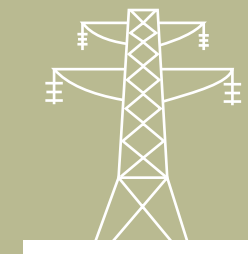
All direct emissions from the activities of an organisation or under their control



e.g. mains gas

## Scope 2

Indirect emissions from the production of energy used by the organisation



e.g. purchased electricity

## Scope 3

All other indirect emissions from assets not controlled by the organization



e.g. business travel

# Next steps

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Our first steps to Net Zero Carbon are to review and adopt the standards we wish to use to define and measure our initial emissions baseline; and robustly complete our Scope 1 and 2 emissions data collection.

Mechanisms to monitor, review and publicly report emissions analysis are then to be developed prior to creation of reduction measures and offset opportunities.

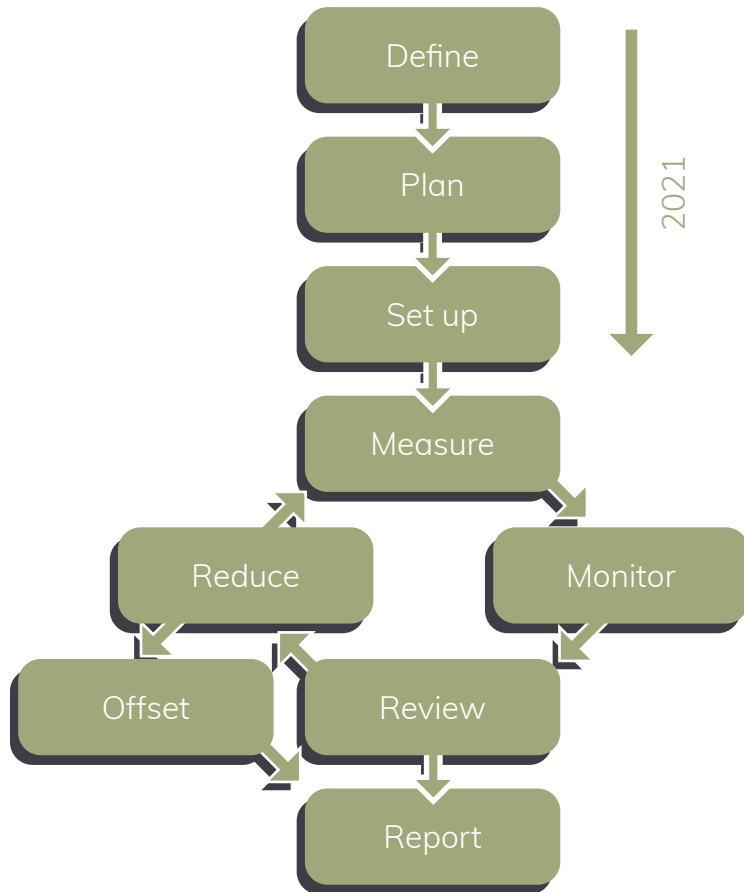
This strategy shall be reviewed and updated every three years, in 2024 and 2027. These reviews shall include consideration of selected Scope 3 emissions to be included in our reporting.

Initial upstream Scope 3 emissions to be considered for addition within emissions boundary include business travel and employee commuting.

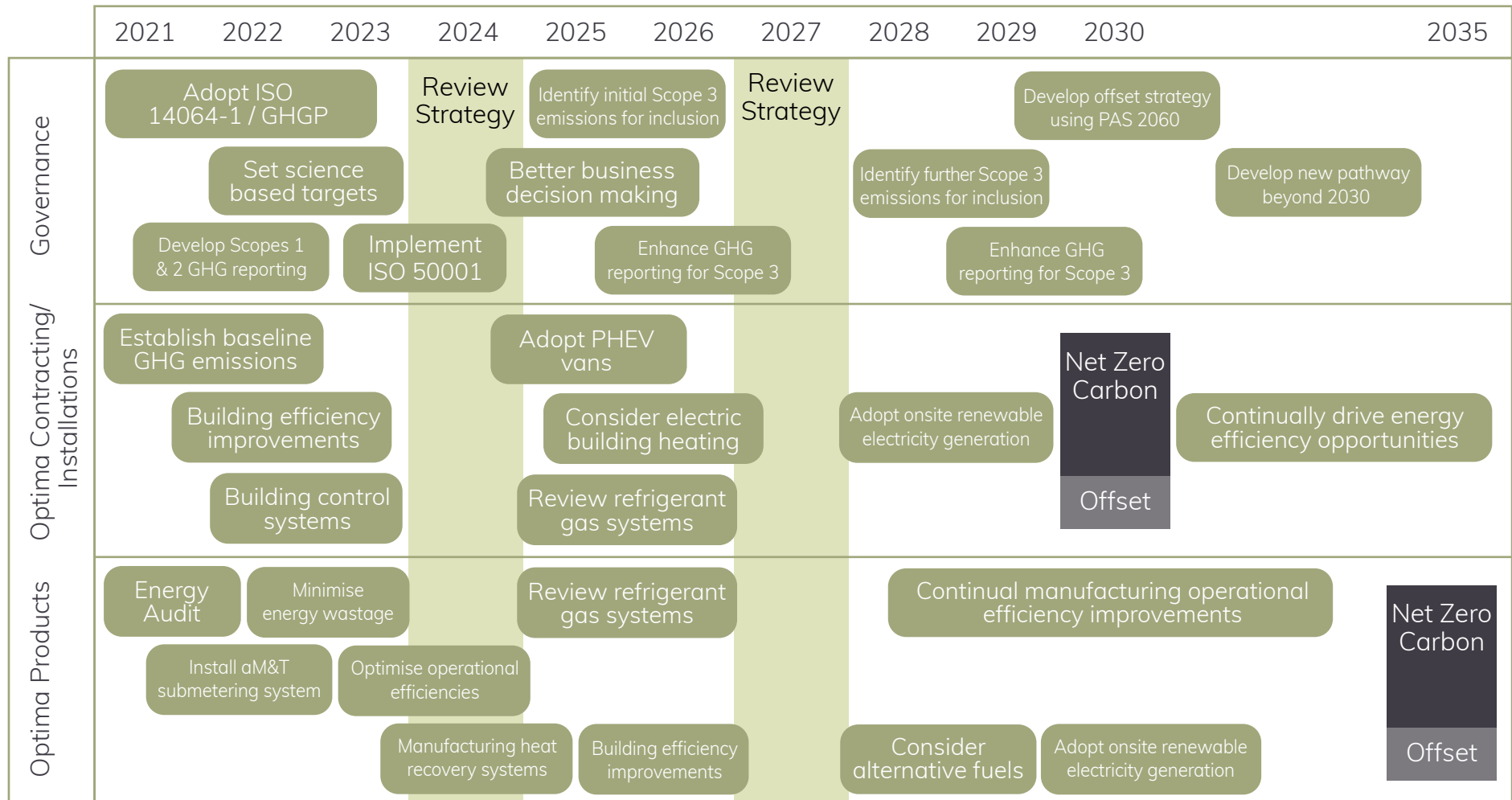


# Next steps

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# Pathway to Net Zero





# Glossary/terms

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## The Optima Group of companies in the UK consists of:

**Optima Contracting Limited (OCL):** with offices in High Wycombe, Manchester and Aberdeen. Some staff are home based.

**Optima Products Limited (OPL):** manufacturing facility based at Radstock producing glazed doors and powder-coated metal profiles for delivery to project sites. Supplier to OCL.

**Optima Installations Limited (OIL):** the side of the business providing the manual labour to install the OPL and other suppliers' products operating as a sub-contractor to OCL. Based out of the OCL office in High Wycombe but staff are primarily based on project sites.

This NZC Strategy initially considers Optima Contracting and Optima Products separately, but in parallel and inter-connected. Partner businesses, dealerships and other subcontractors are deemed out of scope at this time.

Only the UK operations of the Optima Group are considered as part of this strategy. Optima's international operations - Optima Products Asia (OPA) and Optima Partitions LLC and other subsidiaries are excluded. These may be a focus for future strategic expansion.

**aM&T - Automatic Monitoring & Targeting** | utility sub-metering system typically operating on half-hourly automatic readings used to measure, record, analyse and report energy usage. It enables organisations to pinpoint and target energy wastage; identify ways to reduce usage; and highlight unusual usage patterns.

**Carbon Dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2e</sub>)** | unit of measurement describing the amount of greenhouse gases normalised into the Global Warming Potential of Carbon Dioxide, when measured over a 100-year timescale.

**Downstream emissions** | emissions occurring in the lifecycle of a material/product after sale. Including: storage, transportation and distribution of sold products; processing of sold products; use of sold products; end-of-life treatment of sold products (disposal of waste); waste to landfill; leased assets; franchises; investments (equity; debt; project finance; managed investments and client services).

**Greenhouse Gas (GHG)** | gases that contribute to climate change through helping to trap heat within the earth's atmosphere. Principle GHGs are CO<sub>2</sub> (Carbon Dioxide), CH<sub>4</sub> (methane), N<sub>2</sub>O (Nitrous Oxide), HFCs (Hydrofluorocarbons), PFCs (Perfluorocarbons), SF<sub>6</sub> (Sulphur Hexafluoride), NF<sub>3</sub> (Nitrogen Trifluoride). Each has a different Global Warming Potential (GWP). Collectively measured in a normalised Carbon Dioxide equivalent unit.

**Greenhouse Gas Protocol** | product Standard to measure greenhouse gases. Similar to ISO 14064-1.

**ISO 14064-1:2018** | specification and guidance for quantification and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions and removals at the organisational level. Often used as a precursor to PAS 2060. Similar to the Greenhouse Gas Protocol.

# Glossary/terms

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**ISO 50001:2018** | the international standard for Energy Management. This provides a practical way to improve energy use and can be integrated into other ISO Management Systems such as 9001 (Quality) and 14001 (Environmental).

**Life Cycle Analysis** | systematic analysis of environmental impact of products or services across their supply-chain during their lifecycle from cradle-to-grave.

**Net Zero Carbon** | balancing the amount of emitted greenhouse gases with equivalent emissions either offset or sequestered.

**Offsetting** | the act of purchasing Carbon credits on projects that remove or prevent equivalent amounts of greenhouse gases being emitted. All offsets must be retired for the purchaser to claim the carbon removals.

**PAS 2060:2014** | British Specification for the demonstration of carbon neutrality of business activities, products, services, buildings, projects and events. Often used following the measurement of emissions using ISO 14064-1.

**Scope 1 emissions** | direct emissions from the activities of an organisation or under their control. Including: stationary combustion - combustion of fuels and heating sources used in company facilities and on-site (boilers, furnaces); mobile combustion - vehicles owned or controlled by organisation burning fuel to transport materials, products, waste and employees; fugitive emissions - leaks from refrigeration and air conditioning units; process emissions - released during industrial processes and on-site manufacturing and waste processing.

**Scope 2 emissions** | indirect emissions created during the production of the energy eventually used by the organisation. Including: purchased electricity; heat/ cooling; steam; electric vehicles owned by the organisation.

**Scope 3 emissions** | all other indirect emissions from activities of the organisation occurring from sources in the organisation's value chain that they do not own or control. These are usually the greatest share of the carbon footprint, covering emissions associated with business travel, procurement, waste and water. Including Upstream and Downstream emissions.

**Upstream emissions** | (cradle to gate) emissions originating from goods and services purchased. Including: leased assets; employee commuting; employee homeworking; business travel (including business travel in private vehicles); waste from operations; transportation of purchased materials or goods and distribution (warehousing); fuel and energy related activities (not included in Scope 1 or 2); electricity grid network losses (Transmission & Distribution); outsourced activities (sub-contractors); capital goods; Production related goods and services: materials, components, parts; non-production related goods and services: furniture, IT, stationary.

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