

The SLIM Woodlands C.I.C.: Climate & Biodiversity Emergencies Action Pledge

Updated: 11.04.2024

Introduction From the Company Director

The Company (The SLIM Woodlands C.I.C) is a Community Incorporated Company (Company Registration Number 11565082 England and Wales) operating since September 2018.

The Company is a specialist woodland assessment and management planning consultancy and a small social and environmental enterprise. The Company is based in Gloucestershire but working nationally in Great Britain.

With an emphasis on small private land holdings, the Company:

- Provides development planning services for woodlands and agriculture land;
- Provides woodland assessment and management planning services;
- Undertakes practical woodland management work;
- Undertakes woodland studies and research;
- Runs woodland training courses.

Our Director Graham Morgan has a proven track record of advocating passionately for high standards of practice in environmental management and environmental responsibility. He is a Chartered Environmental Scientist and Full Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management and has been for 15 years. He is also an Associate Member of the Institute of Chartered Foresters.

Graham was also the Chair of CIEEM's¹ England Policy Working Group (2018-2020). During his tenure he:

- Helped inaugurate the [All-party Parliamentary Group for Nature](#) at the House of Commons in July 2019;
- Co-authored two Natural Capital guidance documents for [policy makers](#) and for [practitioners](#) in July 2019;
- Co-authored [CIEEM's Climate & Biodiversity Emergency Declaration](#), in September 2019 which laid the foundation for CIEEM's Action 2030 Working Group.

Graham founded the Company to extend this legacy, and our pledge as a responsible Company is below.

Since April 2022, Graham has also personally pledged to deliver these outcomes through his membership of **CIEEM's Action 2030 pledge**.

¹ The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management

The SLIM Woodlands CIC signed up to the **Forestry & Climate Change Adaptation Accord** in 2022 by the Forestry and Climate Change Partnership. See [here](#).

We will review this Policy on at least a 12 month basis and update if necessary.

Graham Morgan
Director, The SLIM Woodlands CIC

Our Pledge

We are committed to doing our bit to help address the climate and biodiversity emergencies both through the work we are involved with (the type of clients and stakeholders we work with and the type of projects we undertake), and through our day-to-day business operations in running the company (including the type of suppliers we receive goods and services from). We are committed to demonstrating tangible action and leadership on this issue and inspiring others to do the same.

We will:

1. In 2022, record a baseline carbon footprint. *Completed 12 July 2022*
2. By April 2023, develop a Carbon Reduction and Offsetting Plan to reach net zero by 2030. *In progress*
3. Calculate carbon footprint on an annual basis. *On hold until Step 2 completed*
4. Increase the number of existing small woodlands that are under favourable management; thereby increasing woodland resilience, woodland condition, biodiversity and delivering a range of other ecosystem service benefits. To demonstrate this, we will record on an annual basis:
 - a) the number of hectares of woodland that we have helped move into favourable management;
 - b) record the number of Forestry Commission-approved Woodland Management Plans and/or felling/thinning licence that we have helped to obtain for woodland owners/managers;
 - c) record the positive change in ecosystem service benefits provided using a simple natural capital approach/environmental net gain approach.
5. Review progress against this Policy on at least a 12-month basis and publicly publish our updates in this Policy and through our media channels. *In progress*
6. Continue to sign up to and promote climate pledges for our sector and business operations such as **CIEEM's Action 2030 pledge** and the **Forestry & Climate Change Adaptation Accord**.

July 2022 Update

The SLIM Woodlands CIC:

- Already operates a company bank account with The Co-Operative bank, who states it has been 'beyond carbon neutral' since 2007² (and which is also recognised for its broader strong ethical stance on socio-economic issues);
- Already utilises Ecohosting to host our website and domain. Ecohosting states that it is the 'original green UK webhost' (the first of its kind) and is currently a carbon neutral webhosting company, whose data centres and offices are powered by renewable energy³. Its data centre servers are cooled using 'cold aisle containment' and 'free cooling' methods⁴.
- Already undertakes office work in a building supplied with 100% renewable electricity from Ecotricity, as well as generating on site with solar panels.

Taking advice from the Federation of Small Business webpage⁵, The SLIM Woodlands CIC has opted to use the free 'Basic – Micro Business Version' calculator tool by Carbon Footprint to calculate a baseline estimate for its typical annual operational carbon emissions⁶. This was undertaken on 12 July 2022 based on the period 28 June 2021 to 12 June 2022 inclusive. The estimated results are as follows:

- Buildings: 0.5 tCO₂e per annum for office work;
- Travel: 1.9 tCO₂e per annum (6793 miles in a diesel vehicle operating at an estimated 177g/Km based on published data from the vehicle manufacturer)
- Vehicle Fuel: 1.6 tCO₂e per annum (612.1 litres based on 6793 miles operating at an estimated efficiency of 42mpg based on published data from the vehicle manufacturer)
- **Total: 4.1 tCO₂e per annum**

We recognise the simplicity and limitations of the tool used (for example it doesn't capture emission from our suppliers), but we feel it is a reliable starting point for our purposes.

Our biggest challenge remains how to address the emissions from vehicular travel using diesel fuel, for example travelling to/from site to undertake survey work or felling work, or to deliver wood products to clients. As a small business, we cannot afford to purchase a new electric or hydrogen van/pickup vehicle, and because such technology is new to the market, there is minimal availability of second-hand versions to buy. Given the challenging terrain and environment of forestry work we are nervous about leasing such a vehicle on hire purchase.

Now we have a baseline estimate for our carbon emissions we can begin working on a Carbon Reduction and Offsetting Plan over the next 6 - 8 months.

² <https://www.co-operativebank.co.uk/values-and-ethics/planet/sustainability/>

³ <https://www.ecohosting.co.uk/>

⁴ <https://www.ecohosting.co.uk/green-datacentres.html>

⁵ See: <https://www.fsb.org.uk/resources-page/how-to-calculate-your-carbon-footprint-as-a-small-business.html>

⁶ https://www.carbonfootprint.com/small_business_calculator.html

Nonetheless we will remain open to clear, lasting, and robust opportunities that can reduce our operational emissions if such opportunities occur before this work is completed.

April 2024 update

We acknowledge progress has been slow deriving and implementing a reduction and offset plan, and publishing metrics of performance. But in challenging trading conditions during a cost of living crisis, we have had to focus on restructuring the Company's business operations to focus on maintaining the viability of the business. We hope to refocus our efforts on this soon.

Nonetheless, we have reduced our annual travel mileage through changing our business operations and expect to see a reduction in emissions due to reduction in work miles travelled when recalculated.

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