



# Net Zero Carbon Events

Our pathway to 2040

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# Message

## From Our CEO

RX is proud to be a founding member of the Net Zero Carbon Events pledge, a global collaboration which was launched by the events industry in November 2021 at COP 26 in Glasgow to address the urgent need to limit global warming beyond 1.5 degrees. This pledge commits all signatories to reach net zero by 2050 at the latest and to halve greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. In fact, RELX, our parent company, has made it a priority to reduce its environmental footprint and in 2021 signed up to The Climate Pledge which commits us to reach net zero no later than 2040.

The Net Zero Carbon Events (NZCE) initiative focuses on the emissions associated with the complete life cycle of events from the energy used, to the production of stands, signage, carpet, food and associated waste, logistics and travel. While our immediate challenge is to measure these emissions, our roadmap sets out the milestones we are putting in place to ensure we reduce our emissions to net zero no later than 2040.

The goal of RX events will always be to help businesses build their business. Our events bring everyone together at one time, providing amazing efficiencies. Where else do you get that kind of opportunity?

Working with our partners, venues and stakeholders, it's essential we take a united approach to reach our net zero goals, and we are already seeing great progress with a 47% reduction in Scope 1 and Scope 2 location-based emissions since 2018 - it's going to take hard work and teamwork across our industry, but we are ready!



Hugh Jones, CEO



# Introduction

RX owns and organises exhibitions and events around the world, creating jobs, supporting local economies and helping to build diverse and sustainable businesses of all sizes. We are mindful of the environmental impact our business has, which is why we are focusing on reducing carbon emissions and minimising waste at our shows.

In November 2022, the Net Zero Carbon Events initiative published a roadmap for the events industry. It provides a common framework for all key actors – organisers, venues and general service contractors – to reduce carbon emissions from their value chain and, while it does not establish clear Scope 3 reporting boundaries for each event stakeholder, it does establish data collection responsibilities.

Guided by this industry Net Zero Carbon Events initiative, our roadmap covers how we structure sustainability at RX, our scope 1 and 2 data, and the milestones we are putting in place for reductions in our Scope 3 event emissions.



# The Net Zero Carbon Events Pledge

In November 2021, RX became a founding signatory of the Net Zero Carbon Events pledge, which commits us to measure and reduce the carbon emissions associated with the delivery of a show, as follows:



Before the end of 2023, publish our pathway to achieve net zero by 2050 at the latest, with an interim target in line with the Paris Agreement's requirement to reduce global GHG emissions by 50% by 2030.



Collaborate with partners, suppliers and customers to drive change across the value chain.



Measure and track our Scope 1, 2 and 3 GHG emissions according to industry best practice



Report on our progress at least every two years.



RELX signed The Climate Pledge which commits RX to net zero no later than 2040. The Net Zero Carbon Events industry roadmap recommends companies address all three Scopes. RELX, our parent company monitors and reports our Scope 1 and 2 emissions so this document will focus on the event-related Scope 3 emissions regardless of which stakeholder (venue, organiser, general service contractor, etc.) ultimately reports the emissions.

# Alignment With Greenhouse Gas Protocol



According to Science-Based Targets Initiative, net zero is defined as:

Setting corporate net-zero targets aligned with meeting societal climate goals means: (a) reducing Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions to zero or a residual level consistent with reaching net-zero emissions at the global or sector level in eligible 1.5°C scenarios or sector pathways and (b) neutralizing any residual emissions at the net zero target date – and any GHG emissions released into the atmosphere thereafter.

The greenhouse gas (GHG) protocol, which provides an internationally accepted methodology for management and reporting of GHG emissions, has 15 defined Scope 3 categories across an organisation’s upstream and downstream value chain.

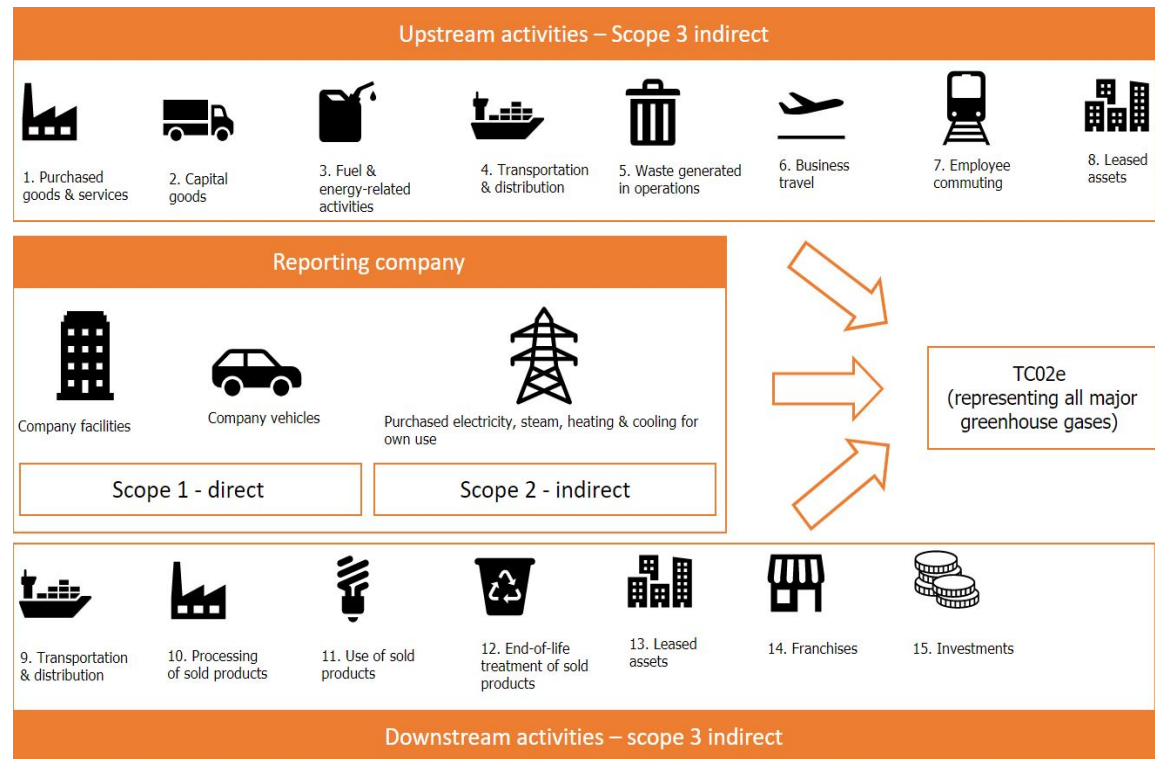







Figure 1: RX interpretation of GHG Protocol scopes and emissions across the value chain

While emissions reporting boundaries amongst stakeholders have not yet been established, as an organiser, we know the majority of our event-related emissions will sit in Scope 3. We have preliminarily aligned these Scope 3 event emissions with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol:

## Carbon Emissions in an Event footprint

Category	Emissions Source	Alignment with GHG protocol
 <b>Venue Energy</b>	Venue power (gas and electricity)	Category 8: Upstream leased assets
 <b>Production and production waste</b>	Things we procure and things our exhibitors procure: embodied carbon in stands, signage, carpets, badging, furniture and associated waste.	Category 1: Purchased goods and services; Category 12: End of life treatment of sold products
 <b>Food and food waste</b>	Carbon footprint of all catering, packaging and associated waste served in the event hall, excluding retail outlets at the venue.	Category 1: Purchased goods and services; Category 12: End of life treatment of sold products
 <b>Logistics</b>	Transporting product to and from venues.	Category 4: Upstream transportation and distribution; Category 9: Downstream transportation and distribution
 <b>Travel and accommodation</b>	Employee transport and accommodation; RX paid-for visitor transport and accommodation.*	Category 6: Business travel <i>Attendee travel does not easily align with GHG protocol categories.</i>

\* Visitor and exhibitor travel currently sits outside of an organiser's Scope 3. However, we are trying to better understand this footprint.

# Scope of the Roadmap

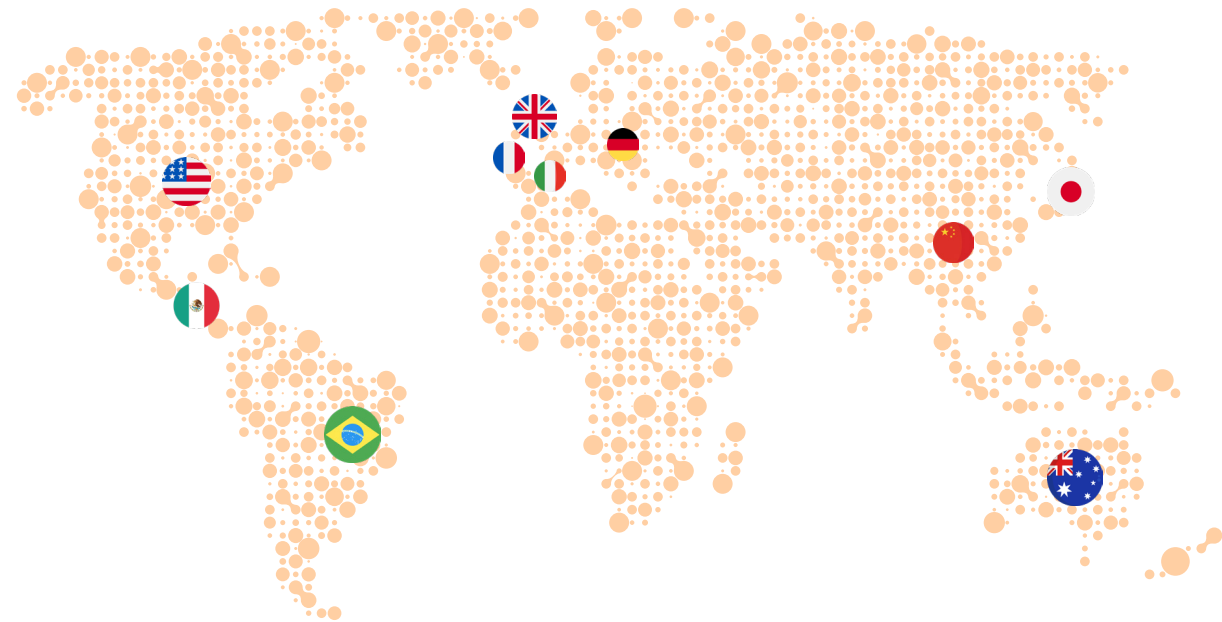
This roadmap will include milestones for all five emissions categories for all RX events. Given the fragmented nature of the event industry value chain, we are prioritising emissions categories where we can have the most meaningful impact.





# The Sustainability Structure at RX

Our net zero goals are a strategic priority at RX. We established a Global Sustainability Council with representatives from each of our business hubs which meets once a month. The Council is sponsored by leaders of the Executive Leadership Team (ELT). The Sustainability Director regularly presents to ELT sponsors and key stakeholders at RELX.



The Sustainability Council is responsible for supporting our sustainability strategy.

	Measure	Reduce	Communicate
2022 - 2023 Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy and waste reporting: 56 venues covering 141 events in 2023; 36 venues covering 128 events in 2022.</li> <li>Carbon footprints completed of 10 events.</li> <li>Production material library developed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RX Sustainability playbook launched to all employees.</li> <li>Roadshows engaged 500+ employees.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global Sustainability Council launched in June 2022.</li> <li>Internal sharepoint sites provided to share content within the Council.</li> <li>The Climate Race launched for RX and RELX employees.</li> </ul>
2024 Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement an accurate and consistent measurement and reporting system (carbon model) and align with RELX and RX reporting.</li> <li>Improve and expand energy, waste and production data collection, prioritising events at top 30 venues.</li> <li>Establish clear event-related scope 3 reporting boundaries and baseline; prepare to externally report event-related emissions and align with RELX.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publish Net Zero Carbon Events Roadmap (delayed from 2023)</li> <li>Roll-out emission reduction goals in support of the roadmap (sustainability criteria for carpet, signage, marketing materials, feature stands and waste).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal workshops to build engagement in the net zero roadmap and the reduction goals, with a focus on the US and China.</li> <li>Establish internal green teams across the business Hubs.</li> <li>Engagement in industry initiatives through Net Zero Carbon Events and travel consolidation project.</li> </ul>
2025 to 2030 goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish transparent and accessible reporting for each business Hub and key internal stakeholders to access emissions data.</li> <li>Publicly report in 2025 event-related carbon emissions and commit to bi-annual reporting beyond 2025. Explore industry partnerships to help support, improve and streamline data collection e.g. through NZCE.</li> <li>Enhance accuracy and transparency of measuring, monitoring and reporting systems.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish RX sustainability goals, with a focus on production; embed them into Event Value Plans with accurate reporting.</li> <li>Deploy carbon reduction strategies at all top 30 venue events.</li> <li>All events at top 30 venues have agreed and reviewed energy efficiency and waste reduction plans with the venue; zero waste to landfill strategies activated.</li> <li>Develop an offsetting strategy, aligned to RELX.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct customer research to better understand importance and acceptance of sustainability within trade shows.</li> <li>Establish employee education programme, including by collating sustainability case studies and best practice.</li> <li>Establish exhibitor education programme in support of sustainable stand construction.</li> <li>Work with specific event portfolios to expand their sustainability offering to their industries.</li> <li>Map the event portfolio to the SDGs and provide an SDG communication toolkit for events.</li> <li>Publish regular bi-annual sustainability report</li> </ul>
Industry Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RX is an important stakeholder in the Net Zero Carbon Events initiative, participating in the NZCE Board.</li> <li>Continued collaboration with peer organisers on travel consolidation research and industry narrative.</li> <li>Staying abreast of the reporting and regulatory landscape, including Corporate Sustainability Reporting Disclosure, Taskforce on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures and SEC climate risks.</li> </ul>		

# Meet the Net Zero Heroes who are driving sustainability at RX

"I'm motivated by knowing that we are going to have lasting, positive change for our industry and planet. Every day I am inspired by the people I work with – the engagement, the creativity, the adaptability, the innovation. Working together, I am super excited about the impact we will have."

**HELEN SHEPPARD,**  
GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY  
DIRECTOR, UK



"Sustainability has always been very important to me personally and professionally. I cycle to work, I recycle, I rarely use my printer, I am careful about recycling food and clothing. I am very excited about the idea that sustainability is a corporate value. My contribution is to bring the voice of the customers to our Council, talk about their innovative products and observe what our competitors are doing when it comes to sustainability. Last but not least, the value of sustainability is also a selling point to our customers because many companies prefer suppliers who are attentive to this value."

**SIMONA DOMINICI,**  
GLOBAL DIRECTOR OF AGENT SALES, ITALY



"Having a 9-year-old daughter and being in this industry for over 25 years, I want to make a positive impact for our future generations. It is not enough to make amazing events; we need to make sure we minimize the impact to our communities and planet and maintain our leadership in the event industry by being at the forefront of this conversations. Sustainable events are not only about being environmentally savvy, but it is also about adapting ideas for additional revenue streams, minimizing costs, and building a positive reputation for our company. It is about challenging ourselves on how we can reuse, recycle and reduce our footprint in everything we do when connecting businesses."

**HECTOR A MORFIN CHONG,**  
HEAD OF HOUSE & PORTFOLIO  
DIRECTOR, MEXICO

# Meet the Net Zero Heroes who are driving sustainability at RX

"It is personally rewarding to serve on the Sustainability Council for many reasons - not least because, with the future of our planet at stake, it's the right thing to do! As a leader in the event sector RX has a key role to play in driving change through positive action, innovation and influence. RX Australia has been working with a sustainable mindset for a number of years now, developing initiatives that have put us all on the road to change. By coming together as an organisation, and collaborating across our industry, we can make the future for events something we can all be proud of."

**STEPHEN STEENSON,**  
GROUP DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AND  
EVENT PRODUCTION, AUSTRALIA



"Being part of the RX Sustainability Council has been an important opportunity for me to help drive change in the US business through collaboration and best practice sharing with global colleagues. While we certainly have a social responsibility to protect our environment, we also have an obligation to our customers and other key stakeholders whose expectations we must strive to meet. The council offers opportunities to impart measurable wins into the business."

**MIKE GRANT,**  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT  
OPERATIONS, USA

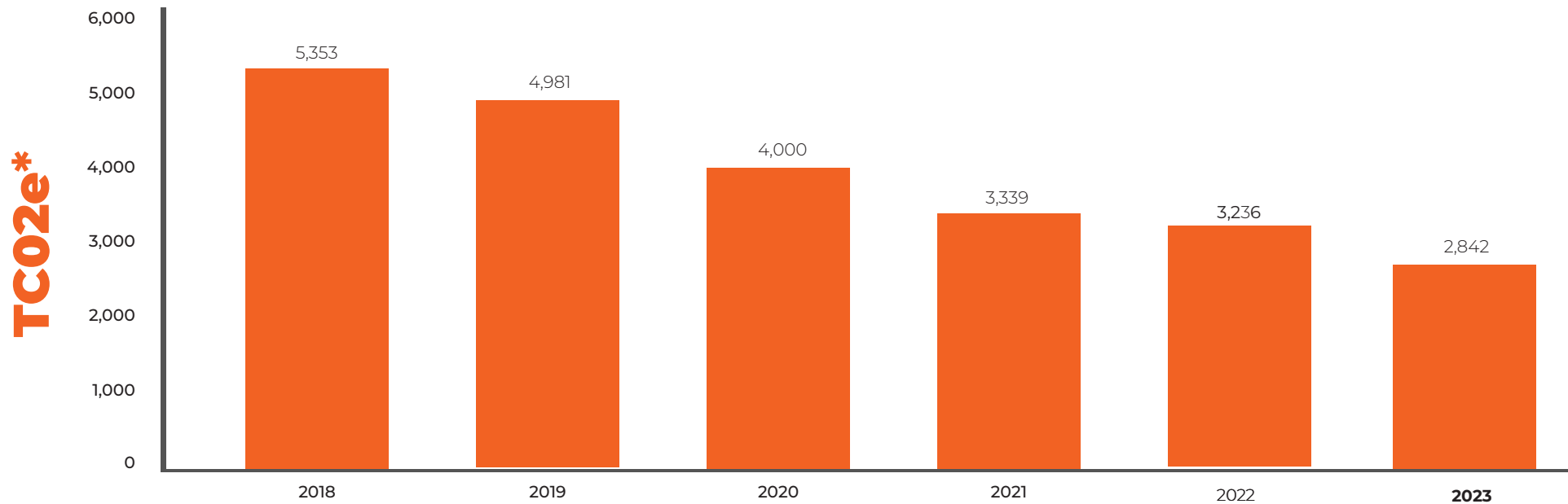


"I've had the pleasure to work within the renewable energy industry for RX since 2010, helping some amazing businesses to build their future whilst also trying to safeguard ours through the decarbonising impact of their ground-breaking solutions. As well as providing them with the best commercial platforms upon which to showcase these solutions, it's now imperative that we match their own sustainable credentials by ensuring our events operate with as low an environmental impact as possible. Tackling climate change requires global collaboration and the council exists to do just that from an RX perspective, a chance to share knowledge, learn quickly and accelerate the required impact across all of our events as one business. It's a real privilege to be involved in this important work."

**JONATHAN HEASTIE,**  
ENERGY PORTFOLIO DIRECTOR, UK

# The current data Scopes 1 and 2

At RX, our Scope 1 and 2 baseline for net zero is 2018, which aligns with RELX. Since 2018 we have already made a 47% reduction in our Scope 1 and Scope 2 location- based emissions.



In addition to scope 1 and 2, RELX reports Scope 3 value chain emissions including business travel data, which covers all air travel booked and collected through our travel partners; home-based employees; employee commuting; cloud computing services; and supply chain emissions.

You can find more information about RELX's environmental reporting here:

<https://www.relx.com/~media/Files/R/RELX-Group/documents/reports/annual-reports/relx-2023-annual-report.pdf#page=34>

\* Tonnes of Carbon Dioxide equivalent is the unit of measurement used to account for greenhouse gases, not just carbon dioxide.

# Event Specific Data Collection

Since May 2022, RX has had an accelerated focus on event-related energy and waste data collection.

We are prioritising information from 30 venues which represent the greatest proportion of revenue, with 29 of these venues currently able to report some data.

At the end of 2023, more than 380 face to face events had reported energy or waste data covering 2019, 2021, 2022 and 2023; almost 50% of all 2023 events had reported some data. We are using this data to estimate our emissions for all events.

We have also conducted carbon footprints of more than 10 events to understand what data is available and to get a fuller picture of emissions categories such as logistics and production.



# Key Milestone in our Net Zero Carbon Event Roadmap

RX events are produced with the support and engagement of a wide variety of stakeholders. Making our events more sustainable therefore relies on more than just the work we do internally; we need the stakeholders we work with to become more sustainable as well.

This roadmap aligns with the industry Net Zero Carbon Events (NZCE) roadmap. There are five action areas cited by NZCE and we have identified current short-term, medium-term and long-term milestones for each of these action areas.

Through our net zero strategy we are focused on carbon reductions, and this will remain our priority. We recognise some event emissions are hard to abate. We aim to develop an offset strategy in 2025 to compensate for emissions while we reduce them.



# Action Area 1:

## Power events efficiently, with clean, renewable energy

There are a number of factors which influence the decision to use a particular venue including, but not limited to, location and accessibility, availability and size. It is important to engage with our venue partners to help them understand our sustainability expectations and our requirement for them to measure their energy consumption.





### Current Short-Term (2025)

- Establish consistent and regular reporting.
- All top 30 venues reporting data, aligned with NZCE methodology.
- Establish energy reduction tracking.
- Engagement with top 30 venues in support of energy efficiency measures, such as LED lighting or on-site renewable energy.
- Request all venue partners are signatories to Net Zero Carbon Events pledge

### Current Medium-Term (2030)

- Contracts with venues stipulate mandatory reporting and introduction of energy efficiency measures such as LED lighting.
- 75% renewable energy, including green tariff renewables, at top 30 venues.

### Current Long-Term (2040)

- 100% renewable energy in place at key, strategic venues.

# Action Area 2:

## Redesign events to utilise sustainable materials and be waste free

Each event has many different suppliers, including general service contractors, providing exhibition stands, furniture, signage, carpet and other production elements. To bring about reductions in emissions we will seek to educate and influence these stakeholders on the importance of adopting low carbon and re-usable materials.



### Current Short-Term (2025)

- Capture event waste and estimates for production materials.
- Set waste reduction targets for each business unit.
- RX project-managed stands comprised of at least 50% reusable items.
- Exhibitor guidance on waste reduction and re-usable and recycled material.
- Reusable and/or recyclable materials for all RX purchased production inputs including signage, carpets, marketing materials and featured builds at all events run at top 30 venues.
- Exhibitor recognition for good practice.

### Current Medium-Term (2030)

- Reusable and/or recyclable materials for all RX purchased production inputs including signage, carpets, marketing materials and featured builds at all events.
- Zero waste to landfill strategies in place and activated at events at all top 30 venues.
- End event printed materials such as show guides and show dailies.
- RX project-managed stands comprised of at least 75% reusable items.
- Preferred supplier lists for companies who have phased out single-use items.
- Single-use, disposable stands no longer allowed.

### Current Long-Term (2040)

- All products obtained by RX are reusable and or recyclable.
- All RX project-managed stands comprised of at least 90% re-usable items.

# Action Area 3:

## Source food sustainably and end food waste

Globally, the food system and the waste it generates accounts for 37% of global GHG emissions<sup>1</sup>. While different events have different catering needs, typically food is provided through catering outlets within the event halls, and food purchased for VIP or sales lounges, or food bought by exhibitors to serve on their stands. We aim to influence venues to make sustainable supplier choices, including for food and beverages.



1. [Net Zero Carbon Events roadmap, page 26: NZCE Roadmap2022 Full-Report- updated-26Jan2023.pdf \(netzerocarbons.org\)](#)

### Current Short-Term (2025)

- Dialogue with venues to encourage local sourcing and reduction of non-recyclable or non-reusable packaging.
- 50% of RX food for events is vegetarian and/or vegan.

### Current Medium-Term (2030)

- Food packaging is biodegradable (compostable) or recyclable and will be recycled post show.
- Donation schemes in place for leftover food.
- Reusable serveware for RX-purchased food.

### Current Long-Term (2040)

- No single-use food packaging.
- All food waste diverted from landfill.

# Action Area 4:

## Move goods and equipment efficiently and transition to zero emission logistics

Emissions from the transport of goods to and from events make up an estimated 2-10% of total event emissions<sup>2</sup>. Capturing emissions associated with transport is challenging given logistic providers are not directly contracted by RX. However, venues such as Olympia and Excel in the United Kingdom have taken steps to introduce tracking mechanisms for delivery vehicles coming to and from the venue. While these systems are expensive to introduce, they have wider benefits, helping venues manage transport to and from the venues – particularly important for those in urban areas.



<sup>2</sup> [NZCE Roadmap2022\\_Full-Report-updated-26Jan2023.pdf \(netzerocarbonevents.org\) page 12](#) and our own research into event footprints.

### Current Short-Term (2025)

- Improve logistic data collection.
- Engage with venues and preferred logistic suppliers on reducing emissions associated with transport of show goods.
- Align with Net Zero Carbon Events logistic emissions best practice.

### Current Medium-Term (2030)

- Request venues and general contractors to use electric vehicles or equivalents for build-up and the dismantling of an event.

# Action Area 5:

## Work with and influence partners in the travel sector to reduce and mitigate the emissions of travel

Many of our events are international. To support reductions associated with exhibitor and attendee travel, which we recognise to be a significant component of event emissions, we are working closely with the Net Zero Carbon Events initiative, taking part in a workstream specifically focused on travel and accommodation. We will promote sustainable transport options and where emissions are non-abatable, we will offer ways to compensate for those emissions through high-quality offsets approved by the RELX Carbon Governance Group.

All 2023 employee travel booked using our company travel agents are compensated by purchasing verifiable offsets in REDD+ forestry and peatland projects in Colombia and Indonesia. We closely monitor employee travel and look at ways we can reduce travel related emissions associated with employee business travel.





### Current Short-Term (2025)

- Use attendee data to estimate travel emissions.
- Pilot opportunities for visitors to offset travel at the point of registration.
- Promote partnerships with sustainable hotels.
- All events communicate public transport options to attendees.

### Current Medium-Term (2030)

- Provide the option for visitors to offset their travel at all events.
- Optimise employee travel reductions by working with local event teams.

### Current Long-Term (2040)

- Actively prioritise cities with good sustainable transport for event launches.

# Delivering Sustainability Content

As a global leader in events, we are in a unique position to be a sustainability influencer, helping to advance initiatives, innovation, products and services that drive sustainability within the industries we serve. As well as informing and supporting our event and operations teams to make more sustainable event choices, we are also using our event platforms to drive wider industry engagement on a net zero carbon future. We align with Race to Zero and work with our customers – whenever possible – to support them to reduce their environmental impact and transition to decarbonisation.



# Case Studies: Making good progress

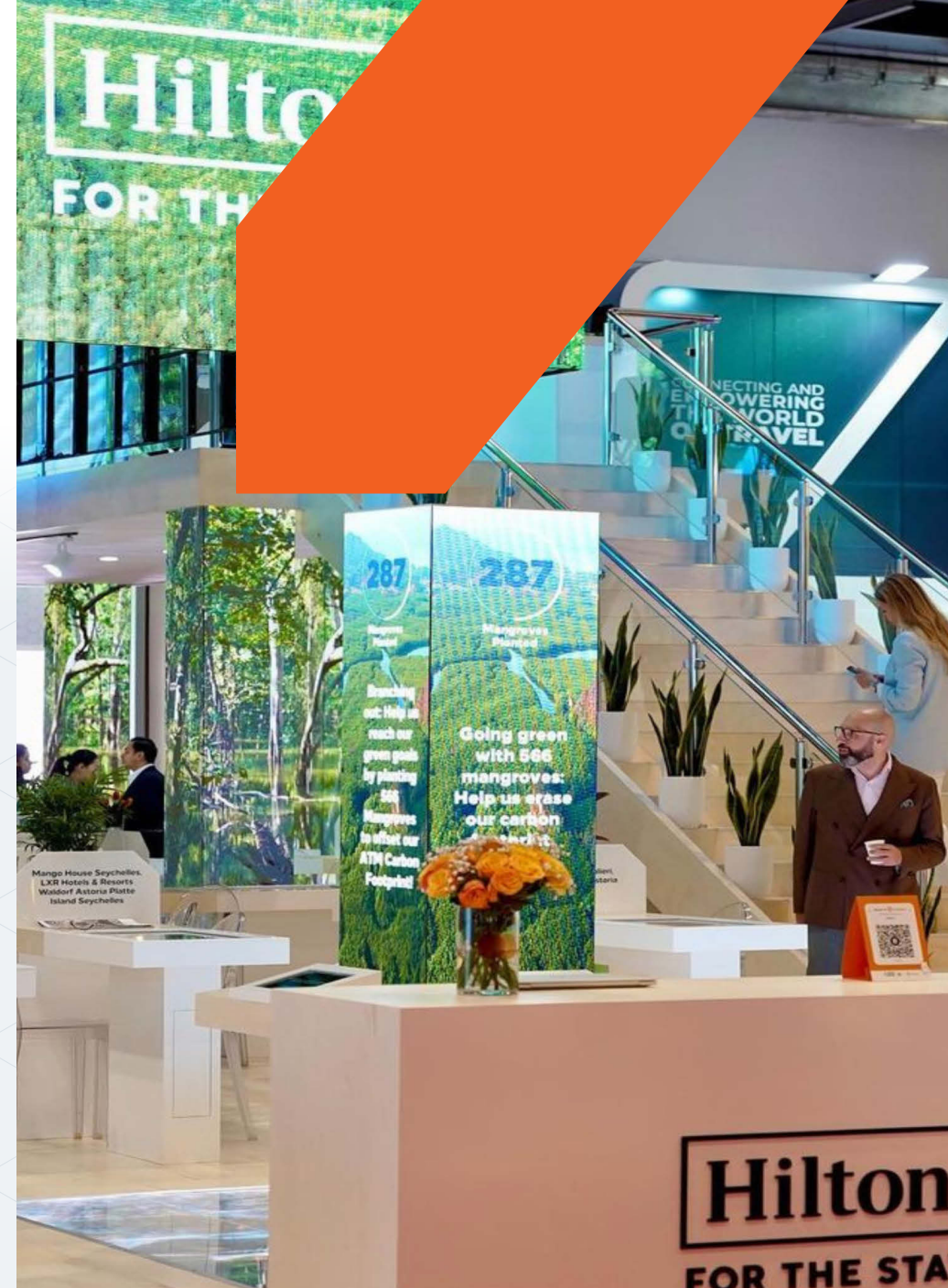
## Reusable materials in stand building

Arabian Travel Market, hosted in Dubai, presented a first 2023 'Sustainable Stand Award' to Hilton for its work on engaging local suppliers in the creation of the stand and commitment to repurpose materials over the next three years. The Sustainable Stand Award was introduced to recognise exhibitors for their efforts to reduce the environmental impacts of their exhibition stands and encourage peers to take action.

## A net-zero focus within the construction industry

**Batimat**, the world's largest event dedicated to building and construction, introduced a more affordable and responsible stand policy in 2022, limited to five eco-friendly options with a maximum stand size of 99sqm.

The event also sorted and recycled all waste and put in place a major logistical plan to encourage some 5,000 visitors to use trains and buses organised by the event. The plan incorporated a carbon calculator on the pre-registration page so that visitors could see how their chosen method of transport impacted their carbon emissions.



# Case Studies: National Hardware Show tests waste reduction initiatives

The **National Hardware Show (NHS)** swapped paper for a digital directory; used sustainably sourced signage; and offered smart badge technology to enable attendees and exhibitors to capture information digitally, negating the need for printed brochures and business cards.

By restricting carpet to the two main aisles and lounge areas only, NHS also prevented 18,656 metres of carpet going to landfill, reducing their carbon emissions by 8.5 tonnes. To educate customers on the benefits of being carpet-free, floor stickers were placed around the show floor to highlight these and other sustainability related statistics.

Through our partner, Freeman, NHS was also able to ensure that the main aisle and lounge carpets held 25% recycled materials and were re-used at least four times.



# Case Studies: Industry Engagement

**Functional Fabric Fair** has long been championing sustainability in the activewear industry. Exhibitors are only considered if they have achieved, or are working towards, at least 50% of their material coming from a recycled source, and every exhibit package feature turnkey, sustainable booth builds that keep costs low while minimizing the carbon footprint.

In addition, each event is dedicated to a specific sustainability topic to highlight new developments and opportunities. For 2022 the theme was '[The Journey to Carbon Neutrality](#)', which highlighted the metrics, formulas, agencies and theories to quantify and measure the CO2 emissions for performance fabrics.

Launched in 2017, the Sustainability Zone at **In-cosmetics Global** has grown from 29 exhibitors in 2019 to over 40 for the 2022 edition in Paris and is being expanded further for 2023.

The Sustainability Zone combines an interactive educational area, where participants present their sustainable ingredients and technologies to potential partners, with a dedicated conference programme.





POP  
ASIA



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**Climate Change Statement**

[LINK](#)

**Environmental Policy (2023)**

[LINK](#)

**Certification of International SOCOTEC**

[LINK](#)

# APPENDIX

