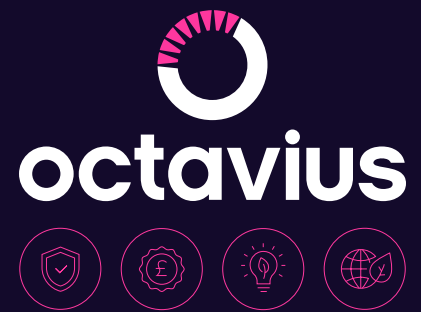


Can the planet wait for net zero?



Octavius is 100% behind the drive to make the UK a net zero carbon economy by 2050.

We recognise that we have a vital role to play in decarbonising our own operations and project delivery, as well as helping to create efficient, sustainable transport networks.

We aim to lead by example. Within our sustainability strategy, which is fully aligned with **UN sustainability goals**, we have ambitious targets for net zero carbon emissions. We are also committed to achieving key goals for biodiversity net gain, efficient resource use and social value outcomes.

But we also acknowledge that 2050 is a long way into the future. Many of the technologies that will make net zero carbon a reality are in their infancy or not available at the necessary scale. So one of the key questions is, what practical steps can we take right now?



Carbon is today's problem

Our operations continue to generate carbon emissions. Minimising these emissions on every project is an urgent priority. For example, by simplifying the design of an AfA upgrade at Bentley Station **we cut embodied carbon by 20%** - a total of 70.8 tonnes. This was a good example of how real world carbon reduction can be achieved by challenging the standard design and delivery model

Our aim is to become recognised as world leaders in designing out carbon from infrastructure projects. To achieve this we are maximising the use of MMC and specifying cement-free options wherever possible. We also aim to increase the use of site-won materials by 30% as part of aligning our business with circular economy principles.

Innovations we are actively trialling include cement-free troughing for signalling works and engineered timber for structures. We also use recycled bituminous products as standard and gullies are frequently made from 100% recycled plastic.



Becoming carbon neutral

Carbon management is something we're determined to address immediately. We've made the decision to be carbon neutral by investing in carbon offsets and embarking on a scheme of tree planting.

We know this isn't the perfect answer and that carbon reduction is the way forward in the longer term. But it's a positive step that we can take right now. It's something that will make a measurable difference and is entirely within our control. That's why we're actively embracing carbon neutrality today.

At the same time we're urgently developing our plans to achieve net zero scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions. We expect detailed scope 1 and 2 reduction measures to be in place by year 2 of our plan.

We use the National Highways Carbon Calculator, Smart Waste and Rail carbon tool to capture information on the carbon associated with our Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions.

How we work

The way we work as a business is hugely important. Understanding where we are and the progress we're making includes measuring fuel use (including through our supply chain), material use, and the miles clocked up by people and materials travelling to and from our work sites.

Innovatively, we built a modular office for the **A46 Binley Interchange upgrade** using Structurally Insulated Panels (SIPs). The office will be relocated and repurposed on completion as a community building for a local group.

Wherever possible we use existing buildings to develop site offices and use ECO cabins for welfare facilities. These use PIR lighting, grey water recycling and smart hybrid technology for water heating to reduce CO₂ by 15 times compared to standard welfare units.



People make the difference

Our sustainability goals will only be achieved by recognising the importance of people and embracing an inclusive culture. Continuing to build awareness through our STOPThink! behavioural programme is helping us to create a sustainable legacy that we can be truly proud of.

There's now a specific carbon module on STOPThink! and carbon sessions have been added to all of our learning platforms so that information and guidance are easy to access.

We've held carbon-awareness breakfast sessions with our teams so they're more aware of the implications and opportunities of carbon reduction measures. They're also better equipped to take everyday practical steps to help reduce carbon emissions.



For more information about our drive towards sustainability visit our [Transport Infrastructure Resource Centre](#) or contact us by email at hello@octaviusinfrastructure.co.uk