

Sustainability Policy

At Crockwell, we are deeply invested in preserving the world around us for generations to come. The wedding industry as a whole has a considerable environmental footprint through material use, wastage and emissions and we wish to be a flag bearer for hosting these important life celebrations in a far more sustainable way.

As a well-established venue with a longstanding environmental conscience, our work towards sustainability has been in progress for over a decade but we know the urgency of climate change and wish to accelerate improvements and encourage change throughout the industry.

Our sustainability objectives are:

1. To halve the amount of waste we send to landfill by 2030.
2. To reduce by one third our total emissions by 2030.
3. To encourage sustainable choice-making in couples and suppliers through communication.

It is important to note that as a whole site, through offsetting carbon captured in land previously in agricultural use and now growing clover rich wildflowers, Crockwell is carbon negative. However, while in itself the growing of wildflowers is a valuable tool for capturing carbon, we see offsetting of emissions as a last resort and hence our goals are to drastically reduce emissions and waste derived from the wedding venue.

In order to achieve these goals, we have carried out an in-depth audit of our emissions using the United Nations Greenhouse Gas Emissions calculator tool, including detailed Scope 3 emissions. It was imperative to us to use the most accurate and in depth accounting tool available to us in order to form the basis for such important decision making and to be able to accurately account for future reductions.

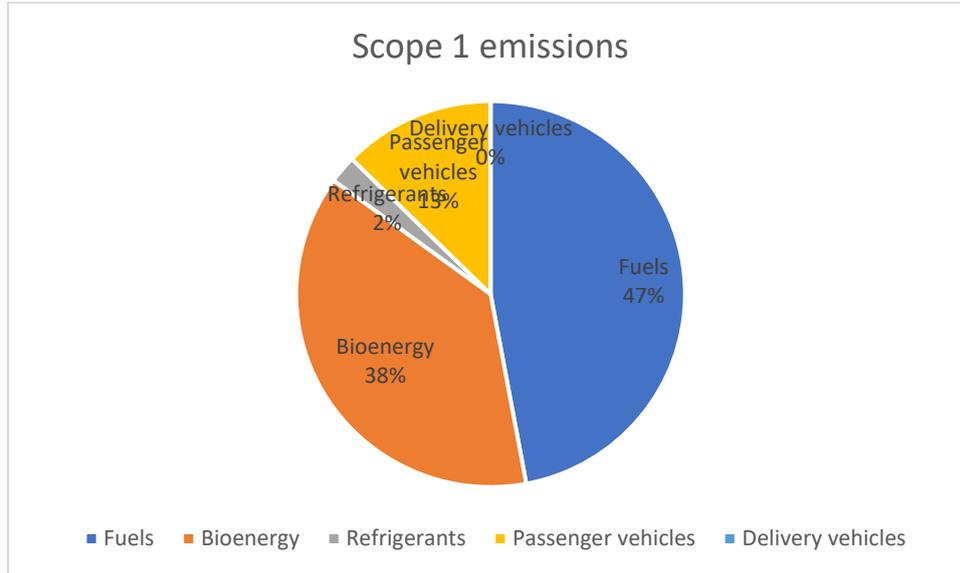
Our Sustainability Policy takes the following framework:

1. Our emissions
2. Our efforts this far
3. Our 5 year plan to reduce emissions
4. Carbon offsetting at Crockwell
5. Our long-term plan

Our emissions

In calculating our emissions, we used data from the accounting year 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023. We have used weights in place of cost for more accurate accounting.

Our total Scope 1 (direct) emissions were 13.85 tonnes carbon dioxide, emitted in the following proportions:



While we use primarily biofuel (woodchip) to heat the venue, we still rely on gas for catering.

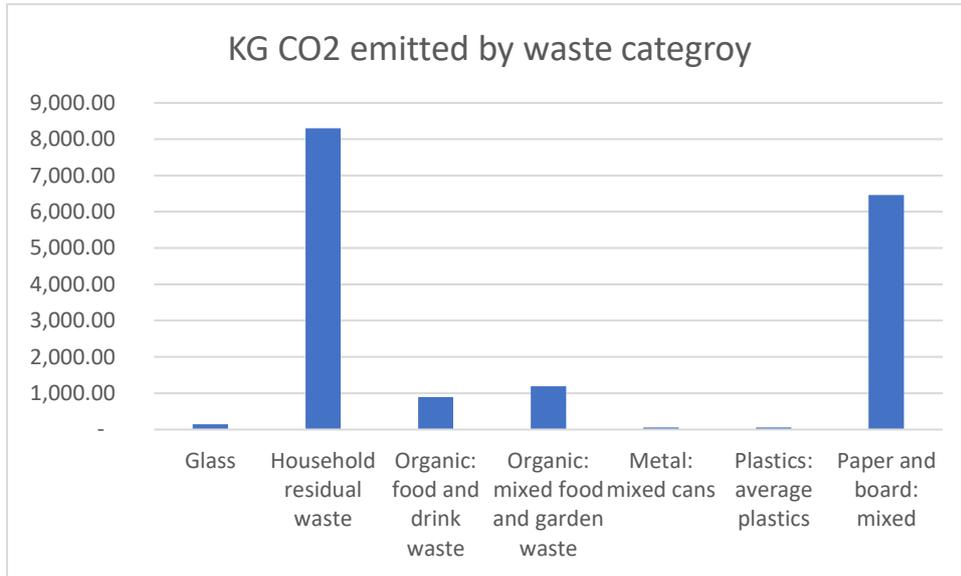
Scope 2 emissions

Our Scope 2 emissions are relatively low at 1.13 tonnes carbon dioxide. This is because we have a 50KW solar system in place which provides a significant proportion of our electricity, reducing our reliance on grid electricity. In order to further improve this, we intend to install battery storage.

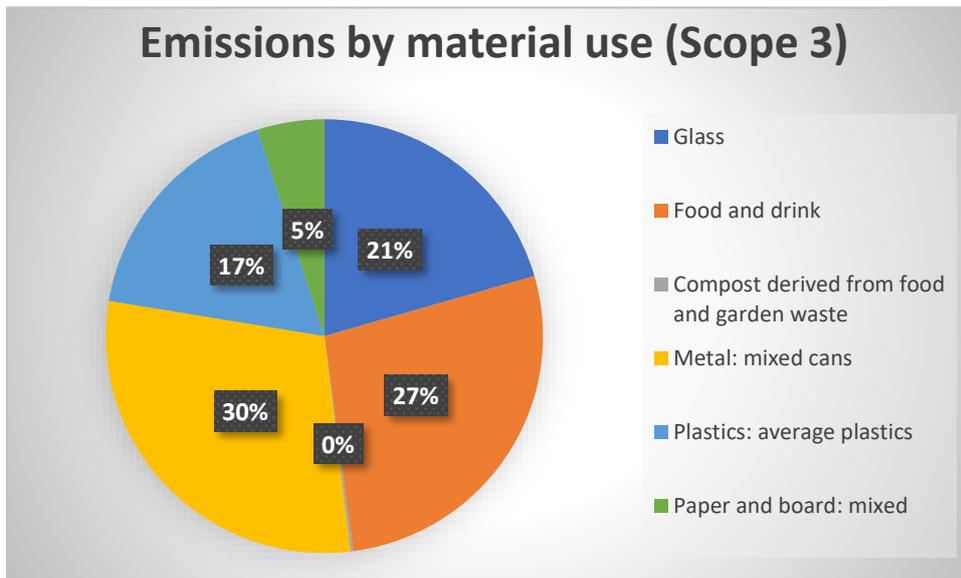
Scope 3 (indirect) emissions

As is typical for a wedding venue, our indirect emissions are proportionally very high. This is due to material usage (catering, drinks, laundry) plus waste management. This is the area in which we can expect to see significant improvements.

The graph below shows our waste emissions. Household residual waste refers to landfill.



The graph below illustrates our Scope 3 emissions by material.



Our efforts so far

- In 2012 we installed a 50KW solar system dramatically reducing our reliance on grid electricity
- In 2014 we installed a biomass boiler which is used to heat the entire venue and Farmhouse, drastically reducing the our requirement for fossil fuels.
- Since 2015 we have used local suppliers for breakfast ingredients wherever possible, eg. eggs & mushrooms (1 mile).
- In 2015 we switched to using Bath House British made refillable toiletries in bedrooms.
- In 2021 the 400 acre farm was entered into Environmental Stewardship, growing clover rich wild flowers in place of agriculture.
- In 2022, we completed a low-carbon passive house for the owners / directors to live in on site.
- In August 2023 we conducted an audit of products in accommodation and replaced with reusable and recyclable eg. Coffee pods
- In November 2023, we completed a full emissions audit of the business from which we are setting ambitious targets.
- We conduct annual training for staff in responsible waste management

Our five year plan to reduce emissions

The venue

- Install ECV charging points for guests, suppliers and staff planned for 2024 / 25.
- Install battery storage for solar power in order that we can become entirely un-reliant on grid power in the winter months. Planned 2025.
- Conduct a full supply chain audit and switch suppliers, where possible to more sustainable options.
- Review materials used and switch to recyclable options wherever possible.
- Increase insulation in the farmhouse in planned improvements in 2025, reducing heat loss.
- Review supply chain to include more locally sourced products wherever possible.
- Make use of rainwater harvesting for the garden which should be feasible due to the terraced nature of the venue.
- Investigate the drinkability of water from spring on the farm and make use of this for guest drinking water if possible.

The Team

- Conduct more regular staff training in waste management to reduce waste sent to landfill.
- Ensure the core team attend carbon literacy training and that learnings are communicated with the wider team including third parties, eg. Cleaners.

- Communicate our sustainability policy and goals in recruitment and onboarding of new team members.

Couples and suppliers

- Ensure we are communicating our sustainability goals and policy with our invested parties.
- Help couples make sustainable choices by creating a “Sustainable Partners” suppliers list of those who are actively pursuing a more sustainable business.
- Promote sustainable suppliers through Open Days, styled shoot and social media.
- Produce a guide to holding a more sustainable wedding and the choices that can make a big difference eg. Using locally grown flowers, all recyclable materials.

Offsetting

In 2020 we took the decision to enter the farmland previously used in agriculture into [countryside stewardship](#). Through this, we are now growing 400 acres of clover-rich wildflowers.

According to [Ecologi](#):

“Newly created wildflower meadows on what used to be arable land can [capture 1.04-1.89tC captured/ha/year](#), rising to 3.17tC if a red clover-rich mix is used. Enhancing such habitats and maintaining them in a good condition will maintain this level of carbon in their soils, and hopefully allow an increase in carbon storage to take place. It’s projected that increasing protection of intact grasslands to 369.31–403.18 million hectares [could avoid CO2e emissions totalling 3.35–4.25 gigatons by 2050](#), securing an estimated protected stock of 34–37 gigatons of carbon, roughly equivalent to more than 124–136 gigatons of carbon dioxide if released into the atmosphere.”

At Crockwell we have a total area of 400 acres, or 160 hectares currently in Stewardship, planted with a flower rich mix including a large proportion of red clover (pictured below). Based on conservative estimates of 1.9tc captured per year, this equates to an annual capture of 304 tonnes carbon. When offset against our emissions based on our 2022 – 23 UN calculations of 168.72, this means that Crockwell is Carbon negative by 135.28 tonnes.



Red clover at Crockwell, 2023

It is imperative to note that we do not see offsetting as a satisfactory alternative to reducing emissions from the wedding venue, which remains our priority. However, the stewardship of land previously in agricultural use signifies our long term commitment to improving sustainability, soil health and biodiversity on the site as a whole.

Our long term plan

In the next 10 years and beyond, we plan to:

- Install a large scale composting system to compost all food waste from the site and local businesses, should capacity allow.
- Work with our suppliers in particular caterers to reduce waste and emissions in transport through switching to electric vehicles.
- Look to expand our solar system making use of existing buildings.
- Continue to improve insulation of buildings across the site, reducing heat loss.

Responsibility

We see the application of this sustainability policy as an organisation-wide responsibility. It is imperative that anyone working at, or connected to Crockwell is aware of and invested in the short and long terms goals and we will achieve this through communication. The tracking and delivery of goals is the remit of the business owners, Bay, Hermione, Amy and Joe. As Director, Amy takes the lead in this and will review the policy, maintain and update continually. Furthermore, we commit to re-calculating our emissions on an annual basis in order to monitor and account for change.

Resources

[Measure your emissions | UNFCCC](#)

[Your questions answered about our Wildflowers, Wetlands and Wildlife project | Ecologi](#)

[Countryside Stewardship: get funding to protect and improve the land you manage - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)