Cavendish Venues

Our Net Zero Roadmap

Signed to the Net Zero Carbon Events Pledge — our path to a 50% absolute cut by 2030 and net zero by 2050.

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Cavendish Venues, London.
cavendishvenues.co.uk/environmental-sustainability

Where we start

Our Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions are already very close to zero, and have been for some time.

Scope 2 (purchased electricity): zero on a market basis. We have been on 100% renewable electricity on a green tariff since 2002, across every venue.

Scope 1 (direct emissions): essentially zero. We don't use natural gas at any venue. We don't own vehicles. Our remaining Scope 1 is limited to refrigerant top-ups on cooling plant — small, intermittent, and already being transitioned to lower-GWP alternatives on any new or replacement equipment.

> That makes us an unusual signatory. Most venues' net zero roadmaps start with a large natural-gas decarbonisation task. Ours starts past that. The work ahead of us is almost entirely Scope 3 — the food we serve, the goods we buy, the deliveries we take, and travel.

Our existing programme is substantial: certified B Corporation (score 86.7), landfill-neutral since 2021, over 2,500 trees planted (sequestering an estimated 513 tonnes of carbon), 88% recycling (up from 79% in 2013), 63% of fresh produce rescued "imperfect", Meat-Free Fridays with 73% lower emissions than the equivalent meat menu, and a quarterly surplus-food impact report already live with Mayfair Catering.

Our commitment

Cavendish Venues commits to the Net Zero Carbon Events Pledge. We commit to:

- **Reduce absolute Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions by at least 50% by 2030**, against our 2023 baseline.
- **Achieve net zero across all scopes by 2050**, in line with the UNFCCC Race to Zero and the Paris Agreement.
- **Report publicly on progress every two years** through the Net Zero Carbon Events reporting portal, with our first report due by 31 December 2028.
- **Prioritise absolute emissions reductions over offsetting.** Residual, hard-to-abate emissions after reduction will be addressed through verified removals from 2040 onwards.

Baseline

Our baseline year is **2023** — the first full calendar year with all five venues under common management. The Net Zero Carbon Events Pledge accepts a stated and defended baseline choice; 2023 is defensible on evidence grounds, where an earlier year would require splicing records across different company configurations.

Scope	Source	2023 baseline
1	Natural gas	0 tCO_2e — confirmed, no gas supply at any venue
1	Owned fleet	0 tCO_2e — confirmed, no owned vehicles
1	Refrigerant top-ups (F-gas)	To be reported in our first biennial return (Dec 2028), from HVAC contractor service records
2	Electricity (market-based, renewable tariff)	0 tCO_2e — confirmed, 100% renewable green tariff since 2002
2	Electricity (location-based, for grid-average disclosure)	To be reported in our first biennial return, from 2023 utility statements
3	Purchased goods, upstream transport, waste, business travel, commuting	To be reported in our first biennial return, using spend-based and activity-based methods
3	Delegate travel to events	Not in scope for reporting period 1, under NZCE guidance for venue operators

The absence of gas and fleet collapses our Scope 1 to a very small residual (refrigerants). Combined with Scope 2 market-based at zero, our **total Scope 1 + 2 figure is dominated by refrigerant top-ups and nothing else** — a stronger starting position than most signatories.

Scope 1 — Residual (refrigerants only)

Current position: small, intermittent emissions from F-gas top-ups on cooling plant. No gas, no fleet, nothing else.

Commitments to 2030:

- Refrigerant transition away from high-GWP F-gases on all new or replacement cooling, from 2027.
- No reintroduction of gas-fired equipment at any venue, in any refurbishment or new site.
- Annual refrigerant audit across all five venues from 2027.

By 2030, Scope 1 emissions reduced by at least 75% against 2023 baseline through refrigerant transition.

Scope 2 — Electricity (already done, keeping it done)

100% renewable electricity on a green tariff since 2002, across all five venues. Market-based Scope 2 emissions are zero today.

Commitments to 2030:

- Maintain 100% renewable electricity across all venues.
- Behind-the-meter renewable generation on refurbishments where feasible.
- Keep the 10% year-on-year energy-reduction target in place (set in 2004).

1 Basinghall Avenue is our current reference standard: EPC A, BREEAM Excellent, NABERS 4.5-star, London's first biophilic conference venue design.

Scope 3 — Where almost all our footprint sits

Scope 3 dominates in events venues when Scopes 1 and 2 are already near-zero. It is where our existing work goes deepest, and where this roadmap commits to the most measurable targets.

Food and catering

Current position: 63% of fresh produce served through Mayfair Catering is rescued "imperfect" produce. Meat-Free Fridays across all venues cut emissions by 73% against the equivalent meat menu. Under the Coolfood Pledge no menu we write exceeds 30% animal-based protein. Menus redesigned quarterly against Soil Association seasonal guides. Meat from a single farm within 50km; MSC fish; Fairtrade tea and coffee. On-site herb garden saves ~1,300 transport miles a year since 2025. GMO-free since 2006, palm-oil-free since 2022. Canapés from City Canapé Company (EC1R), made fresh daily and delivered by zero-emission cargo bike.

Commitments to 2030: Reduce catering-related emissions per cover by 50% against 2023 baseline, measured and reported annually from 2027; lift rescued/imperfect produce share from 63% to 80% by 2028; default plant-based menus from 2027; supplier emissions reporting required of top-20 suppliers by spend from 2028.

Food waste

Current position: Too Good To Go partnership since 2025 — surplus event food sold at £3.90 a meal, sales proceeds to staff. 80% reduction in food sent to compost since the partnership began. AI-assisted smart bins on trial. National Food Waste Conference hosted at 22 Duchess Mews, March 2025. Q3 2026 measured impact (September alone): 404 kg surplus food rescued, 96 meals donated, 501 kg CO_2e saved, 196,601 litres water conserved.

Commitments to 2030: Smart-bin rollout to all five venues by end 2027; publish quarterly impact reports (GOV.UK carbon factors, independently reviewable); zero food to landfill sustained from 2025 forward.

Operational waste and recycling

Current position: Recycling rate 88% in 2024, up from 79% in 2013. 34 tonnes diverted from landfill in the most recent reporting year, avoiding 27 tonnes of CO_2. 225,000 single-use plastic water bottles kept out of landfill since on-site filtration began. Recycling routes for every waste stream, including laminated exhibitor materials. Gold with First Mile for landfill-neutral status (2021).

Commitments to 2030: 95% recycling rate across all five venues by end 2028; reusable delegate materials (no single-use lanyards, badges or printed packs by 2027); measured and reported Scope 3 waste emissions annually from 2027.

Deliveries and transport

Current position: 19% reduction in vehicle movements to our venues through delivery consolidation. Zero-emission cargo-bike delivery on canapés. Local sourcing — single-farm meat within 50km; herb garden saving 1,300 transport miles a year.

Commitments to 2030: A further 25% reduction in delivery vehicle movements by 2028; zero-emission last-mile delivery across all food categories by 2030; supplier delivery scheduling co-ordinated across venues.

Business travel and staff commuting

Current position: Active cycle-to-work scheme and active hybrid working policy, reducing commuting-day emissions across the team. No owned fleet.

Commitments to 2030: Maintain and promote the cycle-to-work scheme year-on-year; maintain and promote the hybrid working policy, measuring commuting-day reduction annually from 2027; no short-haul business flights where a sub-6-hour rail alternative exists, from 2027; annual travel and commuting footprint published from 2028.

Trees — biodiversity, separate from carbon accounting

We have planted over 2,500 native trees in Dorset in partnership with the Country Landowners' Association — ash, birch, oak, alder, hawthorn, holly, field maple, willow, wild cherry and blackthorn. One tree goes in for every meeting and event we host, and has done since the programme started. Independent estimates put the sequestration at approximately 513 tonnes of carbon to date.

The trees are a **biodiversity and community investment, not an emissions offset against our own footprint**. This is in line with current best practice on offset separation and the CMA's Green Claims Code — the same reasoning that led us to drop the "carbon neutral" claim from our sustainability page in September 2026.

From 2040, residual (hard-to-abate) emissions after absolute reductions will be addressed through **verified carbon removals** meeting the Oxford Principles for Net Zero Aligned Carbon Offsetting — long-duration storage, additional, independently verified. The trees sit alongside this programme, not inside it.

Delegate travel to events

Not in our baseline, but we commit from reporting period 2 (2030 report onwards) to publishing walking times and public transport routes to every venue from major London stations (already done on our Find Us page); default rail/public-transport messaging in all enquiry responses; and delegate carbon-saving data (public transport vs car) available on request for any booking.

Governance and reporting

- **Net Zero Lead:** Tom Mayers, Sales Manager, accountable for delivery of this roadmap and for Cavendish Venues' Net Zero Carbon Events Pledge reporting.
- **Annual review** by the leadership team against this roadmap.
- **Biennial public reporting** via the Net Zero Carbon Events portal — first report by 31 December 2028, next by 31 December 2030.
- **Quarterly surplus-food impact reports** published on cavendishvenues.co.uk/environmental-sustainability.
- **Scope 3 engagement** — top-20 suppliers by spend to report their own emissions data to us by 2028.
- **Verification** — independent assurance of Scope 1 + 2 figures from 2028; of Scope 3 from 2030.

What we don't claim

- **We don't claim "carbon neutral".** Offset-based carbon-neutral claims are challenged under the CMA's Green Claims Code; we removed the claim from our public sustainability page in September 2026 and do not reinstate it here.
- **We don't claim "the only London B Corp venue".** Regent's Events is also B Corp certified. The defensible claim, which both Conference News and Micebook have published, is that we are the only specialist conference and meeting venue operator in London to hold B Corp certification.
- **We don't count tree planting as an offset against our own emissions.** It is a parallel biodiversity and community investment.

Timeline

By	Milestone
Dec 2026	Roadmap published; Net Zero Carbon Events Pledge signed
End 2027	Full 2023 baseline inventory complete; first annual data publish; smart-bin rollout complete; refrigerant transition policy live
End 2028	95% recycling rate; 80% rescued-produce share; reusable delegate materials; Biennial NZCE report #1 submitted (deadline 31 Dec 2028)
End 2030	**≥50% absolute reduction in Scope 1+2+3 emissions vs 2023 baseline**; zero-emission last-mile delivery across all food categories; Biennial NZCE report #2 submitted
2032–2040	Scope 3 supplier reporting standard; residual Scope 1 refrigerant emissions eliminated
End 2040	Begin addressing residual emissions through verified removals
2050	**Net zero across Scope 1, 2 and 3**

Last reviewed: 27 October 2026. Reviewed annually in Q4.
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