OVERVIEW · SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainable data centre services for the public sector

Digital services now underpin almost every part of public service delivery. Public sector organisations need confidence that their data centre services are secure and resilient, and that they are delivered responsibly. This overview sets out how Crown Hosting does that.

2030

Net zero emissions commitment

100%

Carbon-free electricity for utility supply contracts, backed by certification

Zero

Waste to landfill since 2023



ABOUT THIS OVERVIEW

Sustainability is built into how Crown Hosting designs, operates and improves its services. As demand for secure, resilient infrastructure grows, so does the need to show it is delivered responsibly.

Crown Hosting benefits from Ark Data Centres' wider sustainability programme, operating standards and long-standing focus on sustainable data centre development. Our approach focuses on reducing environmental impact, improving operational efficiency, supporting local communities and giving customers clear information about the sustainability benefits of using our services.

AT A GLANCE

Net zero by 2030. Crown Hosting is aligned to a net zero emissions commitment by 2030.

100% carbon-free electricity. For utility supply contracts, supported by appropriate certification.

HVO for standby generation. Reducing fossil greenhouse gas emissions by around 90 to 95% compared with gas oil.

Measured efficiency. Energy performance evidenced through measured operational data, not design-stage projections.

Recognised metrics. PUE, WUE and CUE monitored in line with recognised standards and reporting frameworks.

Water well below target. Spring Park and Cody Park have operated well below the Climate Neutral Data Centre Pact WUE maximum target since 2024.

Zero waste to landfill. Maintained since 2023.

01

CLIMATE ACTION AND CARBON

Our data centres were designed with energy efficiency and carbon reduction in mind from the outset. We help customers reduce the environmental impact of their IT estates while delivering secure, resilient hosting.

A key part of this is how we source and manage energy. We procure 100% carbon-free electricity for our utility supply contracts, supported by Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin (REGO) or equivalent certification where applicable. Energy is secured up to three years in advance, directly or through Power Purchase Agreements, giving greater certainty over supply and price. Where residual emissions remain, Crown Hosting is developing an offsetting approach aligned with its net zero ambitions.

Customers moving from older on-premises environments gain access to highly efficient data centres, where energy performance is monitored, managed and reported against recognised measures. Power Usage Effectiveness (PUE) is tracked to show how efficiently power is used across each data centre.

We also cut direct operational emissions where practical. A rolling programme completed in 2022 replaced gas oil stocks for standby generation with Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO). We minimise the use of fluorinated gases (F-gases) in cooling wherever practical, with robust leak detection, maintenance and reporting.

Environmental performance is tracked through PUE, Water Usage Effectiveness (WUE), Carbon Usage Effectiveness (CUE) and Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions reporting, in line with BS EN 50600, the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (SECR) and Procurement Policy Note 06/21 where applicable.

90 to 95%

Reduction in fossil greenhouse gas emissions from standby generation since switching from gas oil to HVO.

HOW WE MONITOR EMISSIONS

Scope 1

Direct emissions from activities we control, such as standby generator testing and refrigerant losses.

Scope 2

Indirect emissions from purchased electricity, addressed through certificate-backed carbon-free electricity procurement.

Scope 3

Wider indirect emissions, including supply chain, waste, travel, commuting and leased assets not included in Scope 1 or 2.

02

WATER USE AND COOLING

Water use is an important topic for the data centre sector. Cooling approaches vary significantly with facility design, location and climate, which is why measured performance matters more than assumptions.

Crown Hosting has measured water consumption since 2018 through utility bills and manual readings. A smart water submetering programme across our campuses is now adding more accurate building-level monitoring and supporting further improvements in water efficiency.

Our facilities are designed to reduce reliance on mains water where feasible. Rainwater is captured from rooftops, filtered and stored for reuse. We maximise free air cooling when external conditions allow, reducing the need for more water-intensive cooling while keeping operation efficient.

WUE is a recognised measure of how much water is used in relation to IT energy consumption. It lets customers compare performance clearly and consistently.

Since 2024

Spring Park and Cody Park have operated well below the Climate Neutral Data Centre Pact WUE maximum target for new data centres, supported by rainwater harvesting and ongoing water monitoring.

03

BIODIVERSITY AND LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

Responsible development goes beyond energy and carbon. It also means protecting and enhancing the local environment around our sites wherever possible.

Dedicated habitats

Supporting protected and local species across our campuses.

On-site beehives

Introduced at Cody Park to support local pollinators.

Green walls and façades

Used at Longcross Park to increase vertical habitat and reduce visual impact.

Woodland preservation

Significant woodland areas preserved across our campuses.

04

CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND WASTE

Our approach to waste and resources follows circular economy principles. We reduce waste at source, keep materials in use for longer and prioritise reuse, repair and recycling before disposal.

Operationally, this is supported by a waste strategy focused on compliance, transparency and continuous improvement. We work with suppliers to reduce waste wherever possible, and use the waste hierarchy to prioritise repair, reuse, composting and recycling before considering energy recovery.

Circularity is also built into how our facilities are constructed. Our data centres use a modular, factory-based construction approach that reduces on-site activity, supports quality control and minimises waste and disruption during installation. Where appropriate, steel is prioritised over more carbon-intensive materials because it can be recycled at end of life, reducing embodied carbon.

Zero Waste to landfill since 2023, giving customers confidence that operational waste is managed responsibly.

05

GOVERNANCE, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL VALUE

Strong governance is central to how we support public sector customers. Our approach is aligned to the standards expected of organisations delivering secure and resilient services to government.

ISO 14001
Environmental management

ISO 50001
Energy management

ISO 45001
Occupational health and safety management

BREEAM
Excellent or Outstanding for new buildings, where applicable

Crown Hosting promotes an inclusive working environment, supports internal development and progression, and conducts business in line with ethical and responsible practices. This is supported by our Code of Conduct and Investors in People certification.

We aim to contribute positively to the communities around our sites, including local infrastructure improvements such as safe and accessible cycling routes, and initiatives that support local wildlife and environmental care.

06 WHAT THIS MEANS FOR CUSTOMERS

For public sector organisations, sustainability needs to be practical, measurable and easy to evidence. Crown Hosting provides secure, resilient data centre services backed by established environmental management, energy management and carbon reporting.

- A lower environmental impact than legacy on-premises data centre environments.
- Clearer information to support ESG, procurement and sustainability reporting requirements.
- Strong measured performance across energy, carbon, water and waste, supported by recognised reporting frameworks.
- Alignment with recognised standards and public sector reporting expectations.
- Confidence that sustainability is managed alongside security, resilience and service availability.

07 LOOKING AHEAD

Sustainability is an ongoing commitment. Many environmental benefits are already built into our facilities and operating model, and we continue to look for practical ways to improve performance and transparency.

AREAS OF CONTINUED FOCUS

- Working with customers to align service requirements with ESG objectives.
- Improving waste measurement and reporting across corporate and campus operations.
- Expanding smart water metering for clearer insight into water use and simpler, more consistent WUE reporting.
- Developing the carbon offset strategy for residual emissions that cannot yet be eliminated.
- Introducing a Biodiversity Net Gain metric into the environmental management system.
- Reporting annual progress towards net zero in a transparent, consistent way, aligned with recognised greenhouse gas reporting standards, SECR and public sector procurement expectations.

> By combining resilient infrastructure with measurable sustainability performance, Crown Hosting helps public sector customers meet their digital transformation needs while supporting wider environmental and social value objectives.

Further sustainability information is available on request, including detail to support customer assurance, procurement and reporting requirements.

TALK TO US

Get in touch

For more detail on our sustainability performance, or to discuss how Crown Hosting can support your organisation's environmental goals, speak to our team.

CALL 0333 207 0703 >

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