



Sustainability GUIDE



Supporting Growth with Purpose, Our Evolving Journey

This marks the **second edition** of the Country Range Group's Sustainability Guide – a reflection not only of our environmental progress, but also of our initiatives and activities to support our local communities. Over the past year, our Group has experienced significant growth, with further expansion of our own brand portfolio, a 20% increase in Group sales and total turnover reaching £965 million by the end of 2024. In this time our membership has evolved too, we have seen unprecedented growth having welcomed eight new wholesalers who bring exciting opportunities, new ambitions and fresh challenges to our shared climate journey.

As a result of this growth, this year's data shows an **overall increase in carbon emissions** across the Group. However, this is not a setback, but

rather a **realignment of our baseline**. Many new members had no previous data from 2023, and some have entered with naturally higher footprints. Despite this, we remain committed to supporting all members – new and existing – in achieving their sustainability goals.



At the heart of this commitment is our ongoing collaboration with **ClimatePartner** – a global leader in climate action solutions. For over three years, they've helped us and our members define measurable goals, understand impact areas, and develop practical, transparent solutions that align with the **UN Sustainable Development Goals**.

Understanding Emissions: Scope 1, 2 & 3

We use internationally recognised frameworks to track and reduce emissions:

- **Scope 1** – Direct emissions from owned operations, such as facilities and fleets.
- **Scope 2** – Indirect emissions from purchased electricity and utilities.
- **Scope 3** – Indirect emissions from our wider activities (e.g., suppliers, commuting, waste).

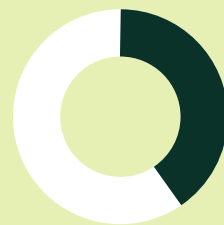
Scope 3 is the most complex to assess and is currently being worked on through the collaboration of a number of members across the Group. We are working with members, suppliers, and ClimatePartner to better **identify and reduce Scope 3 emissions** – a critical piece of the sustainability puzzle.

GROUP STATS



34%

increase in Carbon Intensity
(tCO₂e) from 2023 – 2024



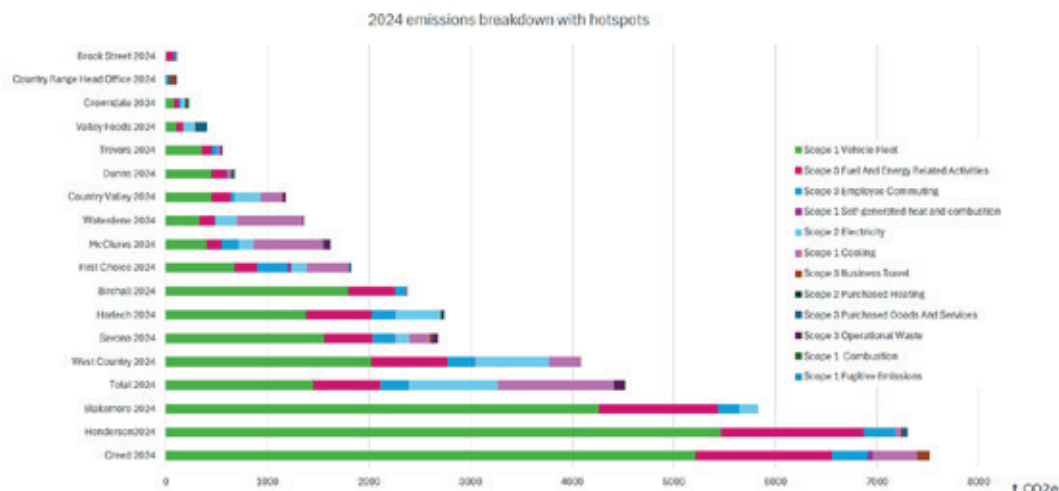
39%

increase in Carbon Footprint
(tCO₂e) from 2023 – 2024

EMISSIONS OVERVIEW: 2024 VS. 2023

In 2024:

- **6 new members** joined the Group since our last sustainability report and 4 wholesalers have since merged.
- **Operational emissions** rose by **40%**, largely driven by increased fuel usage in vehicle fleets.
- **Carbon intensity** rose by **35%**, affected by the inclusion of new members with higher operational demands.
- **Vehicle emissions** remain the most significant source of carbon output across the Group.



Priorities Moving Forward

As our network grows, so does our potential for positive change. The following **key emission hotspots** will continue to be a major focus for reduction efforts across the Group:

- **Vehicle Fleets** – Transitioning to lower-emission or alternative fuel vehicles.
- **Commuting** – Supporting carpooling and flexible work models.
- **Electricity** – Boosting energy efficiency and switching to renewable sources.
- **Cooling Systems** – Reducing refrigerant leaks and modernising equipment.

These focus areas reflect where we can make the greatest impact quickly and collaboratively.



SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION

Sustainability isn't just a metric – it's part of how we operate and influence the industry.

Through our **Operations Forum**, members share insights and best practice to tackle shared challenges, while our **Central Office trading team** ensures our product range meets evolving environmental standards. Together, we're embedding sustainability into every part of the Group.

Our **Country Range own brand** continues to support the industry – not just through packaging improvements, but by investing in future talent. We're proud to be **headline sponsor of the 2025/2026 Springboard FutureChef competition**, the UK's largest school cooking programme. With over 25,000 participants annually – and 24% entering the catering industry – this builds on our decade-long support of the Country Range Student Chef Challenge.

We also believe in using our platform for good. This year, CRG supported the **Mines Advisory Group's Bikes Against Bombs ride in Tanzania**, raising **£67,000** as part of a **£270,000** industry total to help clear landmines and support vulnerable communities.

At our **Annual Exhibition and Conference in Belfast**, over **£4.3 million in orders** were placed, but just as importantly, **1.51 tonnes of surplus stock** were donated to **FareShare**, supporting the local community by providing:

- **3,595 meals**
- Support for **22 charities**
- Avoidance of **3.02 tonnes of CO2e**

From collaboration to community, sustainability remains central to who we are – and where we're going.

Delivering a Better Tomorrow

Birchall Foodservice are committed to a brighter future for our employees, customers, suppliers, planet and community. As a fifth-generation family business, we have long been guided by the ethics of honesty, fairness and doing the right thing. It's our duty to deliver profit for the business while looking after people, places and the planet.

[Find out more](#)



7%

increase in Carbon Intensity
(tCO₂e) from 2023 – 2024



18%

increase in Carbon Footprint
(tCO₂e) from 2023 – 2024



Call outs



100% of our company cars are now electric



400 solar panels installed



All delivery vehicles are fitted with Euro 6 engines.

KEY UPDATES

- Our marketing manager, Joe Moulton, completed a Level 2 Understanding Environmental Sustainability Course at Burnley College. By completing this course (and other sustainability courses) Joe has been able to bring new insights and learnings to the business to help us achieve our sustainability goals.
- We developed our first carbon management policy and our first carbon reduction plan. By having these policies and plans in place, we have real targets and are more focused than ever before on what we need to do to become a more sustainable wholesaler. You can view both documents on our website.
- To keep sustainability at the top of the agenda, we've introduced a new internal 'green team' to drive our carbon reduction plan, and we've refreshed our internal charity community teams to ensure we're doing all we can to improve the wellbeing of our team and community.
- We're also working in partnership with ReFood, who convert our onsite food waste into biofertilizer and renewable energy.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

- Tackle more scope 3 emissions to get an even clearer picture of our carbon footprint
- Investigate the feasibility of electric delivery vehicles for local routes
- Explore the opportunity for diesel substitution with HVO (Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil) when the time comes to upgrade the vehicles used for distribution services
- Introduce Energy Efficiency and Carbon Management to staff inductions and refresher toolbox talks for existing employees
- Potentially install infrared panel heaters to replace costly freestanding heaters





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