



Sustainability GUIDE



Our Journey So Far

The Country Range Group understands that our responsibility extends further than enabling our members to achieve faster, more profitable growth. We believe that we have a duty to give back to the communities in which our wholesalers operate and promote sustainable and ethical practices in every aspect of our business.

We believe that sustainable practices are a fundamental part of doing business, especially within wholesale foodservice. With the future of the sector being shaped by consumer trends, government legislation and technology it is more important than ever to focus on our environmental impact and adopt a responsible approach to foodservice.

This is why we have chosen to collaborate with ClimatePartner to help us identify targets, initiatives and solutions to help us and our members operate in a more environmental and sustainable way.



WHO ARE CLIMATEPARTNER

Recognised globally as a leading climate action solutions provider, ClimatePartner currently work with more than 6,000 companies across 60 countries with all efforts geared towards the United Nations 17 Sustainability Development Goals.

ClimatePartner combines individual consultation with a leading cloud-based software to help companies calculate and reduce their carbon emissions, to help companies calculate and reduce their carbon emissions, as well as supporting climate projects, and transparently communicate these through the ClimatePartner Certified label.

This, along with the impressive success stories of existing partners which operate in the food sector, made us confident that ClimatePartner would understand the impact of both our Group and our members' operations.



Stir it up

We regularly share sustainability tips, inspiration and advice from leading caterers and experts to support our readers to create a greener planet through regular features in the magazine. As part of our environmental policy both the magazine and promotions brochure are printed using vegetable oil-based ink and the magazine has ISO14001 and FSC certification.

Sustainable Relationships



We are passionate about making relationships that make a significant difference to our members, customers and the wider community. This is why we are partners with the Natasha Allergy Research Foundation to raise awareness and vital funds, to help make food allergy history. We are proud to have strong relationships across the industry by being signatories of the FWD Standards and Dignity Charter and supporting Hospitality Action and the industry's annual Bikes Against Bombs cycle challenge.

Our Own Brands

The quality, consistency and safety of all our own brand products are at the heart of everything we do, as is our environmental impact. We are dedicated to reducing excessive packaging and moving to more recyclable, biodegradable and environmentally friendly solutions, recently we removed all black plastic from our packaging, and we are increasingly using recyclable plastic wherever possible.

UNDERSTANDING OUR IMPACT

– SCOPE 1, 2 AND 3 EMISSIONS

As a Group around 20% of our emissions are from scopes one and two, leaving around 80% of our emissions from scope 3.

- **Scope 1:** Focuses on direct emissions from company-owned or controlled operations, specifically facilities and vehicles.
- **Scope 2:** Covers indirect emissions from the consumption of purchased energy such as electricity, steam, heating, and cooling.
- **Scope 3:** Encompasses a broader range of indirect emissions:
 - Upstream activities include emissions related to purchased goods and services, operational waste, business travel, and employee commuting.
 - Excludes several downstream activities such as transportation, distribution, processing, and the use of sold products, among others.

By understanding these scopes, we have been able to better strategise our emissions reduction efforts, focusing on the most impactful areas within our operational control, allowing us and our members to identify and prioritise key actions to advance our climate journey.

- **Focus on Scope 1 and 2:** To reduce emissions, CRG and our members can target efficiency improvements in their facilities and vehicle fleets, and opt for renewable energy sources.
- **Scope 3 Complexity:** Given the wide range of activities included, addressing Scope 3 emissions requires collaboration with the Group, our members, wholesalers, suppliers and employees, along with a comprehensive sustainability strategy.
- **Exclusions:** The exclusion of certain upstream and downstream activities, like capital goods and the end-of-life treatment of products, narrows the focus but might overlook significant emissions sources.



12%

Reduction in Carbon Footprint
(tCO₂e) from 2022-2023



20%

Reduction in Carbon Intensity
(tCO₂e) from 2022-2023

2019-2022

Measuring our footprints for 2019 and 2022 against the above scopes enabled us to understand the impact of the Group and our members' businesses on the environment and start our climate journey. Due to the global pandemic, we chose to focus on 2019 to set a baseline of what our typical carbon emissions were like before the pandemic. Against the same criteria we measured our 2022 emissions.

Between 2019 and the end of 2022 CRG members had reduced their operational emissions by 20% and their carbon intensity by 40%, meaning in 2022 our members generated 40% less emissions for every £1 of revenue generated.

2022-2023

Between 2022 and 2023 CRG members had reduced their operational emissions by 12% and their carbon intensity by 20%, meaning in 2023 our members generated 20% less emissions for every £1 of revenue generated.

From 2019 to 2023, most members significantly decreased their carbon intensity, indicating that while their revenue increased, their emissions either decreased or did not increase at the same rate.

Whilst recent increases in food prices have impacted the carbon intensity figures, this consistent reduction across the Group demonstrates successful sustainability measures, improved operational efficiency, and the adoption of greener practices and technologies.

Emission Hot Spots Across the Group

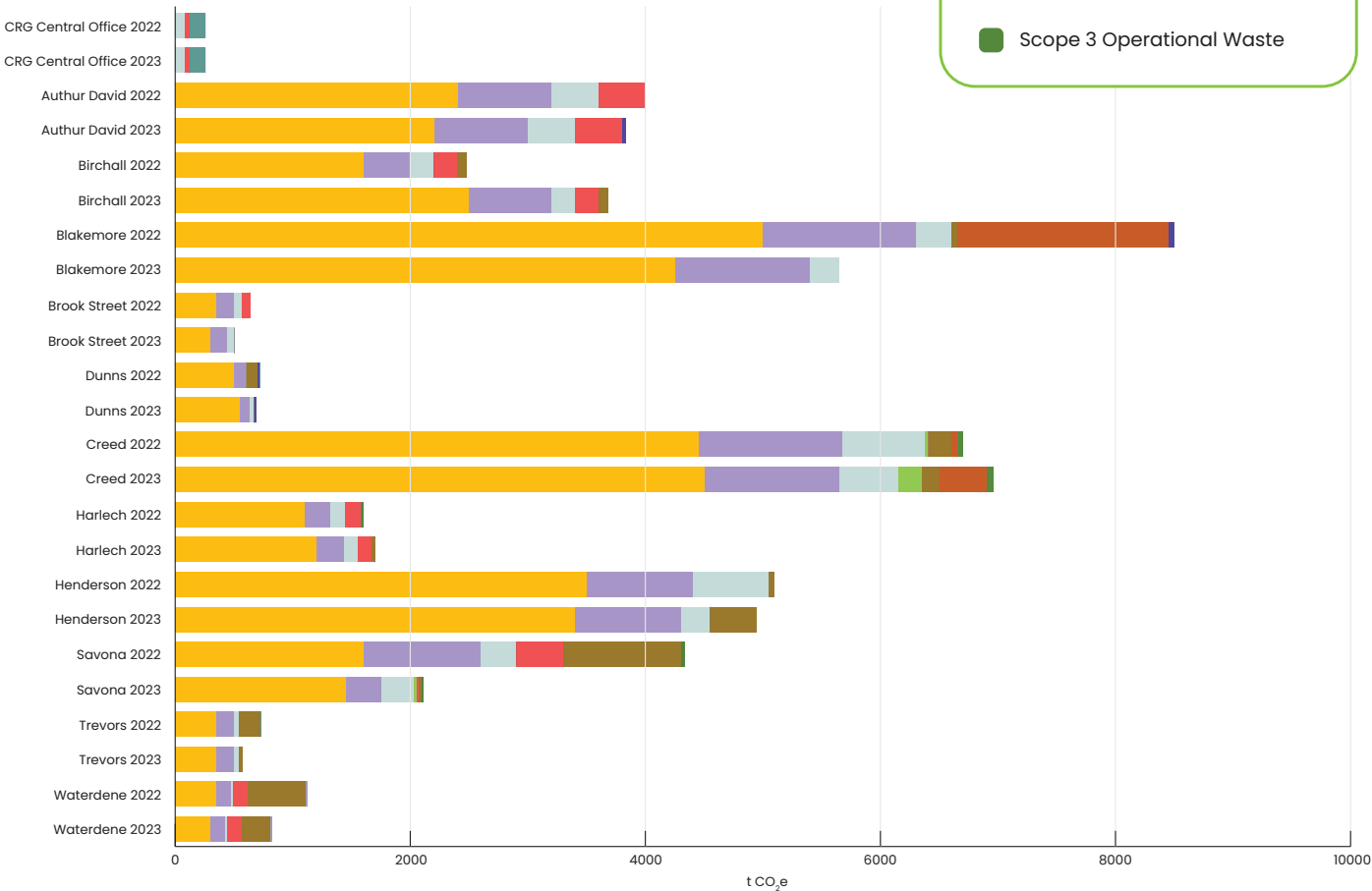
The main sources of CO2e emissions have remained consistent over the years. Naturally key areas are vehicle fleet, commuting, electricity, and cooling.

Highest Emission Sources across the Group:

- Vehicle Fleet (Scope 1) and Employee Commuting (Scope 3) are significant contributors to overall emissions across almost all Group members.
- Electricity (Scope 2) and Cooling (Scope 1) also contribute significantly, especially in certain locations.

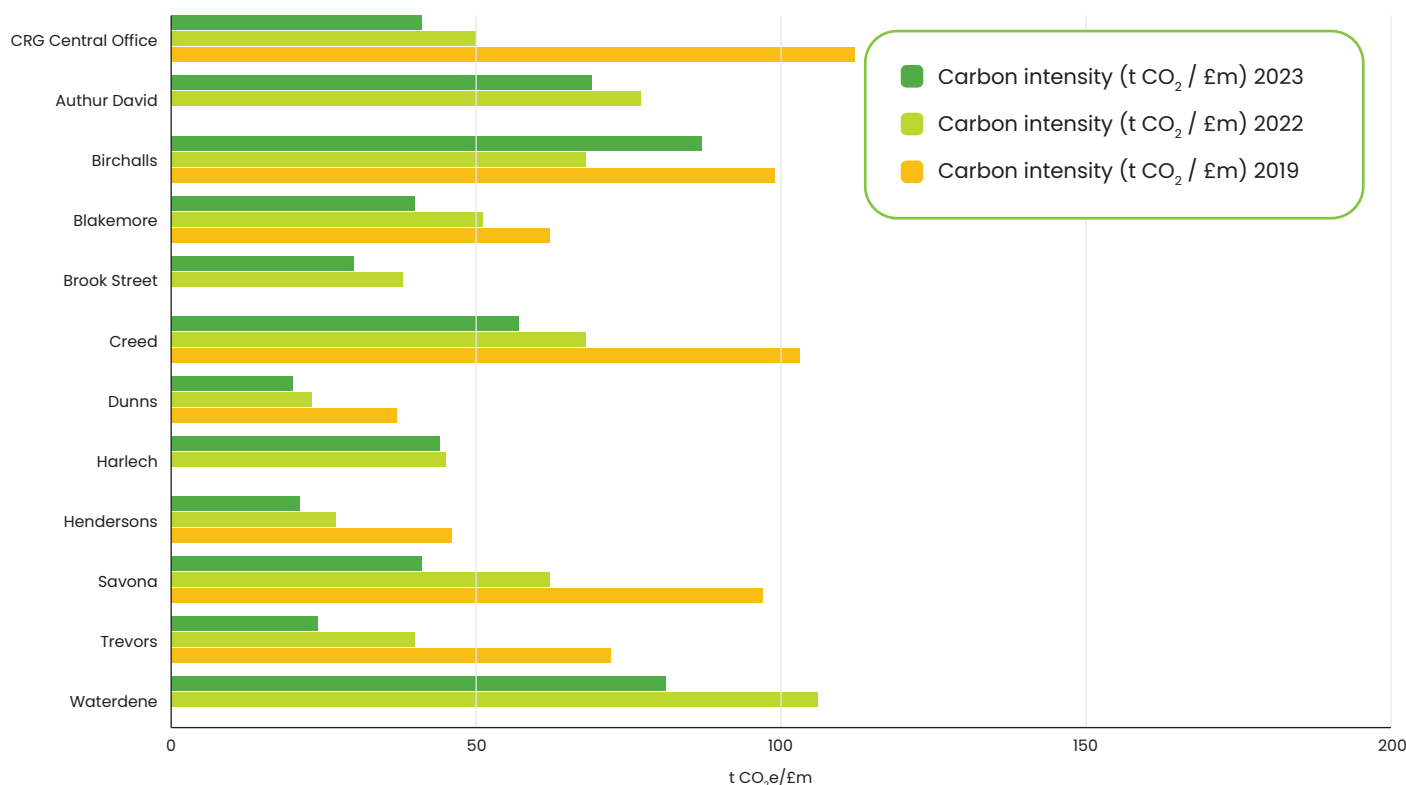
Other Notable Emission Sources across the Group:

- Self-generated heat and combustion are notable in some sites.
- Purchased Goods and Services, and Operational Waste are also notable in certain sites



CARBON INTENSITY HAS SIGNIFICANTLY DROPPED FOR MOST MEMBERS AS REVENUES WENT UP AND EMISSIONS WENT DOWN

CARBON INTENSITY FOR 2019, 2022 AND 2023



FOCUS AREAS FOR EMISSION REDUCTION ACROSS THE GROUP

By addressing these key areas, substantial reductions in CO₂e emissions can be achieved across the Group.

- **Vehicle Fleet:** Implementing more efficient or alternative fuel vehicles.
- **Commuting:** Encouraging remote work or carpooling to reduce commuting emissions.
- **Electricity:** Increasing energy efficiency and incorporating renewable energy sources.
- **Cooling:** Improving cooling systems to be more energy-efficient.

By continuing to focus on the following strategic areas, our members can further reduce their carbon footprint whilst still increasing their revenues.

- **Continuous Improvement:** Maintain and enhance strategies that have proven effective in reducing carbon intensity.
- **Monitoring and Reporting:** Regular tracking and reporting to ensure sustained progress and identify areas needing improvement.
- **Best Practices Sharing:** Sites with significant improvements can share best practices with others to drive overall efficiency.

THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS HAVE LED TO A 9% REDUCTION ACROSS THE GROUP FROM 2022 TO 2023

- Reduced fleet vehicle emissions
- Switching to renewable electricity suppliers
- Significant reductions in commuting
- Reducing cooling leaks and refrigerant emissions

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](#)



16%

Reduction in Carbon Footprint
(tCO₂e) from 2022–2023



28%

Reduction in Carbon Intensity
(tCO₂e) from 2022–2023



Key Changes



400 solar panels installed



43 greener delivery vehicles with Euro 6 engines on the road



100% of our company cars are now electric

PRODUCT DONATIONS

Whenever products are reaching the end of their shelf life, or are damaged in transit, we donate them to the community grocery and cooking school at Down Town Kitchen and Café in Burnley. We also donate surplus event stock.

SUPPORTING HEALTHY BODIES & MINDS

We are committed to promoting sports and enhancing wellbeing within the workplace through various initiatives. As the headline sponsors of Lowerhouse Cricket Club for the 2023, 2024, and 2025 seasons, we proudly support local sports and community engagement. Additionally, we are the main kit sponsor for Rossendale United Under 15s and a commercial partner for Hunslet R.L.F.C., a professional rugby league club in Beeston, Leeds. We also support junior rock climber, Finlay Baldwin, who is aiming to compete in the BMC Youth Climbing Series.

Our commitment to mental health and employee wellbeing is demonstrated by our partnership with Lancashire Mind, our chosen charity partner for 2024 and 2025. Together, we are working to raise vital funds to support people in Lancashire experiencing poor mental health and its associated challenges. To support our employees' mental health, we provide access to a fully qualified counsellor who regularly visits our site to offer counselling for those facing difficulties in their work or personal lives.

We also prioritise physical wellbeing by offering free personal training sessions every Tuesday and Thursday morning for all employees, along with discounted gym memberships at local gyms.

FOOD SAFETY & QUALITY AUDITS

As a responsible supplier to all sectors of the catering trade, including hospitals and the care sector, we are audited annually by Micron2. This audit ensures we comply with the safe storage, wholesale and dispatch of ambient, chilled, and frozen products.

We are proud to have reduced our carbon footprint by 16% between 2022 and 2023.

Justin Birchall,
Managing Director





www.countryrange.co.uk

**GB: The Country Range Group Ltd,
4 & 5, Jupiter House, Mercury Rise,
Altham, Lancashire, BB5 5BY.**

**EU: The Country Range Group Ltd,
PO Box 246, Newtownabbey,
BT36 9EZ.**