

Net zero for industry

Take Aim- Take Action

The world is changing

The impacts of, and response to climate change are likely to bring wide-reaching changes in markets, technologies and trading conditions. Consumer pressure for business to 'do the right thing' is increasing and inaction means real risk to future success.

Benefits

Companies that plan and have strategies to adapt to a net zero economy stand the best chance of protecting their long term value as well as helping to protect the world we live in.

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[Find out more](#)

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Your net zero journey

Taking the net zero journey will require you to answer 4 key questions



Where am I now?

First establish where you are on your net zero journey and understand the activities you need to consider as you progress.

[Find out more](#)



Where do I want to be?

Set your net zero aims with a clearly defined pathway. Include realistic milestone targets to track and celebrate progress.

[Find out more](#)



How do I get there?

Identify and Implement those projects and strategies that will achieve your targets most efficiently.

[Find out more](#)



How do I track and measure?

Track your progress and ensure that reporting effectively communicates your success to different levels in the business.

[Find out more](#)

Where am I Now?



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How to do it

Understanding all the stages of a net zero journey from the outset will allow you to effectively plan and prioritise what you need to do.

What to consider

Review your current position by asking yourself:

1. Does your leadership understand net zero and buy into it?
2. Do you have the tools to accurately and reliably report GHG emissions and realise reductions?
3. Have you set ambitious company level targets which have been operationalised into the business?
4. Have you developed the skills, knowledge and resources within the organisation to achieve Net Zero?
5. Do you have a detailed reduction plan to achieve net zero and understand how green energy and offsets might feature?
6. Do you have the strategy and means to implement the plans and achieve your targets?

Benefits abound

- Plans will be realistic and in line with business objectives.
- Plans will be made with a full understanding of requirements.

Supporting your journey

We have a range of support options; from a structured net zero maturity assessment which would involve stakeholder engagement and interviews, through to providing more ad hoc consultancy to fill in any of the gaps you might have. Another popular activity is the completion of a peer review looking at how your competitors and industry leaders are tackling the problem.

Establish status

What this means for you in your role

Group level

You will have a clear understanding of the challenge. This will help you develop a plan of enabling activities to ensure your company is ready.

What to consider in your role

Internal alignment is one of the big early challenges. Colleagues are likely to buy into the idea earlier if you can articulate the opportunity associated with a net zero business compared to the risk of inaction.

Site level

You will understand how your site fits into the net zero challenge. This will inform the investment strategy for site for the next 10-20 years.

What to consider in your role

No-one knows the site better than you. If your site is a particular challenge for the group's decarbonisation, start thinking about how to approach this. Then you will be ready to make the right decision when the time comes.

Where am I Now?

Andy's tips



Know your route

Understanding all the stages of a net zero journey from the outset will allow you to effectively plan and prioritise what you need to do.

Engagement = impact

The most impactful net zero strategies are those that successfully align the achievement of net zero with core business. This will need to involve many stakeholders including operations, finance, procurement and strategy. This can take time so start the engagement early.

Develop a data strategy

It is important that you have a way of accurately tracking progress and forecasting future trajectory. The challenges of gathering and processing the necessary data for Scope 1, 2 & 3 reporting requires careful consideration. It would be prudent to develop a data and systems strategy that underpins any net zero ambition.



Andrew Todd

Director (Corporates)

Where do I want to be?



How to do it

Define your net zero goals and map a pathway to achieve this. Key milestones along the way will enable you to better track progress and make the task ahead more manageable.

What to consider

Consider how the business might change over the target period and how this might impact Scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions.

Are there decisions you are making today that are going to impact your ability to achieve these targets in the future (e.g. such as major plant upgrades, or new processes)?

How does the net zero ambition support other business priorities such as brand commitments?

What opportunities are there to collaborate?

Benefits abound

- A clear plan helps everyone work together towards a common aim.
- A pro-active rather than reactive approach enables your business to thrive in the zero carbon economy.
- Confidence your plan is ambitious and achievable.

Supporting your journey

Our Aim for Zero service gives costed pathways to achieve zero carbon complete with milestone targets and the structure for achieving them. We draw on our experience from our work with Government and 30 years in the industry.

We work directly with industry to implement the projects so the targets set with Aim for Zero are commercially viable, realistic and achievable in the real-world.

We have helped 10 major clients on the pathway to achieve zero carbon by 2050.

Set targets

What this means for you in your role

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Group level

Net zero targets at a corporate level can sometimes risk feeling intangible. It is important to operationalise a group level target by developing a set of relevant, challenging yet achievable sub targets.

What to consider in your role

When setting such long-term targets it is absolutely critical to ensure that there is clear ownership of both the group and sub targets to ensure focus is maintained over the whole target period.

Site level

The net zero plans for a site are likely to include a mixture of activities from efficiency improvements, significant capital interventions and potentially deployment of renewables. It is important to have a plan that understands the interrelation of these activities.

What to consider in your role

Understand the potential for demand reduction as this will likely have a significant impact on the future capital requirement when large plant needs to be replaced.

Where do I want to be?

Tim's tips



Consider approach

Pretty soon after getting commitment it is important to define what you want to include within a target. Are you looking to achieve a verified SBT or similar? If so, this can dictate the reporting approach you would need to take. Understanding this early on can avoid wasted effort.

Identify ownership

When setting long term targets it is essential to identify clear ownership. This ensures momentum is maintained if people move on from the roles they occupied when the target was set.

Do what you can

There are some challenges today to which we don't have the ideal solution. For industrial companies none is so stark as process heating. But a strategy can still be developed which puts you in the best position for when new solutions become commercially available. I have never met a company that could not keep itself busy for at least 5 years on net zero activities.



Tim Crozier-Cole

Head of Aim for zero (Corporates)

How do I get there?



How to do it

There may be a number of different approaches to achieve net zero for a company, but each will vary in terms of timescales, capital required, changes in operational costs and risk.

What to consider

Your net zero pathway will probably combine aspects of energy reduction (operational improvement, energy efficiency, process optimisation and innovation) as well as renewable/ low carbon technologies. There is likely to be a role for green energy procurements and offsets to manage any residual emissions.

Look to build the carbon risk into your decision making straight away to avoid making decisions today which you will be stuck with for some time. This can be done by incorporating an internal cost of carbon into capex project appraisals.

Benefits abound

- Significant operational cost savings
- Ensuring most effective use of capital
- Avoiding the risk of future “stranded assets”
- An approach focussing internal action will mitigate against the risk of a change in opinion on the use of green tariffs and offsets in net zero strategies.

Supporting your journey

With our Deliver for Zero service, we support the development of energy reduction and renewable projects from initial feasibility through to implementation. Our team of expert engineers will draw on our 30 year industry experience to ensure we avoid pitfalls and add value to the process all along the way.

We are also able to develop strategies for both the procurement of green energy and high quality offsets.

Implement

What this means for you in your role

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Group level

The group function needs to co-ordinate and oversee a number of implementation plans across the business which will contribute to the net zero objective. Beyond the specific business unit plans it is likely that there will be a number of central activities such as green energy procurement or developing a suitable offset strategy.

What to consider in your role

Consider a central platform where all the targets, plans and most importantly progress achieved can be monitored.

Site level

For sites with significant thermal loads it is likely that an ideal solution for decarbonisation is not available now. Therefore the initial plans will need to focus on demand reduction and process optimisation.

What to consider in your role

Identify any barriers to implementing resource efficiency and process optimisation opportunities, there may well be a strong business case for more resource or an outsourced solution.

How do I get there?

Thanos's tips



Reduce demand

Don't let the lack of certainty on how to fully decarbonise prevent action now. Reducing demand will help in all situations and is likely to feature prominently in any industrial net zero strategy.

Consider the future

It is important to consider future net zero aspirations when evaluating projects today. For example, when looking at gas fired CHP or replacing a boiler plant, you need to consider how this will fit into a net zero strategy to avoid creating further challenges in 5-10 years' time.

Optimise

Don't overlook energy efficiency or process optimisation opportunities, especially when looking at thermal decarbonisation. When compared to low carbon thermal options it is likely that process optimisation and innovation will have a favourable carbon abatement cost and may provide other co-benefits.



Athanasios Patsos

Head of Deliver for zero (Corporates)

How do I track and measure?



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How to do it

Accurate and reliable data combined with the appropriate methodology and reporting solution is essential to track progress against a net zero target.

What to consider

Does the reporting methodology employed ensure the ability to realise savings when implemented (particularly important when looking at scope 3)?

Forecasting future trajectory against a number of business scenarios will help manage risk over a long target period.

Where should the data be stored – internal system vs third party?

Who needs to engage with the reporting outputs on what frequency, for example are there operational sub targets which need to be considered?

Benefits abound

- Accurate reporting will support company engagement with net zero.

- Careful consideration of the methodology will ensure savings are realised when action is taken.

- Accurately forecasting impacts on an ongoing basis will support long-term strategic decision making.

Supporting your journey

We are able to provide a full range of Scope 1, 2 and 3 reporting and forecasting solutions.

We can integrate site level automatic A&MT solutions with other data streams to provide enterprise reporting solutions and bespoke forecasting models.

[Find out more about Carbon Desktop](#)

Report

What this means for you in your role

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Group level

It is likely that GHG performance will need to be reported in a number of different ways, from mandatory disclosures, voluntary reporting schemes such as CDP and interested internal and external stakeholders sometimes on a quarterly basis.

What to consider in your role

It is important to understand the reporting needs and frequency from the outset to ensure your methodology and data strategy supports your goals. You might want to consider whether you want to use own the data and methodology internally or use a third party solution.

Site level

Site will be required to provide accurate data for reporting as well as progress updates on the implementation plan. It is likely that the reporting system for site level data is already in place but consideration should be given to how consistent progress updates can be provided across sites.

What to consider in your role

It is important that the site has the means to verify improvements and track performance to ensure the savings are locked in. Develop a set of M&V principles which can be applied to any project type to ensure consistency.

How do I track and measure?

Hannah's tips



Consider output

Carefully consider what outputs and functionality you would like from a tool; working back from that will define the data sources and most appropriate data architecture.

Future proof

When dealing with scope 3, understand where data availability is likely to improve over time (such as supplier specific data) and factor that into the design of your system.

Document the process

Ensure you have a well documented data governance process outlining who is responsible for data, where it comes from and in what form. Three years down the road when people have moved roles this document will become invaluable!



Hannah Jones

Consultant

Achieving net zero

Case study

The Business

Major international beverage company

The project

Verco have worked with a major international drinks company over the last 4 years, in this time we have:

- Developed a full value chain reporting methodology (Scope 1,2&3).
- Developed a set of Scope 1&2 and value chain targets and operationally focussed sub targets.
- Obtained SBTi verification for the targets against the 1.5C pathway.
- Developed detailed energy reduction plans at sites.
- Providing GHG impact assessments for a series of packaging innovations.
- Supported all GHG scope 1,2 and 3 reporting requirements and disclosures such as (mandatory GHG reporting, CDP and DJSI).



[Read more case studies](#)




Take aim- Take action

We take a joined-up approach: We help set targets and implement projects.

Aims are realistic and action gets the right results.

verco



-  Expert pathway strategies for leadership
-  Stunning analytics for insight and disclosure
-  Project identification and implementation for optimum performance

[Find out more](#)

What next?

Visit our website

Find out more about us and the services we provide.

Visit our website

Join our mailing list

We will keep updated on the latest compliance requirements, opportunities for funding and upcoming webinars and events that are relevant to you. We will also update you on any findings from our engagement with our industry peer groups focused on Scope 3 and Renewable Thermal.

Join our mailing list

Call us for a free 30 minute phone consultation

We are here to help you achieve zero and love talking to businesses about how they can meet their net zero targets. Arrange a call with one of our consultants to discuss your needs and the options available to you.

Book a consultation