



 **ASCOT**
RACING TO
ZERO

2022 REPORT

Ascot has the goal of operating with Net Zero carbon emissions by 2040.

Net zero is defined by the UN as:

Net zero means reducing greenhouse gas emissions to as close to zero as possible, with any remaining emissions re-absorbed from the atmosphere, for instance by sea grass and forests, through the process of offsetting. This then equates to a net zero position.

OUR COMMITMENTS



Ascot is proud to be a signatory to The UN Sport for Climate Action Framework and is committed to its 'Race to Zero' targets. The Sport for Climate Action initiative unites global sporting organisations to collectively strive towards a low-carbon emission future and further the sector's role as a driver of change.

Being a signatory to the framework pledges the racecourse to the below core aims and principles:

- Reducing the overall climate impact of sport
- Promoting greater environmental responsibility
- Using Ascot's platforms to educate for climate action
- Advocating for climate action through communications
- Promoting sustainable and responsible consumption



OUR PRINCIPLE

is **One Health**, with a focus on improving the Health of:



**OUR
PLANET**



**OUR
COMMUNITY**



**OUR
PEOPLE**

We have aligned our strategy with the framework designed by the British Association for Sustainable Sport (BASIS) www.basis.org.uk. The framework is centred on the simple principle of One Health. This principle of One Health works in accord with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

OUR FRAMEWORK PILLARS

These give us the structure in which to concentrate our efforts and develop actions in accordance with our commitments:



The principle of One Health and how our activities impact the health of our planet, our community and our people can be broken down into 12 useful pillars. This structure can then help us work across departments in a clear and objective driven manner. The following objectives enable us to set targets that will contribute to our overall aim of a net zero business by 2040.

OUR OBJECTIVES

ENERGY AND EMISSIONS

To minimise greenhouse gas emissions from all sources including buildings, equipment and other operational sources.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

To minimise the generation of waste and to eliminate single use products. All unavoidable waste to be reused, recycled or recovered with no waste sent for landfill.

WATER AND EFFLUENTS

To use water efficiently and effectively, to dispose of wastewater appropriately avoiding watercourse pollution and to maintain buildings and the grounds to prevent issues, such as leakages.

MATERIALS AND CHEMICALS

To use sustainable, healthy products and raw materials with low embodied energy which are sourced locally and made from reusable, recyclable and/or recycled resources.

TRANSPORT AND TRAVEL

To minimise the impacts of transport and travel by reducing journeys and using low and zero-carbon transport and travel options.

FOOD AND DRINK

To reduce the impact of food & drink production by choosing local and seasonal produce, offering plant-based alternatives, minimising waste and redistributing unused food / drink where possible.

BIODIVERSITY AND HABITATS

To encourage and protect biodiversity and wildlife habitats through appropriate land use, management and integration into the built environment.

PROCUREMENT

To incorporate economic, social and environmental considerations into all procurement decisions including, return on investment and end-of-life disposal. Incorporating sustainability guidelines into all supplier and partner contracts.

ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY

To support and have positive impacts on the local economy and community. To proactively work with our sponsors and partners in fulfilling shared aims and sustainable benefits.

ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION

To engage with our community at all levels, from local residents to international fans, about Ascot's commitment to sustainability and our approach to One Health.

EMPLOYMENT, ACCESSIBILITY & EQUALITY

Our desire is to promote equality, diversity and inclusion at all levels. We aim to provide facilities and services that are open to all, physically accessible and underpinned with a welcoming atmosphere.

WELLBEING

To give opportunities to staff, race fans and other visitors to improve their physical and mental well-being.

The 2022 achievements on the route to Net Zero.

As part of its journey to reach its net zero target, the racecourse is seeking to reduce, mitigate and avoid carbon emissions as much as operationally possible. In 2022, the objective was to change operations, collect data, analyse performance, educate and build a strategy to roll out the plan of action across the entire estate. Here is a snapshot of 2022 activities that will help Ascot in its #racingtozero mission...

AIMING FOR ZERO CARBON...

EMISSIONS

Ascot undertook a thorough review of its 2019 data (last pre-pandemic 'normal' year) as a first step in analysing its carbon emission footprint. It found 5,000 tonnes of CO₂e were created by our business activities. The current and future focus is to work effectively to reduce and mitigate our impact and benchmark our progress year-on-year.

This is broken down into the below 3 scope categories...



POWER

Since October 2019, Ascot has been using 100% renewable energy throughout the racecourse. This means no fossil fuels are burnt to provide Ascot's electricity.

For the first time ever, Ascot produced its own solar power during Royal Ascot as part of our Neutro Restaurant initiative. This first step has led to a site wide photovoltaic programme being researched and scoped to look at how the racecourse can convert thermal energy to electricity in the future.

DIESEL

Using green HVO (hydrotreated vegetable oil) derived diesel to power generators, which is made from waste streams such as animal and fish fats and various waste vegetable / cooking / corn oils.

LIGHTING

Continuing to roll out LED and motion detectors within the buildings to reduce lighting loads. So far the estimated savings from the 1,290 lights changed have reduced the kw rating by 56.6kw which is equivalent to a 70% reduction in lighting energy consumption.

RE- CHARGING

To reduce emissions in 2022 all onsite buggies were changed to electric vehicles, during Royal Ascot two electric waste trucks were onsite throughout the week and the Grounds Team have been trialling battery powered hand tools and lawnmowers.

AIMING FOR ZERO WASTE...

Working with our sustainable waste management partners, including Grundon – a local company only 12 miles from the racecourse, made a real impact in our quest for zero waste in 2022 and we are proud to have achieved the following:

47%

OF ALL WASTE RECYCLED

505.2

TONNES OF CO2 SAVED

3,727

TREES SAVED

357MWH

OF POWER
GENERATED THROUGH
REFUSE BEING PROCESSED
VIA GRUNDON
ENERGY FACILITY

2,400KG

EXCESS FOOD
DONATED TO CITY
HARVEST TO FEED
VULNERABLE AND IN
NEED PEOPLE ACROSS
LONDON AND THE
SOUTH EAST

**MAINTAINED
ZERO
WASTE TO
LANDFILL**

**INSTALLED AN
ORCA FOOD
DIGESTION
SYSTEM TO
COMPOST FOOD
WASTE –
IN USE 24/7**

**REMOVAL OF
SINGLE USE
PLASTICS**

ALMOST HALF
A MILLION CUPS
WASHED AND REUSED
THROUGH RE-CUP
INITIATIVE

ALL WASTE CARDBOARD
IS BALED UP AND SENT
TO A RE-PROCESSING
PLANT WITHIN THE UK
TO BE MADE INTO
RE-USABLE MATERIALS

PARTNERED WITH
LAVAZZA ON A RECYCLED
CUP AND COFFEE
POD INITIATIVE

PARTNERSHIP WITH
HARROGATE WATER FOR
A CLOSED LOOP PLASTIC
BOTTLE SCHEME

FULL COMPOSTING
OF VEGWARE PACKAGING
AND FOOD WASTE IN
THE SAME FULL
CIRCLE STREAM

LOCAL AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD

NEUTRO

Royal Ascot 2022 saw the launch of Neutro – a Village Enclosure restaurant that was as near to zero emissions as possible.

- Fully plant-based menu – locally sourced ingredients
- Upcycled materials were used in the build and furniture
- Installed a Smart Flower to capture solar energy
- Powered by green HVO generators, we offset our impact through solar power and Woodland Carbon Credits
- Neutro produced 1.8 tonnes of CO2e – less than half the emissions of a ‘normal’ restaurant operation



PLANT-BASED

Plant-based dishes now contribute to 20% of all menu items and our aim is to increase this to 50% over the next 5 years.

LOCALLY SOURCED - FULL CIRCLE FARMS

Owned by Farmer Tom, Full Circle Farms is a unique farming initiative based in Sussex offering hospitality venues the opportunity to own and grow on their own plot of farmed land. In 2022, Ascot took two plots for Royal Ascot.

A full farming team now works with our Ascot chefs to assess the various catering requirements across restaurants and private boxes and help us grow amazing produce without using a single drop of pesticide or herbicide.

In addition to the produce grown, Ascot sources a number of products from the nearby Windsor Crown Estate and Highgrove.

Our customers enjoy local food packed full of flavour and we reduce our food miles – win win.



SUSTAINABLE WATER PRACTICES

RAINWATER

Using an on-site reservoir to collect rain and run off water and reuse it for track and grounds watering and pressure washer cleaning.

TOILET FLUSHING

Measuring the impact of reducing the grandstand auto flushing frequency of toilets outside of racedays, with an estimated £50k saving.

HOT WATER STORAGE

Reducing the size of the domestic stored hot water in the Queen Anne plant room from 900l to 250l thereby reducing unnecessary heating charges and becoming more efficient.



BIODIVERSITY PROJECTS

PLAN BEE

4 beehives installed on the Ascot Heath in conjunction with Plan Bee.

NEST BOXES

Working with Wildlife in Ascot and House Martin Conservation, 4 nest cups were installed and used by breeding House Martins in 2022. We aim to install a further 8 nest cups in early 2023.

As part of a re-roofing project, a bespoke nest box was created for a resident pair of Little Owls, who moved in and successfully bred in 2022.

TREES

Over 100 trees planted as part of The Queen's Green Canopy Campaign.

WILDFLOWERS

We established a wildflower meadow at the Ascot stables to encourage more pollinating insects to the estate.

WELLBEING

ROYAL ASCOT STAFF WELFARE

New facilities and restaurants provided across the racecourse serving a new hot and cold menu with healthy plant-based options.

Staff Travel – Survey conducted with staff to help with future planning.

The Future.

We're #racingtozero and plan to be net zero carbon by 2040. To help us stay on course, we are cutting the carbon emissions created by our business through lots of effective initiatives and are always looking for new ways we can work with our team, our suppliers and our customers who share in our mission to make the world a better place.

We've made progress in 2022 and will make more meaningful changes in the future as we continue Racing to Zero.

OUR TARGETS

2023

1. Analysis of 2022 emissions footprint, progress targets based on data
2. Increase waste recycling to hit 50% of all waste produced
3. Build on data from the net zero Restaurant and create a net zero Village Enclosure
4. Plant-based food to be 25% of menu choice
5. Develop business proposal for renewable energy production on site
6. Reduce power usage by 10% on 2019 figures
7. Become a UN S4CA signatory
8. Start move to an ESG culture
9. Undertake a habitat & wildlife survey with a local conservation group
10. Develop business plan for cycle racks and EV chargers
11. Produce business plan for the installation of service sub meters
12. Initiate a student programme supporting Ascot's sustainability in partnership with Surrey University
13. Solar power energy provided by the Smart Flower to offset the Village Enclosure during Royal Ascot
14. Progress the staff sustainable travel programmes

2024 - 2025

1. Annual monitoring of previous year's emissions
2. A commitment for our capital expenditure to be focused on carbon reduction
3. Local partners for 60% of food products by 2025
4. 60% of all waste to be recycled by end of 2025
5. Procure 100% reusable, recyclable, or compostable packaging by 2025
6. Reduction in catering deliveries consolidated to reduce carbon emissions by 25% by 2025
7. Introduce digital menus
8. Develop partnership with the Woodland Carbon Code for offsetting
9. Remove chemicals from site and introduce bioproducts

2026 - 2029

1. Plant-based foods account for 50% of sales by 2028
2. By 2026 gas usage (Scope 1) at least 10% less than 2023 figures
3. By 2026 electricity use (Scope 2) at least 10% less than 2023 usage
4. By 2027 develop sustainable travel process for racegoers and staff that reduces CO₂e impact by 10% on 2022 data
5. Move to 100% electric vehicles site wide by 2027

2040 - A NET ZERO RACECOURSE