



Willowbrook Foods Ltd PPN 06/21

CARBON REDUCTION PLAN

Part of carbon footprint assessment in
accordance with SBTi



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1.0 INTRODUCTION



*“Fully Committed to
Net Zero By 2050 “*

To establish a clear direction and timeline we have engaged CarbonFit to review and audit our Carbon Footprint and assist in setting a clear path to Net Zero for Scope 1,2 and 3 by 2050 in line with PPN 06/21, SBTi and GHG Protocols.

CarbonFit have carried out an audit in accordance with ISO14064-1.

To commence the process, CarbonFit have reviewed our operations including energy and carbon usage and consumption throughout the buildings, processes, vehicles, travel, distribution waste and employee commuting in line GHG Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard and GHG Scope 3 standards.

For the purpose of this report, in accordance with PPN 06/21, the baseline and last financial year have been reported. Emissions have been calculated using the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) conversion factors for company reporting of GHG Emissions.

Willowbrook Food Ltd can confirm we are fully committed to achieving Net Zero by 2050 or sooner.

This plan will be updated annually in line with our financial year end.

The next revision is due towards Q3 of 2026.



2.0 WILLOWBROOK FOODS LTD

Willowbrook Foods is a food production company based in Newtownards, Northern Ireland. Established in 1968, it specializes in producing a wide range of fresh and prepared vegetables, salads, and convenience foods. The company supplies its products to various sectors, including retail, food services, and manufacturing across the UK and Ireland.

Key aspects of Willowbrook Foods include:

Product Range: They offer a variety of products, including prepared vegetables, salads, deli salads, stir fry mixes, and meal accompaniments. Their offerings cater to the growing demand for healthy and convenient food options.

Innovation: The company focuses on innovation, continually developing new products and adapting to market trends. This includes introducing new flavours and ready-to-eat solutions to meet consumer needs.

Sustainability: Willowbrook Foods emphasizes sustainable practices, including sourcing locally grown produce where possible and implementing environmentally friendly processes in their operations.

Quality and Safety: They maintain high standards of food safety and quality control, ensuring their products meet rigorous industry standards.

Market Reach: Besides serving local markets, Willowbrook Foods has expanded its reach to supply major retails and food service provider throughout the UK and Ireland.



2.1 Carbonfit

Carbonfit partners with organisations and businesses to support them on their Net Zero Journey through 3 key phases footprint, improve and translate.

We are a team of chartered Engineers with over 20 years combined experience in the Energy and Carbon Sector. We have the knowledge, skills and expertise to meet carbon reporting and Net Zero requirements in line with GHG Protocol and SBTi.



3.0 Company Overview

Willowbrook Foods Ltd is a family-owned food manufacturing company based in Northern Ireland. Founded in 1968 by John McCann on the family farm in Killinchy, Country Down, the business has grown from a small-scale operation into one of the leading providers of prepared vegetables and fresh food products in the UK and Ireland. Today, Willowbrook operates from 3 key productions sites – 2 factories in Killinchy, which also houses a state-of-the-art Innovation Centre, and a second mash-focused plant in Newtownards, which was opened in 2009 to meet rising demand. The company employs over 220 staff across both sites.

Willowbrook Foods offer a wide range of products, catering to the retail, food service, and industrial sectors. Its product portfolio includes ready-to-eat salas bowls, and bags, pre-prepared vegetables, mash and root vegetable dishes, and an array of stir-fry mixes, deli salads and sandwich fillers. Their offerings are available under both branded and private label arrangements, with distribution through major supermarket chain such as Lidl, Aldi, and Spar as well as food service giants like KFC and Domino's.

Innovation and quality are at the heart of the business. The company maintains BRC Grade AA+ accreditation and operates a dedicated Innovation centre to develop new products.

Willowbrook has earned multiple awards, including Blas nah Eireann and Irish Quality Food Awards, and continues to grow under CEO John McCann and Managing Director Eamon McKey. With a focus on freshness, sustainability and innovation, Willowbrook remains a trusted name in the fresh foods industry.





3.1 Company Details

3.1.1 BASE FINANCIAL YEAR

February 2023 – January 2024

3.1.2 FINANCIAL YEAR REPORTING

February 2024 – January 2025

3.1.3 ADDRESS

50A Whiterock Road,
Killinchy,
Down
Northern Ireland, BT23 6PT

3.1.4 BOUNDARY APPROACH

Financial

3.1.5 SUSTAINABLE LEADERSHIP TEAM

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4.0 Net Zero Commitment

In 2019 the UK Government amended the Climate Change Act 2008 by introducing a target of a 100% reduction in the net UK carbon account by 2050. This has become commonly known as the 'Net zero, target. 'In line with this, Willowbrook Foods Ltd are fully committed to playing our part and ensuring that our business achieves Net Zero by 2050.

Willowbrook Foods Ltd commitment to achieving Net Zero by 2050 is set out in this "Carbon Reduction Plan". This outlines out the company's vision and strategy for achieving Net Zero across its entire value chain [Scope1,2 and 3] in line with the governments streamlined energy and Carbon Reporting guidelines. Willowbrook Foods Ltd employ the services of CarbonFit providing carbon accounting and advisory services. CarbonFit undertake a series of quality management checks in line with the requirements ISO 14064.

The emissions data contained within this CRP has been obtained in accordance with the GHG Protocols Corporate standard and the corporate value chain [Scope 3] accounting and reporting standard. Emissions have been calculated using the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) conversion factors for company reporting of GHG Emissions.

NET ZERO PLEDGE

Willowbrook Foods Ltd is committed to developing a science-based target aligned with the SBTi criteria, submit the target to the SBTi for validation and publish our approved targets within a maximum of 24 months.

- We commit to reducing our Scope 1 & 2 GHG emissions by 50% by 2035 from the Base Year below and 100% by 2050.
- We commit to measuring and reducing our Score 3 by engaging with 80% of our supply chain by 2027. Scope 3 emissions to be reduced by 100% by 2040 or sooner.



5.0 Baseline Emissions Footprint

Financial Year: February 2023 – January 2024

Scope 1,2 and 3 emissions as required by GHG Protocol are outlined below:

Scope 1

Primary Fuel Combustion (On-site)	745.21 tCO ₂ e
Machinery/Manufacturing Process	0.00 tCO ₂ e
Fugitive	780.27 tCO ₂ e
Road Transport	65.11 tCO ₂ e

C1. Total Scope 1	1,590.58 tCO₂e
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Scope 2

Electricity Consumed (Location Based)	714.59 tCO ₂ e
Electricity Consumed (Market Based/Onsite/REGO)	0.00 tCO ₂ e

C2. Total Scope 2	714.59 tCO₂e
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Scope 3

Category 1: Purchased Goods and Services	29,277.23 tCO ₂ e*
Category 3: Fuel and Energy Related Activities	364.96 tCO ₂ e
Category 4: Upstream Transportation and Distribution	N/C tCO ₂ e
Category 5: Waste Generated in Operations	N/C tCO ₂ e
Category 6: Business Travel	N/C tCO ₂ e
Category 7: Employee Commuting	N/C tCO ₂ e
Category 9: Downstream Transportation and Distribution	N/C tCO ₂ e

C3. Total Scope 3	29,642.19 tCO₂e
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N/C - Not yet calculated

*Total from FY24/25 Cat 1 Purchased goods and services has been included above to provide comparison

All values shown are gross TCO₂e



6.0 Current Emissions Footprint: Carbon

Financial Year: February 2024 – January 2025

Scope 1,2 and 3 emissions as required by GHG Protocol are outlined below:

Scope 1

Primary Fuel Combustion (On-site)	725.03 tCO ₂ e
Machinery/Manufacturing Process	143.99 tCO ₂ e
Fugitive	TBC tCO ₂ e
Road Transport	123.49 tCO ₂ e
C1. Total Scope 1	992.51 tCO₂e

Scope 2

Electricity Consumed (Location Based)	784.99 tCO ₂ e
Electricity Consumed (Market Based/Onsite Gen/REGO)	0.00 tCO ₂ e
C2. Total Scope 2	784.99 tCO₂e

Scope 3

Category 1: Purchased Goods and Services	29,277.23 tCO ₂ e
Category 1: Water	11.76 tCO ₂ e
Category 3: Fuel and Energy Related Activities	507.30 tCO ₂ e
Category 4: Upstream Transportation and Distribution	1,162.02 tCO ₂ e
Category 5: Waste Generated in Operations	24.48 tCO ₂ e
Category 6: Business Travel	7.90 tCO ₂ e
Category 7: Employee Commuting	268.17 tCO ₂ e
Category 9: Downstream Transportation and Distribution	2,297.60 tCO ₂ e
C3. Total Scope 3	33,556.47 tCO₂e

N/C - Not yet calculated

Water usage: 76,821m³

All values shown are gross TCO₂e



6.1 Base Year and Last Financial Year Summary

Scope	FY24 TCO2e	FY25 TCO2e	% change
Scope 1	1,590.58	992.51	-37.6%*
Scope 2	714.59	784.99	9.9%
Scope 3	29,642.19	33,556.47	13.2%
Total	31,947.36	35,333.97	10.6%

*Reduction in FY 25 Scope 1 due to no fugitive top up reported in FY 25

Scope	FY24 kWh	FY25 kWh	% change
Scope 1			
Natural Gas	548,168	464,286	-18%
Propane	1,845,872	1,746,971	-6%
Burning oil	977,817	1,078,502	9%
Gas oil	21,796	21,484	-1%
White diesel		579,398	100%
Road diesel	233,765	497,843	53%
Road petrol		20,469	100%
Scope 2			
Electricity	3,450,476	3,790,426	9%
Renewable Electricity	0	0	0%
Total	7,077,892	8,199,381	-14%

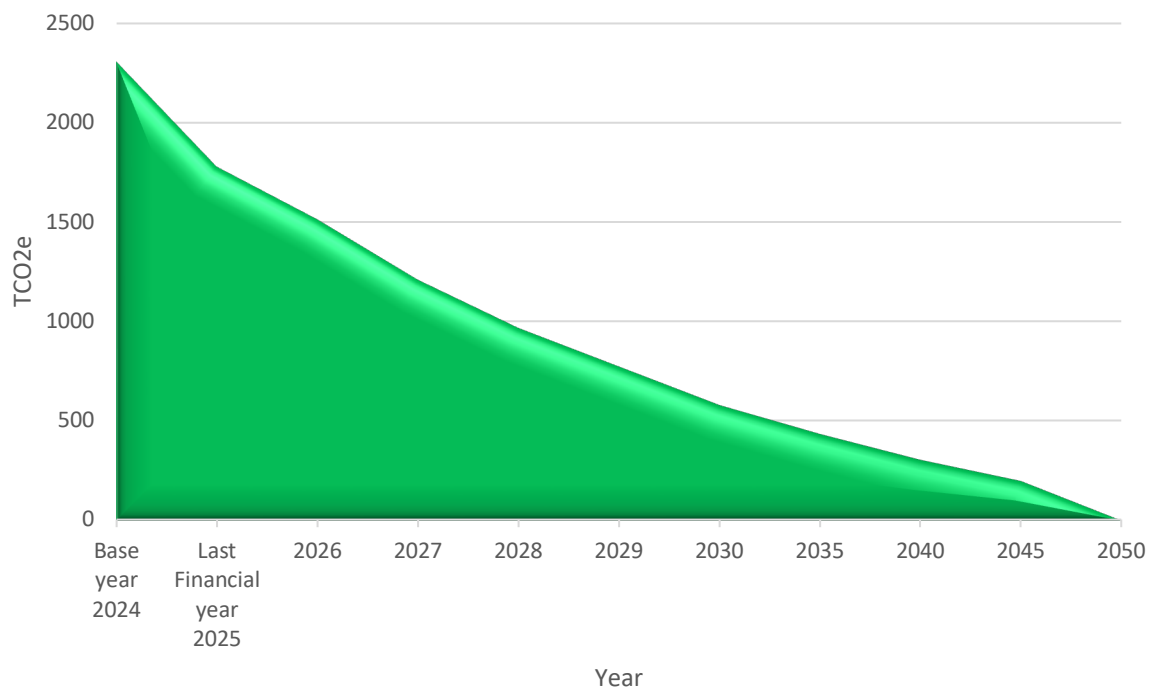


7.0 Emissions Reduction Targets: Scope 1 and 2

In order to continue our progress to achieving Net Zero, we have adopted the following carbon reduction targets:

- Reduce Scope 1 absolute emissions by 50% by 2035 from base year with min reduction of 15% year on year by implementing projects outlined in section 9.0 to reach Net Zero by 2050 or sooner.
- Reduce Scope 2 absolute emissions by 100% by Q4 2025 by moving to green electricity supply contract.
- Submit SBTi targets for scope 1&2 by 2027 for validation and approval.

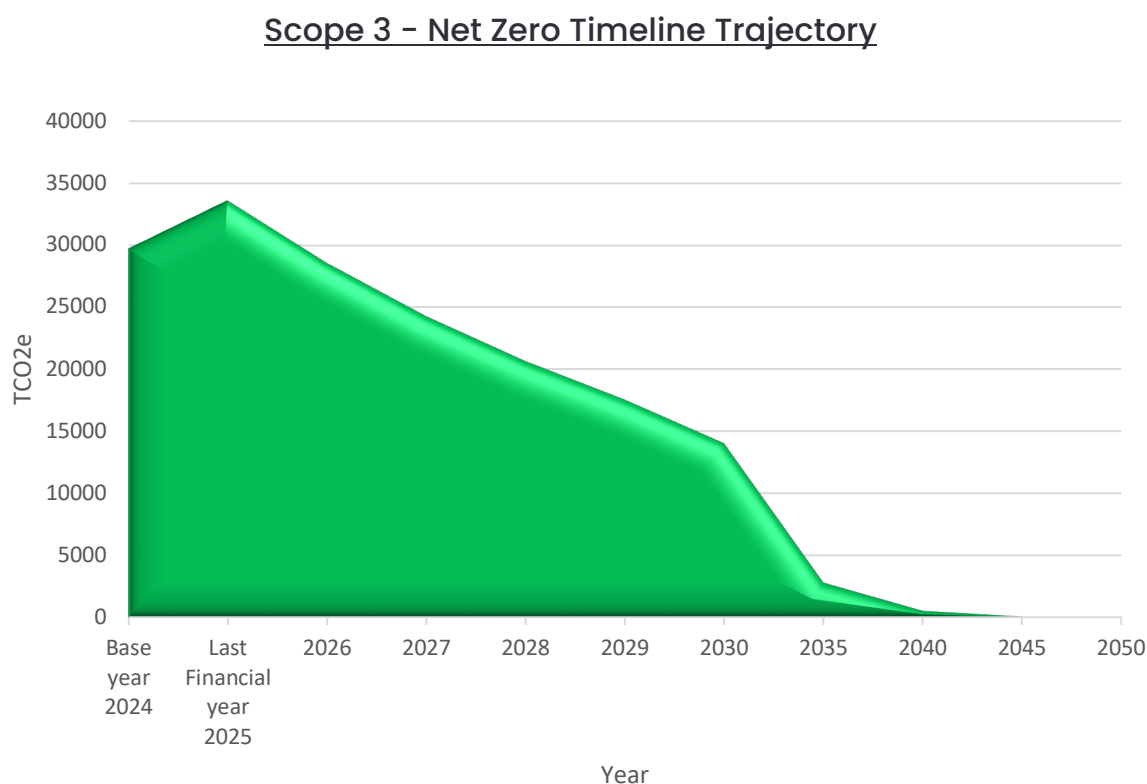
Scope 1 & 2 Net Zero Timeline Trajectory



7.1 Emission Reduction Targets: Scope 3

Scope 3 targets include:

- Complete a full scope 3 inventory and calculation by Q4 2025
- Engage 80% of supply chain by 2027 in line with SBTi Engagement Targets
- Set Near and long term targets for all Scope 3 categories by 2027
- Reduce Scope 3 absolute emissions by 100% by 2050



*Total from FY24/25 Cat 1 Purchased Goods and Services has been included above to provide comparison base year to the last financial year for total reported Scope 3 emissions.



8.0 Carbon Initiatives completed to date

The following environmental management measures and projects have been completed or implemented since the Base Year by Willowbrook Foods Ltd.

General/Strategic Initiatives:

- A "Green Team" has been set up by the company to promote and report on the sustainability initiatives and raise awareness on carbon reduction and update progress to the net zero road map.
- We have planted 10 acres of native Irish trees within our site.
- We recycle water from our Lettuce spin dryers.

Scope 1:

- The company has a policy that any new purchased or lease vehicle will either be an Electric or Hybrid vehicle.
- There has been a commitment by the company to the integration of electric and hybrid vehicles, so we also planned to install EV charging points onsite for staff to use.
- Timers have been installed on all our fridges and refrigerant equipment.
- We have switched all forklift on both sites from diesel to electric.

Scope 2:

- We are committed to upgrade all our office equipment to 'A-rated' energy efficient appliances as and when required.
- Energy Efficient Lighting: Willowbrook Foods Ltd has successfully converted all lighting across their office and factories to LED with motion sensors. This switch to energy-efficient lighting has significantly reduced energy consumption.
- We take Steam waste through a heat exchange unit for hot water production.
- We apply electrical load shedding to support the Northern Ireland Grid during peak demand periods.

Scope 3:

- As a company we provide our staff with an Eco Driver training course. Case studies carried out by the Energy Saving Trust conclude that eco-driver training provides 15% fuel savings on the day of training and 6% savings long term.
- Waste sent to local farmed for SD with salad waste used for Dairy Cow Feeding by same farmer.
- We have completed our Scope 3 Purchased Goods and Services spend based calculation in line with GHG Protocol and aim to improve methodology in FY 26.



9.0 Future Carbon Reduction Projects

"We intend to accelerate our progress to date and focus on Scope 3 emissions which will include engaging with our suppliers to assist them on their net zero journey."

General

- Willowbrook Foods Ltd is working closely with CarbonFIT Ltd to strategise a pathway and road map to Net zero Carbon Emissions.
- It is the intention of the company to complete the validation process for a science-based target validated by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) as aligning with limiting global warming to 1.5°C or <2°C no later than Q3 2026.
- It is the aim of the company to provide members of the board and senior management team a Carbon Literacy Training session which covers climate science, climate policy fundamentals, as well as carbon reporting and management requirements.

Scope 1

Fossil Fuels

- We plan to conduct periodic energy audits to identify energy/carbon saving opportunities and areas of inefficiency within our estate.
- The company will investigate the installation of smart metering systems across all buildings within the estate to monitor and control energy usage and highlight energy hotspots.
- Review current state of Insulation on pipework and boiler rooms.
- We plan to review the replacement of current fossil fuels to biofuels where applicable for use within our heating system.
- Complete a separate feasibility study of replacement of our fossil fuel heating system with an electric source to switch to a green supply electricity contract to nullify emissions.

Machinery

- Potential of retrofitting some factory machines with energy-efficient motors.
- Consider the use of programmable timers to reduce idle machine operation.
- Seeking alternative biofuel solutions to replace the current fossil fuel within our machinery/processes.



9.0 Future Carbon Reduction Projects Continued

Scope 1 Continued

Refrigeration

- Upgrade to low-GWP refrigeration system where feasible.
- We are currently in the process of switching R404a to a less harmful refrigerant such as R449a. The resultant switch will have savings of 165 TCO₂e.
- Improve the maintenance of our current refrigerants contract.
- Consider monitoring refrigerants use with sensors/logs.

Transport

- Make a plan to reduce the environmental impact of our current transport operations and fleet to determine when and how to convert cars, trucks, lorries and other heavy-duty vehicles to low carbon fuels or electric
- Provide driver training programs focused on fuel-efficient driving techniques
- Deploy cargo bikes or electric vans for efficient, low-emission last-mile delivery

Scope 2

- We are in the process of sourcing a fully certified green supply electricity contract which will result in savings of 784.99TCO₂e and will complete by Q4 2025.
- We are currently in the procurement process for a PV Solar Panel Project on our main site and expect contract to commence in Q3 2026.
- The company will investigate the feasibility to install Battery Storage to store our renewably generated energy for night-time use operations and/or when insufficient weather patterns for the PV to operate.
- Feasibility study to understand the most suitable renewable technologies available for our operations and site locations to assist reduction of energy and associated emissions.



9.0 Future Carbon Reduction Projects Continued

Scope 3

Purchased Goods and Services

- We are currently reviewing our Procurement policy and are taking active steps to engage our suppliers to calculate and reduce our emissions through carbonfit supplier engagement programme.

Water

- Water has been reported in our Carbon Calculations 76,821m³ supply. We are implementing various on potable recycling projects at present such as recycling water in our spin dryers and are continuously seeking to identify new opportunities for reducing water supply usage and potable and non-potable water sourcing.
- We take readings of incoming water onto both sites on a weekly basis and are currently installing separate water meters in each processing area to cut down wastage that will be recorded weekly. We also record all outgoing effluent water that has passed through Dissolved Aeration & Floatation process, on a monthly basis. All these records are on our computer system.

Business Travel

- As a company we are considering implementing a policy that all vehicle hire will either be electric or hybrid vehicles only to lower our emissions associated with "Business Travel"

Employee commuting

- We plan to evaluate and incentivise staff to use other forms of transport such as electric/hydrogen bus, e-bike, e-scooter and bicycle to lower our emissions associated with "Employee Commuting."
- Where possible, consideration to implementing a more frequent working from home policy to reduce the impact of emissions associated with "Employee Commuting."



9.0 Future Carbon Reduction Projects Continued

Scope 3

Waste

- We are committed to introducing a Waste Management Policy to help to minimise waste generation on site and facilitate repair, reuse, and recycling over the disposal of wastes, where it is cost effective.
- We have implemented a waste management policy and aim to reach zero waste to landfill by 2027.
- Total Weight of non-hazardous waste 3,992 Tonnes.
- Currently 7% (289 Tonnes) of waste is sent to landfill, 36% (1,440 Tonnes) is recycled and 57% (2,263 Tonnes) sent to local AD Plant for fuel use.

Upstream Transportation and Distribution

- Aim to choose logistics providers that use electric trucks, biofuels, or have net-zero targets.
- Seek providers certified under schemes like SmartWay and Target.
- Optimise delivery journeys with improved ordering and planning.

Downstream Transportation and Distribution

- Use Local Distribution Hubs and establish or partner with urban micro-fulfillment centers to shorten delivery distances.
- Partner with logistics firms that report and reduce their emissions (e.g., via CDP, SBTi, or GHG Protocol reporting). Request carbon footprint disclosure per shipment in contract



10.0 Declaration & Sign Off

This Carbon Reduction Plan has been completed in accordance with PPN 06/21 and associated guidance and reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans.

Emissions have been reported and recorded in accordance with the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the GHG Reporting Protocol corporate standard and used the appropriate Government emission conversion factors for greenhouse gas company reporting.

Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions have been reported in accordance with GHG Protocol 14064-1, and a subset of Scope 3 emissions which are applicable to the organisation within the reporting year have been reported in accordance with the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Standard.

This Carbon Reduction Plan has been reviewed and signed off by the board of directors (or equivalent management body).

Signed on behalf of Willowbrook Foods Ltd

Eamon McKey

Managing Director

Signature:

