

HS1 LTD SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

OCTOBER 2020

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Introduction

At HS1 Ltd, our aim is to be the world's leading high-speed rail experience, providing the most sustainable option for transport across the UK and Europe. We endeavour to protect and reduce our impacts on the natural environment and on our local communities, and in turn achieve wide benefits.

We have launched a sustainability strategy to help us create a more sustainable and environmentally friendly future, and we will be working closely with our partners to deliver improvements to the rail industry and promote best practice. In turn, we hope to provide our customers with opportunities to make better environmental choices and enjoy more sustainable shopping and travel.



“Environmental and social sustainability is critical to the future success of our business and the transport industry more widely. At HS1 Ltd, our mission is to deliver a world-leading high-speed rail experience and through showcasing our credentials in this area we are able to reduce our impact on the environment, help drive more sustainable travel and ultimately provide more consumer choice.

“HS1 is the Green Gateway to Europe. Through our sustainability strategy we are helping consumers reduce their carbon footprint while still enjoying safe, fast and reliable travel at home and abroad. As the UK's only high-speed railway, we already deliver phenomenal environmental benefits to the UK and beyond, offering a more environmentally friendly alternative to cars and planes. Our international high-speed line removes the equivalent of 60,000 short-haul flights, or 750,000 tonnes of CO₂e, each year, whilst providing £7 million of UK environmental benefits as a result of people choosing to take the train rather than fly. Furthermore, domestic services on the line remove 6,000 lorries and cars from the roads every year.

“Our environmental and sustainability commitments will add to our continued success and allow us to lead the way in a green recovery for the transport sector post Covid-19.”

Dyan Crowther | CEO, HS1 Ltd

Our Priorities & Approach

We will be transparent in our achievements against the ambition set out in our sustainability strategy and will publish these in our annual report. Our priority areas are:



Climate impacts



Social impacts



Energy use



Biodiversity



Resource use & waste impacts

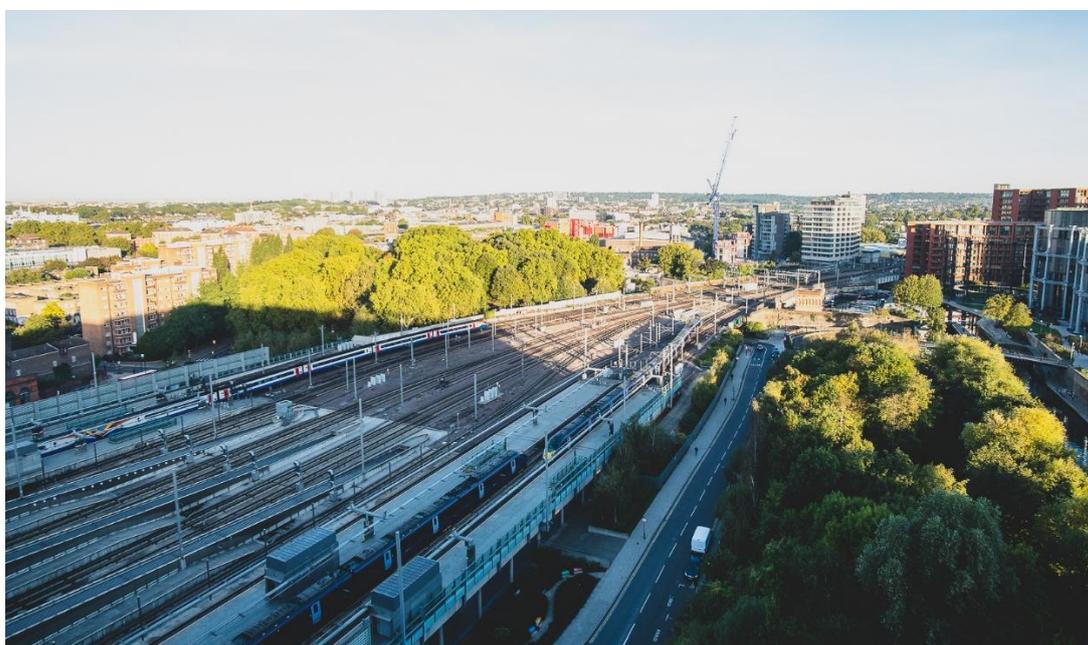


Transparency

Climate change

It's clear that making the right transport choice has a huge role to play in global carbon emissions and high-speed rail plays a vital role in offering low-emission transport for the future. Train travel is already 80-90% more carbon friendly than air travel, but we are still continuing to reduce our impacts on climate change at HS1 Ltd.

To ensure our infrastructure remains resilient where any future climate change does occur, we will carry out climate change risk assessments and consider how the findings will be incorporated into our maintenance and renewals activities.



Our targets

- Traction energy to be net zero-carbon impact by 2030 (*Traction energy relates to the energy used to power the trains*)
- HS1 wider energy use to be net zero-carbon impact by 2030 (*This relates to all other energy such as to power our buildings*)

How we'll achieve them

HS1 Ltd is working with its partners and stakeholders to develop a green energy procurement strategy. The strategy will include a mix of options such as energy reduction and efficiency and sourcing energy from green generation.

We have already taken the first steps to achieving green energy generation. Wind and solar power lie at the heart of a procurement process that is already underway to ensure the only high-speed railway in the country runs solely on sustainable power. We have also secured Renewable Electricity Guarantee of Origin (REGO) certificates, from our electricity supplier, npower Business Solutions, enabling us to report zero-carbon emissions for the electricity used to power trains and stations.

We will produce a Climate Change Risk Assessment and Report based on the requirements of ARP3 as required by the Climate Change Act 2008, which will enable us to develop adaptation plans for our infrastructure ensuring that it remains resilient.

Energy use

Energy is a precious resource, so we will seek to minimise our energy use wherever possible. In parallel, we will work to secure sustainable and renewable energy sources for our transport, estates and vehicles.

Our targets

- Reduce traction per passenger journey by 25% by 2030 (*traction energy relates to the energy used to power the trains which will be normalised per passenger for comparison*)
- Reduce traction energy per train journey by 10% by 2030
- Reduce non-traction energy drawn from the grid by 10% by 2030
- Reduce non-traction energy consumption per sq ft in our estates by 10% by 2030

How we'll achieve them

We are looking at innovative ways to reduce energy use across the HS1 portfolio such as regenerative braking on rolling stock. We will work with our partners to identify and implement energy efficiency measures across our estate and build upon the work that we have already done, such as upgrading to more efficient LED lighting, updating air handling units and optimisation to boiler and building management system (BMS).

To support this, we will look to develop standards which will be applied to those working on our infrastructure where applicable, outlining principles of energy minimisation in construction,

operation and maintenance. In doing so we will embed energy efficiency and granular monitoring requirements into all future estate refurbishment projects, which will allow us to better understand our energy use through monitoring and enabling us to develop more robust energy reduction plans.

Resource use and waste

We recognise our role in using products and materials more efficiently and ensuring they're recovered when we no longer need them. HS1 Ltd commissions major construction, refurbishment and track maintenance projects that create waste. To reduce our waste and be responsible, we have set out targets to be met by 2022 and 2023.

Our targets

- Zero non-hazardous waste to landfill from regular operations & projects by 2022
- 90% recycling of operations and project wastes by 2023

How we'll achieve them

We will review our waste portfolio throughout 2021 and in turn develop standards for our project suppliers so that non-hazardous waste can be diverted from landfill. We will also look to minimise any waste produced, making use of established best practice in waste minimisation. We will work with our stakeholders to reduce waste from our operations through resource efficiency and increasing recycling.

Social impact

Our role in the community is important to us as a responsible neighbour and as an inspiration for everyone that uses our services and facilities. To demonstrate our leadership in providing a positive contribution to the communities in and around our stations and lineside, we place a high value in contributing our time and expertise to enable those communities to flourish.



Our targets

- Contribute 700 hours of staff time each year to local communities and charity activities related to HS1's activities by the end of 2022
- Report measurable social impacts delivered by end 2025

How we'll achieve them

We will identify partner charities which align to our sustainability strategy and support the work they do. We will continue our current work with organisations such as Urban Partners, a voluntary business partnership supporting the local Kings Cross, Euston and St Pancras area, which HS1 Ltd helps fund as one of its members. As a member HS1 Ltd gives its time, expertise and resources in order to build and sustain a thriving urban neighbourhood that is a good place to work, live and do business.

We will also look to identify a suitable social impact methodology to report our impacts against beyond just the hours we contribute.

Biodiversity & environmental protection

We manage a diverse estate, from central London to the Garden of England (Kent). We are committed to maintaining a healthy and diverse natural environment. Under the requirement of the Channel Tunnel Rail Act 1996 we have an obligation to protect and enhance the lineside habitat.



Our targets

- The target for 2030 is to deliver a 'Biodiversity Net Gain' (BNG) based on the 2020 baseline pending the completion of the full survey in 2021, which will confirm if BNG2030 is achievable and if not, what we are able to achieve by 2030.

To further support these we will assess the quality of the 136 areas of habitat, known as 'tiles', that we have for HS1. Each will be rated 'good' 'moderate' or 'poor' and the approach will be:

- Good to be maintained as good
- Moderate to be moved to good
- Poor to be moved to moderate.

Monitoring will be carried out based on the habitat type and will range between one to five years.

How we'll achieve them

We will work with Network Rail High Speed (NRHS) and Kent Wildlife Trust to survey our natural assets and develop a baseline on which to deliver a net-gain by 2030.

*2020 baseline is comprised of actual surveys and desk top surveys.



Transparency

We will report the progress of our strategy to our investors, partners and stakeholders to demonstrate how we are progressing towards achieving our targets. To do this we will establish an appropriate Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) reporting scheme and framework. We will maintain compliance with all environmental regulatory requirements (and any initiatives we sign up to) and report against these in our annual reporting.

Our targets

- To underpin all our sustainability targets we will have monitoring systems set up & in operation
- We will ensure we are 100% compliant with relevant environmental regulatory requirements
- We will report annually on our progress to inform investors, partners and stakeholders

How we will achieve them

We will develop a reporting approach to include all key metrics and work with our supply chain to implement this across our business. These metrics will support the development of our annual ESG reporting.

What have we achieved?

We're already delivering on sustainability at HS1 Ltd, and we intend to enhance and grow this activity. The HS1 Ltd website will present some case studies of work where we've already delivered and how it benefits the environment and communities around the HS1 estates.

Our full commitment

Our commitment to protecting the environment and improving sustainability on the HS1 rail network has been backed by our partners who we work very closely with.

We understand that each of our partners will have their own sustainability strategies which will focus on their specific impacts, but where there is cross over and alignment we will work together for greater gains. The collaboration will be overseen by the Sustainability Steering Group which will have senior representatives from all partner organisations.

