

Regenerative events

BeaconHouse Events 2025



Sustainable change

At BeaconHouse Events, we are on a mission to drive sustainable change within the events sector, contributing to a net-zero future.

We believe that success extends beyond profit, and our ESG principles prioritising Environmental, Social, and Governance impact are deeply ingrained in our business philosophy.

Why it matters

We are committed to delivering high-quality events while minimising our environmental impact and supporting our local communities.

We have published our first **impact report in 2024** that outlines our progress towards these goals, demonstrating how we are integrating sustainability into every aspect of our operations, from internal practices to the services we provide for our clients.

 Sarah Shadley



Event carbon footprints

We have been tracking event carbon footprints since 2022 using event carbon tracking tool, [Trace by isla](#). Based on the events we've tracked so far, we've developed insights into the average carbon impact of different event types, considering attendee numbers and format. See the table below.

We track elements across production, catering, travel (both staff and attendees), energy and printed materials. Understanding the biggest contributors is key—factors like international travel, catering choices, and attendee numbers can significantly affect emissions.

One international flight from the US to the UK return (economy) produces 3.27 tCO₂e, whereas one train return trip from London to Newcastle (economy) will produce 0.04 tCO₂e. To reduce impact you can consider hosting events near the majority of attendees and bringing international speakers in person only if they can contribute beyond a single session (known as trip batching). Remote participation is also an option where suitable.

Catering is another key area where simple changes can significantly reduce both carbon impact and cost. Strategies like minimising food surplus through pre-ordering, careful portion planning, and donating leftovers to community groups can make a real difference. Choosing more sustainable menu options such as prioritising plant-based and locally sourced ingredients also helps lower emissions.

For comparison, here are the average carbon footprints of different meal options:

- Beef main meal: 9.00 kgCO₂e
- Chicken/fish: 1.97 kgCO₂e
- Vegetarian: 1.31 kgCO₂e
- Vegan/plant-based: 0.46 kgCO₂e

At BeaconHouse we ethically offset 10% of our event carbon (and all of our BHE operational carbon) by creating a monetary pot equivalent to an average carbon credit cost, donated to Groundwork NE & Cumbria to support their nature based solutions programme. Soon to launch is the North East Carbon Marketplace signposting to organisations who can help you offset carbon regionally.

Conference Type (in the UK)	Length of event	Attendees	Carbon Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Carbon Emissions per Attendee (kg)
International (Hybrid)	1.5 day	900	15-25	16-27
International in person	3 day	385	65-75	150-200
National Academic	3 to 4 day	300	40-50	100-200
National	1 day	200	10-15	50-75
In Region	1 day	100-150	1.5-4	10-20
Regional Awards Dinner	1 evening	440	4	8-10

Note: This is for estimation purposes only and the resulting carbon will depend on many factors

Considerations

Our average event carbon footprint

Societal and Community impact

We focus on **access and inclusion** as a priority at all our events.

We include an accessibility and inclusion audit as part of our risk assessments and ensure that we aim for equity of experience for all attendees.

Initiatives can include allocating quiet and prayer spaces at the event, offering a buddy system, fully funded tickets and free tickets for carers, providing captioning on all video content and hearing loops by default, producing (often very low cost) familiarisation videos such as [this one](#) made in house by our team.

Beyond attendees, consider how your event can **positively impact the local community and leave a lasting legacy**. Partnering with community groups (with an associated donation) can add meaningful contributions, whether through performances, event support, speakers, or art installations. You could also donate surplus materials or food to charities or food banks and prioritise ethical, sustainable local suppliers.

Engagement with the location in which you are holding your event is a really valuable way to create connection and impact both in terms of attendee experience, and bringing benefit to the local community. This could include:

- Site visits to local businesses or community initiatives linked to your event's theme.
- Public sessions to welcome local audiences into your event.
- Experiential activities, such as guided walking tours, during breaks in your agenda.
- Signpost to local volunteering opportunities for attendees staying a little longer in the area, like conservation projects or food bank support.
- Engaging local students and the community as event staff and volunteers, tapping into a wealth of local knowledge and helping build skills.

