



## **CARES Commitments and Actions for Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions**

### **CARES commitment**

- CARES has joined the United Nations' [Race to Net-Zero](#), via the SME Climate Hub
- It is committed to:
  1. reducing our direct emissions by 50% by 2030
  2. reducing to Net-Zero by 2050
  3. Disclosing progress on an annual basis

Confirmation of our commitment can be found [here](#).

### **What are CARES most material impacts?**

- Our most material impact is via the adoption and use by steel mills of the range of progressive climate and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions-based criteria within our Sustainable Constructional Steels (SCS) certification scheme
- Our next most significant impact is likely to be through the messaging and outreach and subsequent influence we have within the steel industry and with other stakeholders
- CARES own impacts (~1000 tonnes CO<sub>2e</sub> per annum) are small relative to our approved firms (~50 – 100+ million tonnes CO<sub>2e</sub> per annum), but still significant. To put this into context, a typical person in UK has a footprint of 5-15 tonnes CO<sub>2e</sub> each year
- In 2018-19, 86% of these impacts were through flights taken, mainly by auditors in order to certify steel sites and products around the world

### **What is CARES doing?**

- CARES has been working for many years to enhance its certifications and requirements to understand and reduce the steel and construction industries Greenhouse Gas emissions
- We celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> year of our SCS scheme's operation in 2020. Mandatory and credit criteria in the scheme include:



- Greenhouse Gas emissions measurement and reporting
- Maximum performance thresholds
- Climate change strategy
- Climate related financial disclosures and risk requirements
- Site based GHG emissions targets and plans
- Public reporting of emissions
- Whole Life-cycle analysis
- Subsequent publication of an Environmental Product Declarations (EPD)
- The Environmental Product Declarations (EPD's) are to a recognised International Standard, EN15804, and are subject to further third-party verification after the CARES auditor and Scheme Manager checks the site submissions
- CARES has is implementing a plan to reduce its own impacts and we will report further detail on this in our annual Sustainability Report
- We are members of and involved in many construction and steel industry groups and other fora which focus on reducing GHG emissions and improving sustainability
  - One example is SteelZero's Construction and Property Working Group which is working on creating a strong market signal to steel producers, investors and policymakers to accelerate the transition to widescale production of Net Zero Steel. <https://www.theclimategroup.org/steelzero>

## Context

Steel production represents ~7-9% of global emissions and is a hard to transition sector, with reinforcement bar and constructional steels representing a high proportion of steel output globally. The embodied emissions of steel reinforcement in concrete are some of the most significant in buildings and infrastructure.

Therefore, efforts to accurately quantify and verify the Global Warming Potential (GWP) (in kg's CO<sub>2e</sub> per tonne of reinforcement bar) and product quality data enables the selection of lower embodied carbon materials and the quantification of impacts of specific projects, which in turn can accelerate progress to Net-Zero.

This 3<sup>rd</sup> party verified data, to an international standard EN15804, is published through an independent certification body, via a digital platform and is accessible to construction clients and main contractors. CARES certifications also support operational emissions reductions at steel mills.

Verified product quality data provided through the CARES Cloud has the potential to enable further emissions reductions through material reduction.