

5 Steps on the Path to Carbon Neutral & Net Zero

Reaching carbon neutrality is a complex journey that requires clear strategy, credible measurement, and consistent progress. At Anvil Analytical, we work with organisations to help them take steps toward becoming carbon neutral and ultimately net zero.

- 1 Understand the true scope of work**

The intent of the move towards net zero at a governmental level is clear. However, there is a lack of definition of what this ambition might constitute. Best practice will commit to measuring and tackling all Scope 3 emissions, not just the easy ones such as business travel. It will also prioritise mitigation projects that reduce absolute emissions and carbon intensity across the organisation. Offsets have a place and may be used once strategies to avoid, reduce and substitute have been implemented, particularly if the offsets selected are carbon capture &/or support UN Social Development Goals.
- 2 Let speed be a function of ambition**

Best practice is to set goals that go beyond the legal targets established by governments, demonstrating a clear organisational commitment to accelerating the transition. Taking this step enables the business to realise the benefits of becoming carbon neutral, and ultimately net zero, more quickly.
- 3 Make a start and adapt as we progress**

You don't need to finalise every detail of your plan to get started. Collectively, we're on a journey through to 2050 and we can only see so far ahead. Start with a baseline, a means to track your progress, and a framework you can refine as policies evolve and better data becomes available.
- 4 Know your numbers**

Your programme must be anchored in really understanding your carbon footprint, especially your Scope 3 emissions. This will help you to identify the efficiencies and actions that will set you on your path. You also need to be able to keep track of the effects of your actions to remove carbon from your scope 3 relationships.
- 5 Build carbon into your processes**

Embed climate action in your business model and help your people, and your partners, to understand how it impacts them day to day. Set the tone from the top by asking that every tender or partnership proposal is evaluated for its impact on the Carbon Management Plan. Modify your contracts to make carbon reduction an SLA. Improve your reporting to ensure suppliers make good on their promises to reduce carbon.

