



Sustainability GUIDE



Supporting Growth with Purpose, Our Evolving Journey

This marks the **second edition** of the Country Range Group's Sustainability Guide – a reflection not only of our environmental progress, but also of our initiatives and activities to support our local communities. Over the past year, our Group has experienced significant growth, with further expansion of our own brand portfolio, a 20% increase in Group sales and total turnover reaching £965 million by the end of 2024. In this time our membership has evolved too, we have seen unprecedented growth having welcomed eight new wholesalers who bring exciting opportunities, new ambitions and fresh challenges to our shared climate journey.

As a result of this growth, this year's data shows an **overall increase in carbon emissions** across the Group. However, this is not a setback, but

rather a **realignment of our baseline**. Many new members had no previous data from 2023, and some have entered with naturally higher footprints. Despite this, we remain committed to supporting all members – new and existing – in achieving their sustainability goals.



At the heart of this commitment is our ongoing collaboration with **ClimatePartner** – a global leader in climate action solutions. For over three years, they've helped us and our members define measurable goals, understand impact areas, and develop practical, transparent solutions that align with the **UN Sustainable Development Goals**.

Understanding Emissions: Scope 1, 2 & 3

We use internationally recognised frameworks to track and reduce emissions:

- **Scope 1** – Direct emissions from owned operations, such as facilities and fleets.
- **Scope 2** – Indirect emissions from purchased electricity and utilities.
- **Scope 3** – Indirect emissions from our wider activities (e.g., suppliers, commuting, waste).

Scope 3 is the most complex to assess and is currently being worked on through the collaboration of a number of members across the Group. We are working with members, suppliers, and ClimatePartner to better **identify and reduce Scope 3 emissions** – a critical piece of the sustainability puzzle.

GROUP STATS



34%

increase in Carbon Intensity
(tCO₂e) from 2023 – 2024



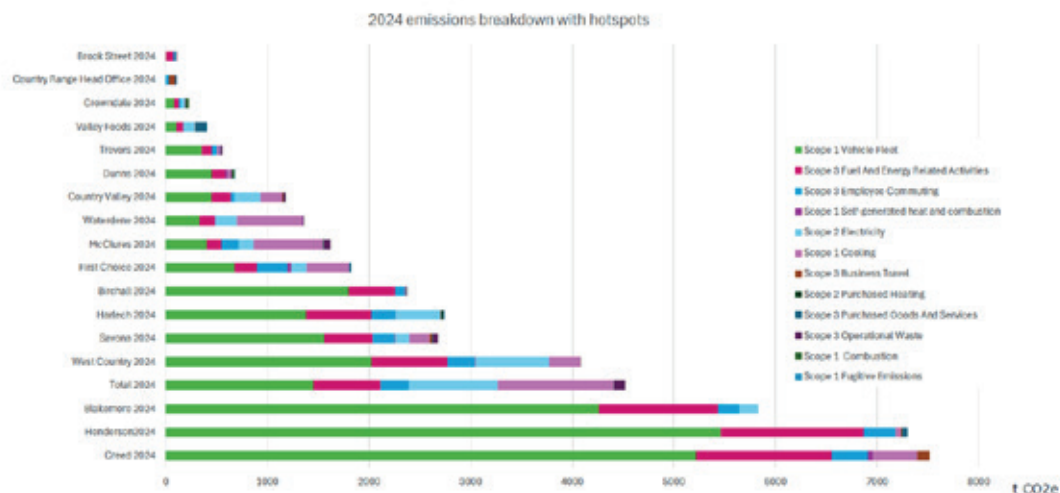
39%

increase in Carbon Footprint
(tCO₂e) from 2023 – 2024

EMISSIONS OVERVIEW: 2024 VS. 2023

In 2024:

- **6 new members** joined the Group since our last sustainability report and 4 wholesalers have since merged.
- **Operational emissions** rose by **40%**, largely driven by increased fuel usage in vehicle fleets.
- **Carbon intensity** rose by **35%**, affected by the inclusion of new members with higher operational demands.
- **Vehicle emissions** remain the most significant source of carbon output across the Group.



Priorities Moving Forward

As our network grows, so does our potential for positive change. The following **key emission hotspots** will continue to be a major focus for reduction efforts across the Group:

- **Vehicle Fleets** – Transitioning to lower-emission or alternative fuel vehicles.
- **Commuting** – Supporting carpooling and flexible work models.
- **Electricity** – Boosting energy efficiency and switching to renewable sources.
- **Cooling Systems** – Reducing refrigerant leaks and modernising equipment.

These focus areas reflect where we can make the greatest impact quickly and collaboratively.



SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION

Sustainability isn't just a metric – it's part of how we operate and influence the industry.

Through our **Operations Forum**, members share insights and best practice to tackle shared challenges, while our **Central Office trading team** ensures our product range meets evolving environmental standards. Together, we're embedding sustainability into every part of the Group.

Our **Country Range own brand** continues to support the industry – not just through packaging improvements, but by investing in future talent. We're proud to be **headline sponsor of the 2025/2026 Springboard FutureChef competition**, the UK's largest school cooking programme. With over 25,000 participants annually – and 24% entering the catering industry – this builds on our decade-long support of the Country Range Student Chef Challenge.

We also believe in using our platform for good. This year, CRG supported the **Mines Advisory Group's Bikes Against Bombs ride in Tanzania**, raising **£67,000** as part of a **£270,000** industry total to help clear landmines and support vulnerable communities.

At our **Annual Exhibition and Conference in Belfast**, over **£4.3 million in orders** were placed, but just as importantly, **1.51 tonnes of surplus stock** were donated to **FareShare**, supporting the local community by providing:

- **3,595 meals**
- Support for **22 charities**
- Avoidance of **3.02 tonnes of CO2e**

From collaboration to community, sustainability remains central to who we are – and where we're going.

Our environmental commitment

“As a family business based in the heart of the Lake District, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, we’re passionate about our people, community, and the environment.

For us, sustainability isn’t just a trend—it’s about doing the right thing to protect this special place together.”

Ben McClure –Sales Director

[Find out more](#)



We’re committed to building a more sustainable future and we’re proud to share the steps we’re taking. This year, we joined the Country Range Group to strengthen our food supply partnerships, and we’ve also partnered with Climate Partner to support our carbon footprint assessment. Now in our second year of carbon reporting and developing our latest carbon reduction plan in line with government guidance, as we continue working toward meaningful environmental impact



FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY AUDITS

We take pride in our commitment to food safety and quality, demonstrated through our **Micron2 and ISO 9001** certifications. These comprehensive audits reinforce the effectiveness of our processes, drive continuous improvement, and ensure we consistently deliver safe, high-quality products to our customers.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN OUR WAREHOUSE

We have made improvements to the building space by upgrading all lights to energy efficient LED bulbs, and installing motion sensor controls where practical. We also have plastic curtains on doorways of all temperature-controlled areas in order to minimise temperature loss.

ETHICAL STANDARDS

- Supporting the local community is at the heart of what we do – from sourcing goods locally to creating job opportunities for local residents.
- We prioritize ethical practices by publishing a Modern Slavery Statement and conducting thorough supplier checks to ensure compliance and uphold human rights throughout our supply chain.

LOGISTICS

We've transitioned our delivery fleet to now use biofuel and have replaced our sales team's vehicles with hybrids—together, these steps have reduced our delivery and sales team's emissions by 35%.



EMPLOYEE WELLBEING

At McClures, we're committed to supporting our team's wellbeing both in and out of the workplace. We offer flexible working arrangements where possible, depending on the role. Staff enjoy access to discounted products, including exclusive deals on short-life stock. To promote healthy habits, we provide free fresh fruit and unlimited hot and cold drinks. Our Employee Assistance Programme through Medicash provides 24/7 support, including dental, optical, physio and mental health care. Additional benefits include free eye tests and life assurance.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- To help prevent food waste, we work with a network of local foodbanks who collect our surplus food. Any food that must be disposed of is collected by 'ReFood', who convert the food waste into biofuel.
- Where possible, cardboard boxes and packaging are reused. Once the material has reached its end of life, an in-house compactor is used to bale cardboard and plastic so that the volume of waste is reduced, and consequently the vehicle mileage needed to transport waste from site to recycling centres.



Future Plans

Looking ahead we are actively exploring:



Low-GWP Refrigeration:
We are assessing the feasibility of adopting low Global Warming Potential refrigerants to reduce environmental impact in our cooling systems.



Staff Engagement:
We are working towards developing staff training and programs to raise awareness and motivate sustainability practices.



Waste Reduction:
Paper use and waste are being monitored to support reduction efforts.



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