

Sustainability continued

Moving towards a net zero future

We aim to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions ('GHG'), including those we are directly responsible for and those we emit indirectly through our supply chain.

The water industry has set itself a challenging target of achieving net zero for operational GHG emissions by 2030. In the long term, we have an ambition to become fully net zero by 2045, ahead of the UK target of 2050.

This year, we reviewed our net zero plans, originally published in July 2021, developing a more comprehensive net zero strategy with a supporting action plan. The strategy is underpinned by four principles that guide how we will achieve our net zero targets.

Principle 1 – Adopting a net zero culture

We want all our employees to put GHG emissions at the heart of the choices we make, and feel empowered to reduce emissions across the business. To do this, we are using the Carbon Literacy Project to help us provide the right training and knowledge.

Principle 2 – Applying the GHG emissions-management hierarchy

Applying the GHG emissions-management hierarchy to our decision-making means we will prioritise activities that avoid or reduce emissions. This will help us minimise the need to offset emissions that we cannot otherwise eliminate.

Principle 3 – Investing in nature-based solutions

As stewards of our environment, we invest in nature-based projects that will enable more water to be left in the environment and create more resilient river systems by restoring the rivers and enhancing habitats. We also work with farmers on improving soil health through regenerative farming practices. We believe many of these projects also have a GHG-emissions benefit. This is something we would like to better understand and then maximise the potential of.

Principle 4 – Working with others

We cannot reach net zero on our own. To be successful, we need to work closely with our suppliers and wider stakeholders, with the support of our customers. We are working with our supply chain to understand their emissions and look at opportunities to reduce these.