



Plan A Carbon Reduction | United Kingdom

In 2012, leading British retailer Marks & Spencer (M&S) became carbon neutral in the UK and the Republic of Ireland. By 2014, they had achieved carbon neutrality in their 1,433 stores worldwide, as well as in their online operations, to become the only retailer in the world with carbon neutral global operations. The company achieved carbon neutrality by reducing emissions, improving energy efficiency, sourcing renewable electricity, and procuring and retiring high quality carbon offsets. Suppliers, employees and customers are also encouraged to play their part in achieving a carbon-neutral society. M&S donated 38,000 free energy monitors to employees, and created a green bond that enables M&S customers to invest in solar photovoltaic panels installed on the roofs of M&S stores.

Key facts

- Emissions have been reduced by 28% with a 39% improvement in energy efficiency;
- Over 5,000 MWh is generated from third-party owned roof-top solar array (one of Europe's largest) located on an M&S warehouse;
- 100% of energy is sourced from renewable electricity; 27% of which comes from bio-methane gas;
- Since 2012, 2 million tonnes have been invested into high quality carbon offsets. In 2016/17, carbon offsetting accounts for 30% of baseline emissions or 221,000 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent.
- In 2014, M&S became the first major company to sign up to UNICEF's new carbon offset project by providing funds for 40,000 fuel efficient, low pollution cook stoves to be manufactured, sold and maintained by 150 local entrepreneurs across 2,000 villages in Bangladesh. This scheme achieved 'The Gold Standard' carbon credit certification.

More information

Digital assets are available for download at:

<http://unfccc.thirdlight.com/a.tlx?!=9ffm9Iji>

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<http://corporate.marksandspencer.com/plan-a/our-approach/business-wide/climate-change#fce123f6a97d4553a4e9e1fe2fe3be45>

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