

Climate Change, **Our Legacy?**



Reflections on the state of the
bereavement sector and the
climate emergency



**ENVIRONMENTAL
STEWARDSHIP GROUP**

Leading the bereavement sector to sustainability



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Foreword by the ESG Core Group

The natural environment has played a central role in funerals for millennia. Burial, being the required method of disposal by the Christian religion, led to the introduction of churchyards across the UK. Burials took place in simple, locally produced wooden coffins or woolen shrouds, and the grave was marked with a plain wooden cross or local stone memorial. The urbanisation of the Victorian era necessitated the development of larger cemeteries and led on to the introduction of cremation. Churchyard, municipal cemetery, or crematorium, all looked to the natural world to provide a green environment which would support the bereaved and respect the dead.

In recent years however, increasing environmental awareness has started to highlight the reality that progress has brought us a long way from those early sustainable churchyard burials and our current funerals may not be as environmentally friendly as our green spaces would appear to suggest.

The environmental concerns and values of our four organisations, The Cremation Society of Great Britain, Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management, Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities and the CDS Group led us to form the Environmental Stewardship Group (ESG), to provide a focal point for collaboration across the sector and to lead it towards sustainability.

We recognised that to move forward it was essential for the sector to identify where it currently stands in relation to the environment. This led us to our first task – the production of this report. For the report to be meaningful, the core group acknowledged the need to reach out and

engage with all those organisations who have a part to play in delivering services to the bereaved, from government and regulators to owners and operators of cemeteries and crematoria, to funeral directors, memorial masons and suppliers to the sector.

We should like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who took the time to attend the roundtable sessions which have been held for each part of the sector.

It is your contribution that enables this report to be both authoritative and relevant to all those who work in the bereavement sector and wish to embrace a more sustainable future.

In conclusion we should like to thank Jon Cross for developing the methodology for consulting with the sector, compiling the contributions, and writing the report, which we now commend to you.

Presidents/Chairs

Executive Overview

The Environmental Stewardship Group (ESG) was formed in March 2021, in response to the overwhelming climate emergency declarations being made by local authorities in the UK. Its core members The Cremation Society of Great Britain, The Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management, the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities and The CDS Group sought to address the identified climate issues within the UK bereavement sector.

Recognising that action must be taken if the sector is to meet the 80% reduction in carbon emissions set for 2035 and full net zero by 2050, the core group members committed to a ‘year zero’ information gathering activity.

During this period, information was sought across the sector as to the knowledge of the challenges and concerns relating to the climate emergency and carbon net zero.

This information gathering would allow a ‘state of the sector’ report to be produced, on which the next steps in tackling the environmental challenges within the sector would be built.

During the ‘year zero’ activity, 12 virtual roundtables, 3 each for Government Departments, Owner Operators, Funeral Directors and Suppliers, have taken place. These events were supplemented by visits, where safe to do so, numerous telephone discussions, and one-to-one interviews.

Framed by the adoption of the Chatham House Rules, a great deal of insight has been gathered and trust built. Whilst there are significant challenges for the sector, there are many overlapping themes common to all.

The resulting themes, as set out below, offer an insight into the current thoughts and requirements with the sector.

Information:
Requirement for the provision of non-sales biased literature, derived from clean data and clearly evidenced and supported from qualified independent sources.

Communication:
Requirement for regular communication and actions from a central source, providing an up-to-date resource on all things environmental for the sector.

Education:
Requirement for targeted training and education with supportive materials being made available for use within and outside of the sector.

Innovation:
Access to new working practices, new services, and new innovative products which benefit the environment.

Auditing:
Access to measuring tools and support to identify the current base line data from which to achieve carbon net zero targets.

Engagement:
Provision of knowledge, understanding, and choices relating to the environment for internal and external customers.

Legislation:
Provision of mechanisms to engage in modernising current legislation, guidance, and advice.

Finance:
Resource implications associated with these requirements are generating increased concerns. The access to, and the availability of funding will be pivotal in ensuring success or not.

Leadership:
A requirement for the ‘sector lead’ on all things environmental, to fulfil communication aspirations and to become the initiative-taking advocate leading the sector to sustainability.

This report is a reflection of the views and beliefs expressed, on what is currently needed to be achieved to ensure the best end results for all.

As a result, activities have identified a clear need for concerted efforts and forward movement where results are expected in place of discussions.

Recognition was given that the sector has made some inroads into environmentally beneficial activities over the years, and there are many examples of best practice. These are listed in the Appendix to this report and on the website.
www.environmentalstewardship.org.uk

The next steps for the ESG will be to further consider the feedback and information

received during ‘year zero’ activity; formulate what additional steps are required and guide the sector towards achieving those changes.

In conclusion, the activity has been a challenging but worthwhile one, bringing together different elements of the sector, accommodating concerns and different viewpoints, and preparing a report that reflects accurately the views given.

However, in referencing the above, it is absolutely critical that the sector, as a whole, takes its next steps and quickens the pace of change in order to meet the deadlines laid out before us and before legislation forces change upon the sector.

The next steps for the ESG will be to further consider the feedback and information received during ‘year zero’ activity; - formulate what additional steps are required and guide the sector towards achieving those changes.

Environmental Stewardship Group (ESG)

The Environmental Stewardship Group began its journey following discussions between The CDS Group and The Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities in August 2020 whilst considering the sector’s impact on the environment and the ongoing climate change agenda.

It quickly became apparent that the sector had a key role to play in addressing the Climate Emergency, especially considering the unprecedented number of climate emergency declarations by UK Local Authorities. (Currently over 90% of authorities.)

The sector has long recognised that it is not excluded from the implications surrounding the Climate Emergency. However, there has historically been a lack of coordinated activity within the sector to understand, engage and act accordingly.

What followed were several meetings with The Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) and The Cremation Society of Great Britain (CSGB), resulting in the formation of the ESG. It was decided to embark upon a ‘year zero’ activity to ascertain where the sector was positioned in relation to the climate emergency and its engagement with the action plans and declarations made by local authorities. The following objectives were agreed: -

Protect the environment

To take a series of measures to reduce existing negative impacts by 2025.

Promote continuous improvement

To establish a sector wide approach to driving positive change and innovation.

Shape regulatory requirements

To influence legislation, guidance and advice that reflect the sector as a whole.

Communicate commitment

To embed within the sector a proactive and positive commitment to promoting its actions and efforts.

With the clear objectives set, it became apparent for the need to perform 5 key roles for the sector.

- 1. To help the sector understand and engage with the Climate Emergency issues.
- 2. To act as a focal point for the sector on environmental issues.
- 3. To provide a space for engagement and dialogue.
- 4. To listen to concerns, understand barriers and help find common ground for all.
- 5. To influence thoughts on regulation and joined up thinking.

These actions were selected to provide a joint response to the challenges identified in the various Climate Emergency declarations.

“The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it”

Robert Swan
OBE Explorer and Environmentalist

Environmental Stewardship Group (ESG)

To meet its objectives and to lead the sector with confidence in all aspects of the environment, the ESG recognised it needed to establish an insight into the state of the sector as it currently stood.

A qualitative approach where the ability to gain a greater insight into levels of understanding, resistance, and opportunities was adopted. Framed by a ‘year zero’ approach we would, in effect, not try to resolve any issues but seek to understand them in greater detail.

It was decided to undertake a series of virtual roundtables, where we could outline the challenges being faced and achieve a greater insight on the current position.

To ensure inclusivity and collection of data from across the sector, four subgroups were created: -

Government

All departments which have a direct touch point with the sector.

Owner Operators

Public and private operators of crematoria, cemeteries, natural burial grounds.

Funeral Directors

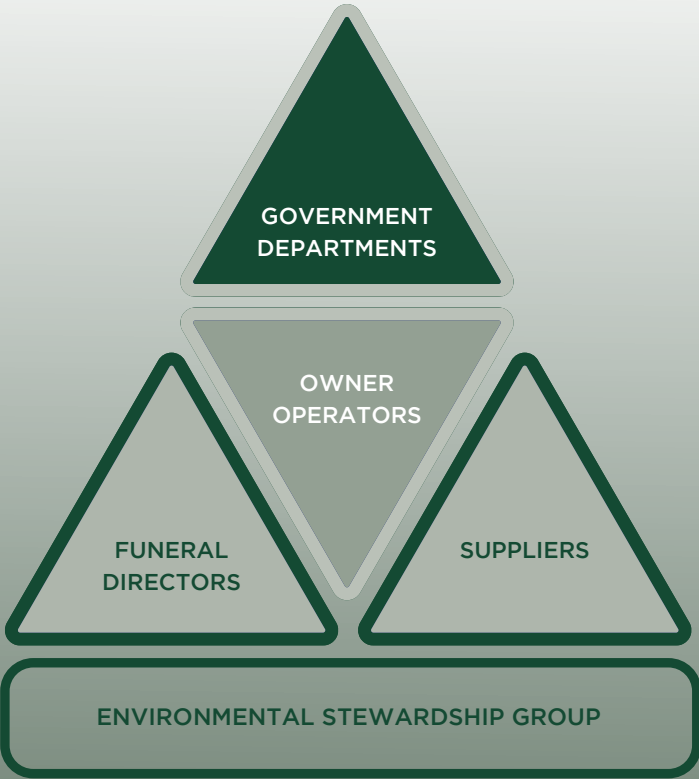
Large, medium, and small groups and independents.

Suppliers

All those who directly or indirectly sell goods or services to the bereavement sector.

Recognising early in our discussions that some participants may feel uncomfortable with expressing concerns or lack of understanding, it was decided to frame our activities within the Chatham House rule format which would afford the protection and anonymity required.

‘The Chatham House Rule states: When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker (s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.’

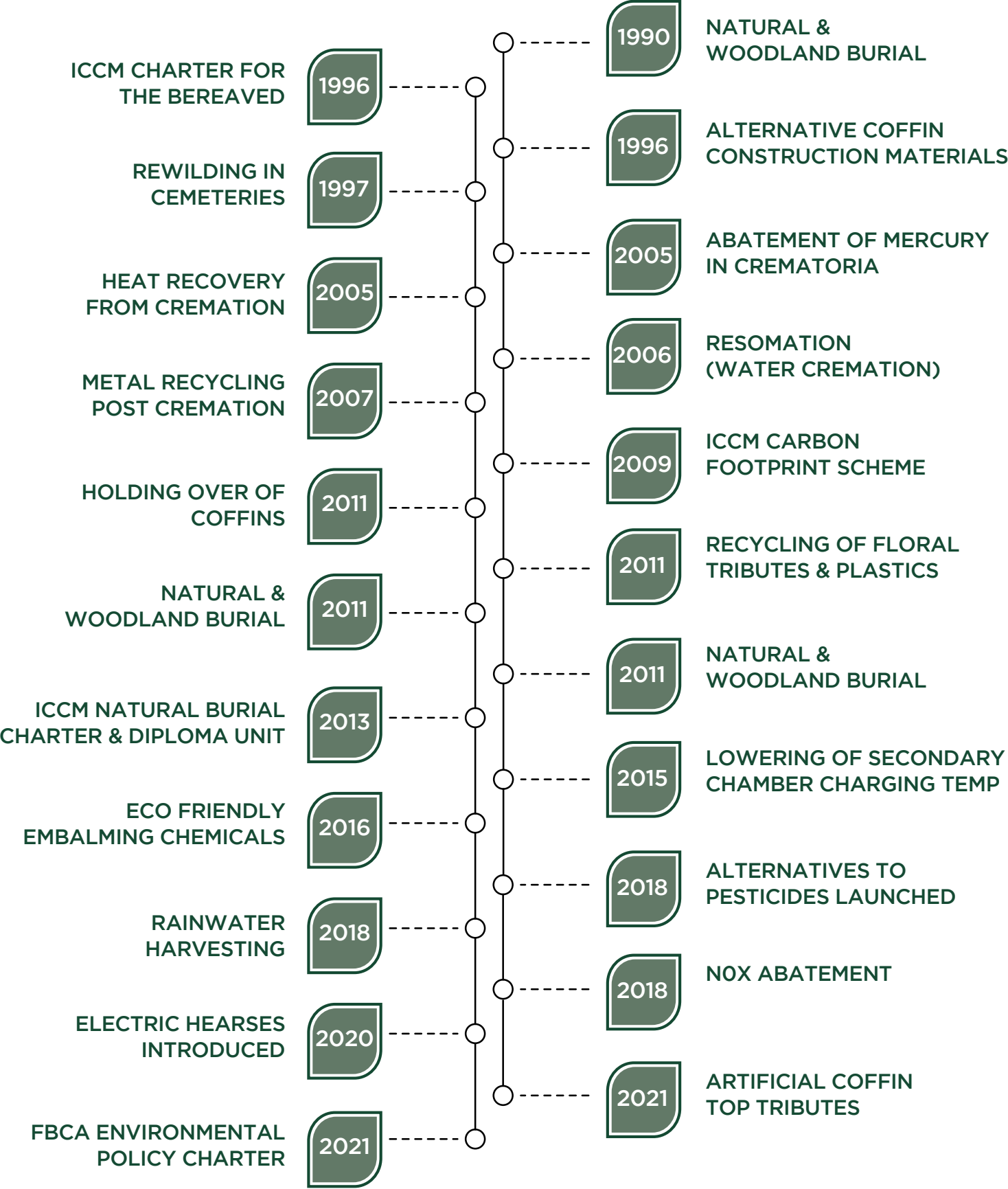


Full details of all the roundtable events from each subgroup can be accessed on the ESG website. www.environmentalstewardshipgroup.org.uk

Information on the sector



Development timeline for sector environmental initiatives:



Starting point

What is climate change?

Scientists for many years have been warning about the dangers of the Earth warming up, disrupting weather patterns, affecting food production, increased desertification, rising sea levels and population displacement.

These warnings came into sharp focus in Paris on 12th December 2015, where 196 Parties at COP21 agreed to a legally binding international treaty on climate change. Its goal was to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels.

To address this, a raft of activities looking at reducing carbon emissions across all sectors of industry and society was embarked upon. Originally the UK government announced a target for UK greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of 80% compared with the 1990 levels by 2050; this was based on recommendations made by the Committee on Climate Change, on the 27th June 2019 which amended the Climate Change Act of 2008.

However, since then and in line with the 6th Carbon Budget, a change in the target dates has been brought forward to 2035 and enshrined in law on the 20th April 2021, bringing all actions forward by 15 years.

To understand the situation three key descriptors are used widely to expand upon the issues: -

“Global Warming” refers to a scenario where glaciers are melting, sea levels are rising, cloud forests are dying, and wildlife is scrambling to keep pace. As a result, it has become clear that humans have caused most of the past century’s warming by releasing gases into the atmosphere as we

power our modern lives.

Levels of GHG are higher now than at any time in the last 800,000 years. This has led to the “Greenhouse effect,” which is now understood to be responsible for causing the hottest years on record.

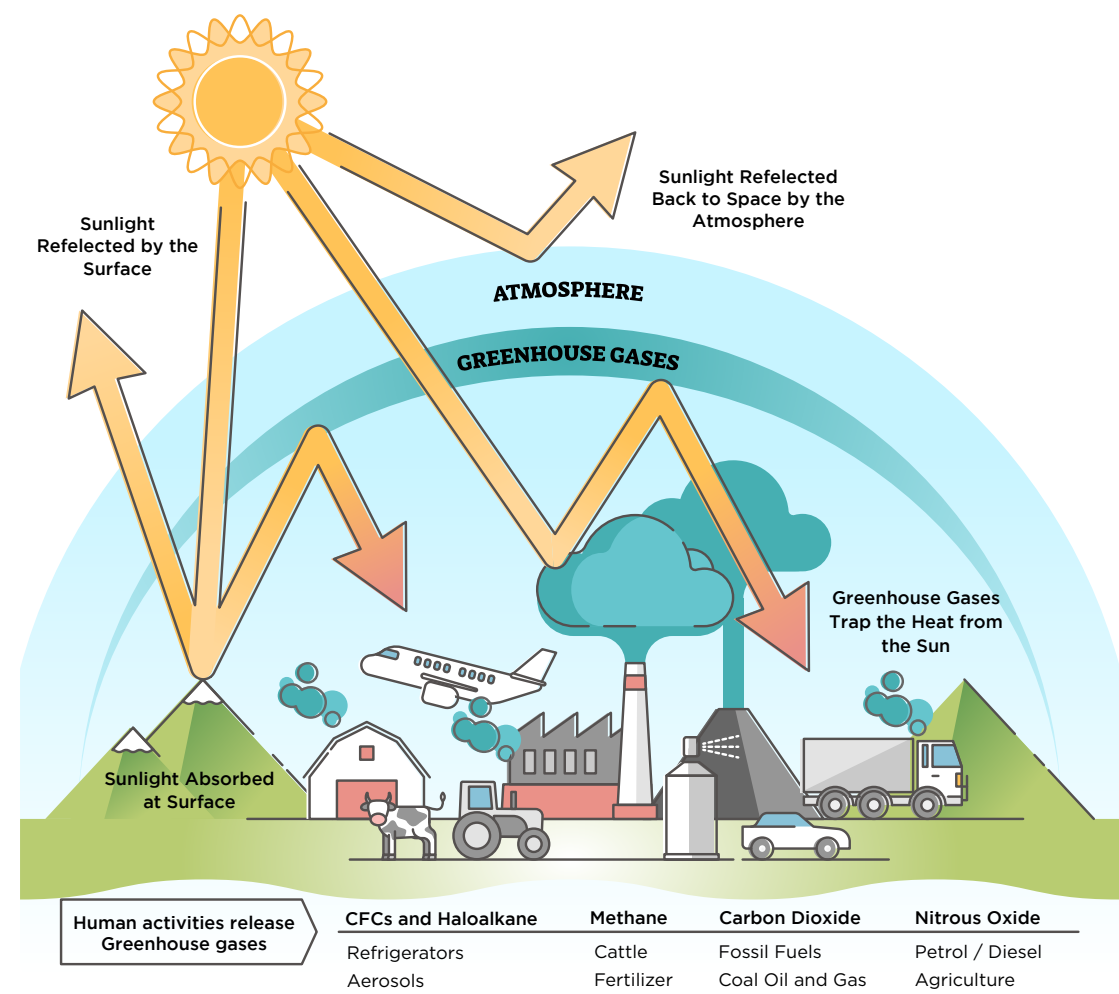
Carbon dioxide makes up the majority of our GHG, which is why so much research is focused on carbon emissions and/or reducing them. Sometimes greenhouse gases are expressed as CO2e, particularly when discussing carbon footprints.



“Climate emergency” is a phrase that has been coined to expedite a greater awareness and therefore understanding of the issues relating to the environmental damage being caused by our modern lifestyle choices. The public sector has several good plain language descriptions on their websites for example: -

“The climate is the long-term pattern of day-to-day weather. Our food and water supplies depend on stable seasonal patterns of temperature, rain, and wind in the UK and elsewhere. In the last 100 years the earth’s average temperature has increased faster than previously seen – this is known as global warming or global heating”.

Greenhouse Effect



“Net zero” refers to a state in which the GHG going into the atmosphere are balanced by removal out of the atmosphere.

The term net zero is important because – for CO2 at least – this is the state at which global warming stops.

The Paris Agreement underlines the need for net zero, requiring states to ‘achieve a balance between anthropogenic emissions from sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases in the second half of this century’.

To ‘go net zero’ is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and/or to ensure that any ongoing emissions are balanced by removals.

Evidence shows that human activity and our use of fuels like petrol, diesel, gas, and coal is highly likely to be the main cause of global warming.

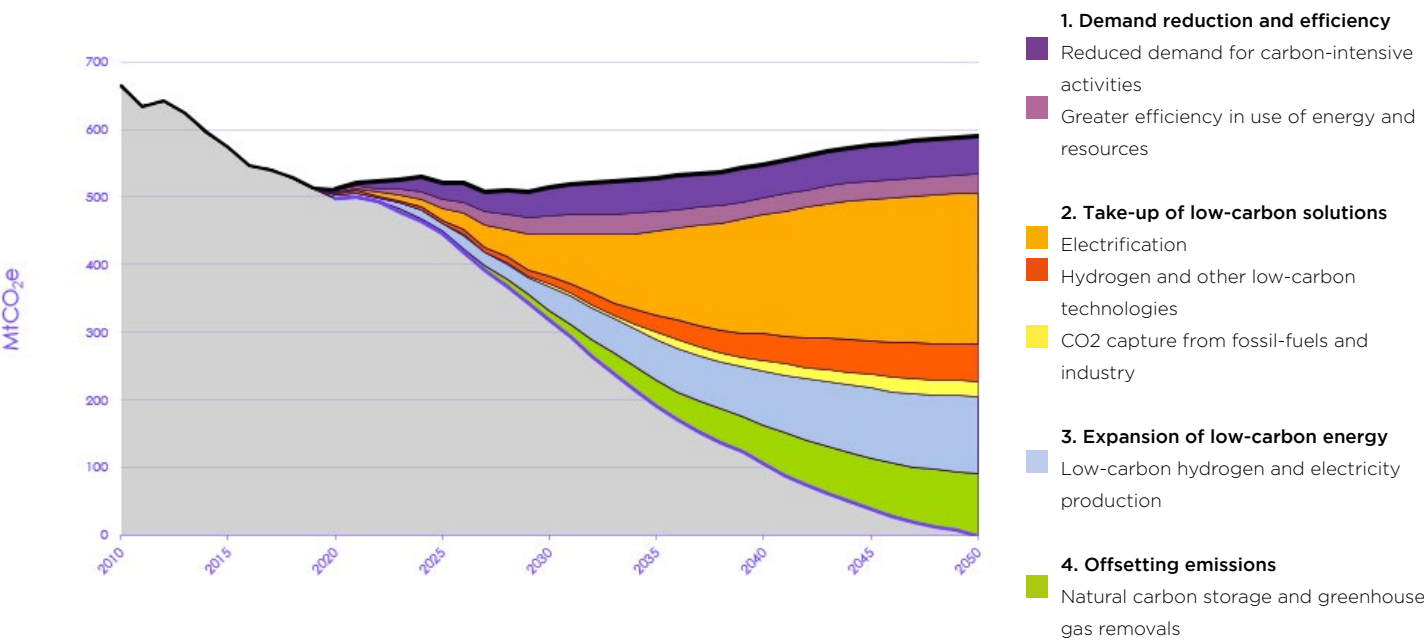
When these fossil fuels are burnt, they release greenhouse gases which trap heat in the earth’s atmosphere, causing the air and seas to heat up, which impacts our climate. The greenhouse gases produced when we burn these fuels contain a lot of carbon and so the term ‘carbon emissions’ is often used.

The diagram on the next page formed part of the presentation given by the Environment Agency at the launch of the ESG, which clearly identifies the trajectory needed to be taken to meet legislated targets.

Emissions abatement on the balanced path

Emissions abatement on the balanced path

Meeting Net Zero requires actions across four key areas



The four key areas of this activity:

1. Demand reduction and efficiency

This requires a review of the current carbon intensive activities and ongoing efforts to reduce such activities and to provide significant reductions in emissions. In addition, a focus on improving the efficiency of current energy requirements and effective use.

2. Take up of low-carbon solutions

Switch from fossil fuels to renewable energy solutions i.e. gas to electric on a green tariff. Engage with new market innovation around hydrogen and other low carbon technologies i.e. bio fuels and blended fuels CO2 capture from fossil fuels and industry.

3. Expansion of low-carbon energy

The uptake of blue and green hydrogen and renewable energy sources.

4. Offsetting emissions

Through, natural carbon storage (i.e. planting of trees and replenishment of ecosystems) and greenhouse gas removal.

The diagram below provides a graphic view of actions and activities required in order for the UK to meet its collective targets of carbon net zero by 2050.

It also provides a clear view of how important each of the 4 stages are. It is important to note that offsetting is only used in the latter stages of activity once all primary efforts to reduce emissions have been achieved.

The diagram below helps us to understand how these pathways will help us to achieve our targets.

What changes will we see to the recommended pathway

What changes will we see on the recommended pathway 2050



The Key Development targets extrapolated:

Reduced demand

Meat consumption per person % reduced:
A 24% reduction in meat consumption

Insulation fitted (millions):

An improvement of 14 million houses fully insulated

Low carbon choices

Electric vehicle (EV) share of new vehicle purchases: 13% to 100%

Low carbon share of domestic boilers replacements: 11% to 100%

Low carbon energy

Carbon Capture and Storage:
Zero to 59 Metric tonnes captured and stored.

Energy production:

205 TWhrs to 485 TWhrs

Hydrogen:

0 to 106 TWhrs

Land use

Afforestation per Thousand Hectares:
19k per annum to 50k per annum

Perennial energy crops per Thousand Hectares:
Zero to 19k

Percentage of peatland restored:
25% to 58%

Again, here it must be recognised that there is a great deal of support and collaboration required to achieve the success of these pathways.

Ongoing reports, prior to COP26 are flagging up mounting concerns over required legislation and central government support that is outstanding. At the last Committee on Climate Change publication strong criticism was clearly outlined with over 81 recommendations still to be fulfilled and 8 urgently required within the next 18 months.

Lockdown measures led to a record decrease in UK emissions in 2020 of 13% from the previous year.

Sustained reductions in emissions require sustained Government leadership, underpinned by a strong Net Zero Strategy:

- A Net Zero Test would ensure that all Government policy, including planning decisions, is compatible with UK climate targets.
- An ambitious Heat and Buildings Strategy, that works for consumers, is urgently needed.
- Delayed plans on surface transport, aviation, hydrogen, biomass and food must be delivered.
- Plans for the power sector, industrial decarbonisation, the North Sea, peat and energy from waste must be strengthened.
- The big cross-cutting challenges of public engagement, fair funding and local delivery must be tackled.

Progress on adaptation in England

Only five of 34 sectors assessed have shown notable progress in the past two years, and no sector is yet scoring highly in lowering its level of risk.

50 recommendations include:

- Restore 100% of upland peat by 2045, including through a ban on rotational burning.
- Bring forward proposed plans to address overheating risk in homes through Building Regulations.
- Make the Government's next round of Adaptation Reporting mandatory for all infrastructure sectors.
- Build a strong emergency resilience capability for the UK against climate shocks, learning from the COVID-19 response.
- Implement a public engagement programme on climate change adaptation.

Findings

The ESG activity began at the official launch on 1st March 2021. Following a keynote speech by the Environment Agency, which provided a detailed insight into the challenges for the country, we asked those present to deliberate three key questions: -

- Do you believe the sector understands what needs to take place in relation to the climate emergency?
- What information as a sector would help your business respond to the climate emergency?
- What actions should the Environmental Stewardship Group (ESG) take to lead the sector to sustainability?

This resulted in the following feedback: -

Auditing:

Reflecting the concerns that as a sector we do not know where we are in relation to our emissions, there is a strong and clear need to establish a base line for the sector. This will lead onto how can the sector's impact on the Environment, Air, Energy, Water be measured?

Information

The sector needs access to information on all things environmental. Knowledge is very limited both inside and outside the sector in relation to the environmental impact of end-of-life activities.

Roadmap

A roadmap needs to be created to direct the sector on how to get from A to Z on the net zero journey.

Leadership

There is a real need for strong leadership, which provides a proactive advocacy role for the sector, focusing on reducing its impact on the environment.

Communications

To establish clear and regular communications from a central source that is easily accessible and focused on the sector's needs and requirements.

Research

The need for up-to-date research, that is quantifiable, evidence-backed and effective in its challenge to increased "greenwashing" activities.

Building upon the successful framework trialed at the ESG launch, and with the discussion outcomes as an initial overview, a series of 12 roundtable events took place over a period of the next 8 months.

Information, key relevant topics, open discussion, and direct feedback enabled participants to fully engage and debate the implications of the climate emergency and the impact it will have for the sector and those engaged within it.

Each of the four subgroups took active roles and the results, to a large extent, reflect those identified at the launch activity.

Full details from all the events undertaken can be found on the ESG website.
www.environmentalstewardshipgroup.org.uk

Whilst there are specific challenges relevant to each subgroup, there are several overlapping themes as highlighted below.

Information

The climate emergency topic, for many, was being assimilated for the first time and supported the real need for access to relevant information. Of more concern to the majority was the validity of green or environmental claims being made in support of product sales.

Innovation

Understanding that innovation and new ways of working can help to achieve the desired outcomes in meeting the climate challenge. Acknowledgement that real opportunities exist to adapt operational requirements and to manage change.

Communication

Supporting the first-time engagement, an effective means of communication was being sought. A central repository where up to date material can be accessed or where regular and relevant updates is needed. Importantly, a source which quickly secures a reputation for quality, reliability and relevance is being sought.

Engagement

Concerns are highlighted over the depth and breadth of engagement, both internally and externally, on environmental issues. Effective engagement has been identified as a measure of how, as a sector, it rises to the challenges.

Auditing

There is a real need to understand where business facilities sit in relation to their carbon footprint. Forward measurable activities were key threads throughout requiring a credible baseline to be established.

Legislation

Improved legislation is seen as being the primary important factor. Recognising there is no magic wand that any government can wave to resolve the emergency, a call for joint approaches to modernise existing laws and advice will achieve a significant step forward for the sector.

Finance

The resource implications of these activities are generating increasing concerns, where access to, and availability of, funding will be pivotal in ensuring success or potentially not.

Leadership

Reflecting upon the existing pressures within the sector, the ESG is being asked to lead on all things environmental, to fulfil its communicated aspirations, and to be the proactive advocate for the sector.

Challenges

Challenges facing the sector are significant. Currently the views most expressed suggest that at the forefront of practitioners’ thoughts are 3 main issues.

Funding:

Immediate considerations are about how and who can deliver what is required. For both public and private sectors the issue is essentially finance.

The Government is releasing streams of funding to promote action in decarbonisation efforts, but investment implications for the sector are considerable, and at present baseline actions have yet to identify site specific requirements.

Large scale funding opportunities are rarely available to provide a turnkey solution, but with careful consideration based on the baseline measurement of carbon within the facilities, a range of measures could be identified to implement over time.

Cost of change:

A key requirement is in the clear understanding of the costs in undertaking these actions and activities. The identification of what needs to change can be planned and budgeted for over an agreed timescale.

Consideration of timescales and the correlation between carbon reduction and its costs is key. Understanding operational requirements, relating to social and environmental considerations, will enable the costs to become clearer.

Other elements, such as resources, time, and effort to be engaged in the activity need consideration. New technologies, improved infrastructure, support for organisational change all add to the cost of change. These challenges should be considered in line with the target dates for emission reductions.

Co-ordination

The challenges of providing the support framework of relevant information and delivering the necessary education will become more of a priority.

Strong leadership is needed to drive vision, values, policies, cultural change, and effective communication.

Governance supported by appropriate standards and metrics will enable measurements to take place and track performance against plans designed to meet decarbonisation on time and in full.

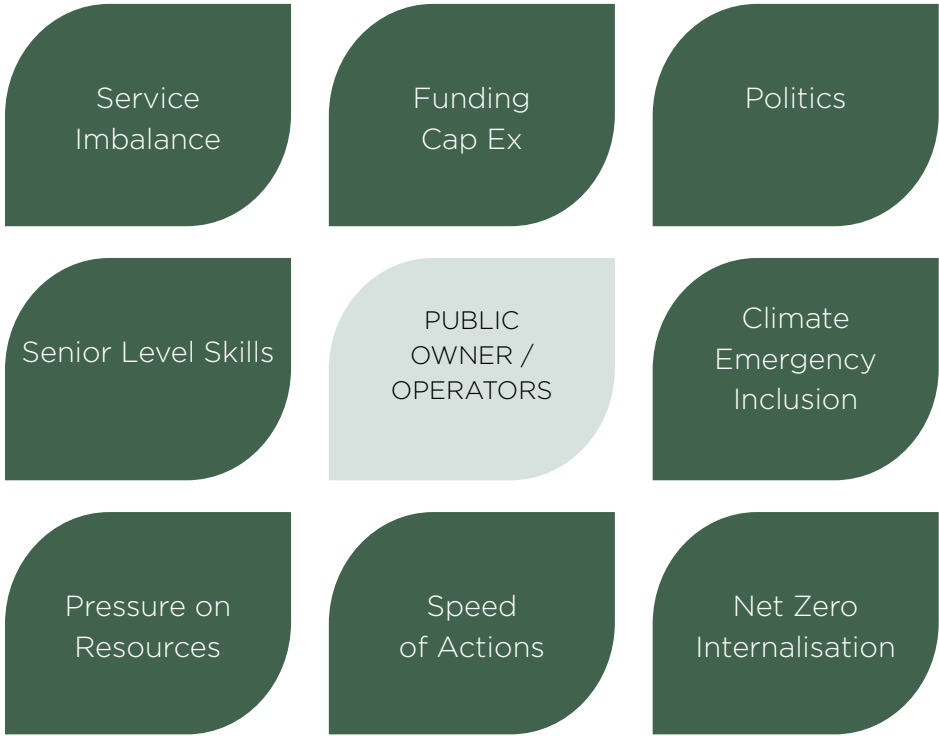
With the key issues clearly verbalised the opportunity to delve further produced an overview for each of the subgroups engaged with. The following three pages provide a snapshot of challenges expressed per subgroup; a more detailed breakdown of the key outcomes can be found on the website.

www.environmentalstewardshipgroup.org.uk

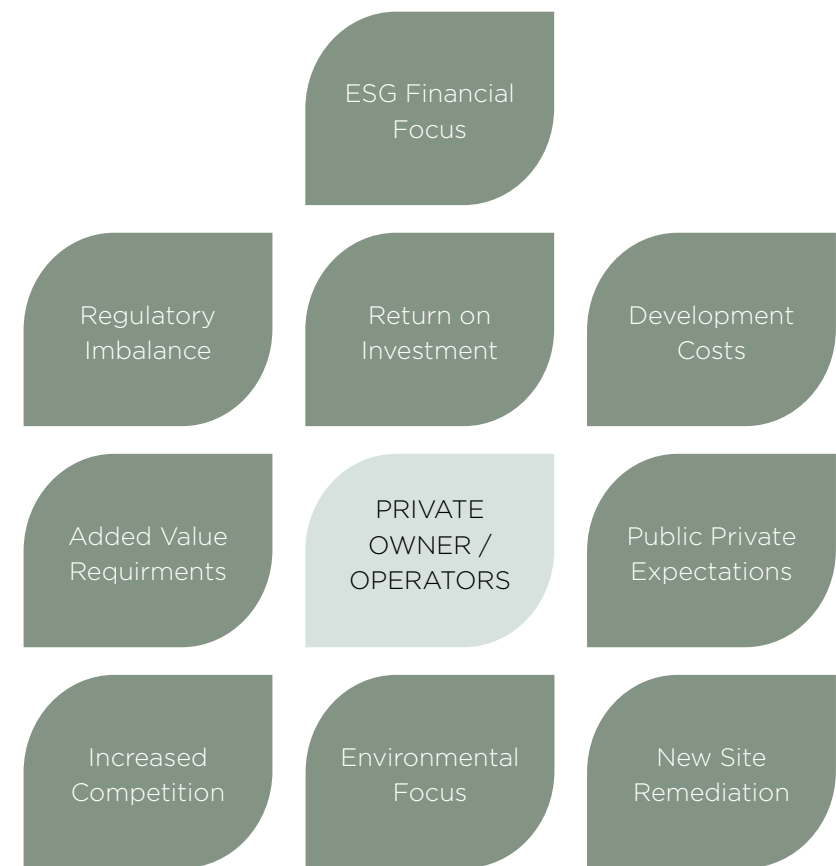
Key challenges associated with Government Departments



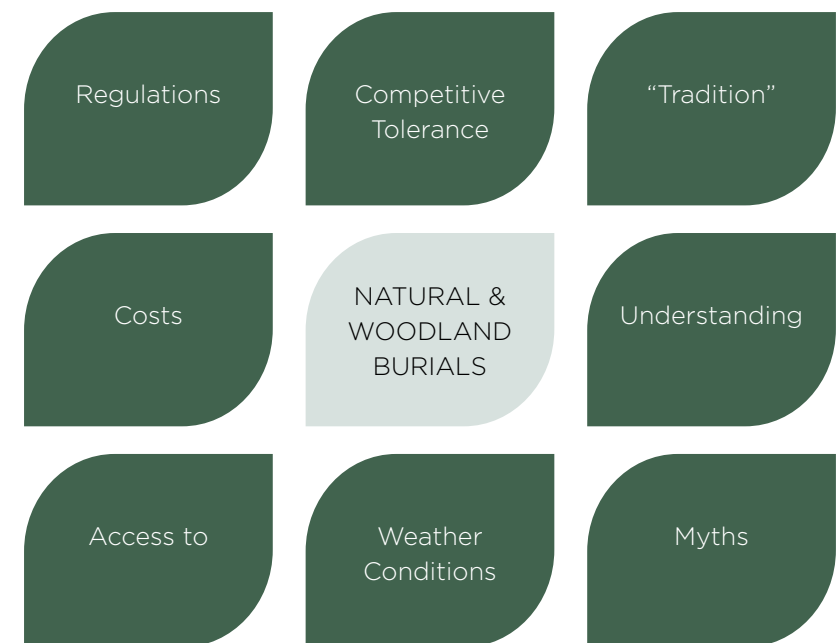
Key challenges associated with the Public Owner Operators of Crematoria and Cemeteries.



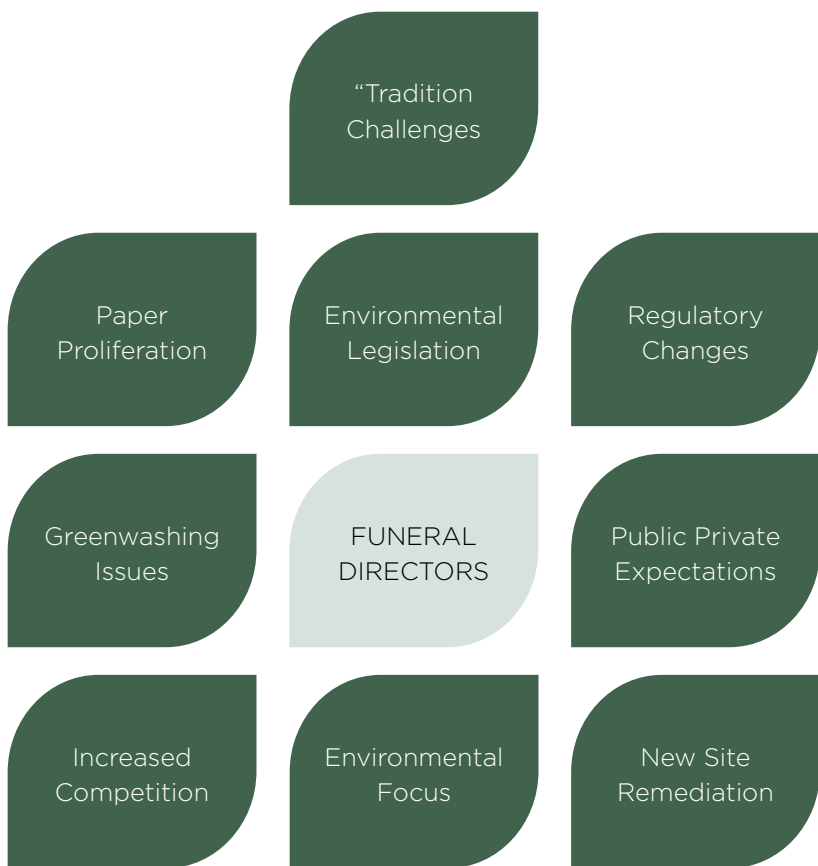
Key challenges associated with Private Owner Operators of Crematoria and Cemeteries



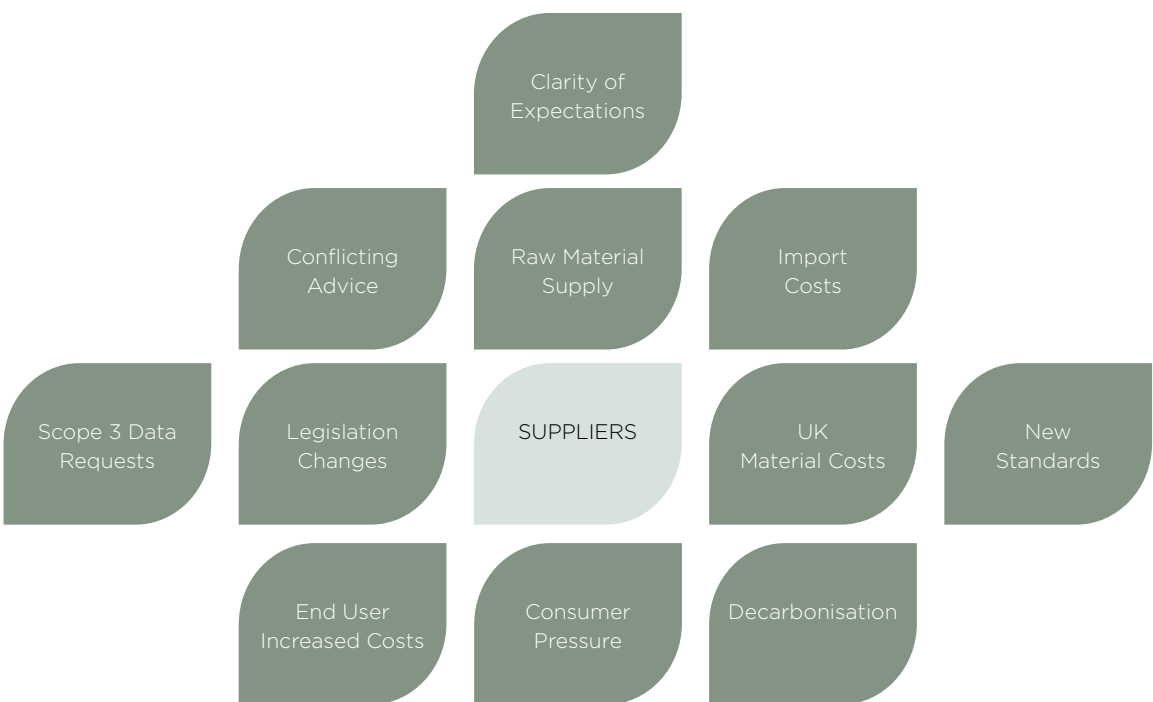
Key challenges associated with Natural and Woodland Burial operators



Key challenges associated with Funeral Director operations and activities



Key challenges associated with Suppliers to the Bereavement Sector



One of the more difficult challenges, outside of those identified above, will be engaging with, and influencing individuals, both inside and outside of the sector to consider the environmental impacts of its day-to-day activities. Further challenges are explored in detail on the website. www.environmentalstewardshipgroup.org.uk

Next Steps

The next steps for the ESG are to build upon the report and respond to future options and opportunities.

Aspirations for the next phase of activity will depend, to some extent upon what we are guided to do. Clearly the next phase cannot be based on discussions and information gathering alone; support to achieve action and deliver results must come to the fore. Initial thoughts encapsulate the following targets: -

- Improved environmental legislation
- Environmental standards
- Leadership & advocacy
- Improved communication
- Enhanced education
- Sector reporting
- Whole sector environmental focused events
- R&D sector fund creation

The review identified that improved legislation was a key to unlocking an array of improvements. If achieved, it would prove that modernising legislation is welcome, especially if it has been developed in conjunction with practitioners with environmental awareness.

Clarification of such provides a more focused approach. In general, legislative bodies pass laws, government agencies develop regulations to implement the laws, and development agencies create and approve accredited standards.

It is in that last part of the clarification where the ESG could provide an effective contribution by developing the Green/Environmental Standards requested.

Participants were clear in their mandate for the ESG to act in a leadership capacity to represent the sector as a whole and to act as an advocate on all matters environmental.

In taking up this challenge, a real focus on improved communication would require the ESG to actively represent all within the sector; Government, Owner Operators, Funeral Directors and Suppliers, thereby providing the cohesive credibility and traction required.

Concerns expressed that basic education was urgently required to inform and equip subsequent generations to be more engaged with the end-of-life subject matter. It also reflected on the need for the sector to learn from and address their hopes and aspirations for the future.

Perhaps there is an opportunity now for “getting new voices in to critique the old ways of doing things”, supported by events, webinars and discussions on looking at the future and the environment’s role in end-of-life events.

Funding and access to R&D are linked to a certain extent, but it is clear that additional support is required and the timing of this is critical.

To meet the requests of how individuals, groups and businesses, can achieve the challenges of net zero an example of a suggested plan of action / route map has been identified below.

A route map to decarbonisation: -

Baseline activity: identify carbon hotspots, where is the most carbon generated in your activities?

The 3 scientific led “elements in scope” will help map these out through the following: -

1. Direct emissions from your facilities e.g., cremator, heating, vehicles etc.
2. Indirect emissions from your energy supply e.g., cooling, office equipment etc.
3. All other emissions e.g. - sources not owned or controlled, travel, supplies, waste, water etc.

Once these have been achieved: -

Create a decarbonisation plan

- A. Switch to a renewable energy source, as a quick first step to reduce carbon emissions.
- B. Look at all your assets, buildings, infrastructure, equipment, plant, and vehicles to see what can be done to make them more energy efficient and reduce emissions.
- C. Review your suppliers, manufacturing processes, delivery, materials, instances of embodied carbon, understand the carbon footprint allocated to your day-to-day operations.
- D. Consider your operational requirements against your social and environmental commitments.
- E. Undertake a cost benefit analysis and review it annually.

Create and implement an Action Plan

- Establish a strong leadership presence.
- Create and drive vision, values, and associated policies.
- Focus on culture and effective communication.
- Develop credible metrics and effective governance.
- Set standards and be prepared to innovate.
- Above all commit 100% to the process.

There is no quick fix solution; time will be both a comfort and threat, but clear communication, strong leadership and a well-defined plan of action will see improvements year on year, getting everyone ever closer to the 2050 overall net zero target.

However, the 78% reduction target of 2035 is barely 14 years away and requires us to achieve a further 35% reduction on emissions over and above the 43% achieved by 2021.

Collectively small steps within the sector can and will lead to good inroads into our shared targets. Annual measurements will help to demonstrate our progress and such progress will be seen to benefit, help and reduce the daily negative impacts as a sector we place on our environment.

Concluding Remarks

There was a genuine appetite to engage and discuss some difficult aspects of daily operations and indeed some very notable challenges which struck at the heart of the sector and its approach to change.

The review highlighted the need for a real step change in education both internally and externally.

Allied to that is a need for independent and objective assessment. There is a real concern about greenwashing claims of environmental or green credentials being used to underpin sales activities. The environmental considerations for many have brought about an opportunity to explore how changes required to meet the climate emergency may also help the sector to change.

There is a feeling that the time has come for the sector to get closer together and become part of a seamless activity in addressing the environmental emergency, rather than tackle it as a discrete part under the heading of an end-of-life event. This is a real opportunity to embrace the climate emergency agenda to achieve more than a step change for the sector, an opportunity to talk openly about death, and reap the benefits from a more engaged and enlightened population, who recognise the genuine care and attention that this sector brings.

Thank-you

- To all those who have given their time
- To all those who have given their views and opinions
- To you for taking an interest
- For your encouragement to the ESG

“The Environment is no one’s property to destroy; it’s everyone’s responsibility to protect.”

Mohith Agadi

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to: -

The Environmental Stewardship Group core members

The Cremation Society of Great Britain
The Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management
The Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities
The CDS Group

With grateful thanks to: -

The Environment Agency
The Committee on Climate Change
Chapter Zero
The Darwin Group
Essenjay Associates Ltd.,

Individuals:

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Organisations:

APSE, Arka Funerals, Atlantic Rest NBG, Attwood Funerals, Barry Town Council, Bellacouche,Bradford City Council, BRAMM, Bridgewater Town Council, Cabinet Office, The CDS Group, Clandon Wood, Co-op, Copeland Borough Council, Coventry City Council, Cremation Generation, The Cremation Society of Great Britain, DEFRA, DFW, DHSC, Divine Ceremony, Dorset Council, Durham County Council, The Environment Agency, The Environmental florist, Essenjay Associates, The Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities, Funeral Furnishings Manufacturer’s Association, Fife Gov, Facultatieve Technologies, Funeral care, Funeral Partners, Furnace Finance, Good Funeral Guide, Greenacres Group, Greenbridge Designs, Hembsby Parish Council, Hereford County Council, Heart of England Co-op, Huntigngdon Town Council, Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management, Independent Funeral Directors, Jardine Funerals, London Borough of Islington, Leverton and Sons Funerals, Lifeart, Liverpool City Council, Ministry of Justice, Memoria, National Association of Funeral Directors, Natural Home Funerals, Natural Undertaking,

Acknowledgements

Oldings, Old Park Meadow, Orbitas, Poetic Endings, Resomation, Roucan Loch, Sacred Stones, SAIF, SEPA, South Lanarkshire DC, Southern Co-op, Spennymoor Town Council, Stevenson Memorials, Stoke City Council, SW Middlesex Crematorium, Swindon Borough Council, Tamworth Council, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Walsall Cemeteries, Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council, London Borough of Waltham Forest, West Lindsey District Council, The Westerleigh Group, Wilcox Granite, Wilcox Limousines, Wokingham District Council, The Woodland Burial Co.

Design & Formatting:

Eagle Design Ltd. www.eagleddesign.net
Darryl Kelly. CDS Group

Appendix

ESG – Launch

This links to the website and the slides and recording of the ESG virtual launch on 1st of March 2021.

ROUNDTABLE ACTIVITIES

This links to the slide decks for the first two sessions of each of the roundtable activities.

- Owner Operators**
- Funeral Directors**
- Government Departments**
- Suppliers**

The third and final session for all 4 groups utilized the same slide deck which is accessed here.

BEST PRACTICE:

There are many examples of best practices within the sector’s, both existing as detailed in the timeline, and in current development, which demonstrates the sectors willingness to innovate for the benefit of the environment.

For a selection of recent examples please visit the ESG website.

www.environmentalstewardshipgroup.org.uk

Please note that the ESG are not condoning or endorsing any particular approach, product, or initiative, but are highlighting some of the current best practices in the bereavement sector.





**ENVIRONMENTAL
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Leading the bereavement sector to sustainability

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