**UNDERSTANDING YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT**

 July 2021

Dear FCDO Supplier,

I am writing to you today regarding the measures the government is taking to promote carbon reduction across the UK through its commercial activities, and changes that may affect your company.

In 2019 the UK became the first major economy to commit to and legislate for a Net Zero target. Mitigating the impact of climate change and reducing emissions in pursuit of Net Zero in the UK remains a key government commitment. A significant proportion of government’s emissions come from its supply chain, and we expect all our suppliers to share our commitment to reducing emissions over time to achieve Net Zero by 2050.

As a key supplier to FCDO please ensure that you are taking the necessary action to increase awareness of Climate Change within your organisation, and taking steps to understand and reduce your emissions over time in pursuit of achieving Net Zero by 2050.

Government has recently published a new procurement policy which comes into effect on 30 September 2021 and which will affect all suppliers bidding for government contracts over £5m per annum **-** [**PPN 06/21: Taking Account of Carbon Reduction Plans in the procurement of major government contracts**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/procurement-policy-note-0621-taking-account-of-carbon-reduction-plans-in-the-procurement-of-major-government-contracts). The policy introduces a new selection criteria requiring suppliers to publish a ‘Carbon Reduction Plan’. This plan must confirm the supplier's commitment to achieving Net Zero by 2050, and detail the carbon footprint of the bidding supplier’s UK or global operations. Suppliers who fail to make this commitment or publish their plan risk being excluded from the procurement process.

**Please review your organisation’s position to make sure you can meet the requirements of this policy measure, and take immediate action if required.**

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter, please contact

*FCDO-CommercialPolicy@fcdo.gov.uk*

Yours Sincerely,

Tracey Williamson FCIPS

Chief Commercial Officer

**Annex - Links to Documentation**

[**PPN 06/21: Taking Account of Carbon Reduction Plans in the procurement of major government contracts**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/procurement-policy-note-0621-taking-account-of-carbon-reduction-plans-in-the-procurement-of-major-government-contracts)

In 2019, the UK became the first major economy to adopt a legal commitment to achieve ‘Net Zero’ carbon emissions by 2050. To support this, the Government Commercial Function has developed a new commercial policy measure for all central government departments and arm’s length bodies.

This measure requires suppliers bidding for major government contracts to commit to achieving Net Zero by 2050 and publish a ‘Carbon Reduction Plan’. Suppliers who fail to make this commitment or publish their plan risk being excluded from the procurement process.

The measure was introduced by the publication of a Procurement Policy Note (PPN) on Gov.uk in June 2021, and will come into effect for new major procurements published after 30th September.

**Climate Change Act (2008) - 2050 Target:**

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/part/1/crossheading/the-target-for-2050>