



Sustainable Impact Highlights Report

2024/25



The Midcounties
Co-operative

Introduction

Sustainable Impact is one of the five TRUST measures which we use to track the Society's performance and it is central to everything we do as a co-operative. From cutting our emissions to educating the next generation of nature lovers, we take a holistic approach to sustainability, underpinned by the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

To make sure we are focusing on the aspects of sustainability that matter most to you, our members, we sought member views when formulating our sustainability strategy and used that vital input to create a framework to guide the work we do.

We were delighted that our groundbreaking member-led strategy won Sustainability Initiative of the Year at the highly prestigious Grocer Gold Awards 2025. The judges stated that this work is delivering 'a whole new level' of environmental impact.

We're incredibly proud to be recognised on a national stage for putting our sustainability commitments into action, showing what's

possible when businesses work with their communities and act on what matters most to their members.

This Sustainable Impact Highlights Report provides a snapshot of what we've achieved over the past year with the support of our partners, members, colleagues and customers.

Mike Pickering

Head of Sustainability



Thank you to all our members who helped us achieve the **Grocer Gold Award!**



What we've achieved together in 2024/25

38%

38% reduction in direct greenhouse gas emissions*



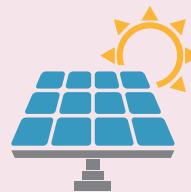
Cut food waste by 25% across like-for-like food stores*

6%

Energy use reduced 6% year-on-year



Saved 2 million kWhs



Developed our partnership with Big Solar Co-op to install solar panels

Supporting the above, we have invested **£9m in energy efficiency projects in last 3 years.**



Tackling food waste

As a key priority for members, we continue to tackle food waste by redeploying food that is nearing its best before date and reviewing our food ordering processes.

We have reduced our food waste by 25% during the year (compared to our 2019 baseline) through efficient stock ordering, our ongoing relationship with Too Good To Go and a new partnership with Olio.



Too Good To Go lets customers buy discounted 'surprise bags' of surplus food through the app, while our Olio partnership has redistributed 300,000 items that would otherwise have been wasted to households in need.

*compared to 2019 baseline



Working towards Net Zero

with science-based carbon reduction targets

As we continue our journey towards Net Zero, we are pleased to have made progress against our science-based carbon reduction targets, validated by the Science-Based Targets Initiative (SBTi). These targets cover both direct emissions (Scope 1 and 2), such as energy use and transport, and the more complex indirect Scope 3 emissions, which are generated through activities outside of our control, such as product manufacture.

Target 1: Reduce absolute scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030 from the 2019 base year.

Progress against target: Scope 1 and 2 emissions have been reduced by 38% against 2019 (15,856 tonnes CO₂ in 2024/25 compared to 25,731 tonnes CO₂ in 2019/20).

Target 2: Reduce absolute scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions covering purchased goods and services, upstream transportation and distribution, waste generated in operations and end-of-life treatment of sold products by 27.5% within the same timeframe.

Progress against target: Absolute emissions associated with then above mentioned areas decreased by 12% compared to 2019 (497,406 tonnes CO₂ in 2024/25 compared to 439,149 tonnes CO₂ in 2019/20).

Target 3: Reduce absolute scope 3 emissions from use of sold product emissions by 46.2% within the same timeframe. This relates to the emissions produced after a product has been bought by a customer.

Progress against target: Emissions associated with the use of sold products have decreased by 31% compared to the 2019 (92,849 tonnes CO₂ in 2024/25 compared to 135,319 tonnes CO₂ in 2019/20).

Absolute greenhouse gas emissions

The table below shows the reduction we have achieved in our absolute greenhouse gas emissions from our benchmark year (2019/20) to our last full financial year (2024/25).

	2019/20	2024/25
Scope 1 (Direct emissions from owned or controlled sources)	10,457 tonnes CO ₂ e	7,502 tonnes CO ₂ e
Scope 2 (Purchased electricity)	15,274 tonnes CO ₂ e	8,354 tonnes CO ₂ e
Scope 3 (Indirect emissions occurring across the supply chain)	632,725 tonnes CO ₂ e	531,998 tonnes CO ₂ e
Total	658,456 tonnes CO₂e	547,854 tonnes CO₂e

Overall, we have reduced greenhouse gas emissions across our Society by 17% compared to 2019, saving over 100,000 tonnes of CO₂e.

How we achieved this

- We continued to focus on energy saving across our trading sites, including investing over £9m in energy-efficiency projects over the last three years.
- We have reduced the number of petrol filling stations we own, lowering our emissions related to the petrol and diesel sold through these sites.
- Working with our co-operative buying group, we have engaged suppliers to help reduce the emissions associated with products sold in our food stores. Steps taken include:
 - building sustainability criteria and targets into our supplier contracts and
 - working closely with suppliers that have the biggest impact on our product-related carbon footprint to help them reduce their emissions.

Future plans

We will continue to make progress by focusing on energy efficiency to cut scope 1 and 2 emissions and working with our co-operative buying group to reduce scope 3 emissions across our products and services.

Energy developments

Energy efficiency

Over the last three years we have invested over £9m in energy efficiency projects, including replacing fridges and installing low-energy lighting.

Through a partnership with LoweConex we have installed automation technology in our fridges and temperature control units in food stores, allowing us to monitor and control temperatures remotely so that we are using energy as efficiently as possible.

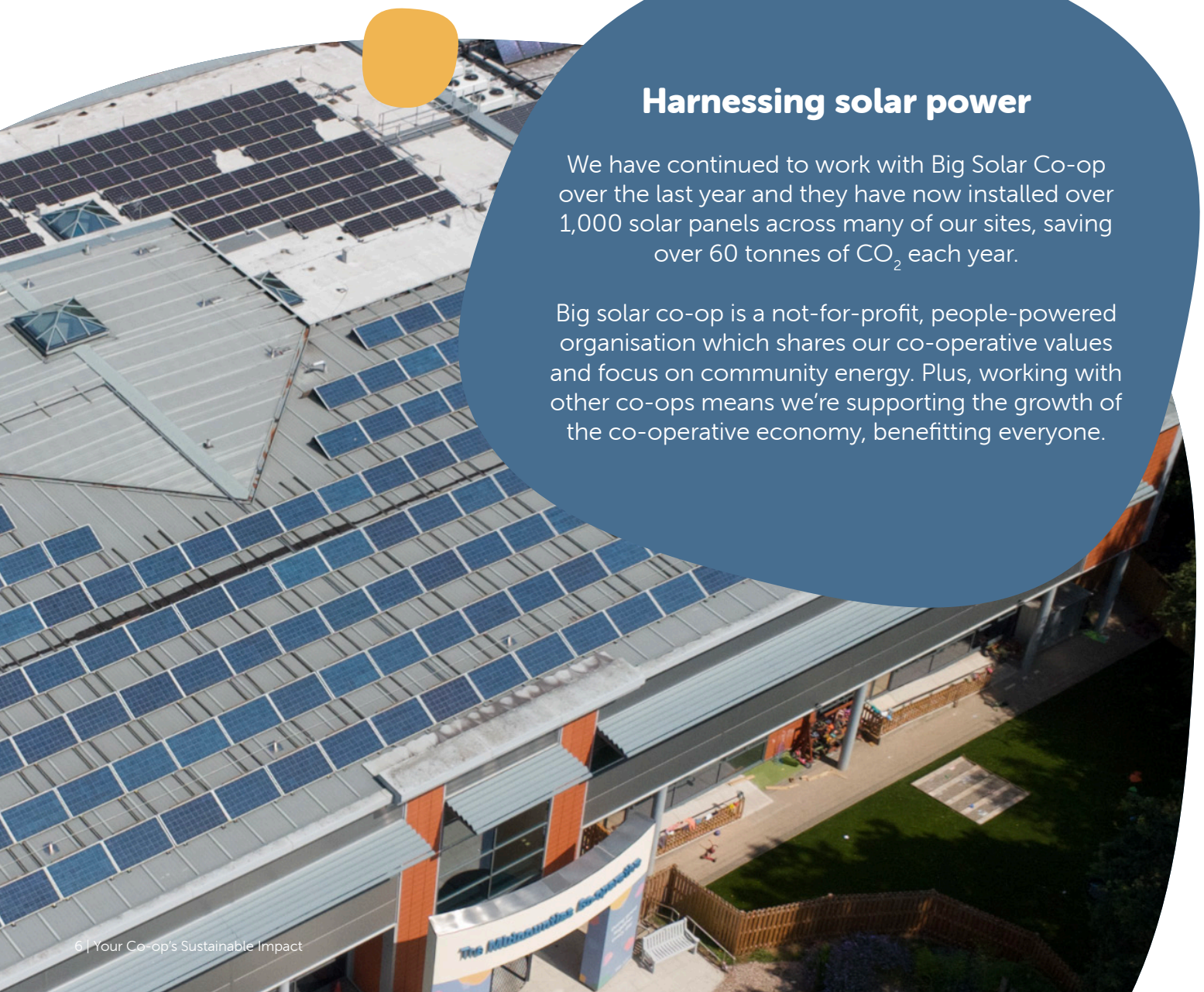
These projects have helped us cut year-on-year energy use by 6% (like-for-like), saving around 2 million kWh and over 400 tonnes of CO₂ during the last full financial year.



Harnessing solar power

We have continued to work with Big Solar Co-op over the last year and they have now installed over 1,000 solar panels across many of our sites, saving over 60 tonnes of CO₂ each year.

Big solar co-op is a not-for-profit, people-powered organisation which shares our co-operative values and focus on community energy. Plus, working with other co-ops means we're supporting the growth of the co-operative economy, benefitting everyone.



Championing community energy through Younity

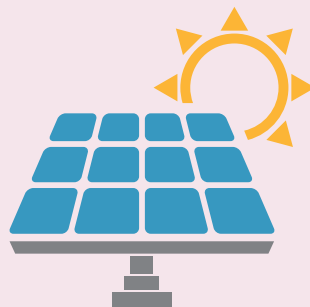
Five years ago, we partnered with Octopus Energy to establish Younity, a community energy organisation – combining their technical know-how and agility with our community generation experience and values.



In this time Younity has:



Supported 400 community energy projects



Worked with 120 community energy generators



Produced enough green energy to power around 65,000 homes – more than one-third of all the community-generated renewable energy in Great Britain

This means that we can provide more people than ever before with locally sourced renewable energy through the Co-op Energy Community Tariff.

Bigger boosts for community energy projects

Younity goes even further to support community energy generators in two key ways:

1. Kickstart Fund

Younity provides bridging loans to community groups looking to fund the construction of a new community energy project, with a £1.5m pot available. Find out more about the [Kickstart Fund](#).

2. Community Energy Connect

Younity connects community energy groups with volunteers to support every stage of setting up and running a community energy project. To get involved and lend your skills in a way that suits your schedule, visit: www.younity.coop/get-involved/community-energy-connect



Nature stewardship

Inspiring the next generation of nature lovers

We are encouraging children to protect and restore nature through our Early Years nurseries, believing that a life-long love of the natural world begins in childhood.

Sustainability forms a core part of the Little Pioneers curriculum, helping children understand important topics such as biodiversity, food growing and water conservation in fun, age-appropriate ways.

Outdoor learning is central and children are invited to explore wildlife, trees and green spaces, as well as learning where food comes from by spending time in our growing areas.

We also encourage children to become 'water warriors', empowering them to use water wisely and instilling in them why it's so important to do so.

By combining hands-on experiences with environmental education, we give children the knowledge and tools to care for nature from an early age.

Supporting your nature-based community projects

Involved in or planning to start your own community garden, composting project or climate action group? Our Doing Good Together Fund provides grants to community groups, including those supporting nature. All members can apply.

[Find out more](#)



The Midcounties
Co-operative

Your Co-op is owned and operated by The Midcounties Co-operative.