

Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG)

 Bankside

Consultant

SUSTAINABLE X 

Business profile

The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) is a global membership organisation dedicated to improving the health of women and girls worldwide. Founded nearly 100 years ago, the College is now based at 10 Union Street in Southwark, following a major refurbishment bringing together two existing buildings into a single, modern headquarters.

The building is home not only to RCOG staff, but also to 16 tenant organisations — all charities working in women's health — as well as a busy conference and events venue.

The challenge

Sustainability has long been a core value for RCOG, shaped by leadership priorities and embedded governance. However, significant organisational change — including relocation, new working practices, increased membership, COVID disruption and a complex operating model — meant that existing sustainability data no longer reflected reality.

The support

Through Southwark Climate Collective, RCOG received **fully funded, bespoke consultancy support**, tailored to its size, complexity and reporting cycles.

Working closely with their consultant, the focus was on:

- Reviewing and **resetting sustainability baselines** to reflect current operations
- Clarifying what data should — and should not — be measured
- Introducing **intensity-based measures** to reflect how the building is actually used
- Creating a clear, joined-up **sustainability narrative** across different parts of the organisation
- Developing practical outputs aligned with annual reporting timelines
- Supported Carbon reduction actions and plans

The approach was flexible, hands-on and shaped around RCOG's needs rather than a standard template.

The outcome

RCOG now has a clearer, more confident understanding of its sustainability position. Data is more meaningful, decision-making feels more proportionate, and sustainability work is better aligned with the organisation's purpose and social value.

The work has also strengthened engagement with tenants and partners, enabling RCOG to provide clearer information and support as a landlord and venue.

Looking ahead

With strong foundations in place, RCOG is now better positioned to plan future investment, phase major infrastructure decisions, and continue its net zero journey in a way that is realistic, joined-up and resilient.

“During a period in which our building increased in occupancy and footfall we needed to pause and reset. The consultancy we received helped us to do this and build a coherent narrative around the good work we were already doing. It also helped us to identify the next steps which would achieve best value for our organisation, our tenants, clients and environment.”

Lou Raggett, RCOG

