

Cambridge Environmental Research Consultants

Carbon Reduction Plan

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1 Commitment to achieving Net Zero

Cambridge Environmental Research Consultants (CERC) is committed to achieving Net Zero emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050.

2 Baseline Emissions Footprint

Baseline emissions are a record of the greenhouse gases produced in the past and that were produced prior to the introduction of any new strategies to reduce emissions. Baseline emissions are the reference point against which emissions reduction can be measured.

Baseline Year: 2022	
EMISSIONS	TOTAL (tCO₂e)
Scope 1	0.00
Scope 2	11.60
Scope 3 (Included Sources: air travel)	2.85
Total Emissions	14.44

2.1 Comments on the baseline emissions inventory

Our direct energy consumption comes in the form of electricity at the Cambridge office, which is used for heating, lighting and power. We obtain our electricity from a renewable energy supplier, to minimize the greenhouse gas impact of generation. However, the table above follows the UK methodology for reporting emissions and uses the UK national grid carbon intensity (193 gCO₂e/kWh) rather than a figure specific to our supplier.

3 Current Emissions Reporting

The baseline year is the same as the current year (2022).

4 Emissions reduction targets

In order to continue our progress to achieving Net Zero, we have adopted the following carbon reduction targets.

We project that carbon emissions will decrease over the next five years to 8.10 tCO₂e by 2027. This is a reduction of 44%.

This is driven by a reduction in the carbon intensity of our electricity usage. BEIS predicts that the carbon intensity of the UK National Grid will change to 87 gCO₂e/kWh by 2027¹. This is a drop of 55% from the value used in our 2022 baseline emissions inventory.

5 Carbon Reduction Projects

5.1 Completed Carbon Reduction Initiatives

Our baseline year is the same as the current year (2022) so no environmental management measures and projects have been completed since the baseline.

As an SME we have limited control in some areas. Our office is rented. Furthermore, it is in a listed building, so the property owner is restricted by planning regulations in the measures they can take towards energy efficiency, such as insulation.

Here are carbon reduction initiatives that we have completed.

Sustainability policy

We adopted a sustainability policy to 'aim to follow and to promote good sustainability practice, to reduce the environmental impacts of all our activities'. This is updated from time to time, and was last updated in 2020.

Renewable electricity

We obtain our electricity for the Cambridge office from a renewable energy supplier.

Travel and meetings

We are committed to the following.

- We will walk, cycle and/or use public transport to attend meetings, site visits etc., except where these alternatives are impractical and/or cost prohibitive.
- We will avoid physically travelling to meetings etc. where alternatives are available and practical, such as using teleconferencing, video conferencing or web cams.
- We will strive to organise efficient timing of meetings to avoid multiple trips.

¹ Updated Energy and Emissions Projections, cited on https://www.icax.co.uk/Grid_Carbon_Factors.html

Purchase of equipment and consumption of resources:

We are committed to the following:

- We will minimise our use of paper and other consumables, e.g. by using doublesiding printing.
- We will minimise our use of single-use plastics, e.g. by refilling containers of liquid soaps and cleaning agents.
- We will source environmentally friendly products, e.g. for office cleaning.
- We will arrange for the reuse or recycling of office waste, including paper, printer toners, computer supplies and redundant equipment.
- We will reduce the energy consumption of office equipment by purchasing energy efficient equipment and applying good housekeeping.
- We will ensure that timber products are recycled or from well-managed, sustainable sources and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified.
- We will purchase fair-trade and/or organic beverages.

Behaviour change measures to reduce electricity usage

We have signage in the office encouraging our staff to reduce electricity usage, such as reminders to turn off lights and office equipment when not in use, and to make efficient use of the kettle by only boiling the water needed.

Encouraging green commuting

We encourage our staff to travel by low-impact methods where they can. In our last survey pre-pandemic², 81% of CERC staff were cycling or walking to work and 19% were using public transport.

5.2 Future Carbon Reduction Initiatives

In the future we hope to implement further measures such as:

- Eliminating emissions from international travel through: use of web conferencing; using travel methods with minimal impact wherever practical; offsetting emissions where it is unavoidable to use air travel.
- Making more use of carbon-neutral computer resource for our scientific calculations, such as the Google Cloud Platform and Microsoft Azure. The former already matches its energy consumption with 100% renewable energy, and the latter will be 100% based on renewable energy by 2025.
- Encourage staff to use green methods where possible as they transition back to increased use of the Cambridge office post-pandemic. To this end, survey staff to establish their commuting methods.
- We expect all our electricity to come from low carbon sources by 2035. This is a consequence of the UK government commitment to have all UK electricity by 2035 come from low carbon sources, subject to security of supply.
- Expanding our emissions inventory to include more sources from Scope 3. This will enable us to estimate wider emissions from our activities, and track the effectiveness of measures to target these emissions.

² <https://www.cerc.co.uk/about-us/news.php?newsitem=278#news278>

6 Declaration and Sign Off

This Carbon Reduction Plan has been completed in accordance with UK Cabinet Office Procurement Policy Note 06/21³ and associated guidance and reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans.

Emissions have been reported and recorded in accordance with the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the GHG Reporting Protocol corporate standard⁴ and uses the appropriate UK Government emission conversion factors for greenhouse gas company reporting⁵.

Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions have been reported in accordance with SECR requirements, and the Scope 3 emissions presented have been reported in accordance with the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Standard⁶.

This Carbon Reduction Plan has been reviewed and signed off by the Managing Director.

Signed on behalf of Cambridge Environmental Research Consultants:



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DAVID CARRUTHERS

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Date: ...5 December 2022.....

³ Procurement Policy Note – Taking Account of Carbon Reduction Plans in the procurement of major government contracts

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1054374/PPN-0621-Taking-account-of-Carbon-Reduction-Plans-Jan22_1_.pdf

⁴ <https://ghgprotocol.org/corporate-standard>

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-conversion-factors-for-company-reporting>

⁶ <https://ghgprotocol.org/standards/scope-3-standard>