

Our journey to net-zero.

Our carbon commitment and results.

September 2022



AKT II commits to be a net-zero carbon business.

In 2017 we chose to make a significant commitment moving the business to our new HQ at the White Collar Factory. This office building, which we helped to design, is critically acclaimed for its environment friendliness, achieving BREEAM Outstanding and LEED Platinum. We consciously made the bold decision to move to such a building to show our commitment to the climate change movement and reduction of our carbon footprint.

We continue to maintain our commitment through different initiatives, such as:

- All of the electricity at the White Collar Factory is backed by renewable sources.
- We ensure that the greenhouse gas emissions associated to our operations from heating, business travel, commuting, working from home, water, printing paper and waste are minimised as much as possible, and that any residual emissions (those hard to decarbonise) are compensated for via certified offsetting methods - so that we are carbon neutral in our business operations emissions.
- As an environmentally friendly business we are focused on reducing carbon footprint both via our design engineering services and in the way we run our business operations. We are recognised as a 'Carbon Neutral +' organisation.
- We have also externalised our commitment by signing the ['Engineers Declare'](#) (Structural and Civil) commitment, and by continually taking positive actions in response to climate emergency and biodiversity collapse.

"After more than 25 years of working and influencing the built environment, we have a duty to respond and drive change both in our operations and our projects. Reaching operational net-zero is a step in the right direction, and we are prepared to do much more."

Marta Galíñanes-García, Design Director & Sustainability Champion



Promoting carbon reduction through design.

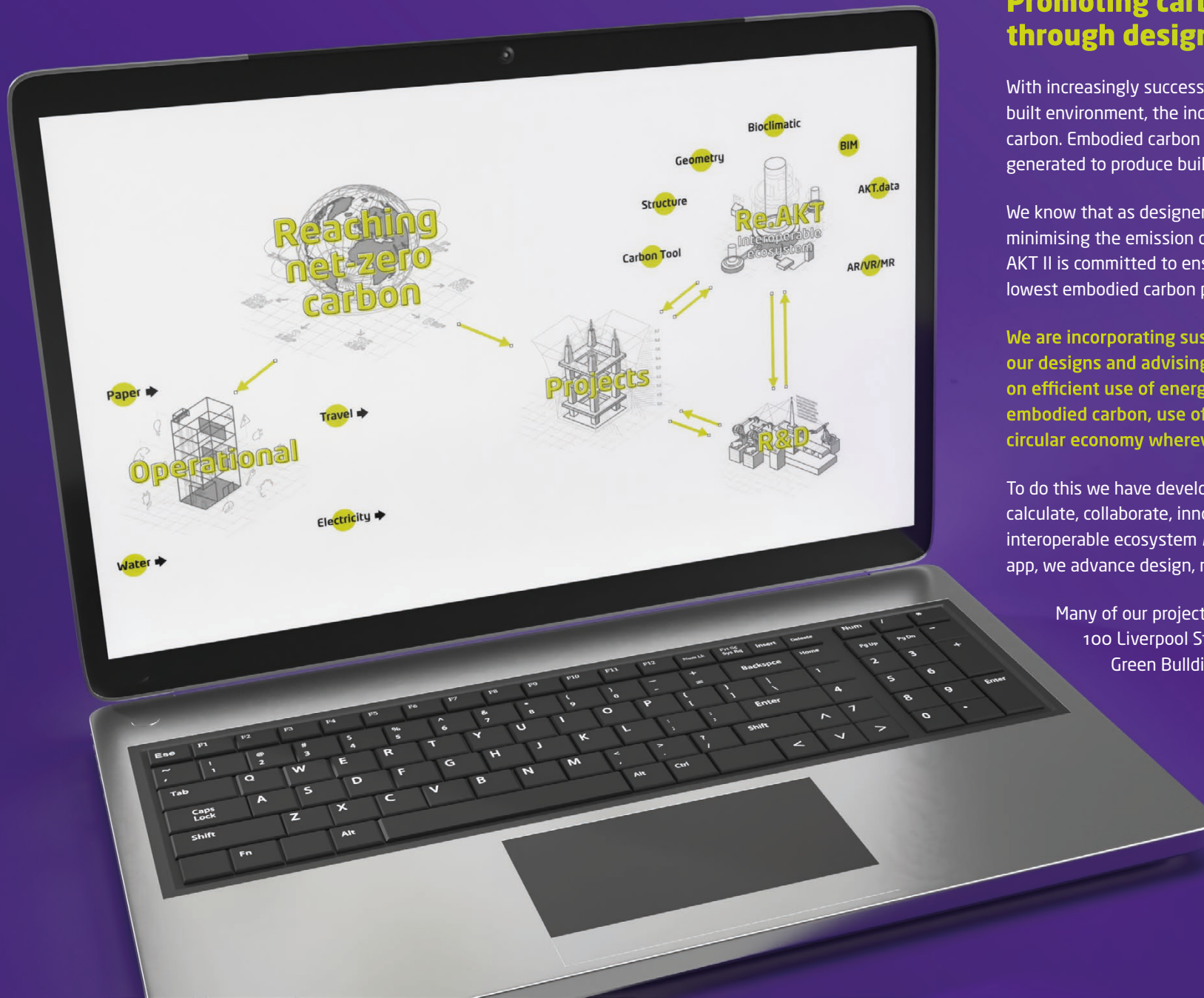
With increasingly successful reductions of operational energy in the built environment, the industry's next challenge is to reduce embodied carbon. Embodied carbon is the total greenhouse gas emissions generated to produce built assets.

We know that as designers we play a critical role in effectively minimising the emission of carbon during the design process. As such, AKT II is committed to ensuring that on every project we target the lowest embodied carbon possible.

We are incorporating sustainable environmental considerations into our designs and advising on construction practises which focus on efficient use of energy and water consumption, reduction of embodied carbon, use of low environmental impact materials and circular economy wherever possible.

To do this we have developed a network of tools that allow us to calculate, collaborate, innovate, research and educate. From our interoperable ecosystem *Re.AKT* to *Carbon.AKT*, our interactive carbon app, we advance design, new materials and specifications.

Many of our projects have won awards for their design, including 100 Liverpool Street being awarded BusinessGreen Leaders Green Building Project of the Year Award in 2021.



Our strategy is proactive, and we are working to minimise our impact, ensuring carbon reductions are taken where possible and as a last resort offset them.

As part of our environmental management system and processes, we measure our environmental carbon footprint each year and also take action to minimise where possible. The electricity we use in our headquarters comes from renewable sources. Our environmental management system is compliant with ISO 14001 and externally audited and certified by LRQA.

1. Measure.

We have been [measuring our environmental data](#) for a number of years. Our data comprises electricity, gas (cooling and heating), water, printer consumption, waste, commuting, business travel and we estimate our staff's working-from-home emissions.

2. Act.

We continue to [implement our climate emergency action plan](#) to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions where possible.

3. Verify.

Our carbon data is [verified independently](#) by a third party.

4. Offset.

In the instances where we cannot reduce emissions we will [offset via recognised offsetting schemes](#).

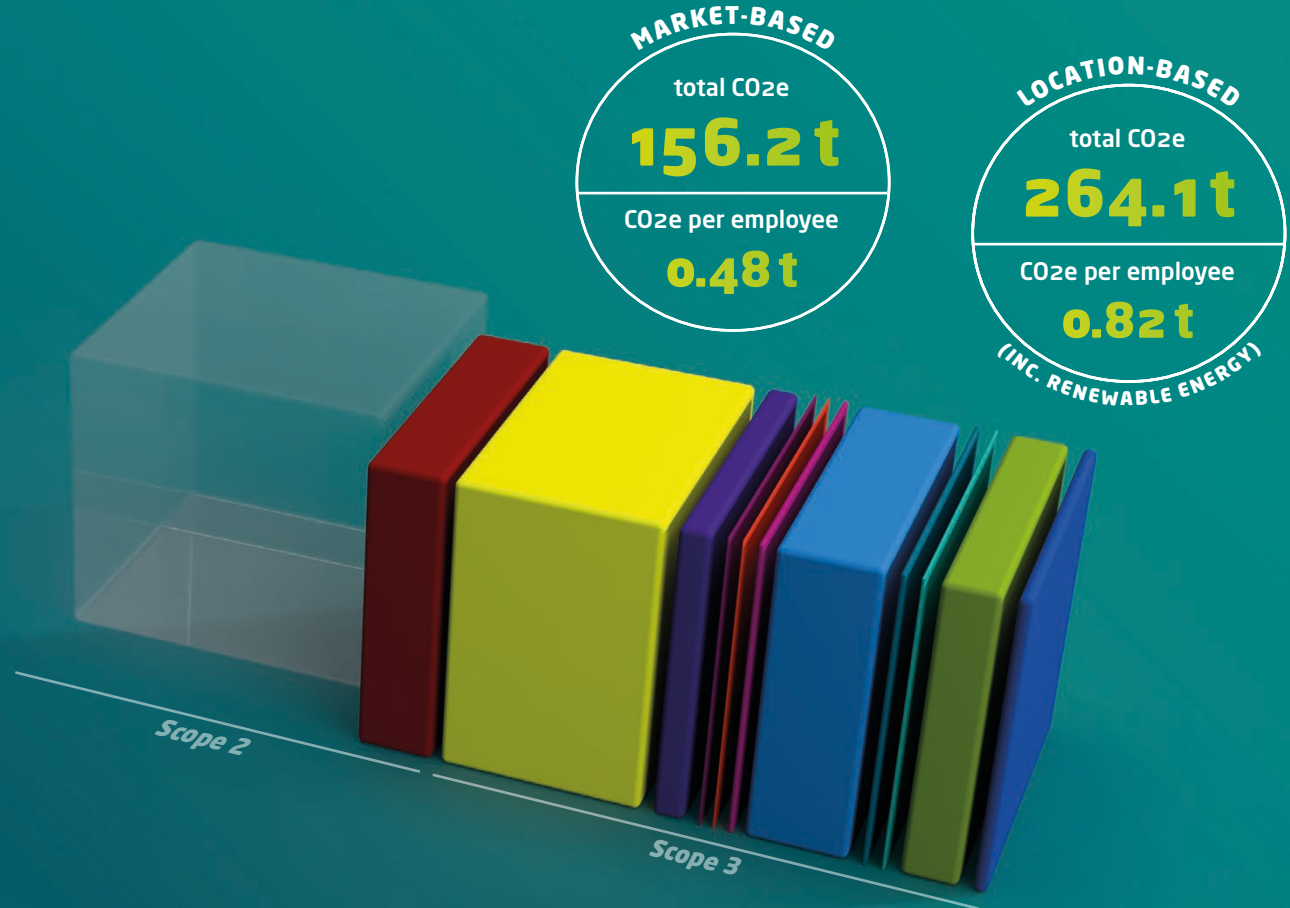
Carbon use in 2021.

The diagram shows our carbon use in 2021. Our emissions reduced 37% when compared to 2020, and 64% from the 2019 baseline. This was mostly due to business travel continuing to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Working from home emissions was the largest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions in 2021 (41.4%), followed by commuting (20.2%).

Regional offices.

Our offices in Cambridge and Manchester are small (less than 5% of our total staff) and situated in serviced office spaces. We have estimated their office carbon footprint by allocating an estimated emission per staff based on our HQ.



Electricity *
107.9 t CO₂e
Already renewable

Electricity T & D losses
9.6 t CO₂e
6%

Printing paper
1.5 t CO₂e
1%

Commercial travel - train
0.9 t CO₂e
< 1%

Heating /cooling (gas)
24.7 t CO₂e
16%

Water & waste water
0.5 t CO₂e
< 1%

Staff commute ***
31.4 t CO₂e
20%

Commercial travel - flights
17.2 t CO₂e
11%

Working from home
64.5 t CO₂e
41%

Waste **
0.2 t CO₂e
< 1%

Commercial travel - taxi, bus, car
1.5 t CO₂e
< 1%

Regional offices
4.2 t CO₂e
3%

* Our headquarters are located in the White Collar Factory in London. The entire building's ecosystem is very sustainable and won several environmental awards. Our landlord Derwent is committed to Net Zero by 2030. All our HQ's electricity use is from [renewable sources](#).

** Only 20% of our waste is going to landfill.

*** Around 29% of our staff [cycle or walk](#) to the office.

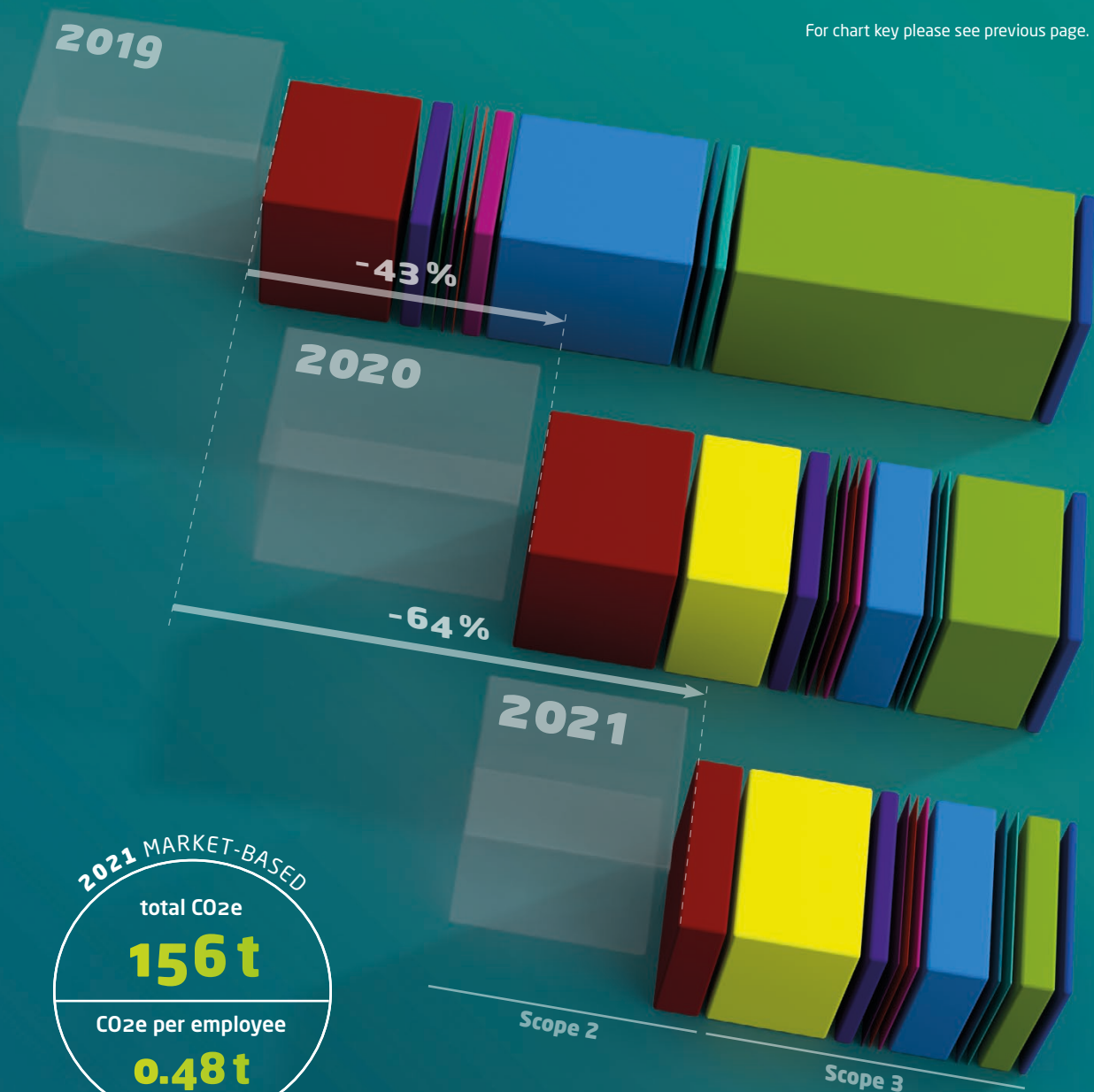
Previous years (2019-2020).

The diagrams show the carbon emissions measured in previous years. The 2020 data has been updated to reflect the actual electric, gas and water usage, and the working-from-home allowance recalculated with an updated method.

We have reflected on the climate impacts of working from home, therefore estimated these emissions, and included them in our reporting.

Effects of COVID-19.

Due to the pandemic in 2020/2021, there was a reduction in our business travel by more than 70%, which has had a positive impact on the environment. Also, we have invested in technology which allows us to work flexibly and reduces the operational cost and environmental impact in relation to the office and business travel.



What we continue doing in 2022.



In 2022, our 2021 carbon data has been independently verified by a rigorous process from Carbon Footprint Ltd. We have taken further steps to offset more carbon emissions than what we emitted in 2021, achieving the **Carbon Neutral+** status.

To offset, we are supporting the following **Verified Carbon Standard (VCS)** projects: REDD in Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary (reduced deforestation) and the Larimar Wind Farm Project (wind power generation). These projects relate to the **UN Sustainable Development Goals** of Good Health and Wellbeing (3), Clean Water and Sanitation (6), Affordable and Clean Energy (7), Decent Work and Economic Growth (8), Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (9), Climate Action (13) and Life on Land (15). These offsets refer to carbon avoidance projects.

We will also continue to implement our operational emissions reduction action plans:

- We will further encourage our staff and clients to use collaborative technology as an alternative to travel.
- We will work alongside our landlord to further reduce our office operational emissions where possible.
- Early in 2022 we implemented our Hybrid Working Policy, helping to reduce office related emissions, such as waste, energy, paper, water and commuting, and will also continue to include working from home carbon estimations.

As climate change and social equality rise to the top of our agendas, we begin to understand how intrinsically they are connected and the great potential they have to drive a positive change in our economy for a recovery that sits within the planetary boundaries and responds to society as a whole.

Reaching operational net-zero is a step in the right direction, and we are prepared to do much more. At AKT II, we have a unique opportunity to apply our knowledge and technical expertise as we make the necessary changes for our planet to find a new balance.

Our continuous action plan:

- Our established in-house sustainability research group will continue to drive change - this is where we can make the biggest impact - through our involvement in the design and procurement of buildings and surrounding infrastructure in both our current and future projects.
- Our continually evolving Sustainability Charter's framework will drive research and practical application of less resource-hungry buildings - addressing greenhouse gases, waste and water consumption - across all live projects.
- Utilising our bespoke in-house carbon tools, we will continue working with contractors, suppliers and designers alike to push designs to address the climate emergency and minimise embodied carbon.
- Our infrastructure and bioclimatic teams endeavor to ensure that all projects not only maintain the local environment and conditions, but seek to improve and enhance biodiversity of the surrounding areas.
- Our aim is to ensure that on every project we work on we make a positive change to the local area both from a social and environmental perspective.
- We will further enhance the technical knowledge of our practice and our staff on topics related to sustainable design solutions and carbon efficiency of our projects.

Our determination to align the built environment, so future generations can thrive on a healthy planet, is top of our agenda.

How we calculated our data.

All conversion factors used were extracted from the following sources:

2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/greenhouse-gas-reporting-conversion-factors-2021>

File name: UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting Condensed Set 2020 v2.0

Units: kg CO₂e

2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/greenhouse-gas-reporting-conversion-factors-2020>

File name: UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting Condensed Set 2020 v1.0

Units: kg CO₂e

2019

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/greenhouse-gas-reporting-conversion-factors-2019>

File name: UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting Condensed Set 2019 v1.3

Units: kg CO₂e



**Carbon
Neutral**
Organisation

Covering our emissions related to building energy, flights, train, taxi, bus and car travel, homeworking, staff commuting, waste, water (inc wastewater), and paper.