

# Our journey to net-zero.

**Our carbon commitment and results.**

July 2023



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

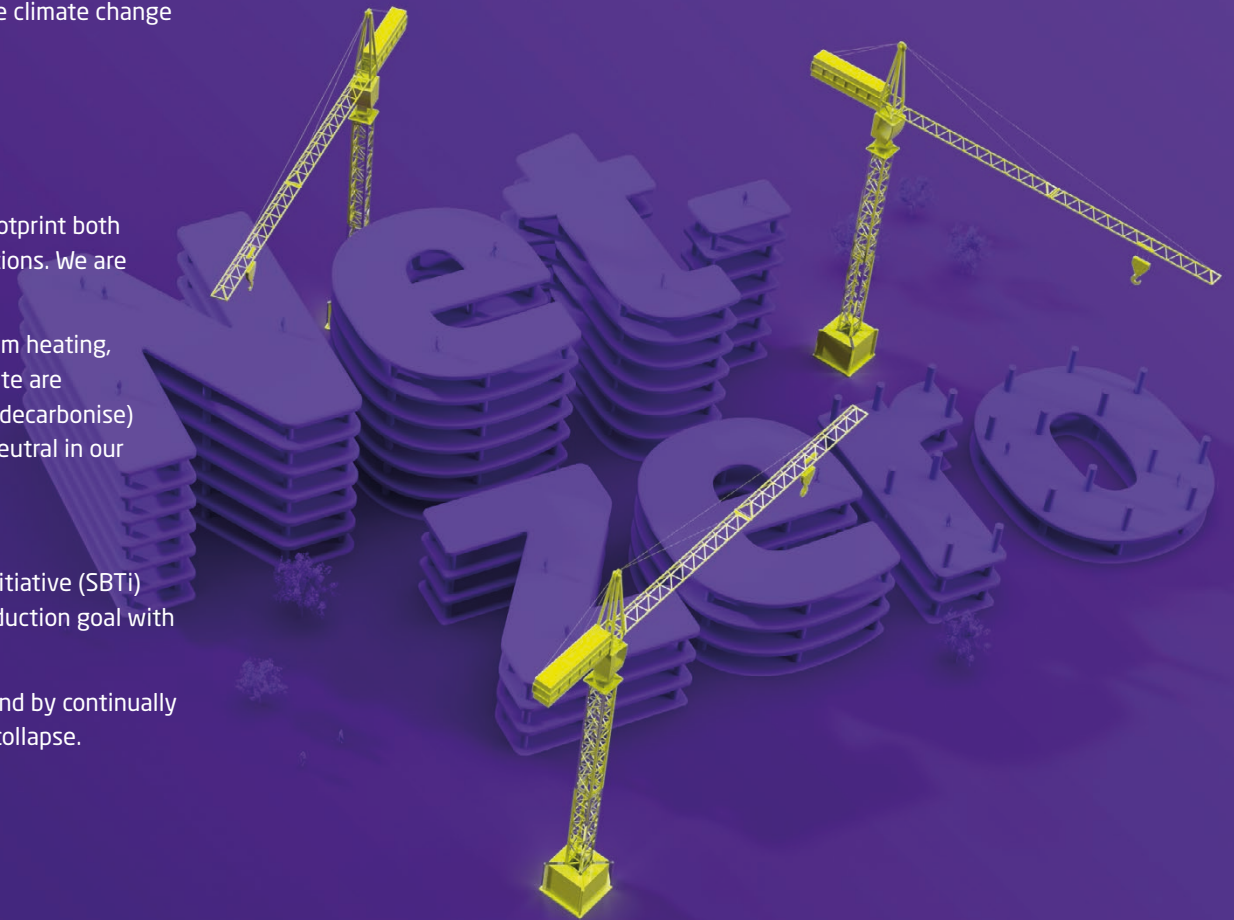
In 2017 we chose to make a significant commitment moving the business to our new HQ at the White Collar Factory. This office building, which we helped to design, is critically acclaimed for its environmental friendliness, achieving BREEAM Outstanding and LEED Platinum. We consciously made the bold decision 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 our headquarters is provided by renewable sources.
- 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 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.
- We have also externalised our commitment by:
  - getting our Near-Term target validated under the Science-Based Targets initiative (SBTi) framework (early 2023). This means that we have aligned our emission reduction goal with the latest climate science and global climate objectives.
  - signing the '[Engineers Declare](#)' (Structural and Civil) commitment in 2019, 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.

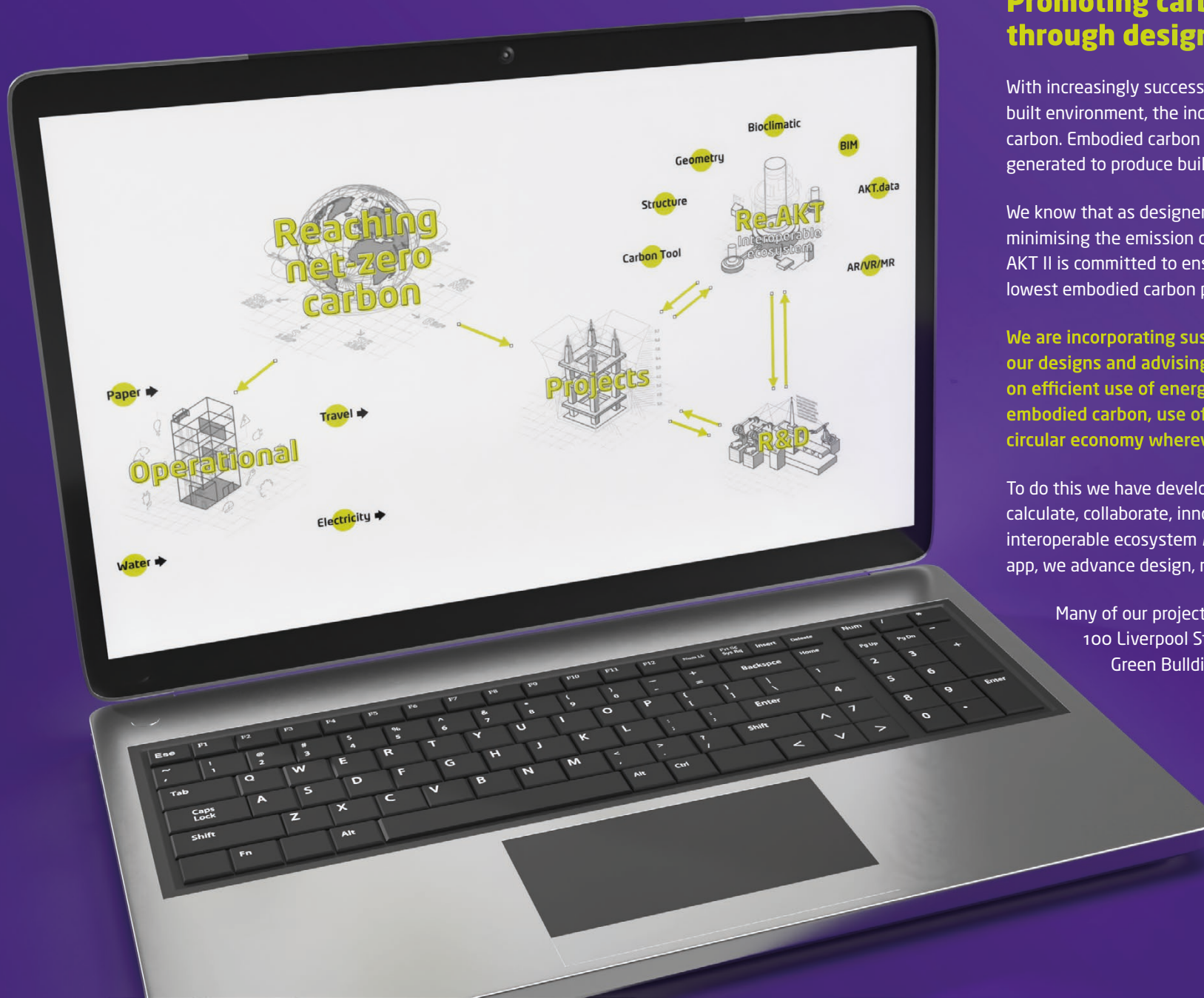
With increasingly successful reductions of operational energy in the built environment, the industry's next challenge is to reduce embodied carbon. Embodied carbon is the total greenhouse gas emissions generated to produce built assets.

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.





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.

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.

## 1. Measure.

We **measure and monitor our environmental and carbon data**. So far our carbon data comprises of renewable 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 2022.

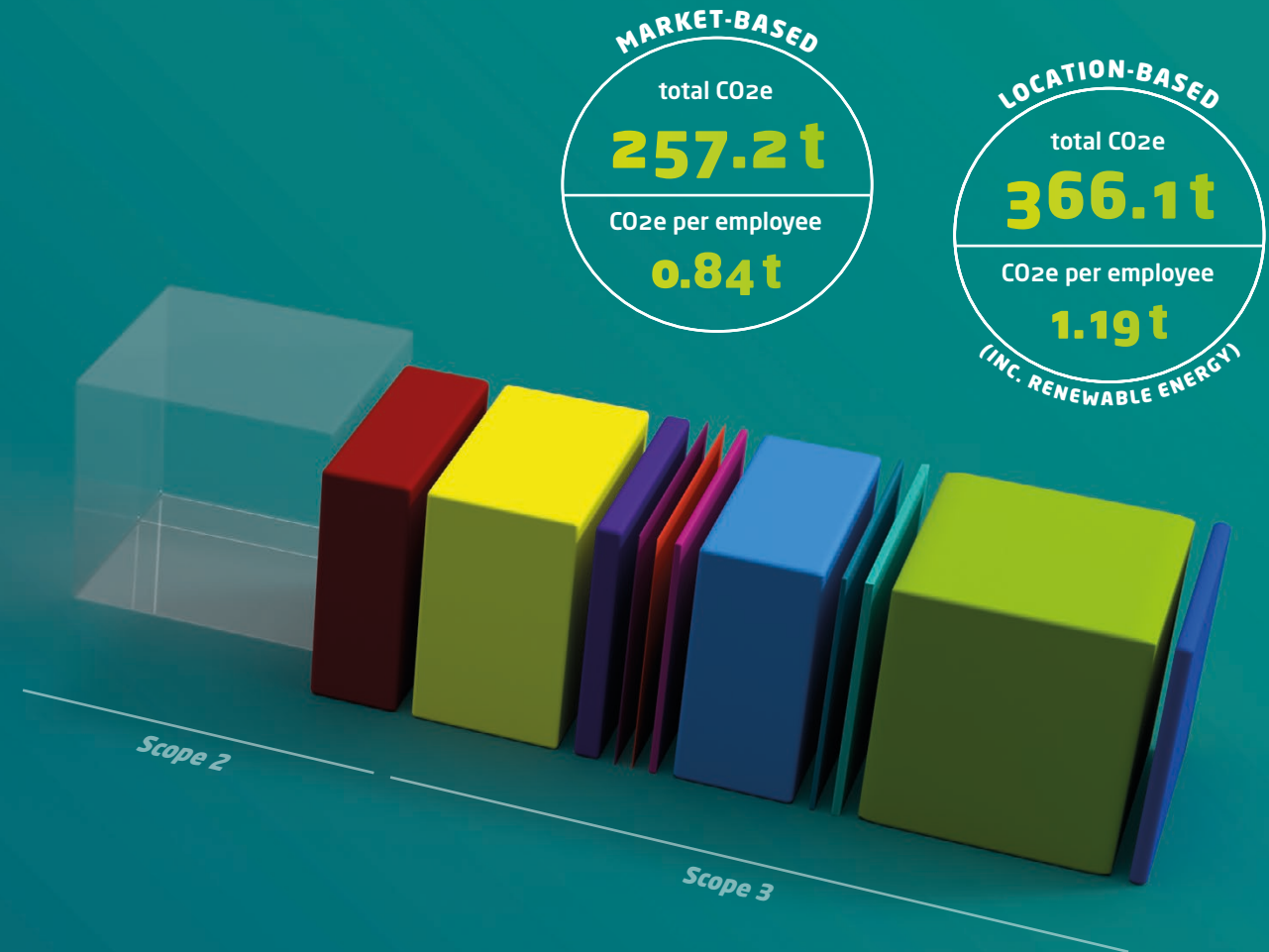
The diagram shows our carbon use in 2022. Our market-based carbon emissions (including both scope 2 & 3) reduced 41% from our 2019 baseline year. Scope 2 emissions were reduced 57%, and scope 3 emissions 38% from the baseline, therefore in 2022 we have achieved our proposed target reduction of at least 12.6% from the baseline, in line with the SBTi framework.

In general, business travel became more normalised after April 2022 and a 50% reduction in business travel emissions was achieved compared to the baseline year. However, the largest contributor to the overall emissions was flights, accounting for 36% of total emissions.

A new methodology for calculating working from home emissions was implemented, as outlined by the UK government.

### 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 person based on our HQ.



**Electricity \***  
108.8 t CO<sub>2</sub>e  
Already renewable

**Electricity T & D losses**  
10 t CO<sub>2</sub>e  
**4 %**

**Printing paper**  
2.7 t CO<sub>2</sub>e  
**1 %**

**Commercial travel - train**  
3.2 t CO<sub>2</sub>e  
**1 %**

**Heating /cooling (gas)**  
35.6 t CO<sub>2</sub>e  
**14 %**

**Water & waste water**  
0.5 t CO<sub>2</sub>e  
**<1 %**

**Staff commute \*\*\***  
45.8 t CO<sub>2</sub>e  
**18 %**

**Commercial travel - flights**  
91.9 t CO<sub>2</sub>e  
**36 %**

**Working from home**  
58.8 t CO<sub>2</sub>e  
**23 %**

**Waste \*\***  
0.2 t CO<sub>2</sub>e  
**<1 %**

**Commercial travel - taxi, bus, car**  
2.2 t CO<sub>2</sub>e  
**<1 %**

**Regional offices**  
6.4 t CO<sub>2</sub>e  
**2 %**

\* 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 33% of our waste is going to landfill.

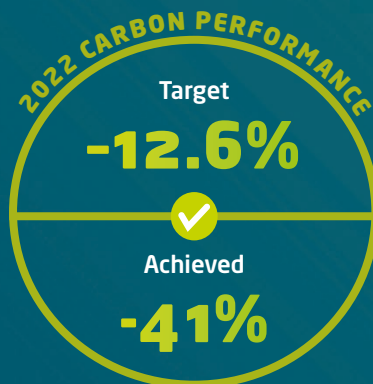
\*\*\* Around 28% of our staff [cycle](#) or [walk](#) to the office.

## Previous years' analysis (2019-2021).

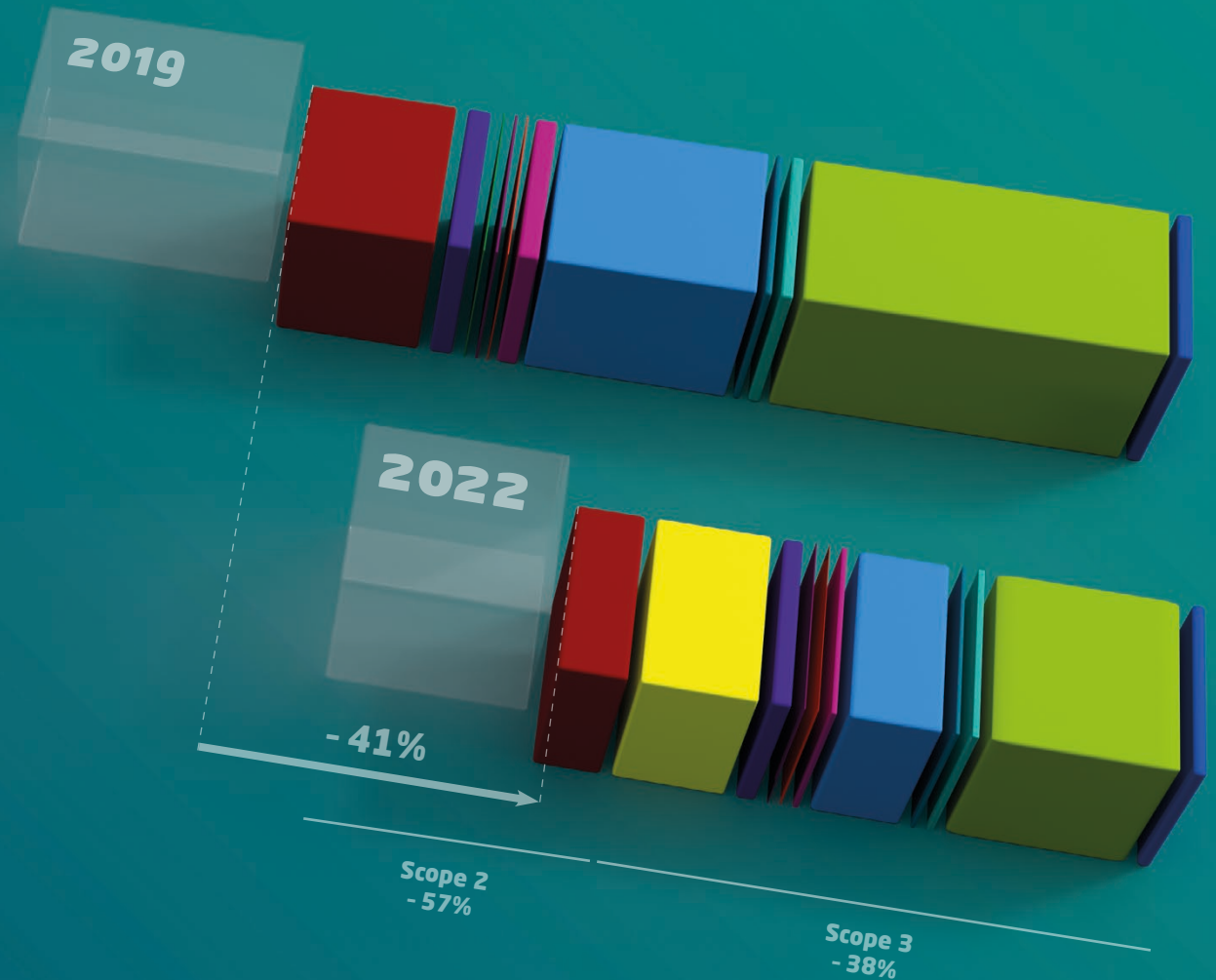
The diagrams showcase carbon emissions, comparing our baseline (2019) to 2022 year.

We've achieved substantial reductions in office energy, gas, water, and commuting by fully implementing our Hybrid Working Policy and boosting employee environmental awareness.

Note: Home working emissions, included since 2020, now contribute 23% to our 2022 carbon total. Not part of our 2019 baseline, this addition demonstrates our commitment to a comprehensive environmental perspective.



For chart key please see previous page.





## What we continue doing in 2023



Our 2022 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, achieving the **Carbon Neutral+** status. We are supporting the following verified offset projects; Mai Ndombe REDD+ in Congo (reduced deforestation) (VCS) and Zoba Anseba Community Safe Water project (clean drinking water) (GS). By doing so we are also contributing to the **UN Sustainable Development Goals of Good Health and Wellbeing (3), Clean Water and Sanitation (6), Climate Action (13) and Life on Land (15)**. These offsets refer to carbon avoidance projects.

Using the **Science-Based Target initiative's** (SBTi) framework we have set a near-term target consistent with keeping the global temperature increase below 1.5°C by 2030. The Absolute Contraction method was applied to the combined scope 2 & 3 emissions, resulting in a target to reduce by 4.2% each year. Emissions have been consolidated through the operation control approach. At the end of 2022, we externally validated our science-based target.

Going forward into 2023, to further reduce our operational GHG emissions and energy usage in general, we will maintain our current measures and aim to:

- continue using collaborative technology as an alternative to travel where possible
- reduce energy usage by switching desktops to laptops
- improve our carbon data gathering process by collecting data more regularly
- continue enhancing our staff awareness through reminders
- review lighting sensor sensitivity and timings across our office space

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.

### 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 endeavour 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:

### 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/greenhouse-gas-reporting-conversion-factors-2022>

File name: UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting Condensed Set 2022 v2.0

Units: kg CO<sub>2</sub>e

### 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 CO<sub>2</sub>e



**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.