



# CARBON REDUCTION PLAN

FEBRUARY 2023

This Carbon Reduction Plan (the 'Plan') follows guidelines provided by the Cabinet Office (Procurement Policy Note 06/21). It supports appointment to frameworks for supply of legal services to Government bodies through the Crown Commercial Service (CCS) and others interested in the Gowling WLG (UK) LLP approach to carbon.



**GOWLING WLG**

## COMMITMENT TO ACHIEVING NET ZERO

In 2017, the Firm committed to a zero carbon goal by 2030.

## BASELINE EMISSIONS FOOTPRINT

### BASELINE YEAR: 2016

#### Additional Details relating to the Baseline Emissions calculations.

In 2016 a detailed assessment of energy usage, and review of monitoring and targeting activity, led to the establishment of baseline data for significant Scope 1, Scope 2 and selected 3 emissions (corporate travel) in line with the ISO50001 (energy) standard and beyond legal requirements of the Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme (ESOS). The baseline year selected covers the financial year (May 2015 to April 2016) and is being reviewed as part of the science based target setting process underway and referred to below. Data was verified by Maloney Associates, an independent energy-focussed consultancy.

Emissions	Total (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)
Scope 1	501
Scope 2	2,550
Scope 3	Upstream transportation and Distribution 0*
	Waste generated in operations 0*
	Business travel 2,346
	Employee commuting 0*
	Downstream transportation and distribution 0*
Total Emissions	5,397

## CURRENT EMISSIONS REPORTING

### REPORTING YEAR: 2022

Emissions	Total (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)
Scope 1	359
Scope 2	715
Scope 3	Upstream transportation and Distribution 0*
	Waste generated in operations 0*
	Business travel 249
	Employee commuting 0*
	Downstream transportation and distribution 0*
Total Emissions	1,323

\* '0' denotes that no data is available and/or the category is not currently deemed to be material due to the business being a professional services provider. This also applies to several other scope 3 emissions specified in the Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Standard<sup>1</sup>. All Scope 3 categories will be reviewed as part of the SBTi target setting process and this Plan updated by January 2024.



## EMISSIONS REDUCTION TARGETS

In 2017, a zero carbon goal by 2030 (published [here](#)) was set to galvanise action around energy reduction and carbon, with a focus on energy and emissions reduction. Carbon compensation, in the form of carbon offsetting (through Carbon Neutral® or UN Offsetting Platform) and renewable electricity supply, compliment the reduction-first approach. By April 2020, total emissions had reduced by 45% on the baseline. Emissions further reduced during 2021 and 2022, however COVID has influenced results and these figures are therefore not typical.

We have committed to the following objectives through a Climate and Nature Strategy (PLANET+ Phase 2 years 1 and 2) approved by the Board in 2022:

- To commit to and set science based carbon targets through the [Science Based Targets](#) initiative (SBTi) by October 2023.
- Implement recommendations of the [Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures](#) (TCFD) by April 2024.
- Develop and initiate a Nature Plan by April 2023.

As part of the SBTi process, a screening exercise will determine significance of Scope 3 emissions, beyond those that are mandatory and included in this Plan. Non-UK and smaller serviced spaces are currently deemed insignificant from an energy and carbon perspective however this will also be re-examined. Other objectives and supporting activities are also in progress or under development and will be considered in future Plans and reports.

## CARBON REDUCTION PROJECTS

A number of measures taken since 2017 have led to a reduction in carbon emissions of 45% (2,481 tCO<sub>2</sub>e) to April 2020. Although a further significant reduction is evident from 2022 data, the impact of COVID has significantly influenced results particularly with respect to corporate travel. Steps taken to date include but are not limited to:

- Monitoring and targeting
- Energy management training
- Integration of requirements into service contracts
- Consolidation of rented space
- Resetting of lighting controls and replacement of selected lighting

- Review, servicing and replacement of building management systems and equipment
- Corporate travel mileage reduction
- Fleet reduction and management
- Travel Policy and traveller behaviour review

Specialist energy consultancy, Maloney Associates, identified additional opportunities for the major offices in the UK during 2016 and repeated in 2021. These recommendations, alongside others, will contribute to energy reduction activity, in tandem with interim carbon target setting.

The business adopted ISO14001 (environment) in 2013 and ISO50001 (energy) in 2015 and is externally audited by the British Standards Institute (BSI) to support continued certification. The UK LLP is a signatory to the UN Global Compact and is required to report publicly and annually on progress – the most recent report is [here](#). The firm is also subject to EcoVadis, an annual independent Environment, Social and Governance audit with the resulting score card available on request or directly through [EcoVadis](#).

## DECLARATION AND SIGN OFF

This Carbon Reduction Plan has been completed in accordance with PPN 06/21 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 Greenhouse Gas Reporting Protocol corporate standard<sup>2</sup> and uses the appropriate Government emission conversion factors for greenhouse gas company reporting<sup>3</sup>. Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions have been reported in accordance with SECR requirements, and the required subset of Scope 3 emissions have been reported in accordance with the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Standard<sup>4</sup>.

This Carbon Reduction Plan has been reviewed and signed off by the board of directors (or equivalent management body).

Signed on behalf of **Gowling WLG (UK) Ltd:**

**DAVID FENNELL**  
Chief Executive Officer

14 February 2023

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

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

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

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

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