



Cabinet Office

# Carbon Reduction Plan

Supplier name: Eversheds Sutherland (International) LLP

Publication date: September 2022

## Commitment to achieving Net Zero

**Eversheds Sutherland (International) LLP** is committed to achieving Net Zero emissions by **2050** at the latest.

## Baseline Emissions Footprint

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

<b>Baseline Year: 2018/2019 financial year</b>	
<b>Additional Details relating to the Baseline Emissions calculations.</b>	
These figures were calculated as part of Eversheds Sutherland's journey to commit to the Science Based targets initiative (SBTi) and have been verified by a third party supplier.	
<b>Baseline year emissions:</b>	
<b>EMISSIONS</b>	<b>TOTAL (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>
Scope 1	771
Scope 2	3,388*
Scope 3 (Included Sources)	Upstream T & D – 434 Waste – 723 Business travel – 1,468

	<b>Employee commuting – 2,063</b> <b>Downstream T &amp; D – 0</b> <b>Total – 3,293</b>
<b>Total Emissions</b>	<b>7,452</b>

\*location based

## Current Emissions Reporting

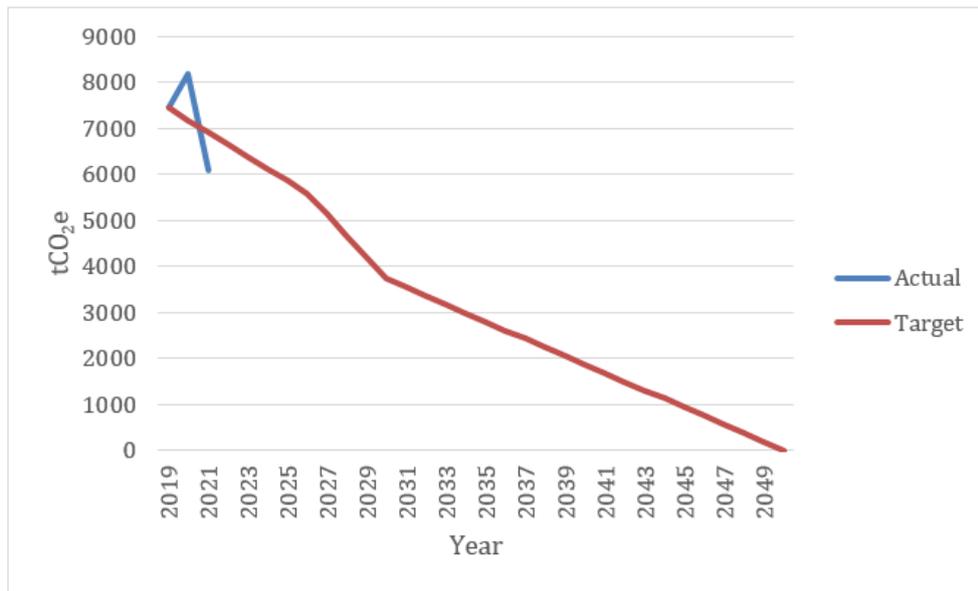
Reporting Year: 2020/2021	
EMISSIONS	TOTAL (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)
Scope 1	1,030
Scope 2	1,767
Scope 3 (Included Sources)	<b>Upstream T &amp; D – 1,500</b> <b>Waste – 180</b> <b>Business travel – 1,407.5</b> <b>Employee commuting – 192</b> <b>Downstream T &amp; D – 0<sup>1</sup></b> <b>Total – 3,279.5</b>
<b>Total Emissions</b>	<b>6,076.5</b>

## Emissions reduction targets

In order to achieve Net Zero, Eversheds Sutherland projects that carbon emissions will decrease over the next five years to 5,589 tCO<sub>2</sub>e by 2026. This is a reduction of 25% from a 2018/2019 baseline.

<sup>1</sup> Business operations emissions reviewed by an external third party who confirmed downstream T&D are not applicable to business type (law firms).

Progress against these targets can be seen in the graph below:



## Carbon Reduction Projects

### Completed Carbon Reduction Initiatives

The following environmental management measures and projects have been completed or implemented since the **2018/19** baseline. The carbon emission reduction achieved by these schemes equate to 1,375.5tCO<sub>2</sub>e, a 18.5%ge<sup>2</sup> reduction against the **2018/19** baseline and the measures will be in effect when performing the contract:

- **Reduced business travel** – the travel policy has a hierarchy which specifies that colleagues should use the most sustainable method of transport available first, for example Microsoft Teams should be used in preference to face to face meetings (which require travel), then travel via public transport (economy), personal cars to be used for remote locations and air travel as a last resort. The pandemic also meant that colleagues used Microsoft Teams on a more frequent basis and this will be encouraged moving forwards.
- **Reduced spend** – the majority of the firm's Scope 3 emissions come from Purchased Goods & Services. Specific emissions associated with goods/services have been provided by some suppliers, which reduced reliance on spend data and provided a more accurate carbon footprint. Budgets were reduced compared to the previous financial year which meant spend was focused on business essential goods and services, reducing spend in other areas.
- **Reduced property portfolio size and associated footprint** - two offices moved to smaller premises with one also moving away from using gas.

<sup>2</sup> Please note, emissions for 2020/2021 reduced in part due to regulations relating to the Covid-19 pandemic such as reduced business travel, reduced employee commuting (as colleagues worked from home), reduced waste and less spend on goods and services. The pandemic resulted in increased Scope 1 emissions due to CIBSE ventilation guidelines and upstream T&D increased as post and courier services were used more regularly.

- **Energy efficiency initiatives** – the firm continually works with its M&E contractor to introduce energy saving initiatives. This resulted in an estimated reduction of 85.12 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per annum from 13 implemented emission reduction initiatives in 2020/2021. Initiatives included installation of LED lighting and ensuring server rooms are set at efficient temperatures.
- **Recycling** – recycling of plastics, tins/cans and food waste is encouraged in all UK offices, with additional recycling streams such as crisp packets, writing instruments, sweet wrappers and rubber bands being trialled to reduce the amount of general waste produced. All paper is recycled.
- **Agile working** – a blended working approach allows people to work from home two to three days per week. This resulted in fewer people in the office, consequently there was less paper usage, less general waste being produced and lower employee commuting emissions.
- **ISO14001** – all UK offices are certified to this standard.
- **Science Based Targets (SBTs)** – using benchmark data from 2018/2019, the firm's SBTs were approved by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) in 2021. Carbon data has been verified for two consecutive years.
- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** – as part of the commitment to be a Responsible Business the firm is a participant of the UN Global Compact and supports the 10 principles and 17 SDGs. The first Communication on Progress (CoP) was published by the firm in May 2022.

Within the next three years, Eversheds Sutherland aims to adopt the following:

- **Virtual team meetings** – continuing the pattern of virtual meetings is a key item on the travel policy and the firm is extending this to virtual training for clients.
- **SAF** – consideration of investment in Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) to reduce the carbon footprint of the firm's business essential travel.
- **Further reduction of office space** – workspace will be continually reviewed, leading to better use of space and less energy consumption.
- **Blended working** – the future of work will build upon the firm's Agile working approach with colleagues working from home two or three days a week, which will reduce emissions associated with employee commuting.
- **Renewable energy** – conversations will be held with the two UK landlords who do not currently purchase renewable energy for the offices.
- **Green Gas** – investigate purchasing of green gas for offices which currently use natural gas.
- **Scope 1** – natural gas will be reduced/removed from as many UK offices as possible and will be a key consideration for office relocations.
- **Single use items** – after the success of reducing Single Use Plastics (SUPs), the focus will be to reduce purchase of all single use items which are not necessary for business operations, such as branded items previously used for marketing or

recruitment purposes. Recruitment fairs are increasingly being held remotely, making them more accessible and also reducing the purchasing of products such as stress balls.

- **Paper** – rolling out a strategy to reduce purchasing, use and disposal of paper. The Facilities Management teams are focusing on where they can reduce printing in their operations. The use of DocuSign also contributes to the reduction in printing.
- **Postage** – new starters will now receive their equipment when they arrive into the office on their first day, rather than it being posted out to reduce upstream T&D emissions.
- **Scope 3** – identification of a third party portal which will obtain, record and verify the carbon footprint of suppliers used by the firm.
- **Engagement** – a global charity will be identified which aligns with the firm’s strategy and gives colleagues the opportunity to engage on a UK wide basis.
- **Employee commuting** - research into the electric vehicle car scheme is currently underway. Consideration to be given to the installation of more electric vehicle charge points in office car parks.

## 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 GHG Reporting Protocol corporate standard<sup>3</sup> and uses the appropriate Government emission conversion factors for greenhouse gas company reporting<sup>4</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>5</sup>.

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

### Signed on behalf of Eversheds Sutherland (International) LLP:

Name: Lee Ranson

Title: Chief Executive Officer

Date: 6 September 2022

Signature: 

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<sup>3</sup> <https://ghgprotocol.org/corporate-standard>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-conversion-factors-for-company-reporting>

<sup>5</sup> <https://ghgprotocol.org/standards/scope-3-standard>