

Carbon emissions report

2021–22

Our responsibilities

We take our responsibilities to people and planet seriously and recognise our moral obligation to act to tackle the climate crisis. We seek to take a leading role in promoting environmental, ethical, and legal best practice within our industry. We are focused on:

- educating on and advocating for a better future
- adding social and environmental value to the world through our actions
- minimising impact on the environment and the communities where we operate.

Science based targets

We manage our emissions via the world's most widely used greenhouse gas accounting standards, the GHG (Greenhouse Gas) Reporting Protocol – Corporate Standard. This has three areas or scopes.

scope 1	scope 2	scope 3
Direct emissions such as onsite combustible fuels	Indirect emissions via the purchase of electricity and gas	Other indirect emissions across the entire value chain such as purchased products, travel, transport and waste
We continue our commitment to reaching absolute carbon zero on all energy-related emissions by 2048, in line with our University's goal. We also set an interim target of a 72 percent reduction in energy related emissions by 2030 against a baseline of 2018-19.		Science-based targets for Scope 3 are in development and will be reviewed by our governance boards in 2023. We have set targets to reduce corporate travel emissions by 25 percent by 2025.

Reduction strategy

We work proactively with our supply chain to mutually improve our environmental impact. Our strategic approach to reduction of energy use and carbon emissions across our UK premises is focused on five key areas:

- electrification of heating – replacing gas and LPG-fired heating systems
- energy efficiency improvements – installing LED lighting and reducing energy usage
- renewable energy – exploring photovoltaics, heat pumps and other renewable technologies
- property strategy – using space more efficiently and moving to more energy-efficient premises
- behavioural – encouraging staff to adopt energy-efficient practices

Reduction actions

In the financial year 2021-22 we reduced our UK electricity and gas emissions by 7 percent (detail on our carbon emissions data for the UK is shown in the table). In the same year we undertook a range of energy and emissions savings activities including:

- completion of actions from [Energy Saving Opportunities Scheme](#) surveys across our UK premises.
- installation of LED bulbs and lighting sensors across our UK premises.
- active management and alteration of our office and warehouse heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems.
- alteration of set temperature points across a range of air-conditioned spaces.
- switch to 100 percent certifiable renewable energy supply for UK premises.

We are also building an integrated environmental management system that will give us the ability to measure and improve our environmental impact, track best practice and show progress against international frameworks. In January 2022 we began implementing a software tool (UL360) to improve the analysis and automation of our environmental sustainability data and aim to extend our international data collection. Our Environmental Management System underpinning the environmental performance of our Cambridge operations has ISO 14001 certification, and we are using this approach to look for continual improvements across the organisation.

Alongside carbon, we have identified the need to reduce our use of paper, water use and contamination, and plastic use. Across our international assessment operations, we have reduced the plastic used on question paper packs by about 20 percent; removed CDs from use in internal assessment processes and actively invested in research in technology to enable a wholesale switch from plastic to paper examination packaging. We have also begun a systematic switch to using only Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) certified paper across our products and services, achieving 60 percent FSC paper certification by July 2022.

Data for financial year 2021-22

Our results for the financial years 2021–22 and 2020–21 are not directly comparable as our energy use and travel continued to be significantly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, which reduced business operations: many offices remained closed or partially open, resulting in home working and reductions to business travel.

Table: scope 1 and 2 emissions for all our activity within the UK for the period 1 August 2021 to 31 July 2022, compared to the period 1 August 2020 to 31 July 2021.

Country	Scope	Resource	Metric (qty)	2020-21		2021-22		Percent change from previous year		Intensity metrics (2021-22)		
				Qty	tCO ₂ e	Qty	tCO ₂ e	Qty	tCO ₂ e	kgCO ₂ e emissions per UK FTE	kgCO ₂ e emissions per UK 1,000m ³ floor space	kgCO ₂ e emissions per £m revenue
UK	1	Gas	kWh	5,979,559.9	1,157.7	5,541,843.9	1,079.5	-7	-7	275.5	11.4	1,243.7
UK	1	Fleet	km	6,831.6	0.9	23,150.4	3.1	239	244	0.8	0.0	3.6
UK	1	Pool car	km	4,844.1	0.6	8,111.1	0.8	67	46	0.2	0.0	1.0
UK	2	Purchased electricity	kWh	10,969,247.0	2,329.1	11,150,612.5	2,156.3	2	-7	550.4	22.7	2,484.2
Total UK Scope 1 & 2 emissions					3,488.3		3,239.8		-7	826.9	34.2	3,732.4
Total UK CO₂ reduction				Qty	tCO ₂ e	Qty	tCO ₂ e	Qty	tCO ₂ e			
UK	2	Solar PV	kWh	567,759.0	120.6	701,353.9	135.6	24	13	34.6	1.4	156.3

Methodology

We collect data and reports on our energy and carbon emissions, informed by the Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting and Global Reporting Initiative standards. We gather data on all direct and indirect activities which occur due to our activity in the UK and in countries where we have a physical presence. All emissions calculations are derived from activity data i.e., energy and fuel billing data and fleet mileage from leased vehicles. We use the most recent available UK Government emission factors to calculate carbon emissions. We report emissions in metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent which includes the six gases regulated by the Kyoto Protocol.

This report currently includes only emissions associated with activity in the UK. We are working to collect data on our international operations to include in future reports.

November 2022