Energy and carbon report

One of the first major environmental sustainability projects we undertook was to measure and understand our energy use and carbon emissions. This has helped us to understand our best course of action for immediate reductions and plan for our longer-term journey to net-zero.

We first formally reported our carbon emissions in 2022 for the 21/22 financial year. These numbers showed us that our biggest carbon emissions by a considerable way came from our business travel.

Our logical first step to reduce our emissions was to focus on business travel, so we implemented a sustainability sense check last year. Every external trip and event now has an assessment process which includes confirming the carbon footprint and a business case from a sustainability perspective. We now encourage our people to combine trips, stay for longer so there is less travel and choose the lowest feasible carbon mode of transport. We have now reported our 2023 emissions for the 22/23 year and can see that by taking these steps we have been able to specifically reduce business travel by 54%.

We have also worked proactively on reducing our Scope 1 and 2 emissions which is the gas and electricity used by our offices. We have been able to reduce this by 15% and are engaging with our landlords to make further change. We now fully use renewable energy in our London office for example.

By taking these steps we were able to reduce our overall carbon emissions by 48% from last year.

With two years of formal data in hand and the associated expertise developed, we have now produced our net-zero transition plan. This plan outlines the actions we will take over the coming years to minimise our environmental impact, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. The plan also looks at the risks and opportunities associated with the transition to net-zero.

We have set a science-based target through the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) to achieve a 42% reduction in scope 1&2 emissions and reduce our scope 3 emissions by 2030 and to achieve a 90% reduction or net-zero by 2050 and we are on our way to achieving this.

As well as trying to reduce our carbon emissions we also fully avoid all remaining emissions and plant a tree for every new matter we open and to support longer term carbon reduction.

Note: In terms of carbon monitoring, we measure our carbon over the tax year from April to March. For carbon reporting purposes a single year is the accepted nomenclature. Where emissions are measured spanning two calendar years, the 'year' used in reporting should be the one which has the majority of the reported time period. So our emissions measured for the 22/23 tax year are referred to as the 2022 year in formal carbon reporting.

Mewburn Ellis support the Sustainable Development Goals. Our environmental work delivers against three of the seventeen goals









Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the year ended 31 March 2023

	2021-22 Original, normalised used as base year	2021-22 Actual now restated	2022-23
Total energy consumption used to calculate emissions	337,187 kWh	348,452 kWh	316,487 kWh (44,651 kWh of which is
			renewable energy)

	tCO2e	tCO2e	tCO2e
Scope 1 emissions from combustion of natural gas	0.9	4	1.5
Scope 2 emissions from purchased electricity (location based)	70.6	69.3	59.6
	71.5	73.3	61.1
Scope 3 emissions from WTT for natural gas and purchased electricity	20.2	20.3	15.8
Scope 3 emissions from T&D of purchased electricity	6.2	6.1	5.4
Scope 3 emissions from business travel	553	15	256.7
Total gross tCO2e based on above	650.9	114.7	339

Intensity Ratios

	Apr22 - Mar23 tCO2e	Apr21 – Mar22 tCO2e
Intensity ratio per FTE (employees and members)	0.99	0.37
Intensity ratio per £m of turnover	4.71	1.64

Carbon offset projects

We are working to reduce our Scope 1,2 & 3 carbon use, in the meantime what we have not yet reduced ourselves we have chosen to reduce via carbon avoidance projects. For 2022-23 our total scope 1, 2 & 3 carbon use was 339 tCO2e; carbon reduction projects to enable us to offset this are currently under review by the Sustainability Collaboration Group.

For 2021-22 our total scope 1, 2 & 3 carbon use was 650 tCo2e. We offset this in full using Ecologi and the following projects:

PROJECT 1: 60 tCO2e - Protecting the Tambopata-Bahuaja Biodiversity Reserve in Peru. The project is certified to Verra's Climate, Community and Biodiversity Standard (CCBS), demonstrating its intentions to bring significant co-benefits to the local people and nature.

PROJECT 2: 253 tCO2e - Wind Power Project in Thailand. This project is verified by the Verified Carbon Standard.

PROJECT 3: 181 tCO2e - High efficiency cookstoves in Tanzania This project is verified by the Verified Carbon Standard and Verra's Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard (SD VISta) **PROJECT 4:** 113 tCO2e - Preventing deforestation in the Democratic Republic of Congo. This project is verified by the Verified Carbon Standard.

PROJECT 5: 45 tCO2e - Generating electricity from landfill gas in Brazil. This project is verified by the Gold Standard.

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