

A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of a forest canopy in autumn. The trees are covered in vibrant orange and yellow leaves, with some dark tree trunks visible against a pale blue sky with soft white clouds. The perspective creates a sense of height and growth.

Ashurst

# UK Carbon Reduction Plan

October 2023

Outpacing change



# Commitment to achieving Net Zero

## Ashurst is committed to achieving Net Zero emissions by 2050

Ashurst has committed to setting near and long-term Science Based Targets and disclosing our progress against them.

We intend to disclose our progress against these targets once they are verified by the science based target initiatives (SBTi).



# Baseline emissions footprint

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

We are reporting all sources of carbon emissions in the UK over which we have the operational control and full authority to introduce and implement our operating policies.

Baseline year	FY20 (1 May 2019 - 30 April 2020)	
<b>Emissions</b> Total (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	<b>Scope 1</b>	663
	<b>Scope 2</b>	1040
	<b>Scope 3</b>	0
	Upstream	
	(4) Upstream transportation & distribution	0
	(5) Waste generated in operations	0
	(6) Business travel	0
	(7) Employee commuting	0
	Downstream	
	(9) Downstream transportation & distribution	0
<b>Total emissions</b>		<b>1,703</b>

Note: Ashurst is a professional services firm and some of the five mandatory Scope 3 categories for CRP reporting to the UK Government are not relevant to our business. We have zero emissions for category 4 (Upstream transportation and distribution) and category 9 (Downstream transportation and distribution) as we do not buy or sell any products. For category 5 (Waste generated in our operations) we have no baseline as we operate a stock of mainly leased offices in shared buildings, so this data is hard to segregate from other businesses on these premises. In addition FY20 saw the start of the Covid-19 pandemic which lead to home working. A material category for our business is 6 (Business travel) but we had no verifiable baseline data for this in FY20. Category 7 (Employee commuting) at the time of our baseline would have been low due to the Covid-19 pandemic with little reliable data available at that time.

# Current emissions reporting

Reporting year	FY23 (1 May 2022 to 30 April 2023)	
<b>Emissions</b> Total (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	<b>Scope 1</b>	262
	<b>Scope 2</b>	647*
	<b>Scope 3</b>	
	Upstream	
	(4) Upstream transportation & distribution	0
	(5) Waste generated in operations	0
	(6) Business travel	0
	(7) Employee commuting	0
	Downstream	
	(9) Downstream transportation & distribution	0
<b>Total emissions</b>		<b>909</b>

\* Electricity consumption (kWh) includes two third-party UK data centres.

## Additional details (relating to the current emissions calculations)

Scope 1 and Scope 2 consumption and CO<sub>2</sub>e emission data has been calculated in line with the 2019 UK Government's Environmental Reporting guidelines, using the GHG Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard. Defra (BEIS) Emission factors 2022 have been used to calculate emissions factors. For Scope 2, using the location-based methodology, total energy emissions for the period up to and including 30 April 2023 were 647 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e (2022: 695 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e).

We note that Ashurst has completed a full FY22 Greenhouse Gas Inventory covering all relevant emissions factors since our first Carbon Reduction Plan. However, we are yet to receive the full FY23 Greenhouse Gas Inventory to disclose in this report. We have a limited inventory (Scope 1 and Scope 2 only) for FY23. We will ensure that our verified Greenhouse Gas Inventory is completed in due course and shared in future updates of our Carbon Reduction Plan.

Ashurst is a professional services firm and therefore some of the five mandatory Scope 3 categories required for CRP reporting to the UK Government are not relevant for our business. We continue to have zero emissions for category 4 (Upstream Transportation and Distribution) and category 9 (Downstream Transportation and Distribution) as we do not buy or sell any products.

# Emissions reduction targets

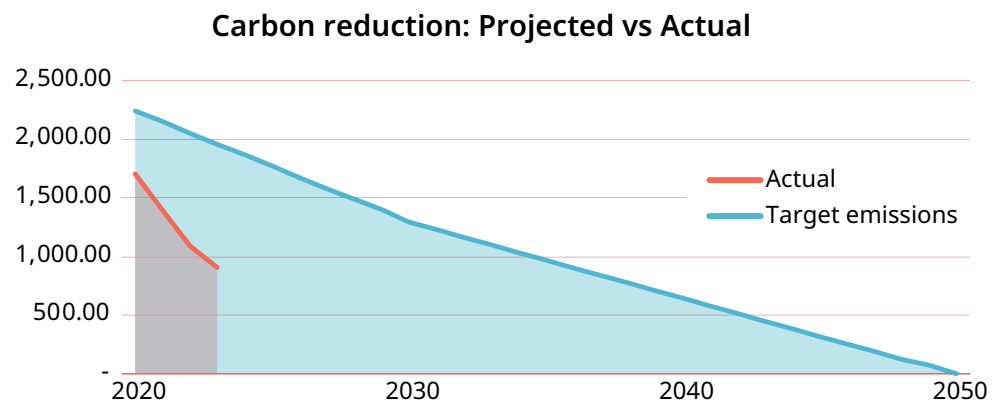
In order to continue our progress towards achieving Net Zero, we have committed to the Science Based Targets initiative. We are awaiting confirmation of our near and long-term emissions reduction targets.

However, we are assuming Ashurst's Global Scope 1 & 2 emissions will need to reduce by 42% between now and 2030, before progressing to Net Zero by 2050. In relation to Scope 3, we are assuming Ashurst's global emissions will need to reduce by 90% to reach Net Zero by 2050.

In relation to Ashurst's UK emissions, we estimate that they will decrease over the next seven years to 1,298 by 2030. This is a reduction of 42% and is in line with our Science Based Targets goal.

We may correct these reduction goals once our final Science Based Targets are verified by the SBTi, in the event there is any difference. We also note that our initial baseline figures did not include complete data for Scope 3. However, we have assumed an estimated figure in our baseline modelling which was developed with support from third party consultants, Accenture.

## Carbon reduction Projected vs. Actual\*



\*We note our initial baseline did not include Scope 3 categories. However, in the interests of providing a more complete picture of our reduction pathway, we have provided an estimate of our Scope 3 baseline using data compiled by Accenture from FY22.

### Additional details (relating carbon reduction: projected vs. actual)

Ashurst is a global organisation and is pursuing Net Zero emissions across the entirety of emissions within its Operational Control. We are awaiting verification of our Science Based Targets on this basis. This projection for the UK only portion of our business (referable to this contract) has been made using our best efforts. As we mature in terms of our emissions data capture and forecasting, this projection may change to more accurately reflect our actual emissions.



# Carbon emissions reduction activity to date

The following environmental management measures and projects have been completed or implemented since the FY20 baseline and will be in effect when performing the contract:

- Completion of a Global Greenhouse Gas Inventory with support from third party consultants, Accenture;
- Completion of a Materiality Assessment of our global emissions;
- Preparation of a Global Net Zero Strategy to support the achievement of short and long-term Science Based Targets;
- Submission of our Net Zero targets to the SBTi, including our long-term Science Based Target in July;
- Completion of a Central Plant System review to optimise heat flow. By adding additional sensors to the system, Ashurst was able to adjust air delivery and reduce waste. This is forecast to have saved 19,540 kWh, or 49 TCO<sub>2</sub> over the year; and
- Quarterly Business Travel Emissions Reports rolled out to the Leadership team, showing precise emissions attributable to various teams.

In the future we hope to implement further measures such as:

- Enhancing our Conscious Travel Program to include a campaign targeting rail travel between our London and Glasgow offices;
- Implementing a new Global Travel Management Company with additional features to track emissions for travel planned;
- Enhancing our Travel Emissions reporting to compare year-on-year figures to drive further reductions in emissions by budget holders;
- Continuing to explore opportunities to enhance energy efficiency within our UK operations, as the technology in that space becomes more accessible to tenants;
- Maintaining our practice of procuring renewable energy for our UK Premises; and
- Commencing targeted engagement activities with our supply chain. Although the Purchased Goods & Services emissions category is not captured for this Report, we understand this is a source of material emissions in our operations.

# Declaration and sign off

This Carbon Reduction Plan has been completed in accordance with PPN 06/21 and associated guidance and the 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>1</sup> and uses the appropriate government emissions conversion factors for greenhouse gas company reporting<sup>2</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>3</sup>.

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



Name: Karen Davies

Title: Chair

25/10/23

Ashurst LLP

UK Government Companies House number OC330252.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ghgprotocol.org/corporate-standard>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-conversion-factors-for-company-reporting>

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



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