



# Ecorys UK Carbon Reduction Plan 2024

Procurement Policy Note 06/21

Updated 08/2024

# Ecorys Carbon Reduction Plan

**Supplier name:** Ecorys UK

**Publication date:** 06/08/2024

## Commitment to achieving Net Zero

Ecorys UK is committed to achieving Net Zero emissions by 2029 and playing its part in the wider global efforts to protect the natural environment. Ecorys UK supports the UN Sustainable Development Goals; the UK Climate Change Act 2008; and the rules stipulated in the Paris Agreement as well as aims to contribute to global efforts in limiting global warming to well below 2°C.

Ecorys UK has implemented an Environmental Management System (EMS) as part of our ISO14001 framework. Ecorys UK was certified with ISO14001 in 2021 and has maintained the certification since. Certified since 2021, we are dedicated to maintaining and continuously improving the standards set by ISO 14001. This standard encompasses all business units and functions within our offices in Birmingham, Leeds, and London. The certification details are available on our website <https://www.ecorys.com/uk-environment>

As part of the ISO14001 certification, Ecorys UK measures its carbon footprint, sets annual reduction targets and is planning on offsetting the emissions that cannot be avoided or reduced.

The Carbon Reduction Plan is specific to the bidding entity Ecorys UK and will be reviewed and updated within 6 months of our organisation's financial year-end. This Carbon Reduction Plan is presented in accordance with the GHG Protocol's Corporate Standard, where our carbon footprint accounts for emissions within our company boundary, and it uses the following methodology:

- *Operational Control:* Reported carbon emissions are from sources over which Ecorys UK has operational control. This includes services where the company has full authority to introduce and implement its operating policies.

## 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.

**Baseline Year: 2019**

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

**Ecorys UK Ltd.** calculates its greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) as part of the Environmental Management System (EMS) certified by the ISO14001 standard. The Carbon Reduction Plan will not replace the existing emission calculation plan and will only represent a summary of the emission monitoring and measuring practices already put in place. The emissions are calculated in line with the GHG Protocol and align with the government conversion factors for greenhouse gas reporting method. The GHG emissions are reviewed and updated annually in line with the company's Environmental Policy and Environmental Management System.

Please note, the GHG emission calculation for 2019-2021 contains the emission categorisation as per PPN 06/21 CRP (Scope 1,2 and 3 ). However, we recognise the need for constant improvement of our data collection and reporting when it comes to company emissions. Therefore, we aim to improve and expand our emission calculation method to ensure maximum accuracy and integrity. That is why we are categorising our emissions differently as of 2022 reporting, so that Scope 3 is integrated and represented more extensively in our calculations. The goal is to capture the most accurate picture of the company's direct and indirect emissions by revising all 15 categories of the Scope 3.

#### **Scope 1** direct emissions:

- **Company Facilities:** we are tenants in all our buildings. The data linked to our energy consumption linked to the building will be reported in Scope 2 (data provided from suppliers).
- **Company Vehicles:** we do not have any company vehicles, so there are no emissions from this category included in our emissions data.
- **Printing:** paper and toner that we use for printing.

**Scope 2** indirect emissions: includes emissions associated with the purchase and consumption of local electricity, heating and cooling energy. Scope 2 emissions are mainly calculated based on volumes of purchased and consumed electricity and heating energy (KWh and cubic m) in each region of operations. These are the consequence of organisation's energy use and occur at sources outside company's control.

#### **Scope 3** indirect emissions: encompasses other indirect emissions such as:

Upstream transportation and distribution – Ecorys UK is a service provider and does not purchase any specific products required for our services. We do not have any purchased goods from our tier 1 suppliers which would result in transportation and distribution figures. This category is therefore not applicable.

Waste generated in operations - Ecorys UK is a service provider and does not produce physical goods. However, our activities generate indirect waste, such as electronic waste from used computers and other devices, as well as materials like paper, cardboard, and

plastic used by people in the office. We aim to track and include the emission from waste as and when possible depending on the data availability.

Digital pollution in the form of cloud data storage – we have started accounting for digital pollution since 2021 as the company uses data storage facilities.

Business travel – this is part of our transport emissions category and is the largest GHG emitting category for Ecorys UK. We have updated the company’s Travel Policy to curb the travel generated. This is being closely monitored and reported in our emission calculator.

Employee commuting – this is part of our transport emissions, and the emissions are based on transport used data (from surveys) which makes the distinction between public transport and personal car transport.

Downstream transportation and distribution – Ecorys UK is a service provider and does not produce or sell physical goods/products for the end consumer. This category is therefore not applicable. However, as part of our plans to explore all subcategories of Scope 3 and expand our GHG emission methodology, we are exploring how our projects might impact the environment.

Following a thorough data revision in 2024, we identified an error in the conversion factors. After making the necessary corrections, the baseline year emissions were recalculated to 595.96 t CO<sub>2</sub>e, with post-mitigation emissions at 566.69 t CO<sub>2</sub>e. As a result, the baseline table has been updated and now reflects these adjustments, differing from the previous year's figures.

**Baseline year emissions: 595.96 tCO<sub>2</sub>e**

<b>Emissions</b>	<b>TOTAL (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>
<b>Scope 1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Scope 2</b>	<b>89.16</b>
<b>Scope 3 (Included Sources)</b>	<b>506.80</b>
<b>Total Emissions</b>	<b>595.96 (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>
<b>Total Emissions including mitigation or offsetting</b>	<b>566.69 (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>

## Current Emissions Reporting

Reporting Year: 2023	
Emissions	TOTAL (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)
Scope 1	0
Scope 2	92.48
Scope 3 (Included Sources)	315.08
<b>Total Emissions</b>	<b>424.15 (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>
<b>Total Emissions including mitigation or offsetting</b>	<b>-40.44 (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>

## Emissions reduction targets

Ecorys UK aims to become **a carbon-neutral company by 2029**. To achieve this goal, it will:

- **Measure its carbon footprint** – Ecorys’ environmental team will measure Ecorys UK’s carbon footprint based on all aspects of the business, determine annual CO<sub>2</sub> emission targets, and develop monitoring tools and practices to measure CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per business activity.
- **Reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of in-house operations** – several actions will be implemented to reduce in-house emissions including: changing to greener suppliers, promoting environmental practices to change stakeholders’ behaviour and practices, improving our recycling and waste management practices, reducing our energy consumption from non-renewable sources etc.
- **Offset CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that are not possible to eliminate completely** – Ecorys UK will find reliable projects to offset CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that cannot be fully reduced, for example: CO<sub>2</sub> emissions generated by international travel.

To monitor, measure and evaluate progress against this long-term objective we use these following indicators for which data is collected in our monitoring tool.

- Number of CO<sub>2</sub> tonnes produced yearly
- Emission of CO<sub>2</sub> tonnes per FTE
- % of CO<sub>2</sub> tonnes reduced compared to previous year
- % of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions offset per year and per FTE

Due to COVID-19, the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions produced in 2020 compared to 2019 were considerably reduced as we did not travel for projects. As predicted, we experienced an increase in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2022. However, we aim to reduce our office and home-office emissions<sup>1</sup> and

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<sup>1</sup> The home office CO<sub>2</sub> emissions data for 2020 are estimated numbers as we don’t know which providers Ecorys UK staff use for gas and electricity at home. We used CO<sub>2</sub> emissions factors developed by Bulb UK. The aim is to carry out an annual survey to ask staff how many days they are planning to work from home next year and which gas/electricity provider they use.

compensate our travel emissions as necessary. Additionally, we have experienced an increase due to addition of digital pollution (cloud storage) source of emissions to our calculations. We will consistently explore new potential emission sources, which haven't been considered before, to ensure data accuracy. A source we are currently looking at is emissions coming from air conditioning (hydrofluorocarbons and chlorofluorocarbons). To measure and evaluate our environmental performance, we will use 2019 as a baseline.

Minor changes and improvements in calculations were made for the 2023 carbon calculations like the data behind the home working emissions and the update of all conversion factors as per the Government Greenhouse gas reporting: conversion factors 2023.

Ecorys UK reported a total of 424.15 t CO<sub>2</sub>e for 2023. The use of renewable energy mitigated this total to 407.56 t CO<sub>2</sub>e. Subsequently, the company purchased a total of 448 t CO<sub>2</sub>e via Earthly, offsetting 112 t CO<sub>2</sub>e through four projects. This offset the emissions for 2023 entirely, resulting in net emissions of -40.44 t CO<sub>2</sub>e. The four projects selected for offset investments are:

- Delta Blue Carbon, Pakistan
- Highland Restoration - Northern Ethiopia
- Upper Tana, Kenya
- Rimba Raya, Indonesia

First three projects are carbon removal projects and only one is carbon reduction project.

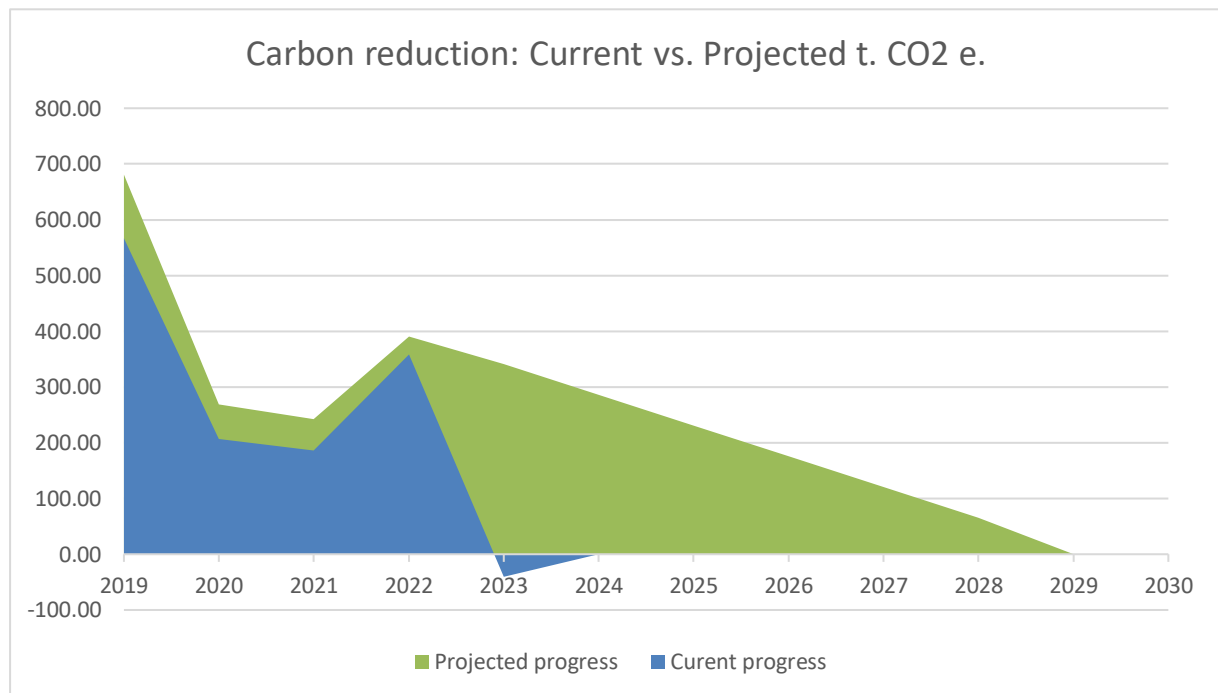
To achieve carbon neutrality, Ecorys UK needs to reduce its yearly carbon footprint by working towards the **following five short-term objectives**:

- 1. Minimise travel.** For example, promoting the use of virtual tools for client meetings, planning for longer fieldwork or groups of meetings/interviews on the same trip and organising fieldwork for several projects in the same location at the same time.
- 2. Monitor, measure and analyse Ecorys carbon footprint.** It is important to continue building our internal capacity and tools to monitor and measure our impact on the environment and analyse how we can work towards carbon neutrality. Having good monitoring and measurement practices and tools in place will enable us to draw from lessons learnt each year and improve our environmental performance.
- 3. Ensure and promote environmental responsibility through our work.** Ecorys UK will comply with legal environmental requirements, strengthen tendering practices (e.g., continuously improving upon a social value statement and providing tools to calculate project CO<sub>2</sub> emissions at proposal and delivery stages) and ensure suppliers and partners have established environmental commitments.
- 4. Align Ecorys policies and strategies with Ecorys' environmental policy objectives and actions.** Ecorys UK aims to align all policies and strategies with its environmental objectives. Ecorys UK's environmental team will review and contribute to the development of relevant policies and strategies such as our travel and hybrid-working policies.
- 5. Find opportunities to reduce and offset CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.** There may be a need to offset some of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that cannot be reduced completely. We will work closely with Ecorys NL which is already a carbon-neutral company, to identify the best opportunities to reduce and offset our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
- 6. Raise awareness and promote environmentally friendly practices (incl. environmental policy) among stakeholders.** Ecorys UK aims to inform and make all employ-

ees aware of our environmental ambitions. We will work on raising awareness and communication activities to promote Ecorys UK’s long-term goal of becoming a carbon neutral company by 2029 while also promoting changes in employees’ and stakeholders’ behaviour towards more sustainable and green business practices and activities.

We prepare an annual Social Value Report which includes our progress towards achieving our environmental objectives and how well we have fulfilled our compliance obligations. Ecorys UK’s Social Value Report 2023 can be found [here](#). The report contains our carbon footprint data and evaluation of how we are progressing towards our long-term objective. The figure below shows the current versus the projected CO2 emissions to reach our carbon neutrality target by 2029.

Figure 1. Carbon Reduction: Current vs. Projected CO2 emissions (tonnes)



Source: Own calculations (Environmental Performance Monitoring)

## Completed Carbon Reduction Initiatives

Here are some actions contributing to our goal that were completed last year:

- We have selected Earthly as our offsetting provider and the project bundle for offsetting which consists of four projects out of which 3 are carbon removal projects.
- We encouraged staff to minimise project travel and use green transport alternative when we need to travel for projects via internal communications.
- We have raised awareness around correct recycling via email communication and a face-to-face lunch and learn session in London.
- We have replaced faulty lights sensors in Birmingham office which will contribute to energy efficiency.
- We revised and implemented a customised project carbon calculator, which has been integrated into one of our recent research projects for Defra MEL. This tool will be used to calculate the carbon emissions associated with the delivery of the Defra MEL Service for Lot 5.
- We are supporting cycling to work via different internal initiatives and awareness raising internal campaigns. Ecorys takes part in the Cycle2Work scheme which is a government initiative offering the most cost-effective way to get new bicycles and cycling equipment. We also are offering locked-up parking for bikes and shower facilities in the office.

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

- Continue revising our GHG emission methodology to ensure accuracy. Integrate Scope 3 emissions to a larger extent even if that might lead to an increase in the company emission totals
- Revise the travel policy further, to set more stringent travel requirements
- Add further recycling streams to increase the percentage of our waste that is recycled
- Integrate strong environmental aspects in a new company procurement policy
- Enhance the environmental component of the Due Diligence Procedure



## 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>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 the Supplier:



**Nicola Smith,**

Managing Director and Statutory Director, Ecorys UK

Date: 05/08/2024

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

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

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