



Answering
tomorrow's
challenges
today

Ecorys UK Environmental Policy 2021

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Introduction

Ecorys UK is committed to reducing the negative environmental impact of its business activities. This policy explains what our commitments are to become a greener company; including how we are planning to reduce our carbon footprint and work towards environmentally friendly business operations.

This policy document includes the following sections:

1. **Ecorys UK Environmental policy statement.** This statement sums up our environmental commitment. We will use it to promote our environmental ambitions inside and outside of Ecorys UK.
2. **Ecorys UK's carbon footprint.** This section provides an overview of our CO2 emissions produced in 2019 and 2020 to help us understand our baseline position and determine our objectives and priorities for the next few years.
3. **Ecorys UK Climate Neutral Task Force.** This section describes the role and responsibilities of Ecorys UK Climate Neutral Task Force.
4. **Environmental policy objectives.** This section describes our shorter-term objectives to achieve our overarching and long-term environmental goal.

1.0 Ecorys UK Environmental policy statement

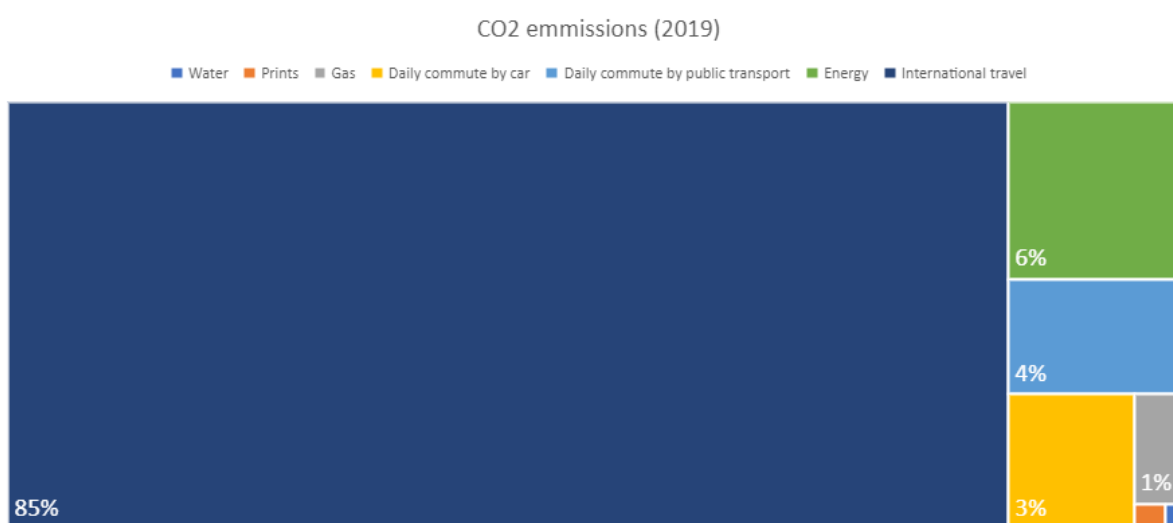
Ecorys UK is committed to the protection of the environment. Our ambition is to become **a carbon neutral company by 2030**. Ecorys UK is committed to reducing its carbon footprint by:

- ▶ Changing and reducing travel habits towards achieving carbon neutrality.
- ▶ Monitoring, measuring, and analysing progress towards carbon neutrality.
- ▶ Raising awareness and promoting environmentally friendly practices among stakeholders.
- ▶ Reducing waste in general and increasing the amount of our waste that is recycled.
- ▶ Working with suppliers and partners to establish environmentally friendly practices.
- ▶ Offsetting CO2 emissions, where necessary.
- ▶ Complying with all applicable environmental legislation and sustainability commitments.

2.0 Ecorys UK's carbon footprint¹

In 2019, Ecorys UK produced an estimated² **543.7 CO² tonnes**. Around 85% of these emissions came from international travel. Many of Ecorys international and European research projects required staff to travel internationally for client meetings, data collection activities, events etc. Thus, most of our emissions came from these project-related activities. Ecorys UK produced substantially higher levels of CO₂ than the rough estimate average for medium-size businesses in the UK in 2019.³ This rough estimate is 100 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) per year. However, this rough estimate does not include emissions produced by international travel so full comparability is limited. Without international travel, Ecorys UK emissions produce **84 CO² tonnes** which is more in line with the average.

Figure 1: Ecorys UK CO₂ emissions (% , 2019)



In 2020, Ecorys UK produced an estimate⁴ of **146.1 CO² tonnes**. This figure represents a 64% decrease in CO₂ emissions compared to the previous year. Due to COVID-19, international travel in 2020 was very limited and many project activities took place online. Without international travel, Ecorys UK produced only 45.2 tonnes of CO₂ emissions in 2020, of which 68% were linked to the electricity consumption in our London office⁵.

¹ To calculate the total carbon footprint of Ecorys UK for 2019 and 2020 we used some estimations for our water and gas usage (e.g., medium/large companies in the UK use 15,000 KWh on gas) as well as our daily commute by car and public transport.

² Water and gas consumption was estimated using data provided from our Leeds office. CO₂ emissions produced by our daily commute were estimated using the following sources:

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/average-co2-emissions-from-new> and [https://www.carbonindependent.org/20.html#:~:text=the%20average%20CO₂%20emission%20for,i.e.%200.07%20tonnes%20per%20person%5D](https://www.carbonindependent.org/20.html#:~:text=the%20average%20CO2%20emission%20for,i.e.%200.07%20tonnes%20per%20person%5D)

³ <https://www.makeitwild.co.uk/carbon-mitigation-for-businesses-with-make-it-wild#:~:text=As%20a%20rough%20guide%2C%20the,tonnes%20for%20a%20large%20business>

⁴ Idem footnote number 2.

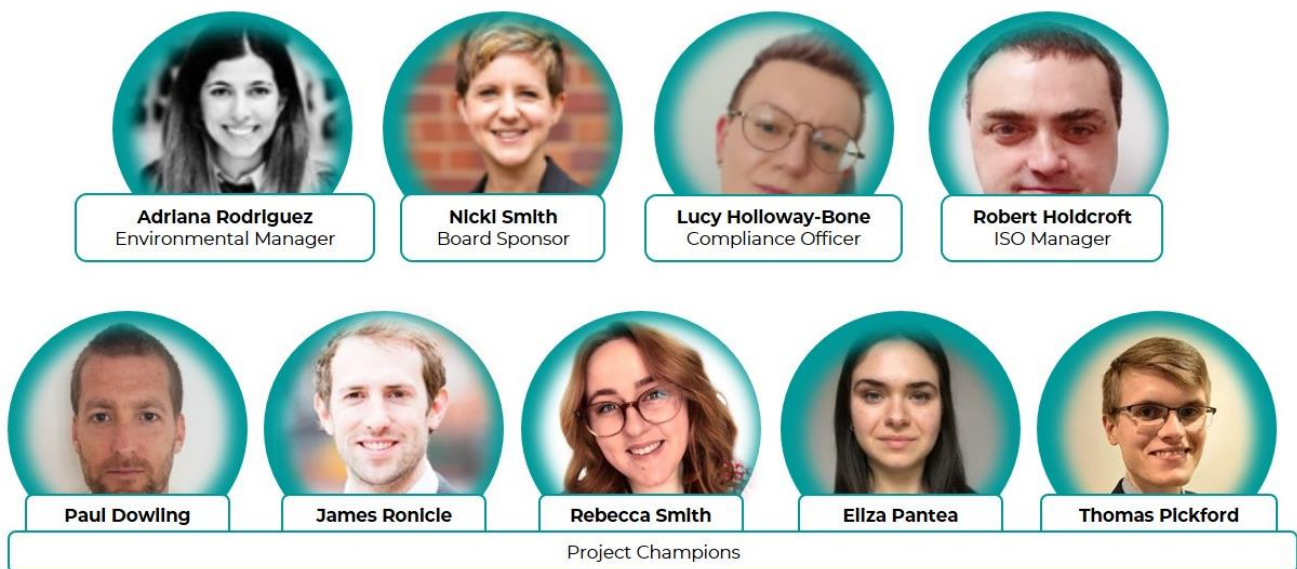
⁵ MA Energy (our London office electricity provider) uses mainly fossil fuels (92%) to produce electricity, only 8% of its electricity production comes from renewable sources. Electricity providers in Leeds and Birmingham office produce energy using renewable sources, thus there is not CO₂ emitted from the consumption of electricity in these offices.

3.0 Ecorys UK Climate Neutral Task Force

A Climate Neutral Task Force (the ISO 14001 committee) was set up in April 2021. This task force aims to ensure that Ecorys UK meets its long-term objective of becoming a carbon-neutral company by 2030. Additionally, the task force has the aim to prepare Ecorys UK for the ISO 14001 Environmental management certification.

The team is formed of nine members. Nicki Smith (board sponsor), Adriana Rodriguez (project manager), Lucy Holloway-Bone (compliance officer) and Robert Holdcroft (ISO Manager) are supported by five climate neutral champions from across the UK business. The board sponsor represents the Ecorys UK senior management team and ensures alignment of environmental objectives and actions with Ecorys UK business strategies and other policies. The project manager organises the efforts and activities to obtain the ISO certification and Ecorys UK environmental ambitions. The compliance officer and ISO manager ensure that Ecorys UK efforts to obtain ISO 14001 certification are coordinated with other existing ISO certifications and prepare internal audits to prepare for the ISO external audits. The five champions engage with staff and raise awareness of the objectives and actions to reach our objectives.

Figure 2: Ecorys UK Climate Neutral Task Force



4.0 Environmental policy objectives

Ecorys UK aims to become a **carbon neutral company by 2030**. To achieve this goal, we will:

- ▶ **Measure our carbon footprint.** Ecorys UK's Environmental team will measure Ecorys UK's carbon footprint based on all aspects of the business, determine annual CO₂ emission levels and targets, and develop monitoring tools and practices to measure CO₂ emissions per business activity. The previous section provides an estimate of Ecorys UK emissions in 2019 and 2020.
- ▶ **Reduce CO₂ emissions of in-house operations.** Several actions will be implemented to reduce in-house emissions including changing to greener suppliers across our supply chain and promoting environmental practices to change stakeholders' behaviour and practices.
- ▶ **Offset CO₂ emissions that are not possible to eliminate completely.** Ecorys UK will find suitable local projects to off-set CO₂ emissions that cannot be fully reduced, for example: CO₂ emissions generated by international travel.

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

1. **Maintain the amount of travel to a minimum** by, 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 Ecorys UK 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 our social value statement and providing tools to calculate project CO₂ emissions at proposal and project delivery stage) 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 Environmental team will review and contribute to the development of relevant policies and strategies such our travel and hybrid-working policies.
5. **Find opportunities to reduce and off-set CO₂ emissions.** There is a need to off-set some of the CO₂ 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 off-set our CO₂ emissions.
6. **Raise awareness and promote environmentally friendly practices (incl. environmental policy) among stakeholders.** Ecorys aims to inform and make all employees 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 2030 while also promoting changes in employees and stakeholders' behaviour towards more sustainable and green business practices and activities.



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