



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.
5. **ISO 14001 Environmental Management System (EMS).** This section explains our ambition to set up a comprehensive EMS and obtain the ISO 14001 certification.
6. **Overview of Ecorys UK Climate Action Plan 2021/2022.** This section provides a list of actions that we aim to implement in the next year to contribute to our short-term objectives and overarching 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 footprint<sup>1</sup>

In 2019, Ecorys UK produced an estimated<sup>2</sup> **543.7 CO<sup>2</sup> 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 CO<sub>2</sub> than the rough estimate average for medium-size businesses in the UK in 2019.<sup>3</sup> This rough estimate is 100 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) 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 CO<sup>2</sup> tonnes** which is more in line with the average.

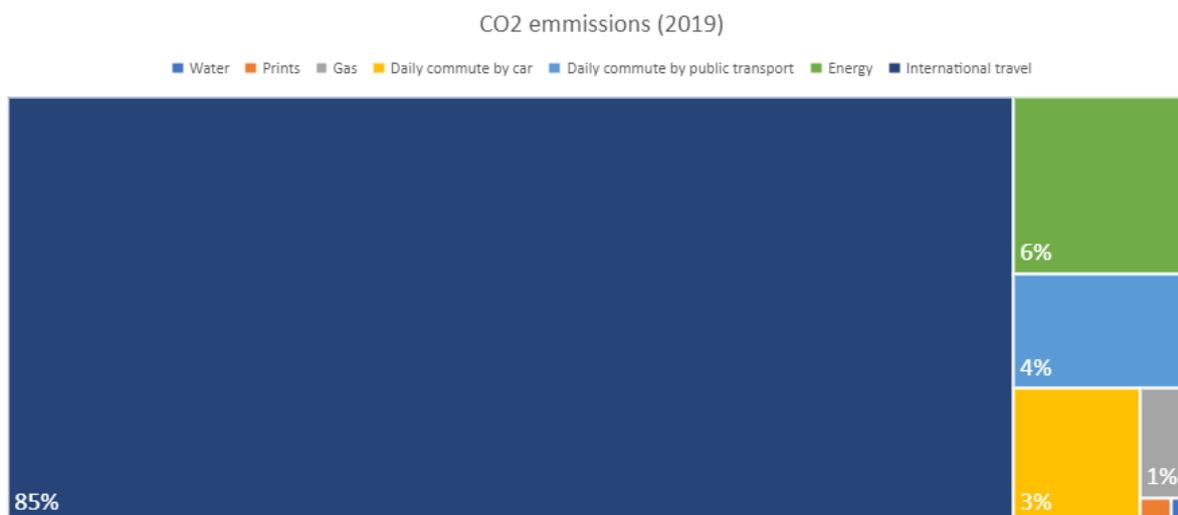
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<sup>1</sup> To calculate the total carbon footprint of Ecorys UK for 2019 and 2020 we use some estimations for our water and gas usage (e.g., medium/large companies in the UK use 15,000 KWh on gas) as well as daily commute by car and public transport.

<sup>2</sup> Water and gas consumption was estimated using data provided Leeds office. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions produced by 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>

<sup>3</sup> <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>

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



In 2020, Ecorys UK produced an estimate<sup>4</sup> of **146.1 CO<sup>2</sup> tonnes**. This figure represents a 64% decrease in CO<sub>2</sub> 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 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2020, of which 68% were linked to the electricity consumption in our London office<sup>5</sup>.

### 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 by working on the actions listed in Section 5. 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.

<sup>4</sup> Water and gas consumption was estimated using data provided Leeds office. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions produced by 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>

<sup>5</sup> Energy provider: MA Energy. Only uses 8% of renewable sources to produce electricity. Electricity providers in Leeds and Birmingham office produce energy using renewable sources, thus there is not CO<sub>2</sub> emitted from the consumption of electricity in these offices.

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 CO<sub>2</sub> emission levels and targets, and develop monitoring tools and practices to measure CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per business activity. The previous section provides an estimate of Ecorys UK emissions in 2019 and 2020.
- ▶ **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 across our supply chain and promoting environmental practices to change stakeholders' behaviour and practices.
- ▶ **Offset CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that are not possible to eliminate completely.** Ecorys UK will find suitable local projects to off-set CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that cannot be fully reduced, for example: CO<sub>2</sub> 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.

## 5.0 ISO 14001 Environmental Management System

To ensure Ecorys UK achieves its long-term environmental objective in an effective manner, we are currently working to set up a comprehensive environmental management system (this environmental policy is part of the EMS system) and obtain the ISO14001 certification by **December 2021**.

The timeline below presents the main tasks that need to be carried out to be ready for the external audit in November 2021.

Figure 3: Timeline to obtain ISO14001 certification.



There are several reasons why we want to be ISO14001 certified:

1. **Control suppliers** – ISO 14001 prevents our good work being undone by suppliers with poor environmental performance.
2. **Win more business** – certification is increasingly a requirement when bidding to win work with the public sector.
3. **Legal compliance** – comply with regulations and avoid fines and sanctions against our business.
4. **Cost savings** – through better energy management, efficient use of resources such as water and reduced waste.

## 6.0 Climate Action Plan 2021/2022

We have developed an action plan to work towards the reduction of our CO2 emissions and obtain the ISO 1400 certification in 2021. Below, we have listed some actions that we will work on this year.

- ▶ Calculate Ecorys UK's total carbon footprint.
- ▶ Investigate private pension providers that support climate change ambitions and consider climate change into account as a risk when investing.
- ▶ Create a monitoring tool to collect relevant environmental data and identify KPIs to set our SMART objectives.
- ▶ Find a benchmark to contextualise Ecorys environmental performance.
- ▶ Review travel policy and hybrid working policy to align with Ecorys UK environmental objectives.
- ▶ Run promotional activities to encourage staff to cycle and/or travel by public transport.
- ▶ Find alternatives to recycle plastics, glass, and other waste.

- ▶ Change some of our suppliers to greener providers (e.g., energy provider London office).
- ▶ Find projects to offset our CO2 emissions.
- ▶ Find local volunteering activities related to environment preservation (e.g., planting trees) and promote these activities to our staff.
- ▶ Prepare three awareness raising activities to promote positive messages about helping the environment and reducing our impact (e.g., quiz, factsheets, videos, presentations, create a contest or ongoing “green” challenges with staff).
- ▶ Develop an events calendar and digital content to promote raise awareness and promotional activities (internally and externally via our communication channels).
- ▶ Presentation of Ecorys Environmental Policy and objectives to staff and stakeholders and updates on progress at suitable intervals.
- ▶ Continuously improve templates for sustainable travel practices across the business (e.g., social value / environmental statement to add to proposals, carbon calculator for business operations).
- ▶ Ask suppliers and partners for their environmental policy/responsibility statement and increasingly work with green suppliers.
- ▶ Bid for projects in which Ecorys can contribute to environmental policies (e.g., research, communication or programme management projects on environmental topics).
- ▶ Quarterly Environmental taskforce meetings to update on progress.



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