



Carbon Reduction Plan

Association of Commonwealth Universities

March 2023

Commitment to achieving Net Zero

Association of Commonwealth Universities is committed to achieving Net Zero emissions by 2050.

Baseline Emissions Footprint

Baseline Year: 2022	
Our baseline emissions inventory includes all scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions where relevant. And we have considered all seven Kyoto Protocol Greenhouse Gas groups in our emissions footprint calculations.	
ACU has not previously reported on emissions for scope 1,2 or 3 so therefore has a baseline of 2022, as a starting point.	
Reporting year: 2023	
EMISSIONS	Total tCO ₂ e
Scope 1 (direct emissions)	0
Scope 2 (indirect emissions)	311 tCO ₂ e
Scope 3 (indirect emissions) (Included Sources)	84 tCO ₂ e
Total Emissions	395 tCO₂e

Current Emissions Reporting

Reporting Year: 2023	
EMISSIONS	TOTAL (tCO ₂ e)
Scope 1	0 (ACU does not directly own or control any emission sources)



Scope 2	
Scope 3 (Included Sources)	
Total Emissions	

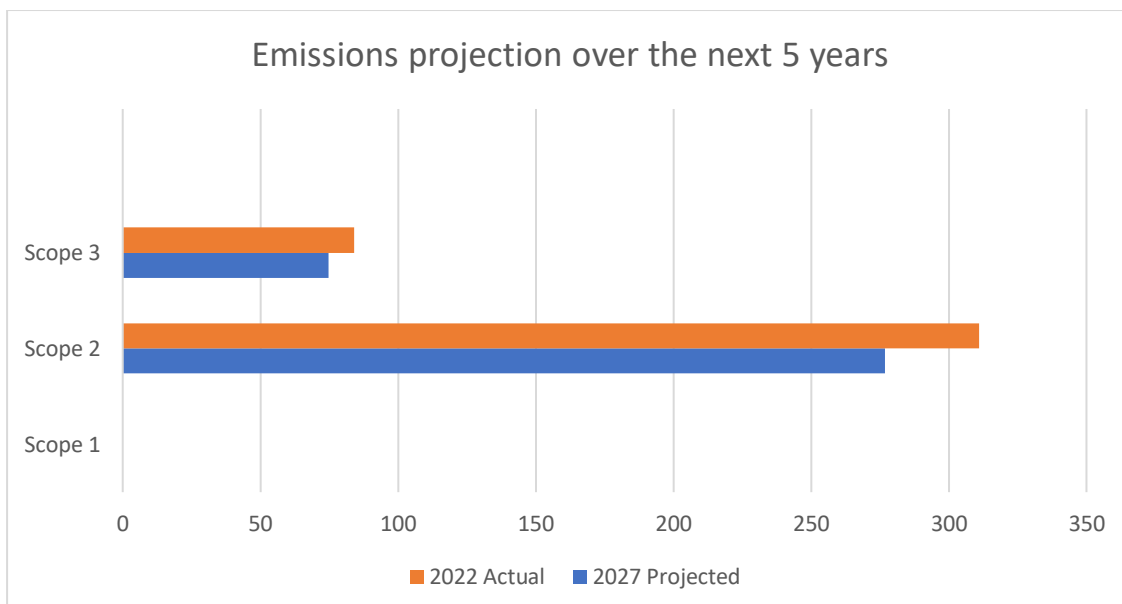
Emissions reduction targets

We project that carbon emissions will decrease over the next five years to at least 1167.39 tCO₂e by 2027. This is a reduction of 11.98 %.

In order to continue our progress to achieving Net Zero, we have implemented the following carbon reduction action plans:

- We have reduced the requirement to commute to the office from 100% to 40% over a month.
- We have reduced international travel to ensure fewest staff possible attend a particular event.
- We have reduced our print volume by introducing digital publication and digital transfer of documents such as invoices and internal/external communications.

Progress against these targets can be seen in the graph below:





Carbon Reduction Projects

Completed Carbon Reduction Initiatives

The following environmental management measures and projects have been completed or implemented since the 2023 baseline. Measures have been taken prior to 2023 to support the carbon emission reduction initiative.

Some of the carbon reductions projects ACU has been involved in, includes the following:

- Crown Commercial Services PPN 06/21 - Carbon Reduction Plan creation and training
- Registration on deep dive emissions webinar by Sustain Life to understand scope of carbon emissions and detailed requirements, in addition to the existing government technical guidance.
- We have recruited an internal Compliance Manager to oversee and review the carbon reduction scheme in line with the government requirements and mission.
- We have maintained 100% renewable electricity contracts with our landlord.
- We have run a communications campaign and ongoing awareness meetings with relevant stakeholders within ACU, to discuss how to achieve net zero and contribute towards this together.
- We are in the process of developing ESG e-learning with our colleagues and we have already discussed the definition of Net zero with Senior Management Team and trustees.
- Begun consultation with stakeholders to establish a target date before which we will aim to reach Net Zero in line with the SBTi corporate net zero standard.
- We have Senior Leadership oversight of the agenda who are currently reviewing and finalising our materiality assessment with the Strategic Leadership Team.

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

- Continuously work to collect the highest quality, primary data on our emissions to aid in reduction and progress measurement.
- Work with key individuals on carbon reduction plans such as setting carbon budgets and working with our third parties to reduce emissions to achieve net zero in line with the SBTi corporate net zero standard.
- Reduced our in person Council meeting from 2 to 1 per year thus reducing air mileage for Council members to fly to London.
- Continue to procure 100% renewable electricity for owned sites.
- Reduce business travel by air, rail, and road through effective measurement and a sustainable travel policy.
- Work with suppliers/third parties to understand their own emissions and encourage them to set their own carbon reductions targets in line with the science.



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 standard¹ and uses the appropriate Government emission conversion factors for greenhouse gas company reporting².

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) Standard³.

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:

Dr Joanna Newman
CEO and Secretary General
Association of Commonwealth Universities

Date: 17/3/23

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

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

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