



Carbon Reduction Plan 2023/24

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About us

About Us

HTA Design is an interdisciplinary practice known for creating great places to live. We have a reputation for design quality and have been at the forefront of innovation and sustainability in housing design for more than 50 years.

The practice has more than 200 people working across architecture, planning, masterplanning, landscape design, sustainability and building physics, interior design, and communications and engagement, across all stages of design and delivery.

We work from studios in London, Bristol, Edinburgh, Manchester and Nottingham, and are recognised for innovation in practice and as a leading employer, having been awarded AJ100 Employer of the Year in 2018, 2022, 2023 & 2024.

In 2024, HTA proudly achieved B Corp accreditation, reflecting our commitment to social and environmental responsibility at the highest standards.





1.0 Commitment

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1.1 Net Zero by at least 2050

Challenges ahead

In the UK it is estimated the built environment is responsible for 40% of the UK’s carbon emissions. Our approach to sustainability is straightforward, we believe that good design should shape a better future.

We are well placed as BD AYA: Net Zero Architect of the year 2022 and Sustainable Architect of the Year 2020 to tackle complex and sustainable technical design. Our holistic approach ensures that every design decision is informed by a deep understanding of performance and sustainability, delivering spaces that are energy-efficient, comfortable and future ready.

In the face of the climate emergency and the urgent need to limit global warming to 1.5°C, we are committed to accelerating our decarbonisation efforts by embedding low-carbon principles in our design processes and operations.

We are also adopting science-based targets for our operational emissions, reducing our carbon emission by at least 50% by 2030 and at least 90% by 2050.

In the last 5 years we have built a foundation of carbon reduction measures towards achieving net zero through the retrofitting of our headquarters, investing in 100% renewable energy and expanding our carbon accounting processes.

We recognise the challenges ahead, but we remain committed to reducing our environmental impact, through transparency and accountability. We are strategically investing in the future by eliminating our reliance on fossil fuels by 2031, becoming carbon neutral through certified carbon offsetting schemes, and continuously tracking, monitoring and adopting emerging technologies. We are proud of the culture we have created, and will continue to give this issue the attention it deserves.





2.0 Methodology

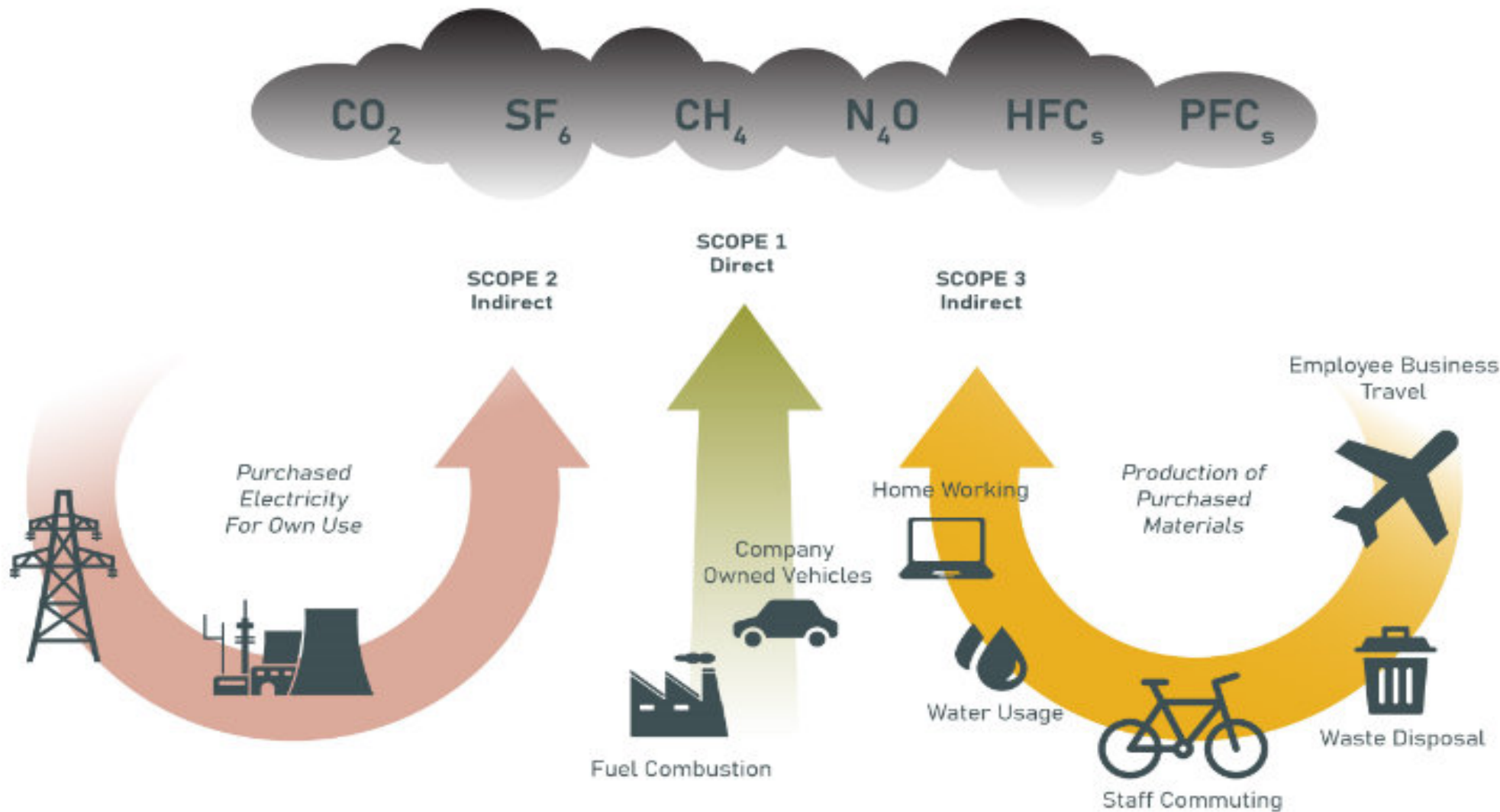
2.0 Methodology

2.1 GHG Protocol

We use the GHG protocol as it is one of the most widely recognised frameworks for carbon accounting along with adopting DEFRA emission factors to give consist and accurate carbon emission data

- Scope 1 emissions - come **directly** from our own activities such as fossil fuel combustion and fluorinated gases (F-gas) which are refrigerant emissions from our air conditioning units and refrigerators. Although we use natural gas for heating in our Edinburgh studio we do not have direct control and therefore is recorded as Scope 3 Upstream leased assets.
- Scope 2 emissions - refer to our **indirect** emissions generated through purchased electricity, heat or steam. These emissions are produced by sources that are owned or controlled by another source but we consume. We choose to purchase 100% renewable energy in our studios. Our London studio is further backed by Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin (REGO's).
- Scope 3 emissions - are also **indirect** and relate to our choices of supply chain, customers and stakeholders. These emissions account for the largest proportion of our carbon footprint, approximately 88.5% and covers business travel, waste management, staff commuting and home working.

GHG Scope





3.0 Overview

3.0 Overview

3.1 Baseline year

A baseline year serves as a reference point for measuring reductions in carbon emissions over time. In 2019, we began tracking operational carbon emissions across scopes 1,2 & 3 establishing our first baseline year (pre-covid) with total emissions of 286.49 tCO2e. Our data collection at the data was in its infancy and before any reduction strategies were implemented.

Scope 1

As we occupy half if the ground floor office space in a leased building in Edinburgh we have no direct control over the natural gas supply. Therefore we have reported our natural gas emission data in upstream leased assets within Scope 3.

Scope 2

Our purchased electricity is 100% renewable and therefore can be reported as 0 when using market based reporting to avoid double accounting.

Scope 3

Throughout 2019 we began to initiate processes to obtain business travel data at the time of booking however due to its inconsistency we have excluded.

We received waste reports from our suppliers and proporinated our waste consumption based on m² we occupy in the building therefore is not accurate.

	FY 19	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23
	tCo2e	tCo2e	tCo2e	tCo2e	tCo2e
Scope 1					
Natural Gas	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scope 2					
Electricity (Market based)	68.39	72.24	78.33	0.00	0.00
Electricity (Location based)				66.79	68.50
Scope 3					
Upstream Transmission & Distribution	5.81	5.67	5.73	5.79	5.93
Well to Tank Electricity					
Food waste	71.27	32.25	35.01	22.50	96.69
Mixed recycling waste	83.86	25.11	57.17	45.41	191.13
General waste	49.86	66.13	44.26	28.13	198.31
Water	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Air (domestic)	0.00	0.00	0.00	33.67	39.09
Air (short haul)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.04
Air (long haul)	0.00	0.00	0.00	23.49	7.13
Rail	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.14	3.57
Hotel stays	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.55	2.23
Staff commuting	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30.61
Home working	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17.94
Upstream Leased Assets	7.30	7.78	7.01	6.27	8.03
Total GHG Scopes 1-3					
(Market based)	218.10	136.94	149.18	170.93	602.71
(Location based)	286.49	209.18	227.51	238.01	671.21

3.0 Overview

3.2 Performance to date

New baseline year

When relocating our London studio headquarters in 2023 we saw this as an opportunity to revise our baseline year, 2023/24 will be the basis for our future reduction targets.

In 2023, our total operational carbon emissions amounted to 671.21 tCO2e, equating to 2.8tCO2e per employee. This increase in emission compared to 2019 may seem significant however we have demonstrated in the previous table we are now carbon accounting for additional scope 3 categories since this time.

Scope 1

We have reported zero emissions as our natural gas usage as it is landlord controlled. We can control demand and is included within our service charge, therefore we have no direct utility contract in place.

Scope 2

It is estimated that nearly 30% of energy consumed by commercial offices is wasted. To address this, we have focussed on energy efficient as part of our decarbonisation strategy.

In our London studio, we have installed 63 photovoltaic panels which in 2023 generated 7.1% of the london studio’s total electricity usage, underscoring our commitment to renewable energy. The remaining electricity is sourced from

100% renewable sources. We have installed a half hourly meter (HH) in our London studio, integrated with our advanced smart building management system (BMS), provides real-time electricity consumption data. This system enables us to monitor energy use with precision, optimising performance by adjusting for seasonal variations.

Over the last year of operation, we’ve observed monthly reduction in energy ranging in 14%-20%, partly attributed to our hybrid working model that allows our staff to work from home up to 2 days a week.

Scope 3

These emissions accounts for 88.5% of our total carbon footprint, representing a wide array of operational impacts, including waste streams (Category 5), business travel (Category 6), staff commuting and remote working (Category 7)

In our Edinburgh studio we have a gas boiler for heating and although we can control temperatures and demand we have no direct control over the energy contract . Along with the other tenants in the building, we are actively reducing our natural gas usage and communal electricity. We reallocated gas and communal electricity from Scope 1 to scope 3 this year and provides reasoning as to the increase to 8.03tCO2e.

We manage to divert all our waste streams away from landfill turning our general waste back into energy. Our food waste is anerobic digested which is also converted into energy. This further reinforces our zero-waste philosophy. Our commitment to reducing waste extends to our administrative processes too. We’ve made significant progress in digitalising our documents within our HR and finance departments, adopting paperless systems and e-signatures.

During our inaugural Sustainability week in 2023, we surveyed our staff to understand commuting habits. As per the table of the 148 employees surveyed, 42% either walk or cycle to work, reflecting the strategic placement of our studios in central urban locations with strong public transport links. Adding staff commuting and home working emissions to our carbon accounting for the first time.

Our London studio, is designed with sustainability in mind, featuring indoor bike storage, sheffield bike racks, showers and drying facilities. We also provide Brompton bikes to encourage sustainable local travel.



4.0 Emission reductions

5.0 Emission reductions

5.1 What we did....

As a practice we foster a culture of environmental responsibility, recognising our people play a vital role in reducing our carbon footprint, in particular our scope 3 emissions, which make up the largest proportion of our impact.

Carbon initiatives

Since 2016 we have achieved and continue to re certify to ISO14001:2015 which gives us a robust environmental management system.

- Relocated our London studio which is a fully electric building with 63 pv panels providing 7.1% of our electricity, water harvesting which flushes our toilets and automatic roof lights which open / close to temperature control the building.
- Along with offering staff the cycle to work scheme we also installed a cycle room with drying facilities and provide cycle repair workshops during our sustainability week to encourage low emission staff commuting.
- We encourage a paperless office with the introduction of “papercut” follow me printing, cutting down on wasted printing.
- We improved our waste management in our Manchester and Bristol studios by engaging the landlords to offer mixed recycling and food waste.

- We have helped improve our neighbourhoods by going out liter picking during lunchtimes.
- We provide our staff with a breakfast and lunch each day using locally sourced suppliers with a 80% vegan menu. We avoid single use plastic by supplying crockery and glassware in our kitchens and responding to staff feedback we remove environmentally harmful products.
- We have established working groups such as the Sustainability forum which champions sustainability within HTA. Providing an annual programme of CPD and masterclass training to staff

Becoming a B Corp

A natural next step for us was to become a B Corporation. The B Corp movement has grown in profile over recent years, reflecting the growing influence of more responsible modes of business operation including ESG (environmental, Social and Governance).

It aims to bring together purpose driven businesses from around the world, to share positive outcomes and encourage a collective action to establishing a more inclusive, equitable and regenerative economy.

HTA chose to take on the rigorous B Corp accreditation process in June 2023, becoming certified in May 2024, as we felt it was important to test our assessment of progress against a recognised and respected standard. We were delighted to achieve an overall B Impact score 136.1, one of the highest of any company within the UK Built Environment sector, and well above the minimum score of 80 points, perhaps most significantly, our Environmental impact area score of 43.4, is the highest of any UK architectural practice at time of certification.

Whilst we see this process as useful validation of the effectiveness of our core business principles in achieving more socially and environmentally just outcomes, more importantly we now have an invaluable framework against which to measure future progress and improvements in our ongoing stewardship of HTA.

Being a force for good!

5.0 Emission reductions

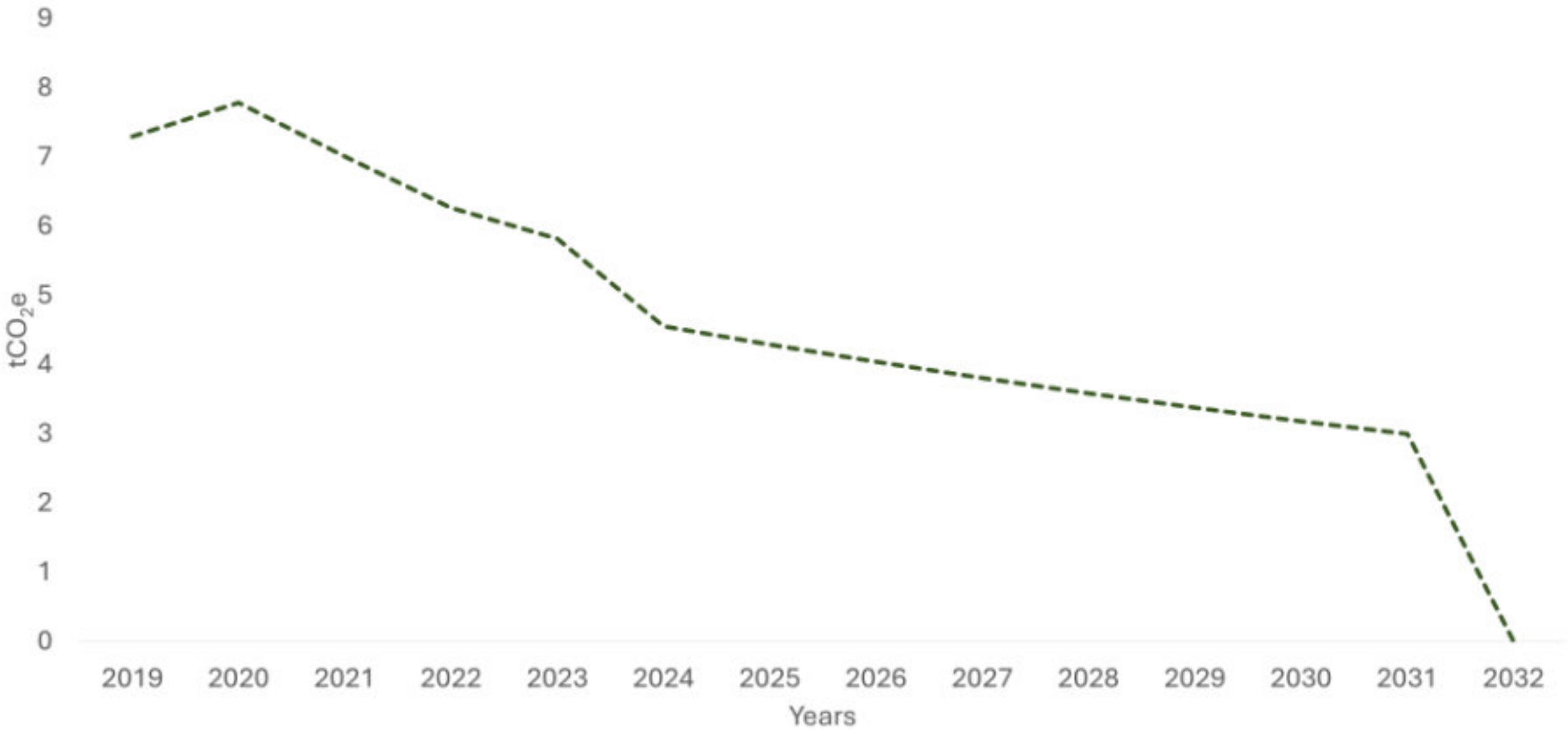
5.2 Decarbonisation plan

The UK Government introduced the Climate Change Act in 2008, later amended in 2019, setting out a framework for climate mitigation across the UK, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.

We recognise the urgent need for action and in response we are setting ourselves science-based targets to address the critical goal of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C in line with the Paris Agreement. This targets are categorised into short, medium and long term targets.

Short term targets - present - 2028

- Reduce our emissions in line with SBTi targets each year
- Engage supply chain and include a spend based approach to include Purchased goods & Services to our Scope 3
- Carry out waste audits to obtain clearer, accurate waste consumption emissions.
- Invest in energy efficient projects such as installing additional pv panels and upgrade lighting to LED’s.
- Reduce carbon intensity of natural gas by 50% to 2.9tCO2e
- Reduce scope 2 purchased electricity by 50%
- Residual emissions are neutralised through a combination of certified carbon offsets and carbon removal schemes.



5.0 Emission reductions

5.2 Decarbonisation plan

Medium term targets - by 2028-2031

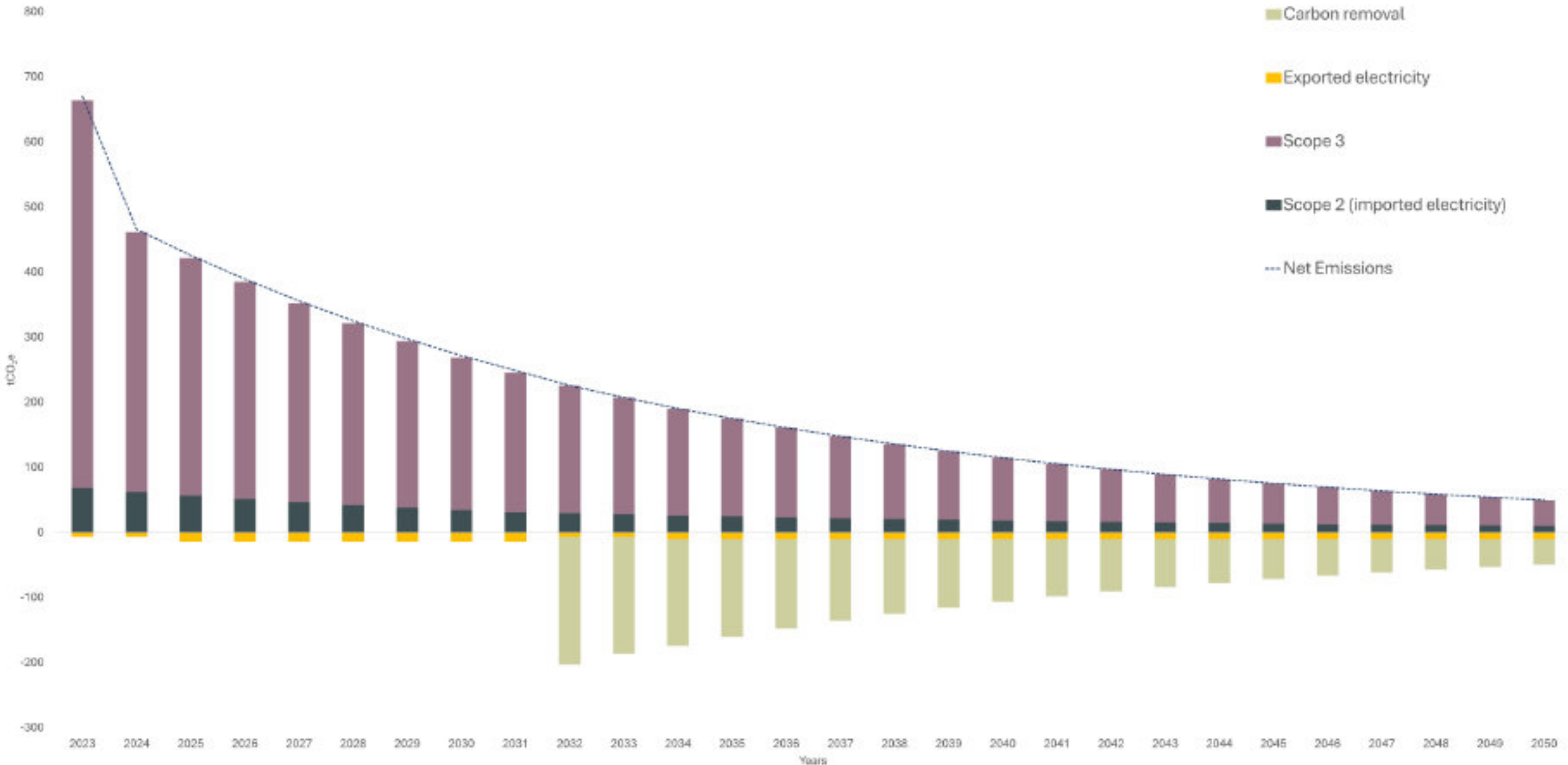
- Eliminate all natural gas emissions by 2031
- Purchased electricity is 100% renewable and not backed by REGO's
- Reduce absolute emissions of scope 3 by 50%

Long term targets - by 2031-2050

- At least 90% reduction in all scopes achieving net zero before 2050
- Future proofing - climate positive investment

We know to reach our net zero aims we need to systematically remove our reliance of natural gas in our Edinburgh studio. We are actively engaging with our neighbouring tenants and landlord to future proof away from reliance on fossil fuels.

Relying solely on the national grid decarbonisation by 2035 is not sufficient to meet our ambitious net zero targets. To accelerate our transition to net zero we are implementing targeted efficiency measures that will significantly reduce energy use and lower emissions.





6.0 Declaration

6.0 Declaration

6.1 Sign off

This Carbon Reduction plan has been completed in accordance with PPN/06/21 and associated guidance and reporting standards for Carbon Reduction Plans.

Emissions have been reported and recorded in accordance with the published reporting standards for Carbon Reduction Plans and the GHG Protocol corporate standards ⁴ and uses the appropriate Government emission conversion factors for Greenhouse gas company reporting⁵ Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions have been reported in accordance with SECR requirements, and the required subset of Scope 2 emissions have been reported in accordance with the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Standard⁶

This Carbon Reduction Plan has been reviewed and signed off by the board of directors (or equivalent partner)

Signed on behalf of HTA Design



Rory Bergin

Date: May 2024



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