

Supplier name: Oxera Consulting LLP

December 2024

## 1 Commitment to achieving net zero

Oxera is committed to being a net zero business.

- We have committed to achieving a carbon reduction of at least 25% by 2025 (relative to a 2019 baseline) through changes to our working practices and working environment. This forms part of a commitment to achieving **net-Zero by 2050**.
- Since 2021 we have been carbon-neutral, with the purchase of Gold Standard Verified Emission Reductions (VERs) offsetting our modelled carbon emissions.
- We have also joined the Race To Zero SME Climate Commitment, a UN-backed global campaign to halve global emissions by 2030.
- We will publish our progress and outcomes annually.

We have published this commitment on our website:

<https://www.oxera.com/about-us/climate-commitment/>

### 1.1 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.

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**Baseline year: 2019**

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**Additional details relating to the baseline emissions calculations**

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In 2021, we undertook a detailed modelling exercise to measure our carbon footprint and to allow us to set evidence-based reduction targets for the next five years. In preparing this baseline, we followed the Greenhouse Gas Protocol methodology.

To assess our baseline carbon footprint, we collated data on the volume of activity across key areas. Then, by applying emissions conversion factors provided by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (or local equivalents for our international offices), we calculated the CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions generated by:

$$\text{volume of activity} \times \text{emissions conversion factor} = \text{kg CO}_2\text{e}$$

These estimates were cross-checked using the SME Climate Hub carbon calculator.

We used the 2019 calendar year for the purposes of setting our baseline emissions and developing our commitments. This resulted in a baseline emissions footprint of 990 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, as shown in the table below. It should be noted that these carbon estimates cover all of Oxera's offices across Europe, not just our UK business.

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<b>Baseline year emissions (2019)</b>	<b>Total (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>
Scope 1	0
Scope 2	61
Scope 3 (included sources)	929
<b>Total emissions</b>	<b>990</b>

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## 1.2 Current emissions reporting

We are committed to calculating and monitoring our emissions on an ongoing basis. Our latest estimates cover the 2023 calendar year, as shown in the table below. This exercise resulted in a carbon estimate of 1,189 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

Emissions	Total (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)
Scope 1	0
Scope 2	83
Scope 3 (included sources)	1,106
<b>Total emissions</b>	<b>1,189</b>

Oxera does not own or control any energy sources and therefore does not have any direct emissions from energy generation. In line with the GHG Protocol, the report therefore outlines 0 emissions for scope 1.

For our scope 3 emissions, the details of five categories are set out below.

Scope 3 category	Baseline year emissions (2019) (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	Reporting year emissions (2023) (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	Note
4. Upstream transportation and distribution	0	0	We include these emissions separately as part of purchased goods and services (see details below the table). Therefore, there are 0 recorded emissions.
5. Waste generated in operations	0	0	Data on this source has not been recorded. Hence, there are 0 recorded emissions.
6. Business travel	409	312	
7. Employee commuting	68	22	
9. Downstream transportation and distribution	0	0	We do not use downstream transportation and distribution as we have no physical products. Hence, there are 0 recorded emissions.

Additionally, we collected data on other activities such as purchased goods and services and working from home emissions, which fall within scope 3. We record an increase in purchased goods and services from 430 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2019 to 690 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2023. Working from home emissions also increased from 0 tCO<sub>2</sub>e to 64 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in the same period.

### 1.3 Emissions reduction targets

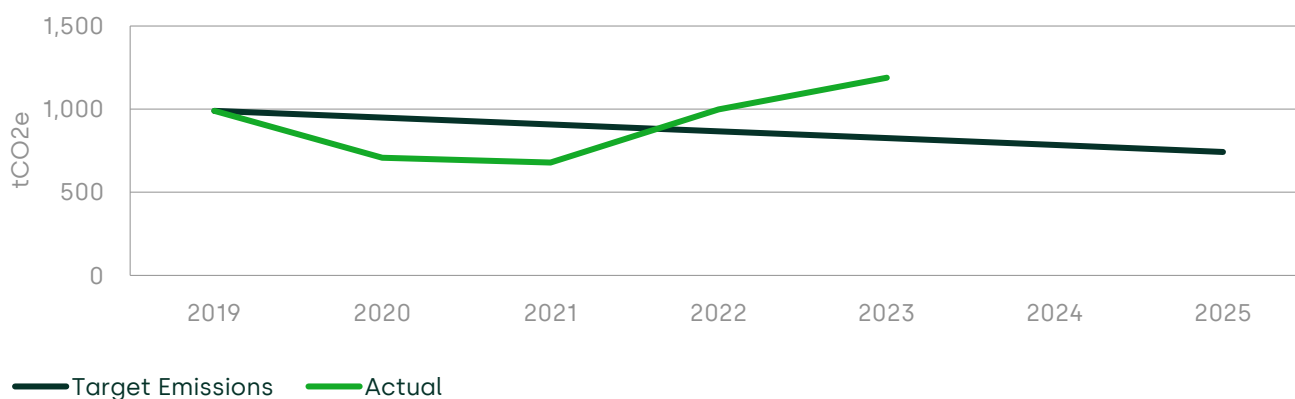
As outlined above, we are committed to reducing our emissions, from the 2019 baseline of 990 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, by 25% by 2025. This equates to an annual emissions target of 742 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2025.

Our modelling shows that 2020 and 2021 emissions were below the 2025 target level. This was partly the result of a reduction in business travel as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2023, we saw an increase in emissions beyond 2019 levels, driven by the recovery in business travel (although remaining below 2019 levels) and increasing spend on goods and services (now above 2019 levels).

This is a reduction on a per person basis, with emissions per employee having fallen from 5.8 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2019 to 4.9 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2023.<sup>1</sup>

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
tCO <sub>2</sub> e per FTE	5.8	3.8	3.5	4.7	4.9

However, there is upward pressure on our total carbon emissions from our increasing headcount (with employee numbers increasing from 170 in 2019 to 245 in 2023). Progress against these targets can be seen in the graph below as well as the carbon emission per full-time employee (FTE) from 2019 onwards.



<sup>1</sup> Employees here refers to both staff and the Partner group.

The two main contributors to our emissions are:

- business travel;
- purchased goods and services.

Travel emissions currently account for around 26% of our total emissions. While we saw an increase in travel-related emissions from 2022 to 2023, our travel emissions remained 24% below 2019 levels, with our staff generally traveling less than pre-pandemic. Flights continue to account for the majority (91%) of our travel emissions, highlighting the importance of reducing the number of flights we take, and switching to alternative modes of transport where possible.

Alongside the rebounding of business travel in 2023 to near 2019 levels, there has been an even larger increase in purchased goods and services expenditure,<sup>2</sup> driven to a large extent by the expansion/upgrading of our premises.<sup>3</sup> As noted above, we have also seen increased headcount as our business grows, which has a direct impact on our emissions in several categories.

#### **1.4 Carbon reduction projects**

To date, our carbon reduction initiatives include the following.

- Revising and relaunching our business travel policy (with a requirement for staff to use rail travel between our offices in the UK and mainland Europe).
- Implementing changes to how we run Oxera inter-office events that require a large number of staff to travel.
- Promoting hybrid working practices, with staff working up to two days per week from home.
- Switching energy providers across our offices and switching to green tariffs at the earliest opportunity (and engaging with landlords to do so where we are not the decision-makers). The energy supplied to our London and Brussels offices is covered by renewable power purchase agreements, and where these are included (as under the market-based method outlined in the GHG Protocol) there is a reduction in our estimated emissions of 32 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

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<sup>2</sup> We currently estimate our emissions from purchased goods and services using a spend-based method. This involves applying a third-party conversion factor (from the UK Government) which estimates the tCO<sub>2</sub>e emitted for every £1/€1 spent on a certain category of goods (such as furniture or IT equipment). We note that this does not capture our efforts to purchase sustainable goods and equipment as it is merely a function of the amount of money that is spent.

<sup>3</sup> In particular, we conducted an extensive refurbishment of our London/Brussels premises in 2023.

- Fine-tuning our procurement strategy to ensure we weigh climate impact mitigation into our purchasing decisions and challenging the lifecycle of our products.
- Challenging our use of plastics and paper, printing, food purchasing, and recycling.
- Refurbishing of our IT equipment and reducing waste.
- Participating in a cycle-to-work scheme for all UK staff.
- Refurbishing of our IT equipment and donating it to local schools—reducing waste, displacing emissions for the school, and fulfilling our responsibility to the broader community.
- Where working with sub-contractors and suppliers, we communicate our carbon management and environmental commitments and use them as part of the procurement and management review process.

Additionally, we have purchased UNFCCC-compliant offsets that cover all of our current emissions, and are thus carbon-neutral when these are taken into account.<sup>4</sup>

We will also encourage and support our Partners and staff to take steps to reduce their carbon emissions.

## 1.5 Declaration and 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 standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the GHG Reporting Protocol corporate standard,<sup>5</sup> and uses the appropriate government emission conversion factors for greenhouse gas company reporting.<sup>6</sup>

Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions have been reported in accordance with SECR requirements, and the required subset of Scope 3 emissions have

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<sup>4</sup> It is worth noting that the 32 tonnes of emissions covered by the power purchase agreement are not included in our offset purchases. See Oxera website, 'Climate Commitment', <https://www.oxera.com/about-us/climate-commitment/>.

<sup>5</sup> World Business Council for Sustainable Development, and World Resources Institute (2004), 'The Greenhouse Gas Protocol: A Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard', Revised edition, <https://ghgprotocol.org/corporate-standard>.

<sup>6</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, and Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (2013), 'Government conversion factors for company reporting of greenhouse gas emissions', May, <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-conversion-factors-for-company-reporting>.

been reported in accordance with the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Standard.<sup>7</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:

DEBORAH STUMP, PARTNER AND CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER



Date: 4 February 2025.....

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<sup>7</sup> World Business Council for Sustainable Development and World Resources Institute (2011), 'The Greenhouse Gas Protocol: Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Accounting and Reporting Standard', Supplement to the GHG Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard, <https://ghgprotocol.org/corporate-value-chain-scope-3-standard>.