



Triple Bottom Line Accounting

Environmental Impact Report 2022



Contents

1. Introduction and glossary	p.2
2. Achievements since the 2020 baseline year	p.3
3. Achievements in 2022	p.3
4. The TBLA 2022 Carbon Footprint Report:	p.5
a) Net Zero in Scopes 1 and 2	p.5
b) Metrics and Measurements for Scope 3	p.6
c) Scope X	p.6
d) TBLA 2022 Carbon Footprint: Scope 3 emissions	p.7
5. Grey Areas and Mitigations	P.8
6. Further Targets for 2023	p.9
7. Appendix	p.9

Introduction

All businesses must achieve a net-zero goal before 2050 to meet the global climate target adopted by 196 Parties at COP21 in Paris in 2015. The target is to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels. The accounting profession has a significant role to play in this effort. Accountants in industry can collaborate with all their company departments to plan scenarios, adapt, and mitigate climate impact. For those of us in practice, we need to assess and reduce our operational carbon footprint and assist clients in accounting for theirs. This is the first step towards a net-zero strategy. TBLA has been calculating its greenhouse gas emissions annually since our 2020 baseline year. As a net-zero business for Scopes 1 and 2, we have set yearly targets to reduce our Scope 3 emissions, as detailed below. When smaller businesses begin to measure and decrease their emissions, the effects ripple through the value chain. We hope that our sustainability goals and strategies will inspire other businesses within our sector, as well as our clients, suppliers, and employees.

Glossary

Greenhouse gases (GHGs)

GHGs are gases that trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere, contributing to global warming. Major GHGs include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gases. Human activities, like burning fossil fuels and deforestation, have increased GHG concentrations, leading to accelerated climate change.

CO₂e Carbon dioxide equivalent.

Each greenhouse gas is given a relative factor based on its comparative global warming potential over a 100-year timeframe. For example, 1 tonne of methane is reported as 25 tonnes of CO₂e.

Carbon neutral

A business can claim to be carbon neutral when it has measured its greenhouse gas (CO₂e) emissions, offsets emissions annually, and has published a plan to reduce these emissions to net zero before 2050.

Net zero

According to the SBTi (Science Based Targets Initiative) most businesses can claim to be net zero once they have reduced their emissions by at least 90% from their baseline year. **Global net zero** will be achieved when the total amount of greenhouse gases (GHG) released, and the amount removed from the atmosphere is equal.

Scope 1 emissions

Direct emissions from the combustion of fuel in assets that an organisation operates, such as fuel emissions from company-owned cars, diesel generators, gas boilers, and air-conditioning leaks.

Scope 2 emissions

Indirect emissions from the generation of energy purchased from a utility provider, such as heating, cooling, steam, and electricity.

Scope 3 emissions

All indirect greenhouse gas emissions that do not fall under scope 2 - upstream and downstream. The TBLA scope 3 emissions include upstream emissions from purchased goods and services, capital goods, upstream transport and distribution, and business travel, calculated from our expenses.

Achievements since the 2020 baseline year

Achievements 2020 and 2021

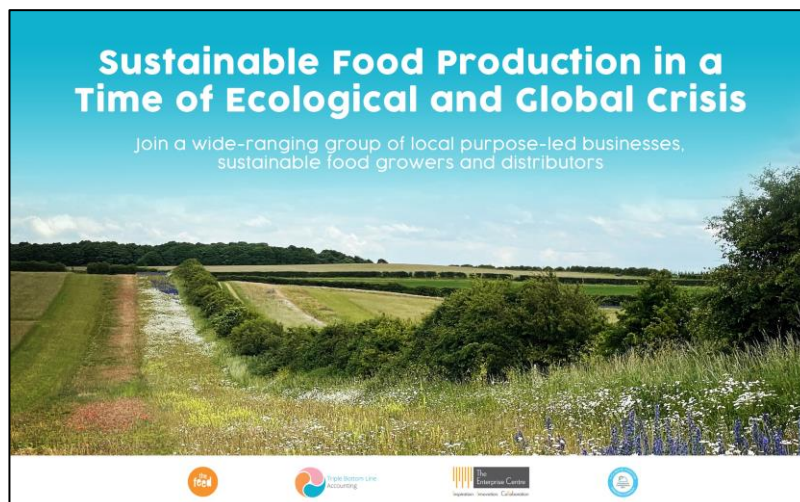
- [Carbon footprint report and procedures statement 2021](#)
- [Procedure Statement for Emission Calculations 2020](#)
- [Carbon Footprint Report 2020](#)

Achievements 2022

Company-wide

- **Climate Advocacy and Actions**
 - Funded the planting of 500 trees by purchasing 500 Christmas cards to send to clients from [1 Tree Cards Ltd](#)
 - Throughout the year TBLA consistently blogged, lobbied suppliers, and used social media to promote climate change and other environmental and social awareness.
 - Employees have been invited to attend net zero workshops alongside clients.
 - Climate change awareness and an overview of carbon accounting is now incorporated into the induction programme for all new employees.
- **Sustainable Food Production in a time of Ecological and Global Crisis**

Tuesday 20th September 2022: This event was organised and funded by Triple Bottom Line Accounting (TBLA) and co-sponsored by the Enterprise Centre (TEC) to bring together businesses and individuals who want to know more about the topic of sustainable food production and to network with other sustainable businesses from within the area. The event raised £1,127 for The Feed, Norwich. Over 130 people attended including TBLA clients, regenerative farming design consultants, eco design consultants, project managers, IT and management consultants, marketeers, yoga teachers, many social enterprises and charities, wealth managers, therapists, resilience workers, academics from the Norwich Business School, Tyndall Centre and the Norwich Research Park, artists, plumbers, green start-ups, diverse small businesses, not to mention a number of farmers, growers, and food distributors. Read more [here](#).



CEO and founder: Peter Ellington



- ICAEW Sustainability Certificate –Awarded 19th September 2022
- Two days teaching on a Level 7 Net Zero Leadership Course in Cambridge
- AccountingWeb Live: November 2023: Presentation on sustainability services: Voted best new advisory service in pitch-off competition.
- AccountingWeb: Invited to write a series of 700-word articles on sustainability for accountants.
- Guest speaker (climate advocacy): INAA Annual Conference (Bordeaux), NatWest Bank, Podcast for CSR-A.
- Council Member of the Association of International Accountants (AIA).
 - Developed and delivered three hours of CPD on Sustainability for Accountants to AIA members.
 - Accountants Can Save the World: Article Published in International Accountant Magazine December 2022

Sustainability and Business Development Director: Fran Ellington



- An active member of the Norfolk Business Climate Leaders Advisory Board.
- Guest speaker (climate advocacy): INAA Annual Conference (Bordeaux), NatWest Bank, NatWest Women in Business, Suffolk County Council: Carbon Accounting webinar, Podcast for CSR-A, Norfolk Chamber of Commerce Net-Zero Expo, Kings Lynn.
- Advocate for appropriate use of accounting software package add-ons for measuring greenhouse gas emissions for clients and on social media.
- COLBEA (The Colchester Business Enterprise Agency) – delivering 6 workshops on the climate crisis and decarbonisation for small businesses) engaging with 43 businesses in North Essex and one-to-one consultancy meetings of up to 5 hours each with 17 business leaders. 11 Decarbonization Plans delivered in collaboration with Alasdair Wilcock of Maple Cone.
- Member of the team developing and delivering three hours of CPD on Sustainability for Accountants to AIA members
- One day teaching on a Level 7 Net Zero Leadership Course in Cambridge.

The TBLA 2022 Carbon Footprint Report

Company overview

Triple Bottom Line Accounting Ltd

Time Period: 1 Jan 2022 - 31 Dec 2022

Industry: Financial actor, not insurance and pension

Country: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Add time period + Edit data ↗

Estimated total emissions

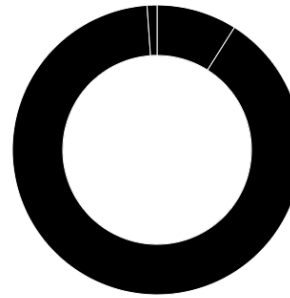
tonnes CO₂e ⓘ

19.3

Your emissions estimate is only based on the expenses and activities you provide. Missing expenses or activities would mean your full carbon footprint is not covered. Check out the [Business Carbon Calculator methodology](#) to better understand how we estimate your emissions.

Your scope overview

tonnes CO₂e ⓘ



Scope 1 - Direct emissions

0

Scope 2 - Indirect emissions

0

Scope 3 - Supply chain emissions

19.3

Expense coverage (scope 3)

Great 🌱

[View Full Report →](#)

What are scopes?

Scope 1

Direct emissions from the combustion of fuel in assets that a company operates, such as fuel emissions from company-owned cars, diesel generators, gas boilers and air-conditioning leaks.

Scope 2

Indirect emissions from the generation of energy purchased from a utility provider, such as heating, cooling, steam, and electricity.

Scope 3

All indirect greenhouse gas emissions that do not fall under scope 2 - upstream and downstream. This calculator includes upstream emissions from purchased goods and services, capital goods, upstream transport and distribution, and business travel, calculated from your expenses.

Net Zero in Scopes 1 and 2

Our workplace at The Enterprise Centre, University of East Anglia, is designed on Passivhaus principles, reducing energy requirements while maximising thermal comfort and air quality. Heating and power are supplied by a renewable electricity provider.

The business neither owns nor leases any internal combustion engine vehicles (ICEVs). We lease one Electric Vehicle, a Nissan Leaf Tekna, manufactured in Sunderland with advanced lithium-ion batteries produced in Nissan's UK Battery Plant. This vehicle is charged using renewable and often micro-generated solar electricity at the directors' home.

Employees occasionally work from home using gas central heating in winter. We provide ongoing education on energy efficiency measures, renewable energy providers, and alternative heating systems. "Working from home" is included in scope 3 emissions but is not considered in the Normative calculator as explained below.

We have used the free Business Carbon Calculator by Normative, confirming no scope 1 and 2 emissions and identifying scope 3 spend-based emissions for improvement. We are lobbying the Normative team to include other uncategorised expenditures.

Metrics and measurements used for the last 3 years.

TBLA utilised the [Business Carbon Calculator by Normative](#), chosen for its alignment with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol and Science-Based Targets Initiative, and its transparent, audit-ready calculations. We have entered our data for 2020, 2021, and 2022 to receive comparative results. In 2022 Normative upgraded the spend-based emissions calculations to factor in the sudden rise in inflation. This is why the figures below for 2020 and 2021 vary slightly from those published at the time.

Scope X

- TBLA believes that by providing educational webinars and CPD sessions, writing articles, and sharing tools on social media, directed at our “competitors”¹, we are “raising the playing field for all”.²
- Systems change: CEO Dr Peter Ellington’s doctoral research highlighted the need for systemic change within accounting education at all levels: technical, professional, university, and CPD. He is working with, and lobbying, the Professional Accounting Bodies and Business Schools to debate and implement change so that all students and practicing accountants can adapt and scenario plan while learning to account for natural and social capitals alongside money capital.³

¹ We prefer to refer to other accountancy practices as “partners” or “collaborators” in our attempt to accelerate climate change mitigation and a reversal of biodiversity loss.

² *“If a business leveraged every ounce of influence it has, to accelerate Net Zero, what would that look like? Businesses should consider their ‘Scope X’ emissions - entirely outside their own products and services but over which they may nonetheless have some influence. What norms and lifestyles are conveyed in their marketing, even in the background? What are their lobbying and advocacy aims? How do they try to bring competitors along to raise the playing field for all?”*

[How to build a Net Zero society: A guide for policymakers and businesses by Toby Park et al. The Behavioural Insights Team January 2023](#)

³ *“A Scope X company would act on carbon far beyond their direct or even indirect impacts, and instead accept the challenge of system change. Why? Because attempting to become a sustainable business is futile in an unsustainable system.”*

[Forbes magazine: June 29, 2020, Solitaire Townsend](#)

**TBLA 2022 Carbon Footprint:
Scope 3 emissions: Comparison over 3 years**

	Tonnes of CO₂e Scope 3 emissions	Carbon intensity per employee	Carbon intensity per £
2020	12.9	1.8	0.2
2021	25.1	2.5	0.2
2022	19.3	1.7	0.2

	Business travel	Purchased goods and services	Capital goods
2020	6.2% of emissions	83.5% of emissions	10.3% of emissions
2021	22.9% of emissions	70.3 % of emissions	6.8% of emissions
2022	9% of emissions	89.9% of emissions	1.1% of emissions
Reason for change	Business travel was low in the 2020 lock down year.	Company growth led to a large increase in number of clients using software. The number of employees recruited in 2021 and 2022 grew from 7 to 12.	The largest increase in employees was in 2021 and resulted in unusually high capital expenditure.
Actions to reduce	With fewer overseas clients TBLA should reduce or eliminate business air travel in 2023.	Rationalisation of software – see note at end of document*	We aim to use reconditioned hardware when appropriate.

Grey Areas and Mitigations

Scope 3 emissions might be higher than the Normative estimate

Commuting: The Normative calculator does not ask for commuting data. We encourage employees to lift share, use public transport, walk, and cycle. We offer the Cycle to Work Scheme to all employees.

Waste: The Normative calculator does not ask for waste data. Most waste is collected for recycling by The Enterprise Centre, including food waste. TBLA has purchased mixed plastics waste bins for several years that collect all non-recyclable plastics including used Lateral Flow Testing Kits. This plastic is melted using onsite micro-generated energy from solar and food waste. It is repurposed into garden furniture and building boards. Find out more [here](#).

Water: Water consumption data is not included in the Normative calculator at present. We source drinking water from the water fountain at The Enterprise Centre. Water conservation methods in the building include low-flow faucets, taps, toilets, showers, and urinals on sensors.

Scope 3 might be lower than estimated by the Normative Calculator

We follow our [sustainable purchasing policy](#), which includes buying locally and sustainably, and using reconditioned hardware when appropriate. For example, the social impact of buying business lunches from The Feed Norwich, or a zero-emissions weekly delivery of fruit from a local supplier is not factored into the expenditure on food and entertainment.

Targets for 2023

1. Enroll more employees on the ICAEW or ACCA Sustainability Certificate.
2. Involve more senior accountants in the Net Zero Service and Impact Measurement Service.
3. Market carbon accounting and net zero consultancy to current clients with help from the account managers.
4. Attain B Corps status with a verified B Impact Assessment.
5. Collaborate with other B Corps Accountancy Practices and become an exemplar for more practices.
6. Migrate the Google Suite Account (email, video conferencing) to Outlook and Teams (Microsoft OneDrive). Cancel the Google account. * See appendix for more information.
7. Ongoing employee education on climate change science, mitigation, and the role of accountants including an induction session with all new employees.
8. Poll employees about commuting habits and incentives to change.
9. Conduct a team workshop to brainstorm areas within business activities that might reduce scope 3 emissions.
10. Continue to research new carbon trackers and calculators for more accurate estimations.
11. Follow our sustainable purchasing policy and lobby suppliers to start their net zero journey and share sustainability progress.
12. Monitor individual climate advocacy.
13. Continue corporate climate advocacy.

*Appendix

By the end of March 2023, a start was made on rationalising software such as secure cloud storage, video conferencing, and email. This is designed to reduce our scope 3 emissions and expenditure in the long term. Using databases such as the Carbon Disclosure Project and research from Ethical Consumer, we are confident that Microsoft's Net Zero Strategy is way ahead of Dropbox and Google. The server is based in Europe rather than the USA, moving towards 100% renewable energy provision and compliant with UK GDPR (data protection regulations).

- Subscription to Dropbox has been cancelled and all secure cloud storage has been securely migrated to Microsoft SharePoint. March 2023
- Stage two will be migrating emails from Google Suite to Microsoft Outlook and video conferencing from Google Meet to Microsoft Teams.
- It is expected that the cost of the expert consultancy to implement this software rationalisation project, without compromising security of data, will cost more than the savings in the first year and give an impression of increased scope 3 emissions in the short term while providing long term benefits.