



Sustainability Report



ACS SUSTAINABILITY Strategy

Here at ACS we take our environmental responsibilities very seriously and understand for a positive change to happen everyone needs to take action and businesses have a significant part to play.

We have always tried to limit our environmental impact as a business but moving forwards we are committed to doing everything we can to reduce and offset our carbon emissions. To ensure sustainability is at the core of everything we do we work closely with our supply chain in addition to listening to our customers and public bodies this makes certain we are at the forefront in our industry.

Our journey to net zero begins by establishing 5 main goals for our business to strive towards. We have chosen these specific objectives as we feel they are measurable and although these are ambitious, we believe ACS has the passion to successfully achieve them. Being transparent about our progress will hopefully demonstrate our commitment and focus to attaining them within the agreed timescales.

OUR GOALS

1. Net Zero by **2030**
2. £250,000 investment into sustainable initiatives by **2024**
3. Self-generated on-site energy, reducing Scope 2 emissions by **2024**
4. All electric company vehicle fleet by **2025**
5. Creating a sustainable business group locally – impacting our local area by **2023**

ACS are working closely with the BSI to achieve the **PAS 2060 standard** – the only internationally recognised standard for carbon neutrality, this will officially recognise our organisation's climate efforts and clearly indicate, with evidence, the aspects of our activities that are proven to be carbon neutral. Being part of PAS 2060 is a continuous commitment to our corporate social responsibility and a clear, verified proof of our fight against climate change.



How we will achieve OUR GOALS

Measure – Plan – Reduce – Communicate

1. Measure

We will find the most effective way to assess all aspects of our current processes both internally and externally, by completing a comprehensive review of our emissions as a business. This will ensure our reporting is in line with the PAS 2060 accreditation.

2. Plan

Together we will work out the most commercially viable ways to reduce and offset our carbon footprint. We have set realistic short and long-term goals that we can regularly communicate and update with our stakeholders.



3. Reduce

Action our plans quickly and effectively ensuring all staff are aware of the changes. This will include changes to the building, daily processes and our supply chain if needed.

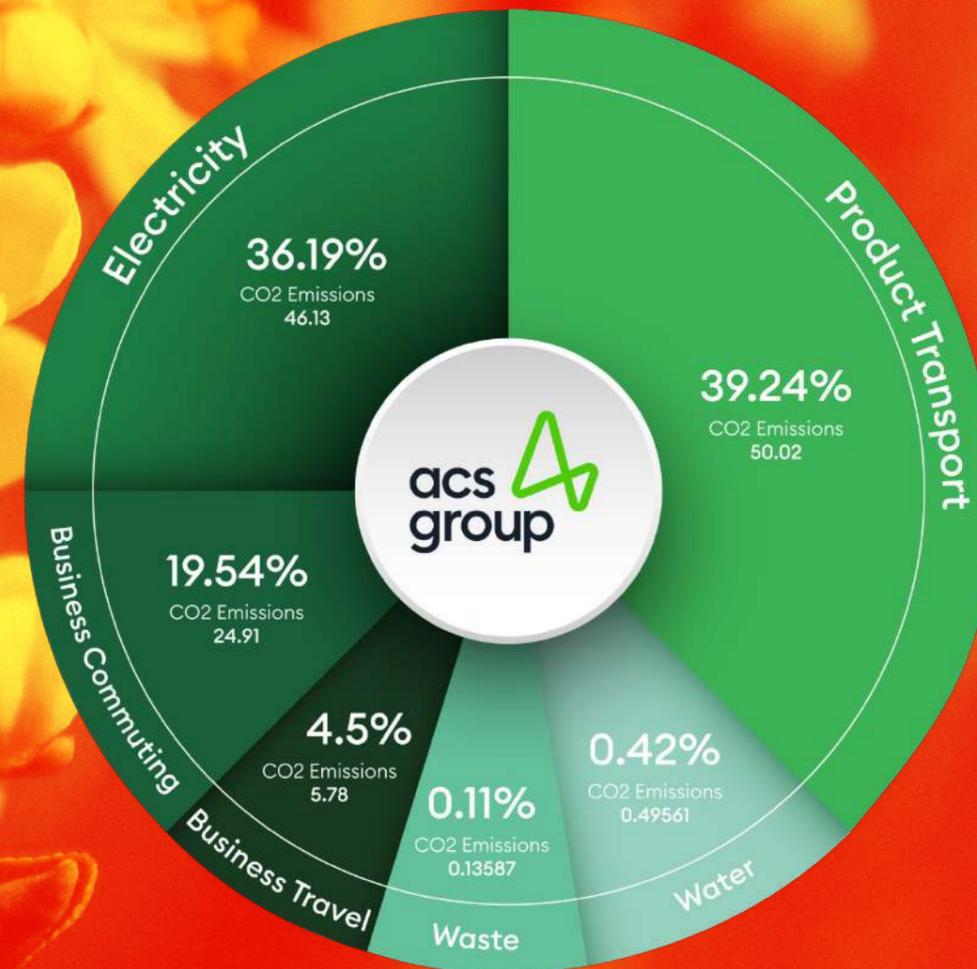
4. Communicate

As a subject at the forefront of our company, our Sustainability Report will be a constantly evolving document that we will position alongside our Impact Report and share updates throughout the year.

Measure – Plan – Reduce – Communicate

MEASURE our impact

ACS 2021 emissions
127.47t Co₂e



What does scope 1, 2 & 3 mean?

The Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol Corporate Standard classifies a company's GHG emissions into three scopes.

- Scope 1 emissions are direct emissions from owned or controlled sources. e.g: business travel.
- Scope 2 emissions are indirect emissions from the generation of purchased energy. e.g: electricity consumption.
- Scope 3 emissions are all indirect emissions (not included in Scope 2) that occur in the value chain of the reporting company, including both upstream and downstream emissions. Such as product

It can be very difficult to calculate Scope 3 emissions because it is reliant on external sources supplying the data and can be hard to get accurate figures. Despite this we wanted to do our best to include Scope 3 in our measurements so where necessary we have used estimating tools in line with PAS 2060, such as the GHG conversion calculator to get an emissions figure for 2021. In time, these tools and metrics will become more accurate and advanced.

ACS consider that both 2020 and 2021 had a large reduction on business miles due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this is expected to increase in 2022 as the world returns to normality, however the introduction of goal 2 (all electric company vehicle fleet by 2025) will ensure emissions are massively reduced from 2019.

REDUCE our impact

As a business we have always strived to limit our carbon emissions.

Over the last few years we have implemented several actions and innovations to reduce our impact and these have included changes in our offices, supply chain in addition to customer initiatives.

Actions ACS have already implemented to reduce our carbon footprint

- In 2018 ACS switched to a 100% renewable energy provider.
- Monthly car share scheme.
- Electric charging port accessible to all staff.
- Since 2019 we have utilised light sensors throughout our office to reduce electricity usage.
- 100% recycled filler cardboard in all orders from our onsite distribution centre.
- All staff are now required to lease only electric vehicles.

ACS have committed to an investment of **£250,000** into sustainable initiatives by 2024.

As sustainability becomes more and more important to not only our business but the future of our environment, we have set a number of top level goals as well as smaller initiatives to help reduce our emissions even further.

Goals to help us reduce our carbon emissions

- 100% company vehicle electric fleet.
- Self-generated electricity.
- Educating all staff within the business on sustainability.
- Work alongside our supply chain to push for greener upstream processes.
- On-site recycling centre in conjunction with Terracycle.

Supporting our Customers

As part of our sustainability strategy we aim to support our customers and help them look for ways to lower their emissions through their supply chain with ACS.

ACS £10 Club

This is an initiative set up after we recognised the number of deliveries being placed by our customers under the value of £10. We work with each individual customer to establish a minimum order value to help reduce the number of small deliveries into their sites.

Reducing Single Use Plastic

We have identified a list of single use plastic items and by working closely with our customers we have removed these from our catalogue and replaced them with an alternative sustainable product.

ACS Green Product list

Many of our products have 'green' credentials, starting from a minimum of 5% recyclable content. We wanted to make sure the 'green' list we supplied to our customers had a much higher level of sustainable qualities, so they knew the products we were offering were a good sustainable option. Therefore, we set a minimum threshold for our green list and this is 70% recycled content or 100% fully recyclable.

Recycling Programmes

We work closely with our customers and encourage them to choose to recycle their goods rather than send them to landfill. We have various toner cartridge and hardware recycling programmes set up for them to utilise which are fully certified.

OFFSET our impact



ACS have been awarded the carbon neutral status since 2016 and in that time we have offset 1480 tonnes of CO₂, by investing in numerous offsetting schemes throughout the world. Moving forwards ACS will be working in line with our commitments for the PAS 2060 accreditation, by offsetting our carbon emissions locally within the UK.

2016/17 Improved Insulation and Stoves, Mongolia



2018/19 West India Wind Power Project

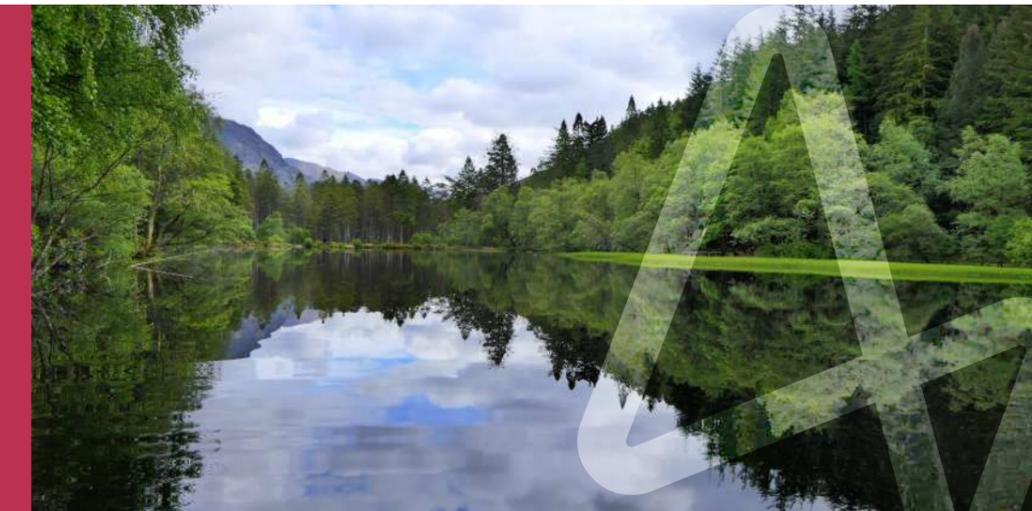


2017/18 Improved Cookstoves, Kenya



Plans for 2022 offsetting

Here at ACS we will offsetting our 2021 emissions through the WCC. The Woodland Carbon Code is the quality assurance standard for woodland creation projects in the UK, and generates independently verified carbon units. Backed by the Government, forest industry and carbon market experts, the Code is unique in providing woodland carbon units right here in the UK.



COMMUNICATE our impact

Net Zero by 2030 is extremely ambitious and requires radical innovation within our supply chain. Here at ACS we hope to influence our stakeholders into making the required changes both upstream and downstream to ensure a more sustainable future for our industry. We will report openly and honestly as we navigate the requirements for PAS 2060 and ultimately Net Zero.

This Sustainability Report alongside our Impact Report are ever-evolving documents which we will update throughout the year, so our customers, suppliers, and other stakeholders are aware of the progress we are making towards our goals.

To find out more about what ACS does, please follow the link below.

[Click to see our impact report](#)

“In my lifetime, I have witnessed a terrible decline. In yours, you could, and should witness a wonderful recovery”

Sir David Attenborough



A BIT ABOUT US

Based in Yorkshire, ACS Group are a B2B business working with all types of customers in both public and private sectors throughout the UK.

With expert knowledge across a number of specialist divisions, we provide businesses with the tools and technology they need to work productively.

 office

 managed print

 IT

 print

 interiors.

Dedicated Resource

To support us in becoming a sustainability leader in our industry, we took the decision to invest internally with a dedicated resource to help drive the ACS Group forward and achieve our goals. Tom Taylor, our Sustainability Manager has over 10 years' experience in our industry and a clear passion for sustainability.

To provide Tom with the necessary expertise to pioneer significant change throughout ACS and expand his knowledge on the role and importance of sustainability, he has completed the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership, Business Sustainability Management Course. They are a world leading sustainability institution, designed to address the growing needs and prevalence of sustainability practices. This certification has provided Tom with greater depth and helped him embed the theory into daily business practice, giving him a better understanding for how sustainability can work within a growing business.

Coupled with his knowledge of our industry, this means he is the perfect person to keep sustainability at the forefront of ACS .



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THIS IS ONLY THE START ...

