

# WEBB YATES



## Carbon Report

2022 - 2023





Cover Image:

**Hemel Hempstead Crematorium**

Client: West Herts Crematorium Joint Committee; Architect: Haverstock

This Image:

**The Growing Space**

Client: University of Westminster, Cody Dock; Architect: Live Design Practice

WEBB YATES

## Contents

<b>Summary</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Our Commitment</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Our Year in Carbon</b>	<b>8</b>
Our Footprint	9
Achievements and Challenges	10
Carbon Counting	12
Key Focus Areas	14
Offsetting	17
<b>Goals and Aspirations</b>	<b>18</b>

# Summary

We have used the UK Government’s conversion factors for greenhouse gas reporting to measure our business-related carbon emissions.

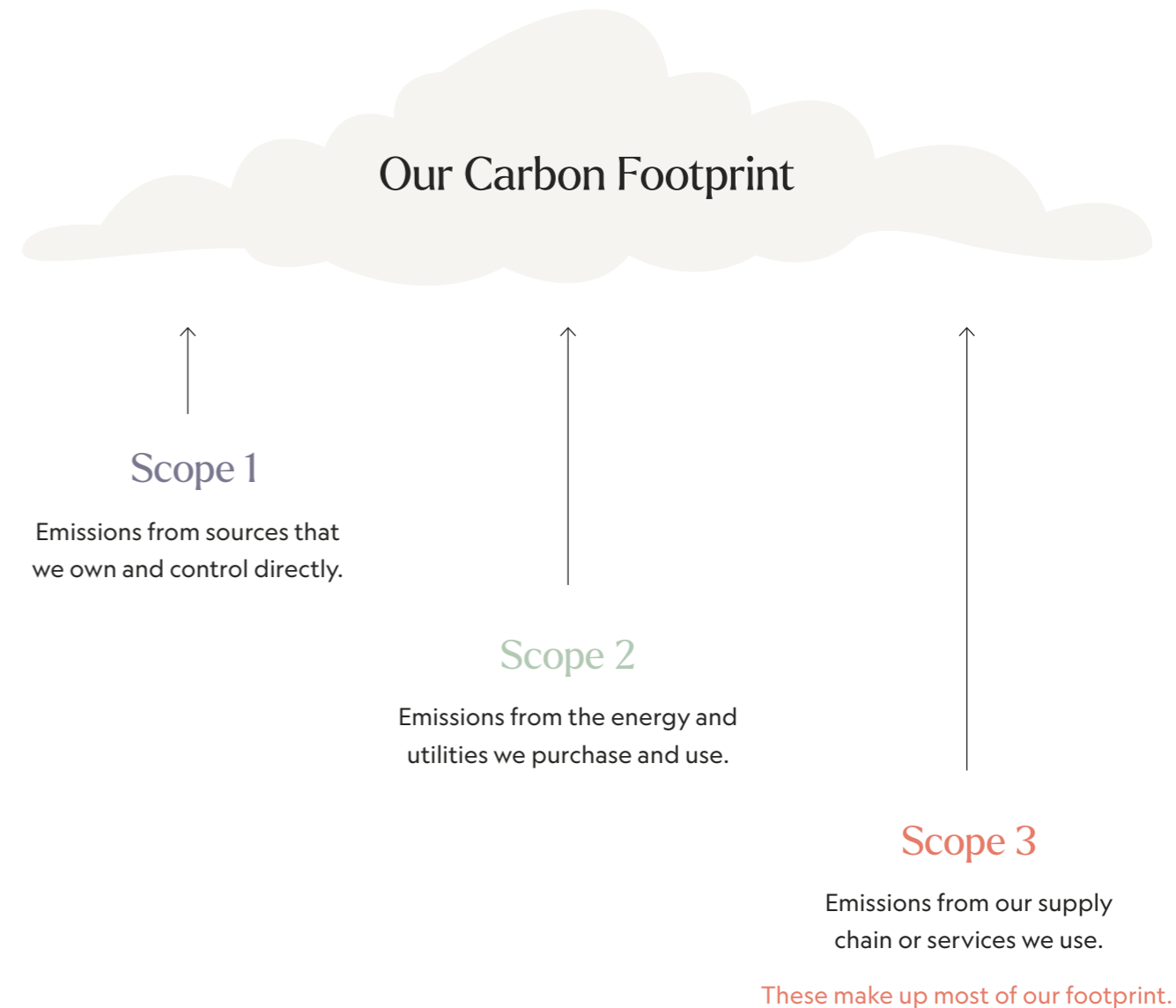
Scope 1, 2 and 3 carbon emissions were measured, as defined below.

Our total carbon footprint for 2022-23 was **72tCO<sub>2</sub>e**. We purchase our London and Birmingham offices electricity from a 100% renewable provider and therefore we are already offsetting our Scope 2 emissions (**10tCO<sub>2</sub>e**).

Our remaining emissions to offset are **62tCO<sub>2</sub>e** in order to reach a carbon neutral status.

The Planeteeers are proposing three gold standard offsetting schemes which target a variety of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Our goal is to continue to reduce our total carbon footprint and offsets in the future to verified targets in line with the SBTi Net Zero Standard to show our commitment to being net zero.



# Our Commitment

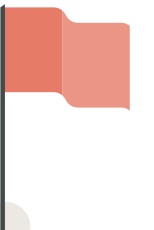
Tackling the climate crisis is consistently at the heart of our practice. Through our broad collective knowledge-base of structural, civil and building services engineering, we work to deliver environmentally conscientious solutions, which prioritise the minimisation of embodied and operational carbon.

In light of the severity of the climate emergency and huge contribution of the built environment to carbon emissions and other environmental indicators, we have signed the Construction Declares', the UK Structural Engineers Declares' and the UK Building Services Engineers Declares' pledges.

We have a climate action focused internal taskforce; an open group of people of all levels and disciplines in Webb Yates who meet regularly to work towards bringing the built environment in line with planetary limits.

In our everyday operations, we aim to locally source food and drink for the office wherever feasible and we have adopted a meat free policy to improve the sustainability of our purchased goods. We also purchase all of our electricity from a 100% renewable electricity provider.

In line with the UK Government's targets, we aim to reach net zero in our business operations by 2050.



# Our Year in Carbon

## Our Footprint

72tCO<sub>2</sub>e

Our total carbon footprint for 2022-2023

62tCO<sub>2</sub>e

Our total carbon footprint after offsetting our Scope 2 emissions.



2,028 kg

Food and drink consumed.



738,369 litres

Water used.



89,692 km

Distance traveled by train.



27,500 sheets

Paper used.



504 bags

Rubbish sent to landfill.



756 bags

Rubbish sent for recycling.



# Achievements and Challenges

## Achievements

1

We switched our Birmingham Office electricity provider to a fully renewable provider in line with our London office meaning we now offset all of our Scope 2 emissions.

2

We adopted a cycle to work policy, encouraging employees to avoid the tube and use a carbon free mode of commuting.

3

Business travel emissions were reduced through two employees taking the train to Italy instead of flying.

## Challenges

1

Since 2019 we have steadily reduced our carbon emissions per employee, however due to an uptake in international projects and resultant air travel, emissions for 2022-23 were higher than pre pandemic levels. This is a key consideration of our ongoing decarbonisation targets.

2

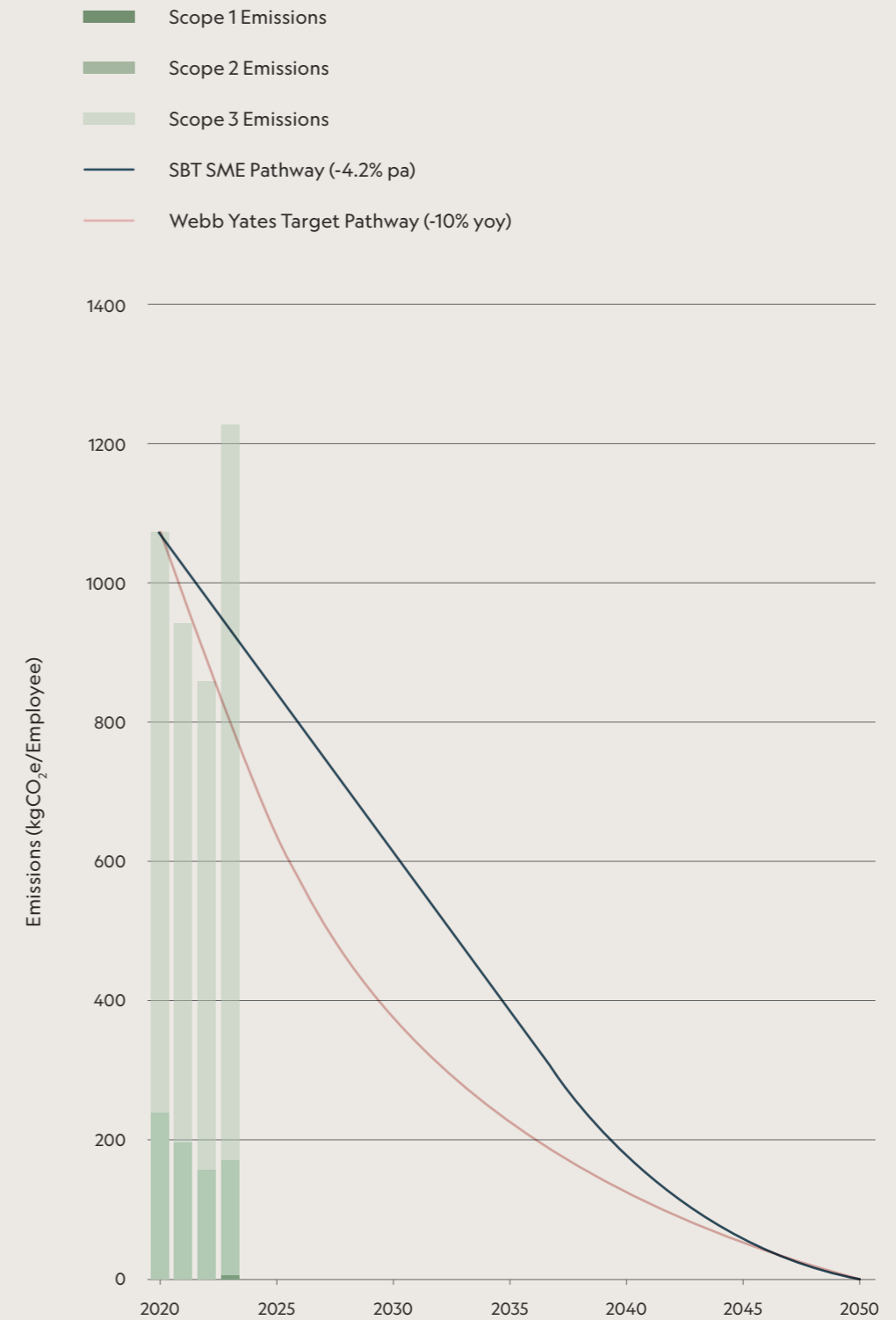
As we currently occupy rented office spaces we have limited control of our electricity usage for heating and cooling and as more people returned to the office post pandemic Scope 2 emissions from electricity usage increased this year. Additionally this year our Birmingham team relocated to an office with gas heating, introducing Scope 1 emissions for the first time.

3

We have measured our operational carbon to find critical areas where we can reduce our emissions, and are aiming by 2050 to have Net-Zero Operational Carbon. In the mean time we are intending to neutralize the carbon we emit by offsetting. We are in the process of researching the best options for offsetting to ensure that it is done correctly and meaningfully.

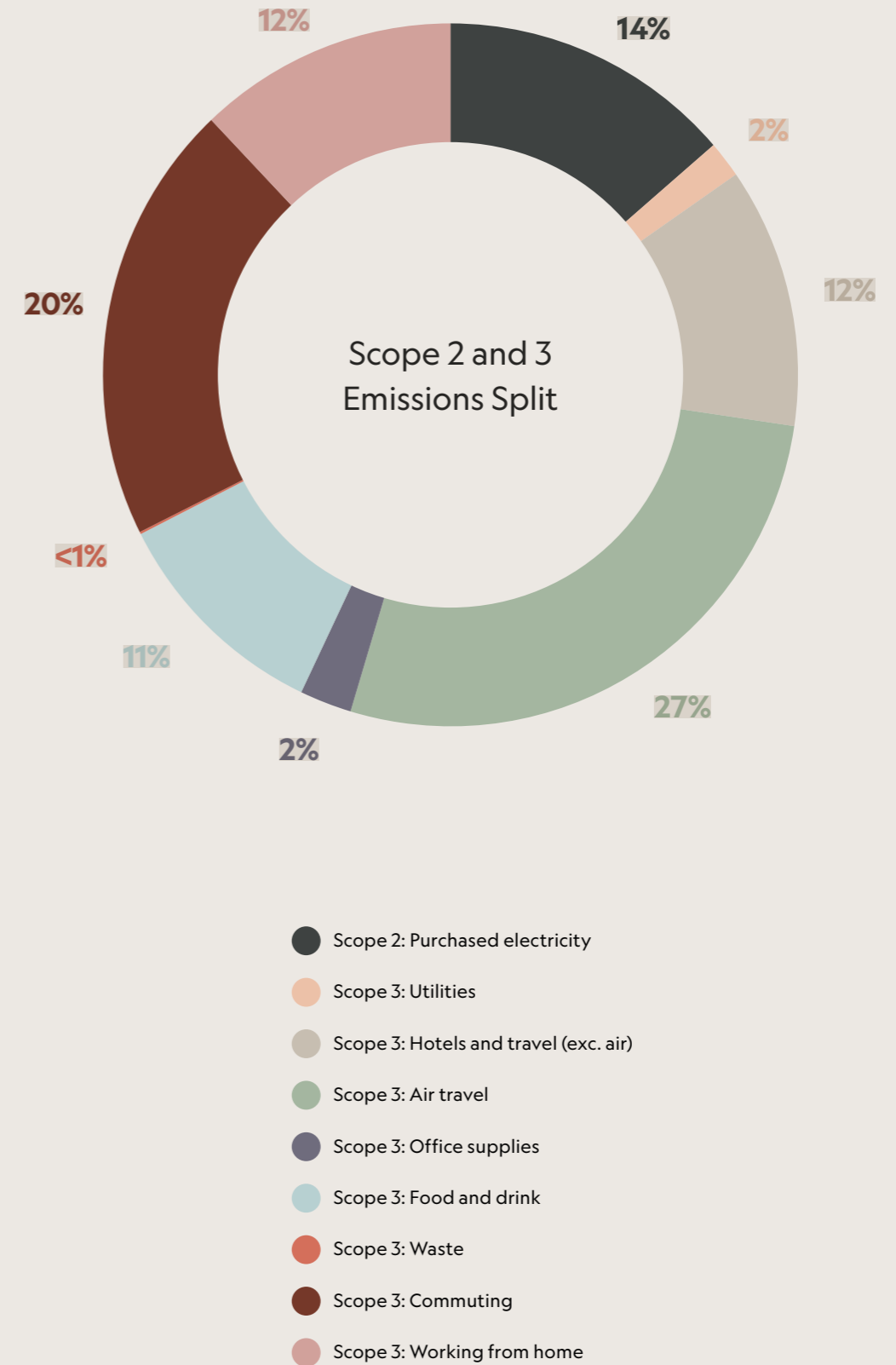
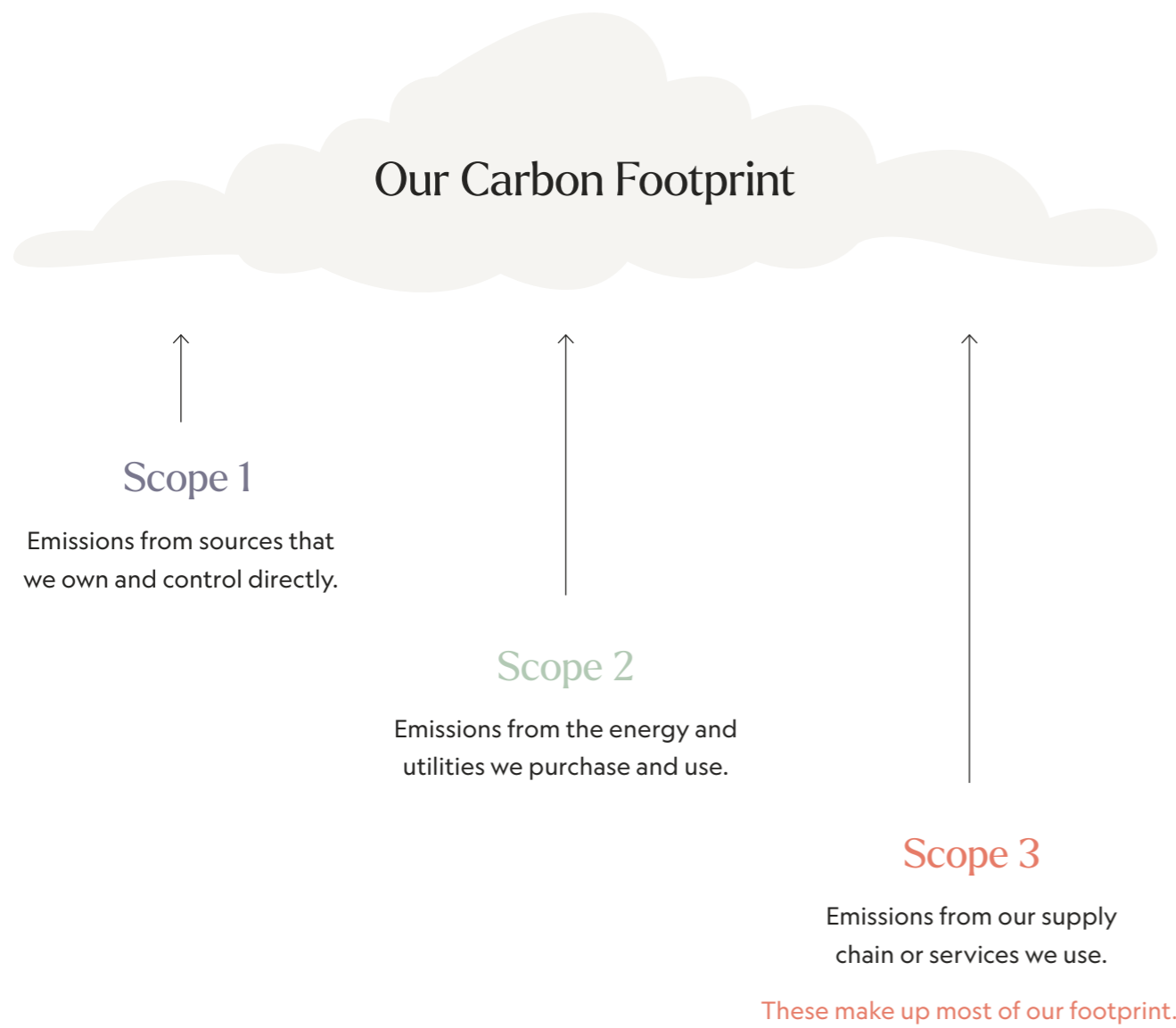
## Webb Yates Engineers Net Zero Pathways

From 2020 baseline, excludes offsets.



# Carbon Counting

We have used the UK Government’s conversion factors for greenhouse gas reporting to measure our business related carbon emissions.



# Key Focus Areas



## Business Travel

We continually encourage employees to avoid travelling long distances for business and opting for online meetings instead, however this is not always an option.

Business travel and hotels accounted for 39% of our overall carbon emissions in 2022-23.

In 2024, we will be focused on finding more sustainable ways to travel and only taking essential trips.



## Food and Drink

Food and drink purchased for the office accounted for 11% of emissions. However, it was also one of the areas with the most uncertainty in terms of measurement.

The UK Government provide one conversion factor for food and drink, which is used with estimates of the weight of the food and drink we purchase each year.

We were not able to account for the fact that we take every opportunity to source local refreshments and do not purchase meat.

We are committed to continuing sustainable purchasing of food and drink however it will be difficult to reflect any reductions in our operational carbon that may occur from this.



## Commuting and Home Working

A staff survey was used to calculate the Scope 3 Carbon associated with commuting and working from home. The survey found that on average staff work from home 1.2 days and the vast majority of staff use public transport to commute.

In 2024 we will continue to encourage cycling and walking as modes of commuting and encourage office working to reduce emission related to working from home.





Gender Responsive Safe Water Project Uganda



Gender Responsive Safe Water Project Uganda

## Offsetting

Any offsets required for 2022-2023 have been arranged through Gold Standard, a trusted market leader founded by WWF and other international NGOs.

Gold Standard offer certified carbon credits to fund climate protection projects. Using this pathway, we worked with our team to identify which projects to fund, selecting initiatives that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create sustainable development benefits for the communities that need it most. The projects we have supported are detailed to the right.

Our aim is to reduce our total carbon footprint and offsets in the future to verified targets in line with the SBTi Net Zero Standard to show our commitment to being net zero.

### Gender Responsive Safe Water Project Uganda

An initiative to improve access to safe water in Lango. This is the first project to be certified under the Gold Standard's Gender Responsive Framework which means that the project has been rigorously assessed to reduce gender inequality.

### Efficient and Clean Cooking for Households Somalia

BURN Manufacturing's project in Somalia improves the lives of some of the world's most vulnerable people. More than 90% of the population still relies on biomass fuels for cooking, driving particularly high deforestation rates in an already arid landscape. This project helps families transition to BURN's JIKOKOA, the world's most fuel-efficient biomass stove.

### Betulia Energy and Biodiversity Restoration Honduras

A lack of access to electrical energy is a major issue in the north region of the Republic of Honduras. This small run-of-river hydroelectric generating power plant is providing renewable energy to the national grid (displacing traditional fossil fueled power plants), whilst improving the quality of electricity for local communities in the department of Colon.

# Goals and Aspirations

## Overall Targets

- Encouraging a sustainability focused culture in the office.
- Improving how we share information on sustainable practice in our work particularly through our climate taskforce.
- Educating on how we can reduce personal carbon footprints.

## Scope 2

- Finding ways to reduce the electricity we use in our offices

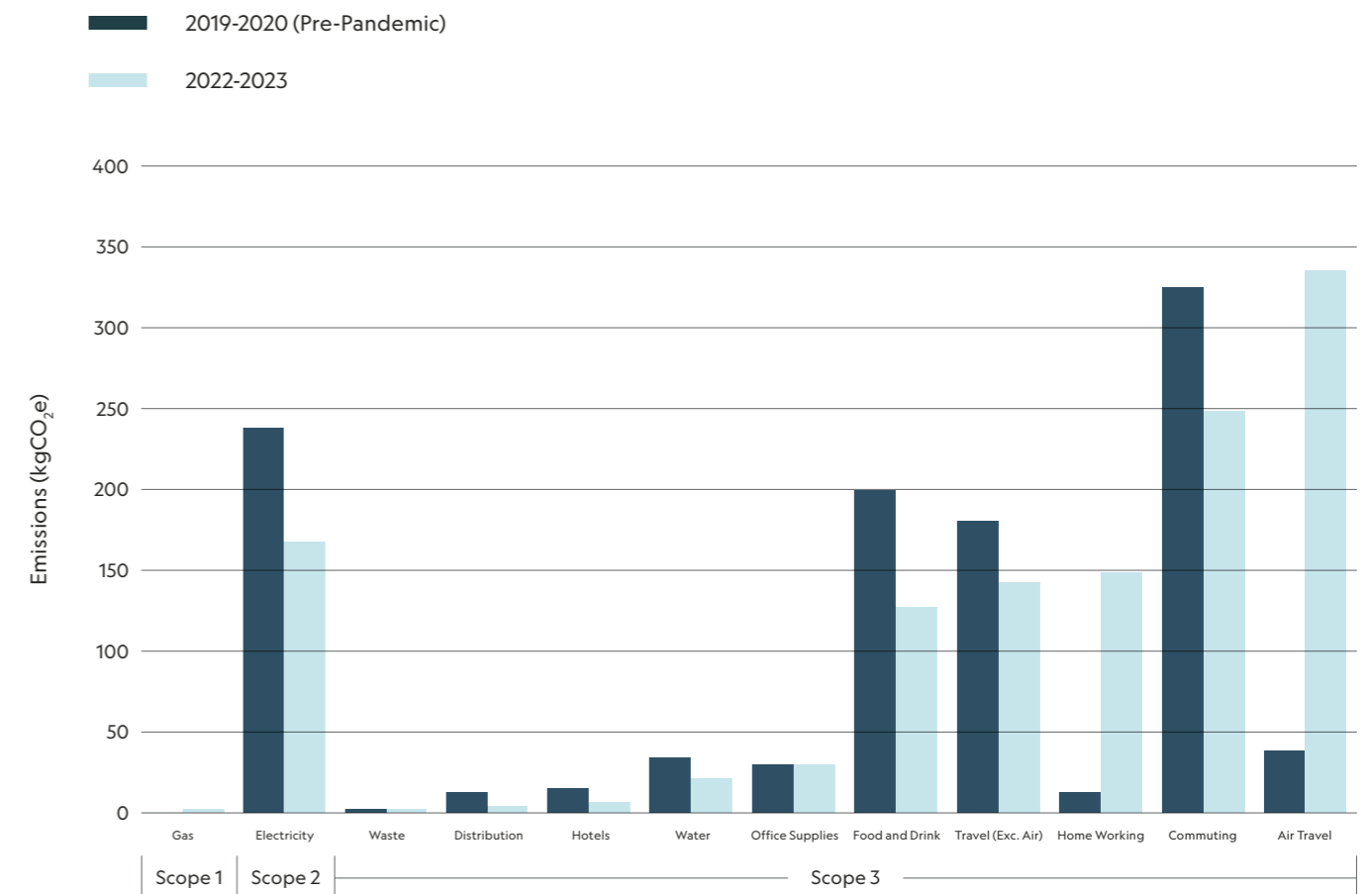
## Scope 3

- Improving recycling and food waste facilities.
- Encouraging employees to use more sustainable modes commuting.
- Developing a purchasing policy which will cover both social and environmental criteria when engaging suppliers.

## Offsetting

- Looking at meaningful ways to offset and neutralise our current carbon emissions whilst continuing to focus on reduction as the means to reach net-zero by 2050.

## Scope 2 and 3 Emissions



# WEBB YATES

[www.webbyates.com](http://www.webbyates.com)

London and Birmingham

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