

Carbon Reduction Plan

Supplier name: Nerds with Words Ltd

Publication date: 28.02.23

Commitment to achieving Net Zero

Nerds with Words Ltd. is committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2050 at the latest.

Baseline Emissions Footprint

Baseline Year: Sept 2020-Aug 2021

Wordnerds has been conscious of its carbon footprint since inception in 2017 and has always promoted sustainable travel and recycling by employees, but as a small company this is the first year we've measured our emissions. We are aware that these measurements are unusually low because of low office occupancy and reduced travel caused by COVID-19. We have included all relevant Scope 3 emission categories.

Baseline year emissions:

EMISSIONS	TOTAL (tCO ₂ e)
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Scope 1	0
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Note: Wordnerds has recorded zero Scope 1 emissions as our only facilities are a rented office within an office block, where the gas/electricity is purchased centrally. We own no vehicles.

Scope 2	2.8
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Scope 3 (Included Categories)	16.0 <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Purchased goods and services2. Capital goods5. Waste generated in operations6. Business travel7. Employee commuting
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Note: Category 4. 'Upstream transportation and distribution' and 9. 'Downstream transportation and distribution' are not applicable as Wordnerds does not buy/sell/transport physical goods.

All data processing emissions are counted in Category 1.

Total Emissions	18.8
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Current Emissions Reporting

Reporting Year: Sept 2021-Aug 2022

As expected this year saw an increase in emissions, as the effects of the COVID lockdowns eased compared to FY2020/21. Increased business travel has made the greatest impact, consequently this year represents a more realistic benchmark against which to measure future years. We have adjusted our targets to reflect this.

EMISSIONS	TOTAL (tCO₂e)
Scope 1	0

Note: Wordnerds has recorded zero Scope 1 emissions as our only facilities are a rented office within an office block, where the gas/electricity is purchased centrally. We own no vehicles.

Scope 2	2.6
Scope 3 (Included Sources)	17.04 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1. Purchased goods and services ● 2. Capital goods ● 5. Waste generated in operations ● 6. Business travel ● 7. Employee commuting

Note: Category 4. 'Upstream transportation and distribution' and 9. 'Downstream transportation and distribution' are not applicable as Wordnerds does not buy/sell/transport physical goods.

All data processing emissions are counted in Category 1.

Total Emissions	19.64
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Emissions reduction targets

In order to continue our progress to achieving Net Zero, we have adopted the following carbon reduction targets.

We project that carbon emissions will decrease over the next five years to **17.68** tCO₂e by 2026. This is a reduction of **10%**.

Carbon Reduction Projects

Completed Carbon Reduction Initiatives

The following environmental management measures and projects have been completed or implemented since the 2020-21 baseline.

- As a cloud-based organisation, Wordnerds' environmental impact is relatively low. We aim to minimise our environmental impact through basic recycling practices, cycle to work schemes, flexible working arrangements and, indeed, the delivery of our software and, where possible, services online, ensuring we don't make unnecessary journeys that contribute to a higher carbon footprint. Where possible, we ensure all business travel is conducted by train - a more carbon friendly mode of transport than driving or flying. Where car journeys are unavoidable, we encourage car sharing where possible.
- In September 2021 we started an office share arrangement, which has reduced our Scope 2 emissions by 50% (of what they would have been - emissions for the whole block rose considerably this year as people came back to the office after COVID) and the Employee commuting element of Scope 3 by approximately 33%.
- We have estimated the GHG emissions from the Wordnerds platform as part of Scope 3. We use Amazon and Google for the majority of our cloud computing needs – and they are some of the largest purchasers of renewable energy globally.

Although it does not guarantee that all energy going into a data centre is renewable, due to the power mix of the local grid, they can at least match their electricity usage with purchases of renewables elsewhere. Google has been doing this since 2017 and Amazon will do it by 2025. In the meantime, Google is already carbon neutral through purchasing offsets. They are also innovating in hardware technologies, such as Google's use of AI to reduce cooling costs by 40 percent, and Amazon's use of recycled water for cooling.

- We have also invested heavily in serverless technology from AWS, moving all of our data storage and processing to ElastiCache and EC2 servers that shrink to the minimum possible size according to use. This work has allowed us to reduce our energy requirements by 35% in this area, despite a steady increase in the amount of data that we are processing.
- According to AWS' new 'Customer Carbon Footprint Tool' we have zero emissions from our infrastructure this year, saving 1.7 MTCO_{2e}.
- We have invested in high quality video conferencing equipment in our boardroom, to reduce the need for business travel to meetings, and staff commuting. The purchase of equipment was counted in this year's scope 3 emissions so the benefits will be felt increasingly from next year onwards.

Future plans:

- We are currently undertaking Ecovadis Sustainability Assessment and will implement any suggestions that emerge from that process.
- As a small company aiming to scale up our operations we are aware that high growth in staff will make it challenging to keep reducing emissions, though our flexible working policies mean that staff increases make less of an impact than they would have done pre-COVID. However, if necessary to meet our carbon reduction targets we will also consider carbon offsetting initiatives.

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 standard¹ and uses the appropriate Government emission conversion factors for greenhouse gas company reporting².

Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions have been reported in accordance with SECR requirements, and the required subset of Scope 3 emissions have been reported in accordance with the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Standard³.

This Carbon Reduction Plan has been reviewed and signed off by the board of directors.

Signed on behalf of the Supplier:



Angela Daykin, Finance Director

Date: 27.02.23

¹ <https://ghgprotocol.org/corporate-standard>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-conversion-factors-for-company-reporting>

³ <https://ghgprotocol.org/standards/scope-3-standard>