

IEMA/SocEnv

Net-Zero Carbon Pledge Journey and Observations

Prepared by LUC

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A little about LUC



5 offices in Bristol, Edinburgh, Glasgow, London (head office) and Manchester. Employee-owned private limited company.

187 employees (FTE 168) currently

5 business units: Ecology, GIS & Visualisation, Landscape Design, Landscape Planning & Management, Planning Appraisal & Assessment

2019 Turnover: 12m

55% public sector and 45% private sector

2018 total carbon footprint (all scope 1-3):	334 tonnes CO ₂ e
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2018 Pledge Net Zero carbon footprint (all scope 1-2 + applicable scope 3):	141 tonnes CO ₂ e
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Services summary: Landscape Architects including Digital Design, Ecology, Environmental Assessment, Environmental Planning, Historical Landscapes, Landscape Design, Landscape Management, Landscape Planning, Masterplanning, Rural Futures and Urban Regeneration

LUC's Journey thus far to Net Zero Carbon

Rationalised office space
to do more with less

Video conferencing
introduced across all
offices

LED lighting grant at
London office

Eco-focus on new
appliances, replacement
infrastructure (capital &
infrastructure items);

Efficiency Investments

LUC is certified to ISO
14001 and begins to
monitor its carbon
footprint in earnest

Business management
systems (BMS)
implemented

Systems Investments

Month-by-month C-
footprinting embedded

Environmental selection
criteria for new offices

Environmental training video
launched

Weekly Green Tips launched
in newsletter.

Horizon of carbon neutrality
brought fwd to 2030 following
IPCC report

Pledged to net zero carbon

Leadership / Behavioural
Measures

Why Net Zero Carbon?

- C Because there is a declared UK climate emergency, and just as we currently have a duty to act responsibly with regard to Covid-19, we have a similar duty to respond to the climate emergency;
- C Businesses increasingly are requesting details within tendering documents of climate change performance and net zero carbon ambitions, so net zero has marketing potential;
- C This provides additional impetus to, as far as is possible, reduce our own CO2 burden by reducing unnecessary activities / waste;
- C As an aside from this discussion, this also provides further impetus for carbon neutrality strategy and delivery.

Scope of Carbon Footprint

All scopes 1-3 are included. These comprise:

Scope 1:

- Natural gas used in space heating & water heating
- Liquid fuel used in own vehicles

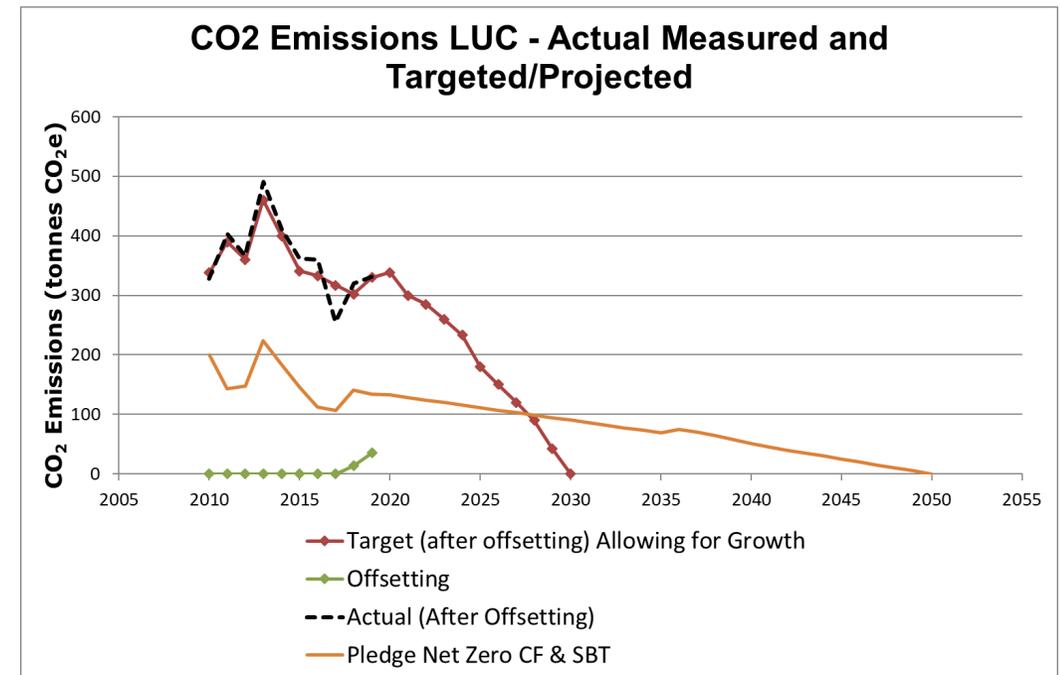
Scope 3:

- Business travel (air, road, rail, sea), not including commuting
- Hotel stays

NB, IT services, Equipment and Furniture, Stationery, External Printing, Water Supply and Waste Water Treatment and Waste Management are also monitored and evaluated using DBEIS-provided emissions factors based on financial spend. However they are not included in the Pledge to Net Zero Carbon Footprint & SBT.

Scope 2:

- Electricity usage
- Leaked gases from air-conditioning systems at offices



Effective Monitoring

Ideal system:

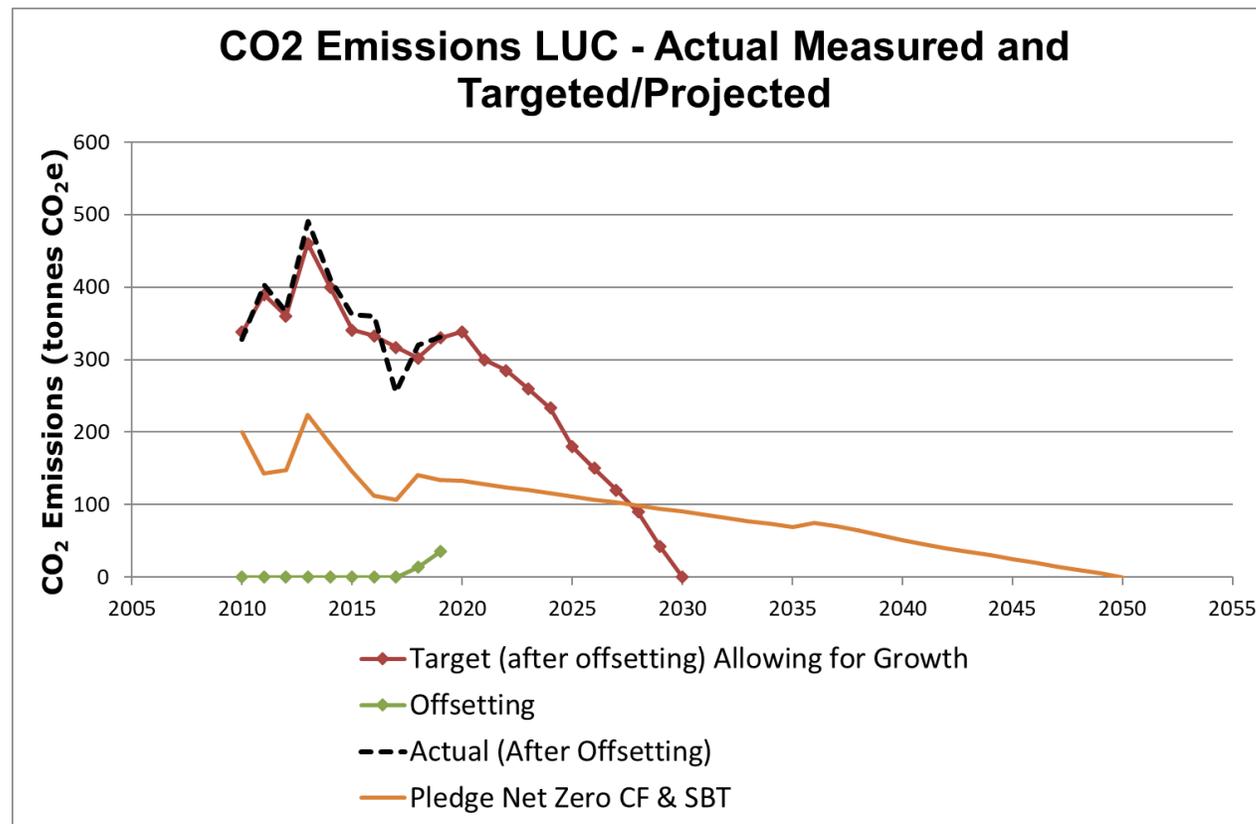
- takes as little time as possible
- makes use of reliable and defensible carbon correlation coefficients
- is easy to learn/teach
- keys seamlessly into existing databases as much as possible
- makes use of automatic data treatment routines (e.g. macros) or filters to minimise manual data input / processing
- avoids the processing of unnecessary data
- is flexible, having one eye to future data monitoring requirements (caters for greater or lesser complexity requirements)

Why is Effective Monitoring Important?

- It is important to know which are your **key components of your carbon footprint**. You may be able to seek out providers of key services who themselves are carbon-neutral or low-carbon suppliers;
- It is important to be able to **factor carbon reduction quantitatively into cost-benefit analysis** of business improvement proposals;
- Having a **clear quantifiable goal** is more likely to gain support from colleagues than goals which are not so clear;
- It is important to be able to predict the effect of proposed improvements, and also to be able to **verify them once implemented**.

Science-Based Target

- 2018 year chosen. Relative stability of included offices and headcount.
- Absolute contraction method selected.
- Working to WB2C scenario.



Covid-19 : Comments

- Take the opportunity to benchmark any CO2 reductions as a result of lower production levels, lower levels of business travel, temporary closure of certain offices, etc;
- We have decided to not factor in homeworking carbon impacts on this occasion, but we will devise a strategy to do so for any future events and build it into our emergency preparedness / business continuity process;
- Once (hopefully as soon as possible) the Covid-19 pandemic begins to lift, the climate emergency will still be there;
- As far as possible, build the lessons learned/adaptations to remote working into post-pandemic working life, so that benefits such as avoiding unnecessary business travel are retained, and your business is more agile and ready to deal with any similar emergencies in the future.

Conclusions

- Pledging to net zero is a powerful gesture of support for the climate emergency
- There are marketing benefits in addition to policy and performance motivators
- Set your scope well, and be clear about what is included
- Monitoring your carbon footprint – balance available resources with need for accurate information, and be sure to use well-defined and defensible CO2 coefficients

- Reduce your own emissions where you can by reducing activities that give rise to them.
- Seek out wastage of carbon (80:20 rule), and aim to reduce emissions per employee
- Make full use of company communications to publicise and thereby spread best practice