

Nash & Co Solicitors LLP

Environmental Sustainability

What we're doing to reduce our impact on the environment

Current Situation

Our Carbon Footprint

We know that the easiest way for us to make a difference is to reduce our carbon footprint.

Approximately 81% of all Green House Gases (GHG) are carbon emissions. The rest are made up of Methane, Nitrous oxide and fluorinated gases. In order to reduce our footprint, it's vital that we measure our carbon footprint every year, starting with last year.

Carbon footprints are measured using 3 different scopes. These are as follows:

Carbon Footprint Scope 1

Scope 1 emissions are direct emissions from company-owned and controlled resources (building, company cars etc). In other words, emissions released to the atmosphere as a direct result of a set of activities, at a firm level. **Our scope 1 emissions are tied to our Gas usage.**

Carbon Footprint Scope 2

Scope 2 emissions are indirect emissions from the generation of purchased energy, from a utility provider. In other words, all GHG emissions released in the atmosphere, from the consumption of purchased electricity, steam, heat and cooling. **Our Scope 2 emissions are tied to our electricity usage.**

Carbon Footprint Scope 3

Scope 3 emissions are the "holy grail" of emissions. These include all indirect emissions that are not currently included in Scope 2. Scope 3 emissions are related to the company's operations, and are a lot harder to measure. It includes business travel, employee commuting, how we treat our waste, and purchased goods and services, There are a lot of other areas that simply don't apply to us. **We have Scope 3 emissions, but these are currently too difficult to measure. We hope to have a better idea of our Scope 3 emissions by the time we publish our Environmental Annual Report in 2024.**

So what is our Carbon Footprint?

As is mentioned above, there are 3 Scopes that we need to take into consideration. Measuring our carbon footprint is generally pretty difficult. Some of it is relatively easy - we know our energy usage.

The difficult area is Scope 3 - including purchasing goods that we use in the every day operation of the firm (stationery, tea & coffee etc), commuting, waste and business travel. The fact that we are already Zero to Landfill means that our waste does not result in methane being released into the atmosphere, which is a very good thing. We hope to have a better idea of the impact of Scope 3 emissions by 2024.

When measuring and publishing our carbon footprint, we need to identify a time frame that the footprint represents. Our carbon footprint reporting will run from January 1st to December 31st every year.

Scope 1 Emissions

The contract with our gas supplier will run for approximately 1 more year.

Gas - 26.3 tonnes

Scope 2 Emissions

Electricity

Our Carbon Footprint is set to be reduced significantly by switching our energy to 100% renewable energy. The figure for Electricity includes the building, and our electric gates and electric vehicle chargers.

Electricity - 15.5 tonnes Carbon

Scope 3 Emissions

Water Usage

The carbon emissions for water usage cover the actual usage and treatment of the water over the last year.

Water - 0.5 tonnes

Business Travel

We will have a better idea of the carbon footprint associated with business travel in 2024.

Staff Commuting

We will have a better idea of the carbon footprint associated with staff commuting in 2024.

Purchases

We will have a better idea of the carbon footprint associated with business purchases in 2024.

Waste

We are zero to landfill. This means that if it's not recycled, then all of our waste goes to the incinerator at Devonport. Incinerating will naturally release carbon into the environment, but this is strictly monitored and kept to an acceptable level. The incinerator also generates renewable energy for businesses and homes meaning they are not using fossil fuels. This means we have **0 tonnes**.

Our Carbon Footprint for 2022

This means that our overall carbon footprint for the business last year is approximately **42.3 tonnes** (measured using conversion factors from DEFRA 2020).

Now that we have our Carbon Footprint, we can set about reducing it.

Helping to fight climate change

Our focus extends to these specific areas:

- Responsible waste management and recycling
- Mindful consumption of energy, water, and other essentials
- Reducing paper usage
- More wildlife and nature friendly approach to our grounds



Beaumont House

Here in Beaumont House, we have undertaken several initiatives to reduce the impact the firm has on the environment:

- Zero to Landfill
- Substantial increase (30% increase since 2021) in recycling
- Substantial rewilding work around our grounds, including planting of 15+ trees (native British and mostly fruit – staff can take fruit home with them)
- We will be introducing bee hives to our grounds in Beaumont House. Not only will this have a very positive effect on local nature and wildlife, but will also allow us to produce Beaumont House Honey - which will be given out free to staff and the local community.
- We are single use plastic free
- We have a rolling policy of replacing light bulbs with LED light bulbs
- 100% renewable energy
- 6 x electric vehicle chargers for staff to use
- New changing room and shower facility to encourage staff to run, walk, cycle to and from work
- New bike parking area
- Turned down thermostat 2 degrees in the winter
- Considering purchasing motion sensors to automatically switch off lights when room is empty
- Paper free where possible, and all paper used across the organisation is to be FSC accredited
- Printers set to print on B&W automatically rather than colour printing

Business Declares

- We have been a member of Business Declares for 2 years. This group is a partner of the global Race to Zero campaign.
- Through our membership, we have Undertaken various promotional opportunities organised by Business Declares.
- We have also promoted important educational information, produced by Business Declares, for staff and clients

Commitment to helping protect the Ocean/Sea

- We have recently started what will be a long term relationship as a Corporate partner of the Ocean Conservation Trust, here in Plymouth.
- We are sponsoring a seagrass renovation project just off of Jennycliff, in Plymouth Marine Park.
- We have undertaken educational work with schools and OCT (and childrens author Sarah Roberts)
- We have also engaged in educational work with staff and clients on behalf of the OCT
- We are also a Corporate Partner of Whale and Dolhin Conservation
- We regularly promote important educational messages on behalf of the charity to staff, clients and anyone who follows our social media
- We are also recognised as the charity's legal partners

Beaumont Park

- Only recently established the Friends of Beaumont Park Group
- Aimed at bringing community together for the benefit of the local environment, nature and park users (and staff – nice environment to walk around and clear head etc)
- Wildlife sanctuary and other rewilding efforts around the park
- We have planted a number of wild flower meadows, with others coming in the future
- Tree planting (20+), rose trellis construction with our partners, Veterans Outdoors

Other

- We are also on the Plastic Free Plymouth Directory
- We were the first company to sign up to be a Surfers Against Sewage Plastic Free Champion