

Purpose

As a company that works directly for Central Government Departments, their Executive Agencies and Non-Departmental Public Bodies we are required to have a Carbon Reduction Plan in place in line with the requirement of PPN 06/21: Public Policy Note - Taking Account of Carbon Reduction Plans in the procurement of major government contracts

Scope

This Carbon Reduction Plan relates to our Scope 1, 2 and 3 carbon emissions and covers all of Ground Control operations involving direct employees and Field Teams operatives.

Definitions

See [Glossary of terms](#)

Commitment to achieving Net Zero

Ground Control is committed to achieving Net Zero emissions by 2038.

In 2021 Ground Control formally committed through the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi) to achieve Net Zero in line with their Corporate Net Zero Standard. The Standard provides robust requirements for achieving Net Zero, most importantly achieving a 90% absolute reduction across scope one, two and three emissions without offsetting. Our near-term and long-term targets are now verified with the Science Based Targets Initiative; these targets are detailed below. Our current carbon neutral status is a small step on our carbon reduction journey whilst we also manage and reduce our scope 3 full value chain emissions for net zero 12 years sooner than the 2050 UK Government target.

Verified carbon reduction targets:

Near term:

- Ground Control Ltd commits to reduce absolute Scope 1 & 2 GHG emissions 90% by FYE 2030 from a FYE 2021 base year.
- Ground Control Ltd commits to reduce absolute Scope 3 GHG emissions 42% by FYE 2030 from a FYE 2021 base year.

Long term:

- Ground Control Ltd commits to reach net-zero GHG emissions across the value chain by FYE 2038.
- Ground Control Ltd commits to reduce absolute scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions 90% by FYE 2038 from a FYE 2021 base year.
- Ground Control Ltd commits to maintain at least 90% absolute scope 1 and 2 GHG emission reductions from 2030 through 2050.

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Baseline Emissions Footprint

Baseline emissions are a record of the greenhouse gases that have been produced in the past and were produced prior to the introduction of any strategies to reduce emissions. Baseline emissions are the reference point against which emissions reduction can be measured.

Baseline Year: FY2020

Additional details relating to the baseline emissions calculations:

Our carbon footprint will be measured and monitored internally, and we will recertify annually as a carbon neutral organisation. Our baseline scope three emissions are currently based on financial data; however, we are continually improving how we collate specific activity data, monitor, and report emissions. Ground Control will assess the need to re-baseline our emissions as the business changes or restructures with acquisitions and improved data collation.

Baseline year emissions: (01.04.2020 – 31.03.2021)

EMISSIONS	TOTAL (tCO ₂ e)	SOURCES
Scope 1	2,548	Natural gas, fuels, refrigerants, and owned vehicles
Scope 2	68	Electricity for buildings and vehicle charging (market- based)
Scope 3	41,277	1a: Purchased goods and services (product)
	1,333	1b: Purchased goods and services (non-product)
	2,089	2: Capital goods
	626	3: Fuel and energy related activities
	816	4: Upstream transportation and distribution
	5,693	5: Waste generated in operations
	100	6: Business travel
	Excluded	7: Employee commuting**
	Excluded	8: Upstream leased assets*
	Excluded	9: Downstream transportation and distribution*
	Excluded	10: Processing of sold products*
	46	11a: Use of sold products (Direct)
	Excluded	11b: Use of sold products (Indirect) *
	63	12: End-of-life treatment of sold products
	Excluded	13: Downstream leased assets*
Excluded	14: Franchises*	
Excluded	15: Investments*	
Total Emissions	55,083	

*This category was excluded from our footprint as Ground Control is a service provider and our operations do not include these categories and therefore is not material.

** Employee commuting and homeworking emissions have not been included in the Ground Control target boundary as advised by SBTi.

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Current Emissions Reporting

Current Year: FY2022

Ground Control will continue to report on our scope one, two and three emissions annually updating our carbon reduction plan and financial reporting. Because we are a rapidly growing business, emissions have increased from our baseline year to current reporting year (intensity figures included below).

Reporting Year: FY2022 (01.04.2022 – 31.03.2023)

EMISSIONS	TOTAL (tCO ₂ e)	SOURCES
Scope 1	3,303	Natural gas, fuels, refrigerants, and owned vehicles
Scope 2	73	Electricity for buildings and vehicle charging (market- based)
Scope 3	76,894	1a: Purchased goods and services (product)
	4,943	1b: Purchased goods and services (non-product)
	762	2: Capital goods
	866	3: Fuel and energy related activities
	1,705	4: Upstream transportation and distribution
	5,691	5: Waste generated in operations
	213	6: Business travel
	Excluded	7: Employee commuting*
	Excluded	8: Upstream leased assets*
	Excluded	9: Downstream transportation and distribution*
	Excluded	10: Processing of sold products*
	387	11a: Use of sold products (Direct)
	Excluded	11b: Use of sold products (Indirect) *
	36	12: End-of-life treatment of sold products
	Excluded	13: Downstream leased assets*
Excluded	14: Franchises*	
Excluded	15: Investments*	
Total Emissions	94,872	

*This category was excluded from our footprint as Ground Control is a service provider and our operations do not include these categories and therefore is not material.

Table 1: Ground Control carbon intensity figure by business turnover

	FY 2020-2021	FY 2022-2023
Turnover (£ million)	111.20	195.50
Total carbon footprint (tCO₂e)	55,083.32	94,871.86
Carbon intensity figure (tCO₂e/£m)	495.35	485.28

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Emission Reduction Target

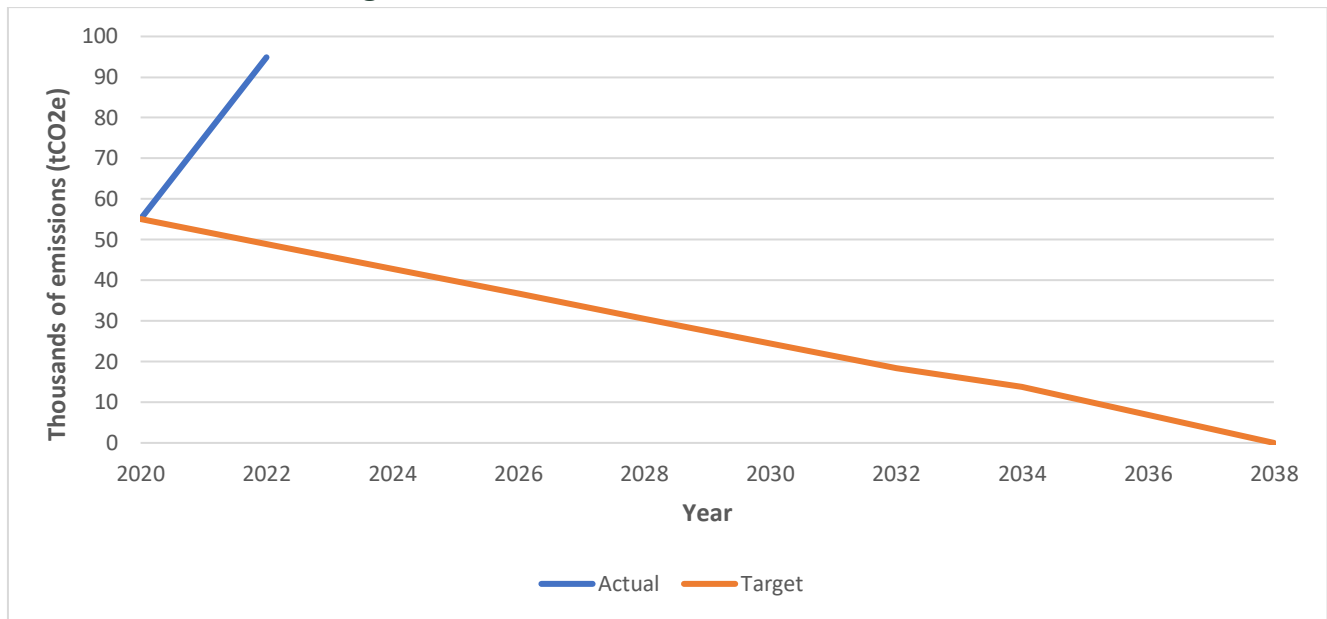


Figure 1: Ground Control carbon footprint FY2022/23 and our projected reduction in emissions to Net Zero in 2038.

Ground Control’s absolute carbon emissions have increased from the baseline year as we have grown as a business as shown by the 75% increase in turnover. Despite this growth, our carbon intensity has decreased. Ground Control is at the beginning of our carbon journey as we implement further carbon reduction initiatives and improve our data quality and quantity, we will achieve greater reductions in emissions.

Reductions in our scope two so far have been achieved by switching to renewable electricity at our fixed offices and we have limited the potential increase in scope 1 emissions by starting our investment in electric tools and vehicles. To continue our progress to achieving Net Zero, we are planning to adopt the following carbon reduction initiatives.

Carbon Reduction Projects

Completed Carbon Reduction Initiatives:

The following environmental management measures and projects have been completed or implemented since the 2020 baseline to reduce our carbon emissions and these measures will remain in effect when performing the contract.

- Ground Control have developed and set science based near-term and net zero targets which are now verified with the Science Based Targets Initiative as aligned to the SBTi's Corporate Net-Zero Standard.
- We report on our energy consumption and associated greenhouse gas emissions within the financial reporting published on Companies House as part of Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting requirements.
- Ground Control have worked with The Carbon Trust to calculate our carbon footprint and verify this in line with BSI: PAS 2060: 2014 specification for carbon neutrality. We are implementing our carbon management plan across the company to achieve our target for net zero carbon emissions by 2038.
- All company hand tools purchased are fully electric (where technology is available) with a target of 100% being fully electric by Q4 2026. So far, we have purchased over 350 electric tools.
- All new company passenger vehicles purchased are fully electric, with a target for 100% of our fleet fully electric by Q4 2025. So far, we have purchased over 280 electric vehicles.
- All company vehicle drivers with EVs are required to have their home electricity from renewable sources in their homes.

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- To support our employees using active and sustainable transport methods for their commute to work, we have introduced interest free travel loans, Cycle2Work initiative, and affordable EV car leasing.
- Our in-house ICT Team has developed a bespoke site density modelling and route optimisation software which calculates the most efficient team allocation for every site. Therefore, reducing travel time, increasing productivity, and lowering carbon emissions for each project. This software completes c. 200 million calculations to analyse site specific data, visit schedules, team skills and specifications to ensure the most efficient allocation for every single site. We recently calculated the carbon savings for our winter maintenance business for the winter season, the route optimisation software avoided an extra 257,243 miles and saved over 162 tCO₂e.
- Ground Control is certified to the ISO: 14001 recognising our commitment to reducing our environmental impact, achieving our environmental objectives, and fulfilling our compliance obligations. We are also working towards continually improving our operations following the plan, do, check, act cycle.
- We have committed to install of 10,000 Electric Vehicle chargers for our customers by 2025 and are part of 'EV100'; a global initiative to bring together forward-thinking companies committed to accelerating the country's transition to EVs.
- Ground Control is a Certified B Corporation, and we are members of the University of Cambridge Sustainable Leaders Group. These schemes pledge to work towards COP26 and the UK's Net Zero Carbon by 2050 target.
- As part of our submission to SBTi and continual process of improving our data accuracy, we have expanded our reporting across all 15 scope 3 categories as applicable and aligned our financial system to the EEIO carbon reporting categories.

Upcoming Carbon Reduction Initiatives:

- Ground Control are continually improving our environmental data collection to increase accuracy and move away from the EEIO carbon reporting for more detailed reporting of emissions by supplier, client, and operational field team.
- We aim to have sustainability and carbon reduction plans in place with all our Tier 1 suppliers by 2026.
- We are now implementing our Net Zero Strategy across the company including our buying standards and supply chain management to achieve our target for net zero carbon emissions by 2038.
- We are committed to our Ground Control 4x4 and commercial vehicle fleet transition to non-ICE by 2030.
- We are committed to 100% of our electric powered hand tools by 2026 where the technology is available. We will continue to collaborate with machinery manufacturers, including Mean Green, Stihl, Husqvarna, Makita, Honda, and Ego, to research, trial and implement the use of battery powered equipment and auto mowers.
- Ground Control are also exploring options to support our supply chain and Field Teams to transition to battery powered to reduce whole supply chain emissions.
- We will develop incentives and an educational/ communication programme to engage with colleagues and field teams to promote EVs, green tariffs and other energy savings.
- Our new Sustainability Committee with senior leaders in the business is set to drive the Environmental Strategy forward and improve governance.

Declaration and Sign Off

This Carbon Reduction Plan has been completed in accordance with PPN 06/21 and associated guidance and reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans.

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Emissions have been reported and recorded in accordance with the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the GHG Reporting Protocol corporate standard⁴ and uses the appropriate Government emission conversion factors for greenhouse gas company reporting⁵.

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) Standard⁶.

This Carbon Reduction Plan has been reviewed and signed off by the board of directors (or equivalent management body).

Signed on behalf of Ground Control:

Signature:



Jason Knights, Managing Director

Date: 12th January 2024

⁴ <https://ghgprotocol.org/corporate-standard>

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-conversion-factors-for-company-reporting>

⁶ <https://ghgprotocol.org/standards/scope-3-standard>

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