

Carbon Reduction Plan

Supplier name: RLink limited Trading as RHealthcare

Publication date: April 2024

Commitment to achieving Net Zero

RLink Limited trading as RHealthcare is committed to achieving Net Zero emissions by 2050.

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:2023	
Additional Details relating to the Baseline Emissions calculations.	
Emissions data had not been published in prior years. We design and develop our products in the UK but manufacture 99% of our products in China and the Far East. We selected 2023 as it was the first year we have been able to measure that was completely free of any significant impact from covid. It represented a full year as business as usual prior to learnings from the covid pandemic period during which we relearned some ways of managing the business using a lower carbon footprint which have and are being adopted throughout the business. The methodology of measuring our carbon footprint is in line with the Greenhouse Gas protocol and the BEIS Environmental Reporting Guidelines. The calculations were completed on the carbon Trust SME carbon footprint Calculator and using the Government emission factors where appropriate.	
Baseline year emissions:2023	
EMISSIONS	TOTAL (tCO₂e)
Scope 1	0.69
Scope 2	1.10

Scope 3 (Included Sources)	Total
	Transportation of purchased materials of goods. 92.04
	Waste 0
	<u>Business Travel</u>
	Road 21.98
	Air 15.99
	Employee Commuting 3.69
	Transportation Goods to Customers 76.45
Total Emissions	211.94

Current Emissions Reporting

Reporting Year: 2023	
EMISSIONS	TOTAL (tCO₂e)
Scope 1	0.69
Scope 2	1.10
Scope 3 (Included Sources)	210.15
Total Emissions	211.94

Emissions reduction targets

To progress to achieving Net Zero from the base year in we adopted the following carbon reduction target.

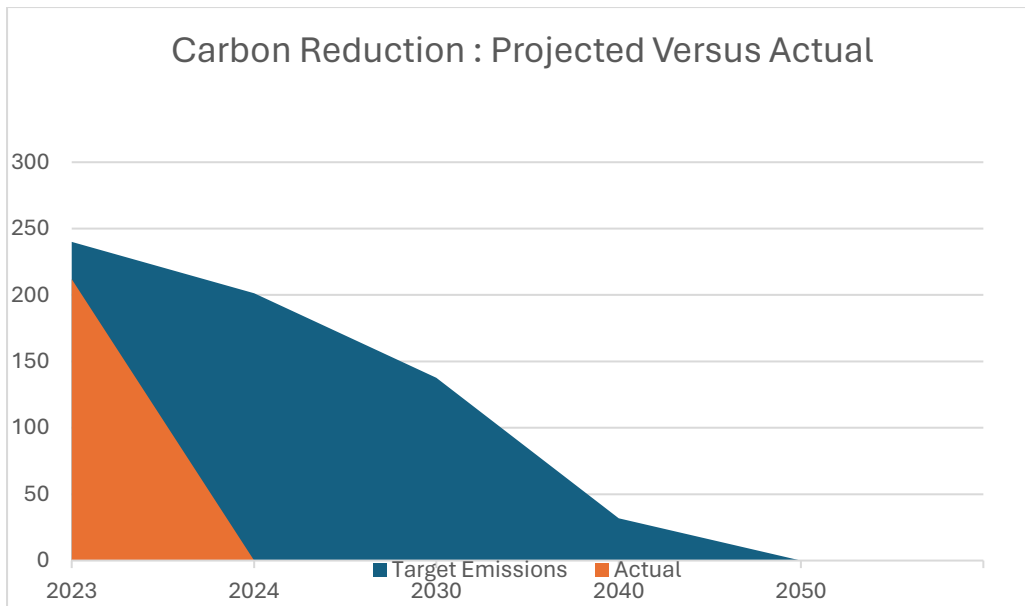
We are targeting carbon emissions will decrease over the next 26 years for scope 1, 2 and the current reportable elements of Scope 3 by a minimum of 5% per annum

We aim to go beyond the Scope 3 current reporting, and we plan to measure the carbon emissions related to products sold and their end of life. Our goal is to re-engineer our products such that they can be recycled more fully at end of life and that they are designed with more environmentally friendly materials with lower carbon emissions. Our goal is to be net zero carbon for the current reportable elements as well as for the carbon emissions in the production of products supplied.

We project that carbon emissions will decrease over the next five years to 158.96 tCO₂e by 2031. This is a reduction of 25%.

It is envisaged that carbon offsetting or technology such as carbon capture and storage will be deployed to achieve the difference between actual and net zero carbon as well as actions detailed below to reduce emissions.

Progress against these targets will be seen in the graph below and projections to 2050.



Please note one data point in graph so actual is not zero in 2024

Carbon Reduction Projects

Completed / Ongoing Carbon Reduction Initiatives

Most of the reductions have been down to learnings from the covid pandemic. During that period, we learned from pandemic working practices and adopted IT technology that enabled the main staff to manage their roles based at home, which reduced the commuting requirements.

We have wherever possible looked back at changes made to carbon emissions because of changes in business practices, such as an increase in telephone and video meetings, and estimated the change in emissions.

Carbon reduction projects have included:

- IT software changes to enable home working from 22 to 23 has resulted in a 44% reduction in emissions.

- Switched to cloud-based servers from a local office-based server – less energy

- Extended use of Video Conferencing to reduce travel to meetings for staff and customer meetings has resulted in a 3.5% reduction in overall road travel and a 19.9 T/Co2 reduction in flights since 2019.

Working with suppliers and customers to reduce carbon footprint. Reducing frequency of deliveries inbound and outbound consolidating wherever possible and reducing airfreight.

Installation of low energy lighting in offices

Review and reduction where possible of single use plastic packaging from our products.

Reduced use of paper by using electronic invoices and proof of deliveries.

Switching office coffee maker to bean rather than pods.

Kept office furniture for over 12 years and ongoing rather than renew

Use of Environmentally friendly kitchen cleaning and office cleaning products

Developed a carbon reduction plan that is reviewed monthly by the management team.

Extended use of IT equipment to a minimum of 5 years with a repair and refurbish policy.

Worked with our landlord to reduce energy usage on LED bulbs and reduced heating.

Changed highest business travel users to lower emission vehicles with a plan to migrate to EV's as early as possible but with a deadline of 2030.

Reduced business air travel since 2019 where air travel in 2019 was 16 short haul flights – less than 3 hours and 7 long haul flights to 2023 to 4 short haul flights and 7 long haul flights.

We have access to a Dashboard from our inbound logistics provider and are aware of our carbon footprint by mode of transport and country to enable us to make smarter choices.

We have selected carriers that are committed to carbon reduction.

Staff have been recruited locally to manage functions that previously needed extensive travel to site. The plan going forward is that local staff will Undertake these functions to reduce travel for staff based long distances away from the office.

Energy Efficiency:

- Objective: Reduce energy consumption by 30% across all facilities by January 2023.
- Strategy: Implement energy-saving measures such as LED lighting, energy-efficient heating systems and reducing the number of lights units per fitting by 50% . Perform energy audits to identify and address inefficiencies.

We have adopted work from home days as standard practice for several of our staff to reduce commuting.

90% of work meetings are now using video conferencing which corresponds to a reduction of 90% of previous face to meetings.

Employee Engagement and Remote Work

- Objective: Increase remote working opportunities to reduce commuting emissions by 20% by 2025.
- Strategy: Promote telecommuting and flexible schedules. Offer incentives for employees using public transportation, cycling, or walking. We will encourage car share for staff who live close to each other.

UK Logistics – Delivery of goods

We have increased stock levels, so orders are shipped 100% complete, avoiding secondary unnecessary shipments.

Major customers are utilising an unboxing service from us where products are delivered unboxed and in bulk to reduce shipments by making more efficient use of space on delivery vehicles. Boxes are recycled locally.

We have switched 50% of our company vehicles to lower emission vehicles and will switch 100% to EVs when suitable vehicles are available, and leases expire. We anticipate this will be within the next 6 years.

Lithium batteries used in Power Wheelchairs if they are returned to us and are end of life or beyond repair are disposed of via a recycler of these products.

Environmental standards – Speak to Matt 14001?

In the future we hope to implement further measures such as:

Analyse fully our carbon footprint Scope 1, 2 and the full reporting of all Scope 3 emissions by end of 2026.

The outcome of analysis we expect to see is that most of our carbon emissions are related to the goods we import / manufacture, the transportation of these goods to the UK warehouse and the logistics involved in despatch and their end-of-life treatment.

Eco-friendly Transportation:

Downstream- Internal UK/European Delivery

- Objective: Transition 50% of our delivery fleet to electric or hybrid vehicles by 2029.
- Strategy: Invest in electric vehicles (EVs) for local deliveries and explore hybrid options for longer distances. Optimize logistics to minimize travel distances and carbon emissions. Move all company vehicles to EV by 2029

Upstream - UK Bound Delivery

Work with shipping agents to ship goods in a more environmentally friendly way to reduce carbon involved in receiving goods. Once we have a full idea of options we will publish a target reduction.

We will work with our shipping agents to use more carbon efficient vessels, reduce air freight, and consolidate orders to reduce number of shipments.

Product Lifecycle Management:

- Objective: Fully Review each product and its lifecycle and design into the whole process recyclability and managed disposal to achieve a 50% reduction in carbon.
- Strategy: Design wheelchairs with recyclability in mind and establish partnerships for recycling and refurbishing used wheelchairs. Educate customers on the importance of managing end-of-life products appropriately.

Carbon Offsetting:

- Objective: Neutralize 100% of our unavoidable emissions by 2040.
- Strategy: Invest in certified carbon offset projects such as reforestation, renewable energy, and community-based sustainability initiatives.

Packaging:

- Objective: Achieve 100% recyclable, compostable, or reusable packaging by 2025 for products purchased post 2025.
- Strategy: Redesign packaging to minimize waste, using materials that are either recyclable or derived from renewable sources. Encourage suppliers to adopt similar practices.

Collaboration and Advocacy:

- Objective: Lead and participate in industry-wide initiatives to promote sustainability in the healthcare sector.
- Strategy: Engage with industry groups, non-profits, and governmental organizations to advocate for sustainable practices and policies. Share best practices and learn from peers.

Implementation Plan:

To ensure the successful implementation of this carbon reduction plan, we will establish a dedicated sustainability team responsible for overseeing and reporting on progress. This team will work closely with all departments to integrate sustainability practices into daily operations and long-term planning. Regular training sessions will be conducted to educate our employees on their role in achieving our sustainability goals.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Progress towards our objectives will be monitored through quarterly reviews and an annual audit. Adjustments to our strategies will be made as necessary to ensure we remain on track to meet our targets.

Conclusion:

Our commitment to reducing our carbon footprint reflects our dedication to sustainability and responsible business practices. By implementing this carbon reduction plan, we aim to not only minimize our environmental impact but also inspire action within our industry and beyond.

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.

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 (or equivalent management body).

Signed on behalf of the Supplier:

Alan Hill

General Manager

Date: 3/5/2024.....

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>