Problems Solved's Carbon Reduction Plan

Supplier Name: Problems Solved

Publication Date: 27 March 2024

Commitment to achieving Net Zero:

Problems Solved is committed to achieving Net Zero by 2050.

A) Directors Statement:

The proprietorship, leadership, and workforce of our enterprise hold a steadfast commitment to attaining Carbon Neutral status, aspiring towards Carbon Negative status before the midpoint of this century. This ambition necessitates a delicate equilibrium between business imperatives and our collective societal duties. Achieving environmental sustainability without compromising our financial viability is essential, ensuring continued provision of rewarding employment while safeguarding our planet.

Founded at the dawn of 2019, Problems Solved has been, from its inception, deeply influenced by our founder's Nordic heritage, championing the use of green energy where financially and operationally feasible to bolster our environmental principles.

With our ranks swelling from three at our inception to nearly thirty today, spanning full-time and flexible hours, our endeavour to minimise our planetary impact remains unwavering, striving for the smallest possible ecological footprint.

Our approach evolves continuously, informed by past corporate experiences and a foundational ethos, taking numerous strides towards sustainable operations while adhering to exemplary business practices:

1. Toward the end of 2019, we equipped the domicile of our proprietor, doubling as our head office, with solar panels, substantially curtailing our electrical consumption and solidifying our commitment to a reduced carbon footprint.
2. By mid-2023, our carbon emissions associated with office activities saw a significant reduction, thanks to the construction of an eco-friendly garden office in Chalfont St Giles. This wooden edifice, bearing the FSC seal of approval, now hosts our headquarters, featuring energy-efficient LED lighting, insulation, and solar-powered electric radiators.
3. Apart from this solitary office, our personnel operate remotely, a strategy that diminishes both operational costs and emissions linked to traditional office environments and their support systems.
4. This remote working arrangement not only fosters a superior work-life balance but also eliminates commuting-related emissions.
5. As our operations expand globally, engaging with colleagues in the US, Europe, and India presents cultural and regulatory challenges. We are committed to aligning our international teams with our environmental objectives, encouraging them to measure and mitigate their carbon footprints in collaboration with us.

6. Our policy eschews company cars and allowances in favour of an ambitious plan to adopt electric vehicles powered by surplus solar energy by 2025, further reducing our dependence on greenhouse gas-emitting transport forms. These vehicles will also serve as mobile energy storage units, ensuring power availability during less sunny periods.

Our journey is a testament to blending ambition with responsibility, striving not only for corporate success but for a sustainable future for all.

B) Baseline Emissions Footprint.

Baseline Year: 2019/20	
Details supporting the Baseline Emission Calculations:	
During this reporting period a number of factors are to be considered, the private dwelling house was the primary location for the operation of the business with the garden office not yet built. COVID had begun to take effect and lockdowns had a deleterious effect on consumption whilst working from home and home schooling was the norm. Calculations have been made using the Carbon Trust's on line calculator tool for scope's 1 and 2, scope 3 measurements have been estimated utilising the GHG Protocol It should be noted that as Problems Solved matures our understanding of our value chain grows, even though our business is small, we do not produce anything, we do not import anything and we create little waste, we are aware of impact our decisions have in our broader value chain:	
Emissions	Total (tCO2e)
Scope 1.	1.313 This figure includes utilisation of the management teams cars during the early phases of the company's establishment.
Scope 2.	10.626 Despite solar panels being installed later in this year, this represents the running of a residential dwelling as it is not feasible to separate out the day to day operational business emissions form those of running a house.
Scope 3.	22.702 During this reporting period business travel was limited as the business was becoming established.
Total	34.641

C) Ongoing Emissions Footprint Report.

Reporting Year: 2020/21

Details supporting the ongoing Emission Calculations for this report and plan:

During this reporting period a number of factors are to be considered, the business was still operating from the family home and COVID lockdowns were taking full effect and had a deleterious effect on gas and electricity consumption but at the same time reducing business travel as online tools such as MS Teams, Zoom and Skype became the norm.

In order to maintain comparative integrity, calculations have been undertaken using the Carbon Trust's on line calculator tool for scope's 1 and 2, scope 3 measurements have been estimated utilising the GHG Protocol It should be noted that as Problems Solved matures our understanding of our value chain grows, even though our business is small, we do not produce anything, we do not import anything and we create little waste, we are aware of impact our decisions have in our broader value chain:

Emissions	Total (tCO2e)
Scope 1.	0.342 The over 70% reduction in emission creation is largely as a result of greatly reduced travel during COVID, whilst positive, this does create challenges for ongoing efforts to reduce our impact and our ability to provide meaningful comparative reporting.
Scope 2.	8.042 Whilst energy consumption increased during this reporting period as a result of the impact of COVID lockdowns and associated increased occupancy and activity during working hours in the domicile the impact of the solar panels taking effect with over 2 tCO2e reduction being achieved. See latest report at Annexe A as evidence.
Scope 3.	3.207 During this reporting period business travel was drastically reduced as a result of bans on all but essential travel and related activity.
Total	11.591

D) Ongoing Emissions Footprint Report.

Reporting Year: 2021/22
Details supporting the ongoing Emission Calculations for this report and plan:
As the impact of COVID lockdowns began to ease toward the midpoint of this reporting period so too emissions grew, making progress difficult to assess as Problems Solved both continued to grow whilst increasing travel activity, growing the company's emissions accordingly. In order to maintain comparative integrity, calculations have been undertaken using the Carbon Trust's on line calculator tool for scope's 1 and 2, scope 3 measurements have been estimated utilising the GHG Protocol It should be noted that as Problems Solved matures our understanding of our value chain grows, even though our business is small, we do not produce anything, we do not import anything and we create little waste, we are aware of impact our decisions have in our broader value chain:

Emissions	Total (tCO2e)
Scope 1.	1.102 As the year progressed travel activity increased in line with travel restrictions being eased. However it is almost certain that this year's reporting is not representative of normal operational activity.
Scope 2.	9.117 Broadly consumption maintained at similar levels to that experienced previously, likely increased by greater activity and possibly climactic impacts.
Scope 3.	13.207 Business travel exceeded figures recorded during the establishment of the company, it is likely that this trend will continue as the company continues to grow and international business opportunities are pursued.
Total	23.426

This report is completed in line with the guidance provided in PPN 0621. Link to Government guidance on technical standard for CRP:
PPN_0621_Technical_standard_for_the_Completion_of_Carbon_Reduction_Plans__2_.pdf (publishing.service.gov.uk)

At the time of updating this report the full years figures for 2022/2023 have not yet been finalised. We are anticipating that the move to the dedicated office will have greatly reduced the carbon footprint of our company, allowing us to measure actual business related emissions not those of the founder's domicile.

E) Carbon Reduction Plans:

For a consultancy keen on refining its carbon footprint in line with UK government procurement requirements, while also preparing for a future shift to Spain, a pragmatic carbon reduction plan is paramount. With a geographically dispersed team across the UK, USA, Europe, and India, the task requires meticulous planning and innovative thinking. Here are key strategies that could form the backbone of such a plan:

1. **Enhance Remote Working Infrastructure:** Capitalise on the firm's distributed nature to minimise office space requirements and associated energy consumption. Invest in cloud-based solutions and virtual collaboration tools to streamline operations and reduce the necessity for physical documents and hardware.

2. **Green IT Policy:** Implement a policy for purchasing energy-efficient devices and encourage the adoption of renewable energy by remote workers, possibly through subsidies or partnerships with green energy providers. This includes transitioning to servers hosted in green data centres for company operations. It should be noted that this plan is already, in part being implemented having recently moved the company's on premise IT infrastructure to a centralised data centre provider, certified to ISO27001, powered by 100% renewable energy from offshore wind and biofuel, proof that Problems Solved is already moving ahead with the plans laid out here.

3. **Travel Policy Overhaul:** Introduce a stringent policy prioritising virtual meetings over travel. When travel is unavoidable, opt for rail over air where feasible, particularly in Europe, and offset carbon emissions for essential flights by investing in certified carbon offset projects. Largely already implemented we will take time to evolve this in order we can cost in carbon offset in our ticket price and encourage our customers to participate in supporting us with this policy.

4. **Sustainable Procurement:** Align procurement policies with environmental sustainability, prioritising suppliers who demonstrate strong carbon reduction practices and sourcing products with minimal environmental impact.

5. **Employee Engagement and Education:** Develop a program to engage employees in the company's carbon reduction goals, including training on reducing personal carbon footprints and incentivising green practices at home.

6. **Waste Reduction Initiatives:** Establish clear guidelines to minimise waste, promoting recycling and the reduction of single-use plastics within the organisation. Consider the introduction of a composting solution for any company facilities.

7. **Transition to a Green Fleet:** For any essential company vehicles, commit to transitioning to electric or hybrid models by a set date and explore offering charging facilities at company premises as we highlighted we would do earlier in this document, aiming for a 2025 implementation target.

8. **Monitor and Report:** Regularly monitor, audit, and report carbon emissions to track progress against targets, using this data to refine strategies and practices continuously.

9. **Spain Relocation as a Catalyst for Change:** Leverage the planned move to Spain to reassess and potentially redesign operational and organisational practices for enhanced sustainability. Spain's ambitious renewable energy targets and supportive regulatory environment offer a unique opportunity to embed renewable energy practices into the new office design and operations.

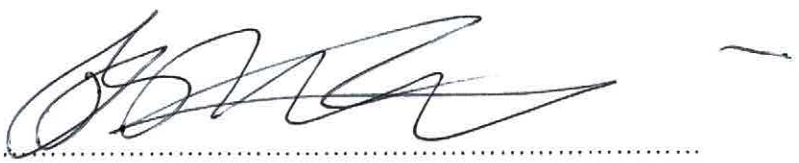
10. **Collaboration and Partnerships:** Engage with local environmental groups and businesses in all operational regions to share best practices and collaborate on community-based sustainability projects.

This plan, while ambitious, aligns with the broader global push towards sustainability and meets the UK government's procurement expectations for carbon reduction. It positions the consultancy not just as a business leader but as a forward-thinking entity committed to making a positive impact on the planet.

F) Declaration and Sign Off:

This Carbon Reduction Plan adheres strictly to the directives of PPN 06/21, incorporating its guidelines and the established standards for reporting on carbon reduction. We've meticulously documented our emissions in line with the recognised reporting standards for Carbon Reduction Plans, employing the GHG Reporting Protocol corporate standard, and utilising the official Government emission conversion factors designated for corporate greenhouse gas reporting.

Our disclosures of Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions comply with SECR stipulations, while a specific segment of Scope 3 emissions has been documented as per the standards outlined for Carbon Reduction Plans and the Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Standard. The board of directors, or its equivalent management entity, has thoroughly reviewed and endorsed this Carbon Reduction Plan.



Signed by Managing Director and Founder

Dawn Rasmussen

27th March 2024

Annexe A: Example reporting detailing Solar Panel installation impact:

