

Environmental report

Environmental report

The Group keeps the environmental impact of our activities under review in order to improve resource efficiency and reduce waste. As a part of the Group's commitment to minimising the impact of its business operations on the environment, we work with our suppliers, customers, and communities to improve standards of environmental protection.

Performance – energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) reporting

Cohort reports our environmental performance in accordance with the UK Government's Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting Guidance (SECR) as required under the Companies (Directors' Report) and Limited Liability Partnerships (Energy and Carbon Report) Regulations 2018.

The GHG emissions have been assessed independently by Carbon Footprint Ltd following the ISO 14064-1:2018 standard using the 2020 emission conversion factors published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy. The financial control approach has been used for the assessment with the location-based approach used for assessing Scope 2 emissions from electricity usage. The Cohort Group has seven entities in our financial statements, five of which have been included in the assessment. Our European subsidiaries (EID and ELAC Sonar) have not been included.

The 2019/20 financial year was the first year that the Group reported under SECR on the emission sources of UK entities that fall within its consolidated financial statements, and this forms the baseline for our GHG emissions.

The table below summarises our GHG emissions for the reporting year 1 May 2020 to 30 April 2021.

Scope	Activity	2019/20 Tonnes CO ₂ e	2020/21 Tonnes CO ₂ e
Scope 1	Site gas	167.32 ¹	143.50
	Van travel and distribution	67.19	69.47
	Company car travel	70.63	50.29
	Site gas oil	38.74	6.89
	Refrigeration & A/C	0.84	0.00
Scope 1 Subtotal		344.71	270.15
Scope 2		536.47	429.87
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Scope 3	Flights	1,725.18	90.86
	Employee-owned car travel (grey fleet)	138.24	70.54
	Electricity transmission & distribution	45.55	36.97
	Hire cars	39.60	14.56
	Rail travel	23.08	1.02
	Taxi travel	4.88	0.94
	Bus travel	<0.01	0.00
Scope 3 Subtotal		1,976.52	214.88
Total tonnes of CO₂e		2,857.71	914.90
Tonnes of CO₂e per employee (all scopes)		4.45	1.52
Tonnes of CO₂e per £m turnover (all scopes)		23.58	6.40
Total energy consumption (kWh)²		3,791,999	3,467,995

1. Gas emissions have been adjusted to reflect improvement in data accuracy.

2. Total energy consumption includes electricity, gas and Company owned vehicles (Scope 1 and 2).

Over the assessment period, Scope 3 emissions have reduced dramatically. This is mainly due to a reduction in flights as COVID-19 restrictions limited air travel. Whilst Cohort expects some international travel to resume when restrictions are lifted, we will also continue to use virtual meetings where appropriate.

Environmental report continued

Environmental incidents

There have been no internal or external environmental incidents throughout this reporting period at any of our locations. Relevant staff receive training updates to enable them to effectively manage such events if they occur.

ISO14001

SEA already has ISO14001 accreditation and four of our remaining five subsidiaries are in the process of evaluating or working towards this accreditation.

Environmental initiatives

The subsidiaries of the Cohort Group have implemented a range of energy reduction measures; for example, SEA has replaced several 20-year-old boilers across its Bristol and Beckington sites, which will significantly improve heating efficiency, and projects have commenced on many sites to replace all lighting with energy efficient LED lighting.

Several of our subsidiaries have joined an electric car scheme enabling employees to purchase or lease an electric vehicle through salary sacrifice. Cycle to work schemes have also been instigated.

MCL is in the process of implementing a new Environmental Management System to ensure it is regularly reviewing its carbon emissions and continuously aiming to reduce this.

Waste and recycling

Recycling initiatives are in place at the majority of our sites including waste stream separation at source across sites. SEA has become a “zero to landfill” business; when equipment is at end of life it is recycled appropriately, and any new equipment sourced is assessed to ensure it is more energy efficient.

Looking forward

Our UK subsidiaries are in the process of preparing carbon reduction plans to achieve net zero by 2050.

SEA's nature garden

A nature garden has been established at SEA's Beckington site which allows local schools to access a green area for nature education and also provides a green space for staff to enjoy in their lunch breaks. The garden was created in a field adjacent to the site and was converted by staff and their families to include a large pond, bug house and seating area for school groups to use.