

CYNNAL CYMRU - SUSTAIN WALES CARBON REPORT

2019 - 2023



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About us

Cynnal Cymru - Sustain Wales is the leading sustainable development organisation in Wales. Our work enables action towards a fair and just society, a low carbon economy and a natural thriving environment. With our charitable aims at our core, we provide advice, training and connections to help organisations take bold decisions for a fairer and more secure future.



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Our report

At Cynnal Cymru, we are continually working to reduce our impact on the environment as much as possible. The following report by Dr Karolina Rucinska documents our impact on climate change since 2019 and the steps that we are taking to change this.

Our goal

We are committed to reaching real Net Zero by 2050. This deadline might seem a long way ahead, but we recognise that in order to reduce our emissions, we need to focus on bringing down our footprint through reductions rather than offsetting. Given that we have limited control over our supply chain and that low carbon solutions or products are not always available, we also know that it will take time to decarbonise our Scope 3 emissions.

Based on science-based targets (in line with 1.5 degrees) we previously set our target emissions for 2025 at 5.74tCO₂e. We are thrilled to announce that we have achieved our emissions target two years ahead of schedule!

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shwmae@cynnalcymru.com



Our carbon footprint

Total carbon footprint (2023)

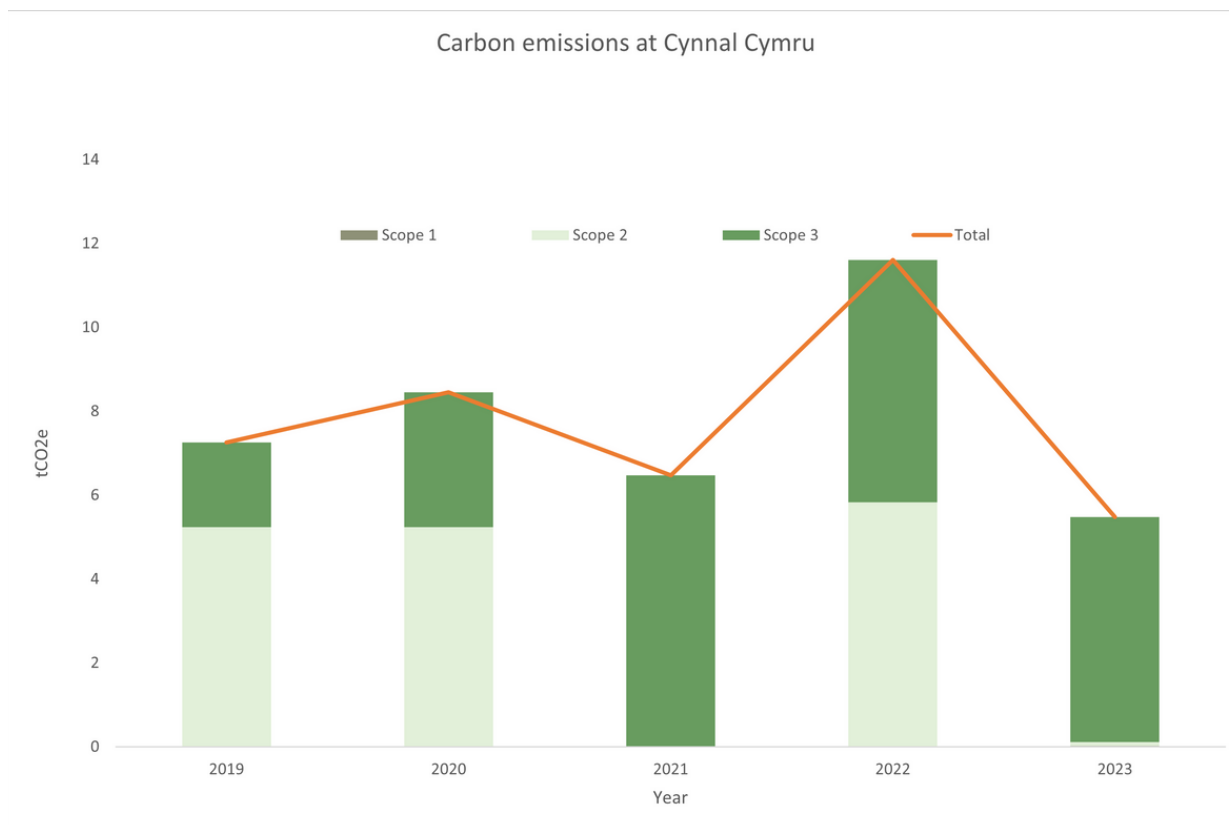
5.48 tCO₂e (metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions) across a reporting period from April 2022 - April 2023.

Average footprint per employee

Within our reporting period (April 2022 - April 2023), Cynnal Cymru - Sustain Wales had ten FTE (Full Time Equivalent) employees, making our average footprint per employee: 0.53 tCO₂e.

Breakdown

These statistics track our scope emissions from 2019 to 2023.



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Our carbon footprint

How do the statistics for 2023 compare with previous years?

Our emissions had increased steadily throughout the 2019 - 2022 reporting period due to three key factors:

- We increased our staff count from four in 2019 (our baseline) to five in 2020, then six in 2021, eight in 2022 and ten in 2023.
- We moved to a co-working space.
- We changed our work by transitioning into complete remote working during 2020 and then into our current hybrid model, reducing our emissions from the staff commute.

Our 2023 emissions, however, have shown a significant reduction, and we have reached our lowest total emissions since we started reporting! This is primarily due to having more detailed data, which has allowed us to make informed decisions and take action to reduce our carbon footprint.

One of the most significant changes we have made was switching to a co-working space in 2022, which has reduced our emissions significantly compared to the large spaces we used to rent.

Despite these efforts, we still need help in reducing our scope 3 emissions. Although we now primarily work from home, we have found that our emissions are now highest in homeworking. However, having more accurate data has given us more insight into these challenges, allowing us to identify areas where we can improve further.

As a small organisation, we are committed to operating ethically and sustainably. We have clear policies regarding business travel and purchasing, which have helped to reduce our emissions. However, we acknowledge that there is still more work to be done, and we remain committed to finding new ways to reduce our carbon footprint and operate sustainably. Therefore, we will continue to use the data we have captured about our own emissions to accelerate our actions and reduce our real net zero timeline.

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What are scope emissions?

Emission Scopes

The GHG Protocol has defined three scopes of emissions. The scopes correlate to who 'owns' those emissions and the level of control applicable to changing those emission levels at each stage.

These definitions were taken from the British Antarctic Survey Nature Environment Research Council's 'Sustainability Words and Phrases Definitions'.

[This diagram from the National Grid](#) exploring their different scope emissions is a good example of how direct and indirect emissions can occur both upstream and downstream in an organisation's supply chain.

Scope 1

Scope 1 emissions refer to the Green House Gas (GHG) emissions that we make directly as an organisation. This could include emissions from company vehicles or from hosting events.

Scope 2

Scope 2 emissions are those that we make indirectly from the generation of purchased energy, such as those produced from the energy or electricity an organisation buys to heat or cool a building.

Scope 3

Scope 3 emissions are all the indirect emissions that an organisation is responsible for, up and down its value chain. For example, the emissions caused by the products that it purchases from a supplier, as all those produced by customers using or disposing of the organisations own products.

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Our carbon plan

Our goal

Our goal to reach net zero by 2050 will be informed by science-based targets, in line with the 1.5 degree guidelines provided by SBTi.

What are science-based targets?

Science-based targets are goals that an organisation sets to guide its journey to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the scale of reductions research has demonstrated is required to keep global warming below 2C from pre-industrial levels.

Why are science-based targets important?

As [this article from Edie](#) explains, 'Using science-based targets to reduce emissions in line with the 'level of decarbonisation required to keep global temperature increase below 2C is seen as a critical step in the low-carbon transition.' This is particularly necessary with the enforcement of global frameworks, including the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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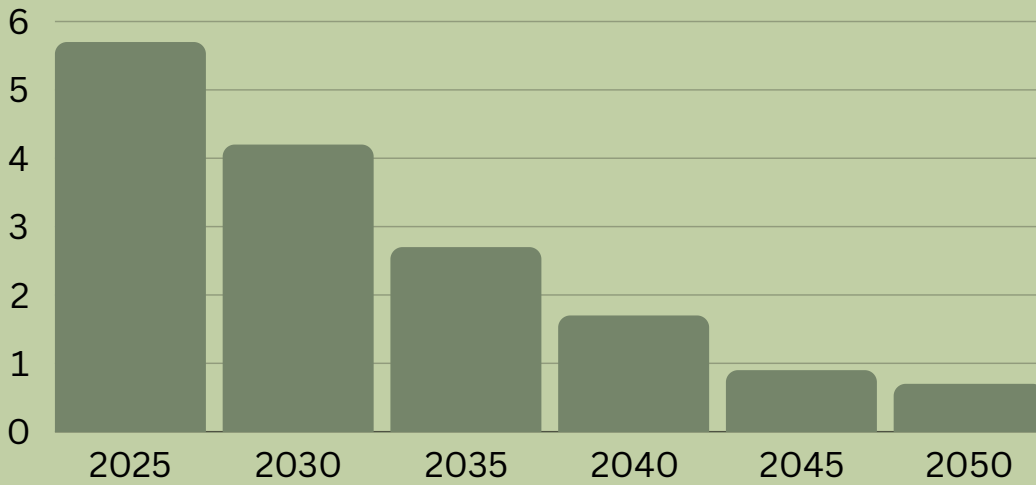


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Our carbon plan

Our targets



What are these targets informed by?

Based on SBTi's recommendations, these targets account for:

- a 21% reduction in Scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions by 2025
- a 42% reduction in Scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions by 2030
- a 63% reduction in Scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions by 2035
- real net zero emissions by 2050

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Our carbon plan

Scope 1 & 2 emissions

Cynnal Cymru office:

- Engaging with the management team at our shared office space to promote the use of renewable energy in the building;
- Being mindful of generating and correctly disposing of waste, and reporting any leaks, faulty taps, switches or equipment that may contribute to unnecessary water or energy use;
- Work to model responsible, carbon-literate office behaviour.

Home offices:

- Providing regular, up-to-date advice on sustainable home working practices;
- Keeping our home offices as low-energy as possible, limiting unnecessary lights and gadgets.

Scope 3 emissions

Electronic equipment:

- Buying only what is necessary for staff to work effectively and seeking out repair options for any damaged or faulty equipment;

IT services and software:

- Always taking the environmental impact of suppliers into consideration before using their services.

Business travel and hotel stays:

- Following a low-carbon travel hierarchy wherever possible, based on active travel first, public transport second, and electric car club vehicle hire third, before use of own or non-electric vehicles;
- we have a no-domestic flights policy and we do not fly internationally.
- Encouraging use of a 'Friends and Family' policy for overnight stays, in line with HMRC guidelines, which is often less carbon-heavy than stays in hotels;
- Operating from a building that offers bicycle storage, and reimbursing bike mileage for business trips.

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Our carbon plan

Paper and plastic purchases:

- Keeping operations digital.
- Foregoing unnecessary promotional materials;
- Seeking out responsibly sourced materials from sustainability-committed suppliers;
- Reusing products instead of buying new;
- Operating a low-carbon catering policy.

General waste:

- Applying a 'reducing and reusing' policy before recycling;
- Ensuring that reusable bowls and plates are available to cut out single-used options;
- Encouraging our office provider to introduce reusable options and wider recycling services.

Website:

- Maximising the energy efficiency of our website - keeping things concise, optimising images and fonts, and staying up to date with the efficiency of our hosts and servers, applying pressure on these organisations to change where necessary.

Deliveries:

- Seeking out green delivery options such as electric vehicles or bikes or collection hubs to reduce 'last mile' emissions.

Previous reports

- [Cynnal Cymru Carbon Report 2019 - 2022](#)

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Get in contact



<https://cynnalcymru.com/>



Sbarc|Spark, Maindy Road, Cardiff,
CF24 4HQ



shwmae@cynnalcymru.com



029 2294 0810



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