INSPIRED PLC

Carbon Reduction Plan

QA

2024

Contents

Overview

QA aims to achieve net-zero Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2035, and net-zero Scope 3 emissions by 2040 from an FY19-20 base year.

Document Purpose

Our reduction plan is presented in response to the recent Procurement Policy Note (PPN) 06/21 and provides transparency and demonstrates our progress towards building a robust carbon reduction programme.

To achieve net-zero we are aiming for an at least 90% reduction in absolute emissions compared to our base year – any residual emissions will be offset with carbon sequestration offsets, as per the Science-Based Targets Initiative's Net-Zero Standard guidance.

Our Scope 2 emission target will be reported using a market-based methodology.

QA plans to have its Science-aligned near-term and net-zero targets validated by the Science-Based Target Initiative.

Short-term Targets

On the journey to net-zero, QA commits to the following Science-aligned near-term targets:

QA commits to reduce Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 68.8% by 2030 from an FY19-20 base year.

QA also commits to reduce Scope 3 emissions 42.3% by 2030 from an FY19-20 base year.

Baseline Emissions

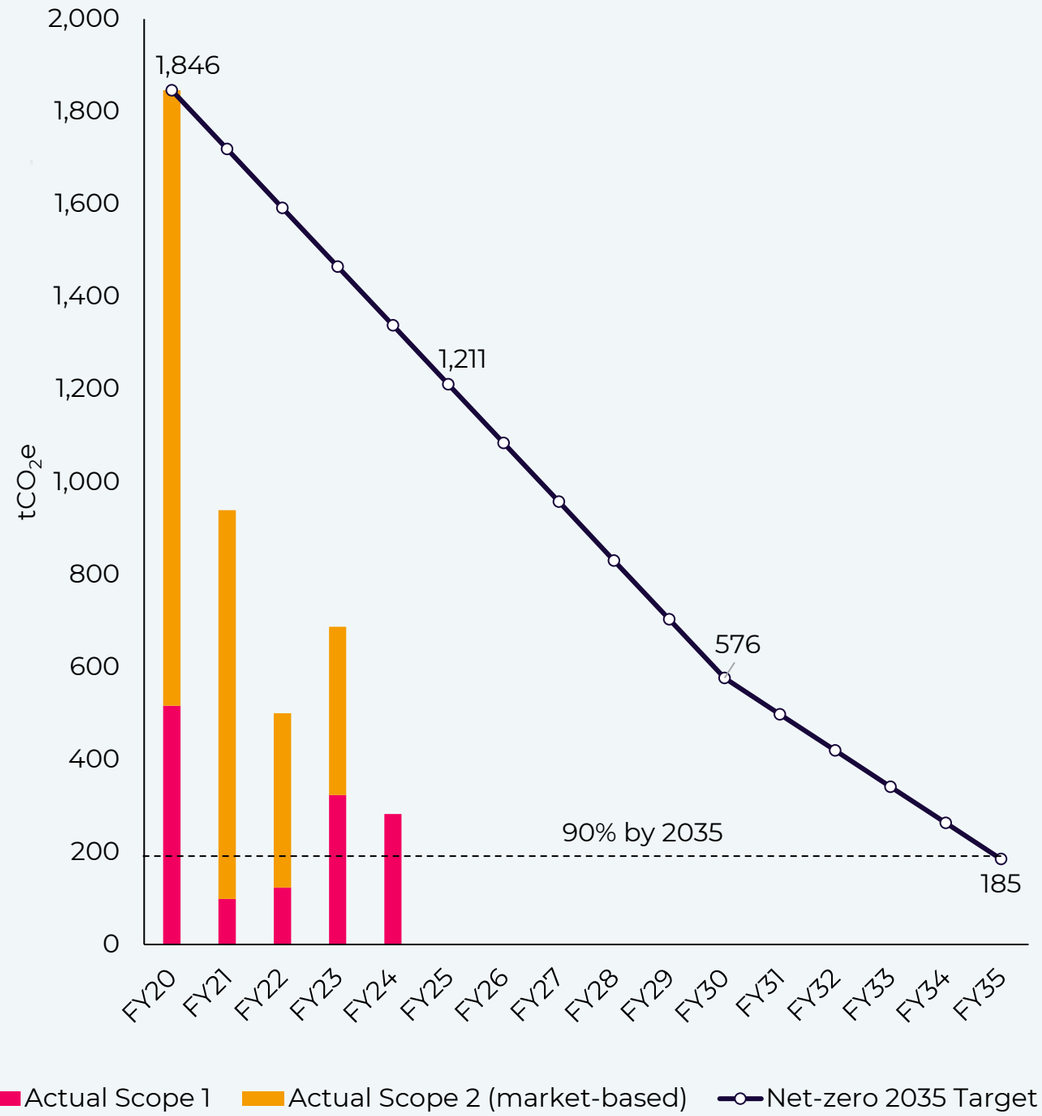
Scope 1, 2 and 3 – FY19-20 (1st June 2019 – 31st May 2020)		
Additional Details relating to the Baseline Emissions calculations.		
The GHG emissions scope boundary, used to establish our FY19-20 baseline, was determined via an operational control model following the GHG protocol. The baseline includes all Scope 1 and 2 emissions in accordance with SECR requirements; however, it excludes company cars which were removed from operation in FY19-20. These company cars have been excluded from our baseline emissions as their removal would artificially cause our emissions to decrease in FY20-21 onwards. All our office space, whether leased or owned has been included in our Scope 1 and 2 emissions, rather than Scope 3 Category 8 Upstream Leased Assets. Scope 3 emissions have been calculated as per the Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Standard Guidance.		
Emissions	Source	tCO_2e
Scope 1	Direct	146
Scope 2	Indirect	1,330 (market-based)
Scope 3	Total Value Chain	16,475
	1: Purchased Goods and Services	10,012
	2. Capital goods	3,395
	3. Fuel-related emissions	388
	4. Upstream Transportation and Distribution	34
	5. Waste generated in operations	147
	6. Business travel	1,118
	7. Employee commuting	1,381
	8. Upstream leased assets	N/A (all leased offices included in Scope 1 and 2)
	9. Downstream Transportation and Distribution	N/A (no products sold)
	10. Processing of sold products	N/A (no products sold)
	11. Use of sold products	N/A (no products sold)
	12. End-of-life treatment of sold products	N/A (no products sold)
	13. Downstream leased assets	N/A (no downstream leased assets)
	14. Franchises	N/A (no franchises)
	15. Investments	N/A (no investments)
Total Emissions		17,951 tCO_2e (market-based)

FY23-24 Emissions

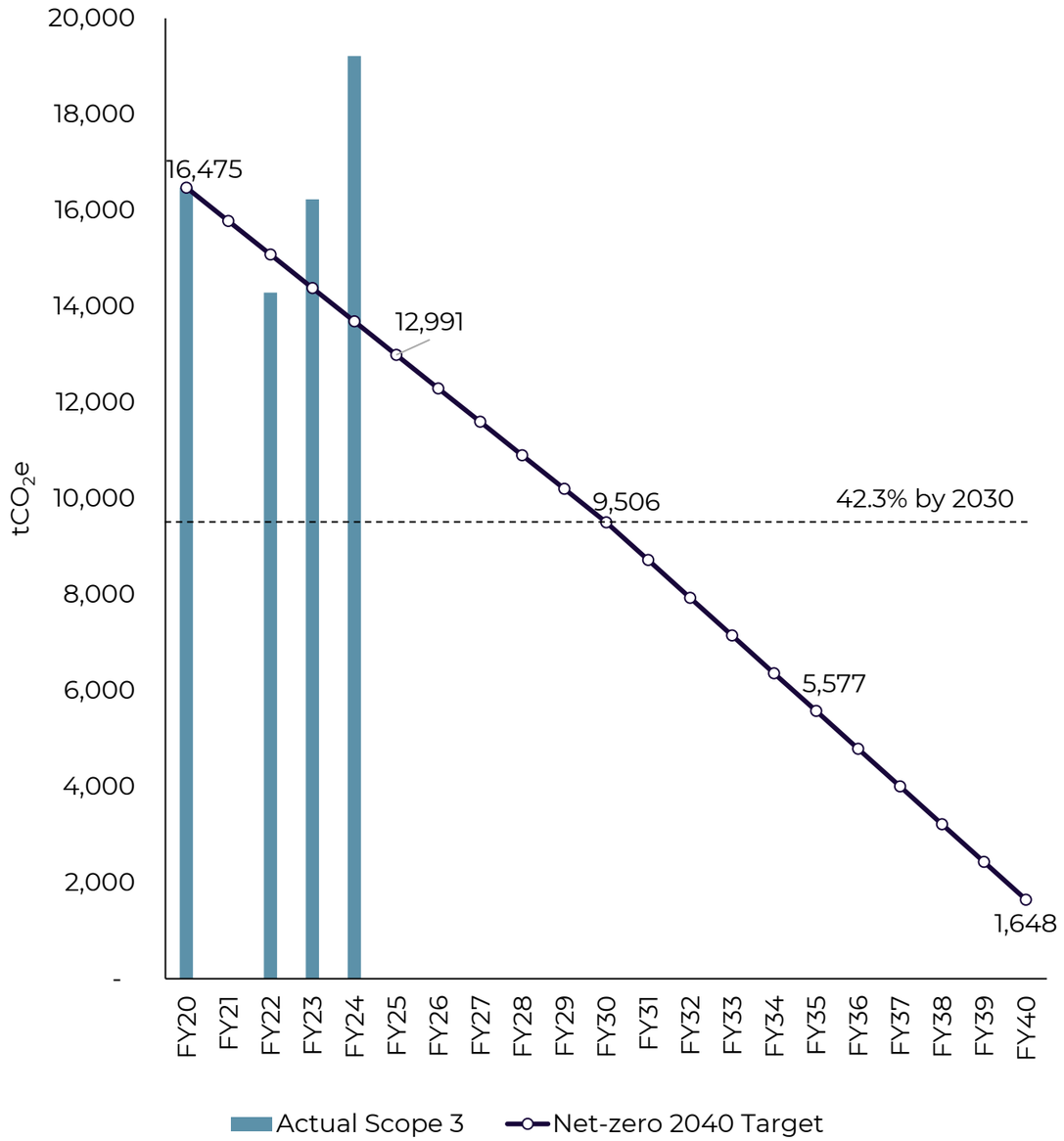
Scope 1, 2 and 3 – FY23-24 (1st June 2023 – 31st May 2024)		
Additional Details relating to the FY23-24 emissions calculations.		
The GHG emissions scope boundary, used to calculate our FY23-24 emissions, was determined via an operational control model following the GHG protocol. This includes all Scope 1 and 2 emissions in accordance with SECR requirements. Scope 3 emissions have been calculated as per the Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Standard Guidance.		
Emissions	Source	tCO_2e
Scope 1	Direct	282
Scope 2	Indirect	0 (market-based)
Scope 3	Total Value Chain	19,214
	1: Purchased Goods and Services	13,086
	2. Capital goods	2,620
	3. Fuel-related emissions	179
	4. Upstream Transportation and Distribution	52
	5. Waste generated in operations	71
	6. Business travel	896
	7. Employee commuting	2,034
	8. Upstream leased assets	276
	9. Downstream Transportation and Distribution	N/A (no products sold)
	10. Processing of sold products	N/A (no products sold)
	11. Use of sold products	N/A (no products sold)
	12. End-of-life treatment of sold products	N/A (no products sold)
	13. Downstream leased assets	N/A (no downstream leased assets)
	14. Franchises	N/A (no franchises)
	15. Investments	N/A (no investments)
Total Emissions		19,496 (market-based)

Near-term Emission Reduction Targets

Reduce Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 68.8% by 2030 from an FY19/20 base year. An 84.7% reduction has been achieved to date, meeting the target six years early. QA commits to reach net-zero Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2035.



Reduce Scope 3 emissions by 42.3% by 2030 from an FY19/20 base year. A 16.6% increase has been seen to date, driven by business growth. QA commits to reach net-zero Scope 3 emissions by 2040.



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Carbon Reduction Projects

Completed Carbon Reduction Initiatives

Office Consolidation
We have continued to reduce our office space across the business, consolidating office teams across locations and ensuring that any new facilities are based in city centres with good public transport links, reducing grey fleet mileage. The square footage of our total floor space has been reduced from 325,000 to 295,000.

Virtual Course Delivery
We continue to drive virtual course delivery as it is more cost and carbon-efficient than face-to-face delivery. This allows us to reduce the number of physical training rooms across the business. We have also invested in a dedicated studio within the existing office footprint rather than hiring external studios to support growing our digital delivery.

Renewable Electricity Contract
QA Limited switched to procuring 100% renewable electricity at all sites. This has reduced market-based Scope 2 emissions to zero.

Supplier Initiative
All new suppliers and tenders now strongly emphasise environmental controls in the business. This can be highlighted by the new contract awarded to our national contract cleaning supplier, which offered the least carbon emissions omitted in the contract terms by reducing chemical cleaning products. Packaging and consumables are now all recyclable items, and deliveries are made through electric vans.
Also, with the support of our wastepaper removal company, we recycled a significant amount of paper, which has resulted in:
- 119 trees saved from being felled
- 29,500 kWh of energy saved
- 225,000 litres of water saved
- 4,207 kg of CO2e saved

Re-Use and Recycling
As we reduce the number of training centres, we proactively recycle all equipment, IT, and furniture across the business rather than buying new equipment. In FY24, we equipped our new training facility, Louisa Ryland House in Birmingham, with existing equipment worth £250,000 and approximately £60,000 worth of IT equipment if bought new. Also, we donated approximately £3,000 of equipment to Sistema Charity during the closure of our Edinburgh Office. As well as small donations to schools and other charities, our most significant donation was in conjunction with the Trio Foundation to support schools and hospitals in Ghana. By sponsoring a container containing 200 Reconditioned PCs, Laptops, Tablets and Mobile Phones, as well as classroom furniture and hospital incubators, we have saved equipment being sent to landfill and increased access to education in Ghana.

Identified opportunities for implementation

Office Consolidation
In FY25, we will continue to close sites to reduce our overall footprint and increase efficiency. For example, further reductions are planned for Birmingham and Slough. Where new space or buildings may be acquired, we will aim to lease only highly efficient buildings, including those with BREEAM certification.

I: Declaration & 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 standard[5] and uses the appropriate Government emission conversion factors for greenhouse gas company reporting[6].

Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions have been reported in accordance with SECR requirements, and Scope 3 emissions have been reported in accordance with the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Standard[7].

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:

Name: Philip Young

Role: General Counsel

Signature: 

Date: 05/03/2025

II: Reporting Methodology

Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions have been calculated according to the 2019 UK Government environmental reporting guidance. Consistent with the guidance, relevant emissions factors published in the UK Government's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) "Greenhouse gas reporting: conversion factors" database-specific reporting year have been used. The CO_2 equivalent conversion factor has been used throughout and, where applicable, the kWh gross calorific value (CV) was used.

Scope 1 and 2 emissions have been calculated using both a location-based and market-based approach:

- Location-Based: This method calculates emissions associated with fuel and electricity consumption by using UK average emissions intensities. BEIS provides UK emissions factors for fuel and grid electricity annually, which are used in location-based reporting.

- Market-Based: This method calculates emissions associated with fuel and electricity consumption by using contract-specific emissions intensities. Market-based reporting enables companies that purchase lower carbon fuel and electricity to demonstrate the benefit of their investment.

Transport-related emissions from fuel combustion were calculated using the BEIS "Greenhouse gas reporting: conversion factors" database.
Scope 3 emissions have been calculated based on the guidance in the Greenhouse Gas Protocol "Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Standard".

For all operations, applicable Scope 3 categories were identified based on an operational control boundary. Scope 3 emissions for applicable categories were calculated following methodologies outlined in the GHG Protocol "Technical Guidance for Calculating Scope 3 Emissions", with further guidance taken from the GHG Protocol's detailed methodology chapters for each applicable Scope 3 category.

Most conversion factors were sourced from the BEIS Greenhouse gas reporting: conversion factors, v1.0 2024 database. Where a spend-based approach was used, as per the GHG Protocol guidance, conversion factors were taken from the University of Leeds and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' UK Footprint Results (1990 – 2018)' study or the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' Indirect emissions for the supply chain' database. Scope 3 emissions include Well to Tank and T&D losses.

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