



VLAZE

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FAIR TRADE FRESIDE

AJ Wells & Sons Limited

SUSTAINABILITY PROGRESS REPORT

20

24



A.J WELLS & SONS LTD

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Summary

INTRODUCTION

A British based company that is passionate about the environment and sustainability.

A.J Wells & Sons Ltd is a privately-owned, family-run engineering business on the Isle of Wight. Founded in 1972, by Alfred J Wells and his two sons, sustainability and environmental considerations were at the forefront of their principles from the start. Amid an oil crisis and with Dutch Elm Disease prevalent, the 3 founders saw an opportunity to produce a small wood burning stove as an alternative way to help people heat their homes and directly reduce reliance on fossil fuels. As burning wood is also a carbon neutral heating option, by manufacturing advanced wood burning we are also helping our customers on their net zero journey too.

We pledged our commitment to Net Zero 2050 in 2021 and many of the projects we are involved in, especially for Transport for London require us to commit to reducing our environmental impact. In recognition of this and other achievements, we were awarded the Green Business of the Year Award by our local chamber of commerce.

We believe Net Zero 2050 is an inevitable step for all companies and we are committed to leading the way in a domain that we are passionate about. We will continue to analyse our approach and actively seek ways to improve the business's environmental credentials. Factoring in our interventions to date with our plans for the future, we are well placed to reach 'carbon-neutral' status before 2050.



CARBON EMISSIONS

We report on the environmentally impactful emissions across the company in terms of carbon emissions - or 'tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent' (tonnesCO₂e). In reality, not all environmental impacts will be due to CO₂ production, but to allow comparison, other emissions which also have a climate impact are converted to the equivalent CO₂ impact. These emissions are reported across 3 'Scopes'.

What are the carbon emission 'Scopes'?

Direct Emissions
(from on-site processes)

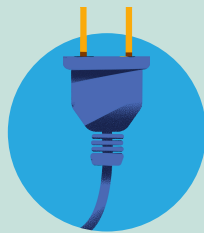
Scope 1
Burn



- Natural gas consumption (furnace and heating)
- Vehicle fuel usage (petrol/diesel)
- Fork-lift truck fuel usage (propane)

Indirect Emissions
(from on-site processes)

Scope 2
Buy



- Electricity consumption
- Electricity production from PV panels

Indirect Emissions
(from upstream/downstream processes)

Scope 3
Beyond



- Raw materials production
- Delivery & transportation
- Waste processing
- Business travel/commuting
- Distribution

THE FIGURES

July 2023-June 2024

6,284.57
Tonnes of CO₂e

Scope 3: Indirect production emissions, from factory to shelf

753.3

Tonnes of CO₂e

Scopes 1 & 2: Energy used and fuel consumption

CLIMATE FOOTPRINT

7,037.84

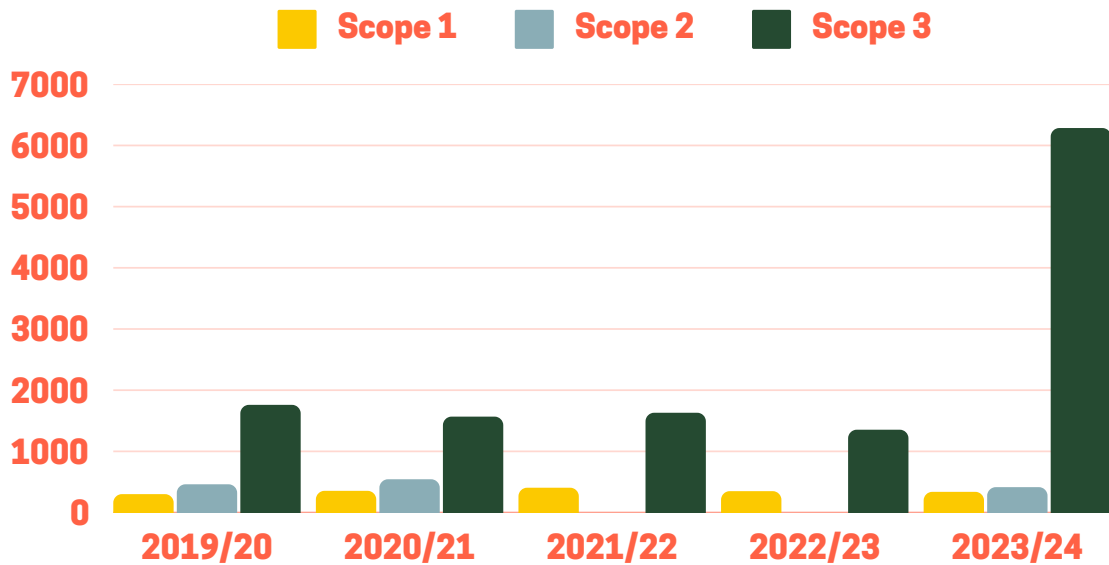
Tonnes of CO₂e

Total of all three scopes



PROGRESS OVER TIME

Carbon emissions within the 3 scopes are shown over the last 5 years:



WHAT'S GONE WRONG?

This looks like our emissions have skyrocketed over the last year! With an increase in Scope 3 emissions of 464% compared to the previous year. But fear not, this is simply due to us capturing a larger section of our Scope 3 emissions within this report. Our aim is to keep improving our reporting to the point where we have an accurate picture of our emissions and can see genuine improvements over time. In the meantime, while we seek to increase the accuracy of our reporting, figures will continue to rise.

CHANGES IN SCOPE 3 REPORTING

The emissions which have been included for the first time this year are shown here:



Rolled sheet steel



Stove castings



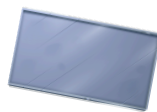
Vermiculite stove bricks



Enamel frit



Stove door glass



Steel for enamelling



Waste for recycling

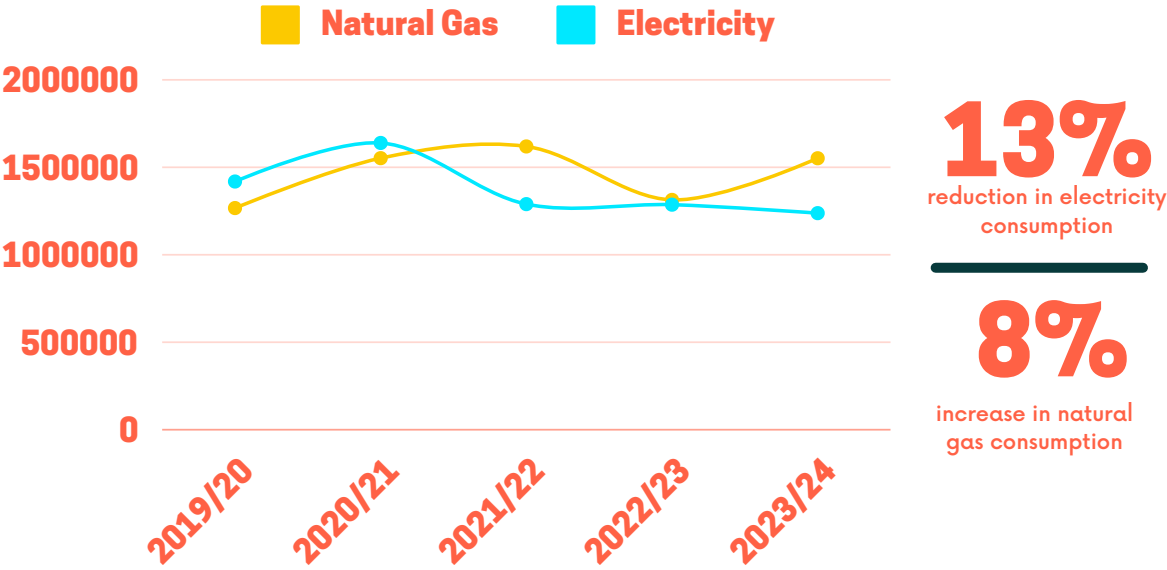


Hazardous waste

While major changes have occurred in Scope 3 reporting, Scopes 1 & 2 include a simpler set of emission categories which have been captured effectively over the last few years.

ENERGY CONSUMPTION

Natural gas and electricity usage (the major components of Scope 1 & 2) over the last 5 years.



Overall, energy consumption has remained relatively stable over the last five years despite an overall increase in production output - demonstrating improvements in efficiency and improved environmental outcomes.

Electricity consumption has **reduced** by 13% compared to the average over the reporting period.
Natural gas consumption had **increased** by 8% compared to the average over the reporting period.

EMISSIONS EVALUATION

As we seek to lower our overall emissions towards net-zero, the first step is to improve our reporting until we have an accurate picture of our emissions. The additional emission factors captured within the Scopes this year take us further towards that goal.

SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

At AJW, everyone is involved with seeking sustainable improvements - within each department, meetings are held which focus around changes which can make us more productive, sustainable and a great place to work. Below are some of the initiatives which have been instigated.



Furnace jigs

New jigs have been used when firing panels in the furnace, resulting in an increased firing capacity of up to 100% on some projects. This has reduced gas usage on firings by ~10%.

Re-use

Our internal upcycling programme, Wellsbay, has seen otherwise discarded items re-purposed within other departments, reducing the need for purchasing new items and diverting items away from landfill.



Travel

We had a real drive on carsharing and cycling to work with competitions and rewards. Certain individuals made personal savings of 1201kgCo2/year!

Sustainable design

Recent opportunities to re-design products has allowed reductions in metal thickness in some stoves without an impact on quality, reducing carbon emissions.



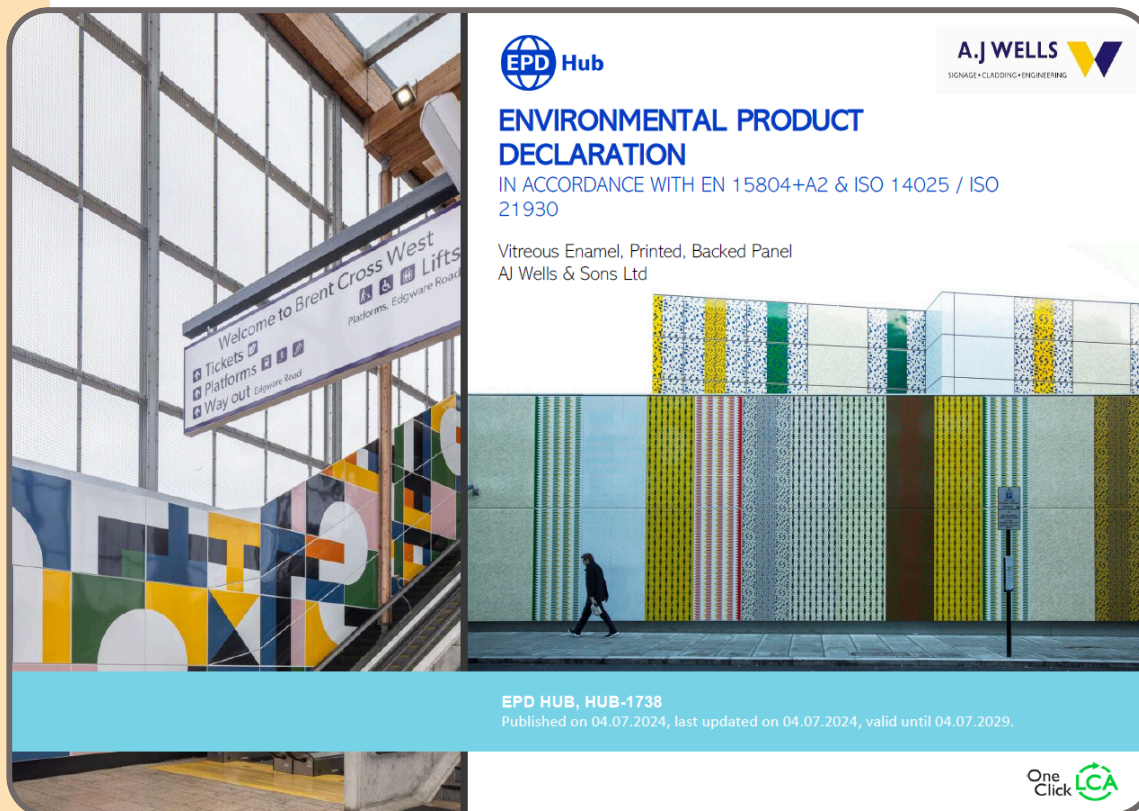
Digital production tracking

We undertook a project to trial barcodes as a means of tracking production through the factory, to reduce wastage, paperwork and to improve efficiencies.



ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATION (EPD)

This year, we published a third-party verified EPD for our vitreous enamel backed cladding panels.



LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT

A full life-cycle assessment (LCA) of the production, installation and waste processing of our vitreous enamel cladding was completed. This assessment analyses the carbon emissions associated with every stage of the product including:

- raw material extraction/production
- raw material transport
- production energy consumption
- ancillary materials
- packaging
- product transport
- installation
- end-of life processing

VERIFICATION

This assessment has been externally verified by EPD Hub. We're able to provide an in-depth assessment of our products sustainability credentials to our clients and potential customers. This allow sustainability assessments to be accurately conducted on the projects which our products are used on.

SUMMARY

IMPROVEMENTS

This year's improvements in carbon emission reporting take us closer towards being able to accurately capture and monitor the Company's environmental impact and respond accordingly to carbon 'hot-spots'. We will continue to seek to bring more of our procurement and processes into the scope.

Renewable electricity production has increased with the expansion of our solar panel array; electricity consumption has decreased relative to output due to improvements in machinery efficiency.

The verification of our enamel products sustainable credentials through an EPD enhances the utility of our product within current products where embodied carbon calculations are paramount.

COMPANY AIMS

Projects to work towards our carbon reduction targets are in the works. Our newest wood-burning stoves are more efficient than ever, reducing emissions at point of end-use.

Investment in modern, more efficient transport vehicles and manufacturing machinery continues and plans to reduce the emissions related to the treatment of our enamel waste are underway.

Each person within the company is responsible for making our processes more sustainable within each department - this is one part of our overall Purpose to be kind and show love to the world.

CONCLUSION

Across the business, we continue to implement solutions to reduce our emissions while maintaining high-quality production. The major leaps in our reporting will allow us to monitor this effectively in years to come.



A.J WELLS & SONS LTD