SMALLTECH

Climate Positive Report 2022

In response to the Climate Emergency and in line with many businesses and organisations around the world, we are identifying our carbon emissions and taking actions to reduce them.

Smalltech provides bespoke business software development, web services and support. All employees work from home in Shropshire, UK. Shropshire Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and has an overall aim of Shropshire becoming net zero by 2030.

This is significantly more ambitious than the Government's Together for our Planet campaign, which encourages small businesses to commit to cutting their emissions in half by 2030 and to net zero by 2050.

In January 2022, Smalltech signed up to the Government's Business Climate Hub/Together for our Planet https://businessclimatehub.org/uk/ and publicly committed to become net zero by 2030. We are the first business in the Market Drayton area and the second business in all of North Shropshire to commit this way.

Using the Normative Carbon Calculator, we identified our Carbon footprint for Jan-Dec 2021 and submitted our first Report to the SME Climate Hub, setting our Carbon Footprint baseline year. By offsetting more than our emissions, we are Climate Positive for 2021 (better than our net zero target).

During 2022 we prioritised reducing our emissions, then we offset the remainder with carbon removal via nature-based solutions.

Carbon Footprint reduction during 2022

To better understand and reduce our emissions we:

- Replaced our internet provider with one with a net zero target
- Replaced our web hosting provider with a net zero supplier
- Continued to meet clients via Zoom in preference to travelling
- Started paying energy costs separately to rent

Overall, our climate actions during 2022 yielded a 19% reduction in our Carbon footprint compared to our baseline year and exceeded our net zero target.

Emissions data

During Jan-Dec 2022 we produced the following emissions:

Scope 1	Direct emissions from operations	**0.0** tonnes CO_2e

This is the same as 2021.

Scope 2	Indirect emissions from energy purchased	**0.874** tonnes CO_2e

This is the same as 2021.

Scope 3	Supply chain emissions	**0.274** tonnes CO_2e

This is a near-halving of emissions compared to 2021.

Total **1.15** tonnes CO_2e

Having calculated our carbon footprint for 2022, we purchased Gold Standard Carbon Credits to more than offset the Carbon in our Carbon footprint. This means Smalltech is Climate Positive for 2022 (better than our net zero target).

Smalltech is Climate Positive for 2022

The Gold Standard for Carbon offsetting was established in 2003 by the World Wide Fund For Nature and other international non-governmental organisations and sets the standard for climate and development interventions.

Our Carbon Credits support the following four Sustainable Development Goals as part of a project to replant biodiverse rainforest in Panama:

Biodiverse Rainforest replanting in Panama

“By sourcing timber from primary rainforest or harvesting large-scale monoculture plantation, the timber trade has significantly depleted tropical rainforests.

“CO2OL Tropical Mix is looking to change that by introducing sustainable timber production while reforesting degraded pastureland with a mix of native tree species and teak. The resulting forests offer a natural habitat for native animals and plants, protect and enrich the soil, save and filter water and contribute to the mitigation of climate change.

“The project, initially developed by Forest Finance and recently extended by the partner Sustainable Timber and Isla Cebaco, is based on a model that combines sustainable, high quality timber production with biodiversity protection and ecosystem restoration. By also planting a mix of cacao and native tree species in some areas, the project also enables sustainable cacao production.

“Project impacts and benefits:

- More than 7.5 million trees from 20 different native species have been planted – capturing carbon and mitigating climate change
- 25% has been declared nature reserve, protecting the forest and the animals and plants living there
- 15 threatened animal species from the Red List have found a habitat in the project
- The reforested areas serve as bridges for wandering animals seeking new habitats
- The project provides long-term employment for the local population. So far, the Forest Finance Group has created 150 jobs, through their reforestation projects in Panama. The training and further education of the native population leads to an improved living standard.
- Knowledge transfer around the use of sustainable and innovative forest management technologies, GIS and monitoring-systems in Panama lays the ground for future projects
- All employees receive a wage above the legal minimum, health insurance and a pension fund. Furthermore, they receive additional optional benefits such as life insurance as a security for their families, an internal credit programme, training and further education and special seasonal bonuses.

“By investing in these systems, [we] are helping to generate a high value wood and cacao yield that is ecologically and socially sustainable.

More information about this project: info@forliance.com”

Reducing emissions to reduce our Carbon Footprint

To take the most effective action to reduce emissions, we are continually improving our understanding of our carbon footprint in terms of Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions:

Scope 1) fuel combustion, company vehicles and fugitive emissions produced directly by us for our operations.

Scope 2) indirect emissions which arise due to our operations but are not wholly within our control, e.g. from the generation of the electricity we buy.

Scope 3) emissions upstream and downstream of our value chain, e.g. from outsourced web servers and website hosting, and from customers using our services.

We commit to continue to reduce our carbon emissions and to be Climate Positive for 2023

As part of our Environment and Social Governance, we directly supported Market Drayton Climate Action throughout 2022.

Net Zero Action Plans for 2023

We are committed to reducing our Carbon emissions further and plan to:

- Reduce expenditure on Accountancy services
- Continue to use Zoom in preference to meeting clients in person
- Maintain paper-less working
- Review lower carbon options for energy supply
- Continue to support Market Drayton Climate Action
- Offset any emissions that we are unable to eliminate