

MICA

Carbon Reduction Plan 2023

Commitment to achieving Net Zero

MICA have been at the forefront of low energy design for over 40 years. We recognise our environmental responsibilities are part of a wider picture, and that our own commitment runs through everything we do. We have developed our own holistic approach, informed by our experience, which can be integrated with other industry benchmarks as appropriate. This is how we deliver social impact, driving economic development and embodying environmental stewardship in all our projects. We hope through our work and how we collaborate with others we can help inspire and achieve positive change, informing new strategies and ultimately contributing to a stronger and more resilient planet. This process and framework sets out our store and targets to work to so we can ensure we consistently achieve the highest standards.

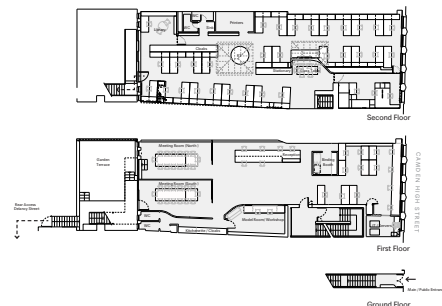
MICA committed to Architects Declare emergency movement in 2019. This acknowledges the major part that buildings and construction play in the twin crises of climate breakdown and biodiversity loss and sets out a list of goals to achieve a reduction in carbon emissions.

Location and premises

MICA has three offices; their main Camden High Street (CHS) office, one in Oxford one in Edinburgh. Only the emissions from CHS are included in this calculation.

Camden High Street (CHS)

- Former Dance Hall
- Entire first and second floor of a three storey building
- 486m² GIA
- No gas
- Electric only, with radiators and space heaters
- Natural ventilation via single glazed, metal frame windows
- Uninsulated solid brick walls
- Overheating in summer requires localised fans



MICA have signed up to the Race to Zero challenge via the SME Climate Hub, aiming to:

- halve its GHG emissions by 2030 compared to the 2022 baseline, and offset the remaining emissions annually through efficient measures
- achieve net zero measures before 2050, and
- disclose the progress made on a yearly basis

About the MICA Plan

This Plan summarises MICA's baseline carbon footprint and our commitment to reducing our Green House Gas emissions to Net Zero.

The Scope of the MICA Plan is as defined by the GHG Protocol Corporate Standard. In addition to measuring against our Scope 1 and 2 boundaries, we have established further Scope 3 boundaries for aspects that we have some influence over.

Emissions have been calculated using the 'Control Approach'. That is to say, we have accounted for 100 percent of the GHG emissions from operations over which MICA has full financial control.

Baseline emissions footprint

Baseline emissions are a record of the greenhouse gases that have been produced in the past and were produced prior to the introduction of any strategies to reduce emissions.

Baseline emissions are the reference point against which emissions reduction can be measured.

Baseline Reporting Year: 2022

Additional Details relating to the Baseline Emissions calculations

Baseline emissions calculations commenced in January 2022, based on MICA's organisational and Operational Boundaries at that time. Emissions have been calculated using the 'control' approach - calculated by office location before being consolidated for the purposes of reporting on overall tonnes CO₂e, per Scope, for the Practice.

The extent of each Scope, as applicable to MICA's Organisational and Operational Boundaries, is set out below, along with the calculation methodology used.

Baseline year emissions		
Emissions	Total (tCO ₂ e)	
Scope 1	0	
Scope 2	11.75 (location based) 0 (market based)	Electricity GHG emissions calculated as kWh x CO ₂ e (with CO ₂ e figures derived from UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting 2022)
Scope 3	21.32	Includes transmission and distribution losses, water and sewage, working from home, project related travel, commuting and waste.
		GHG emissions calculated as distance or weight or kWh per scope item x CO ₂ e (with CO ₂ e figures derived from UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting 2022). Staff commuter habits were accrued via staff survey.
Total Emissions	33.07	

Current Reporting Year: 2023

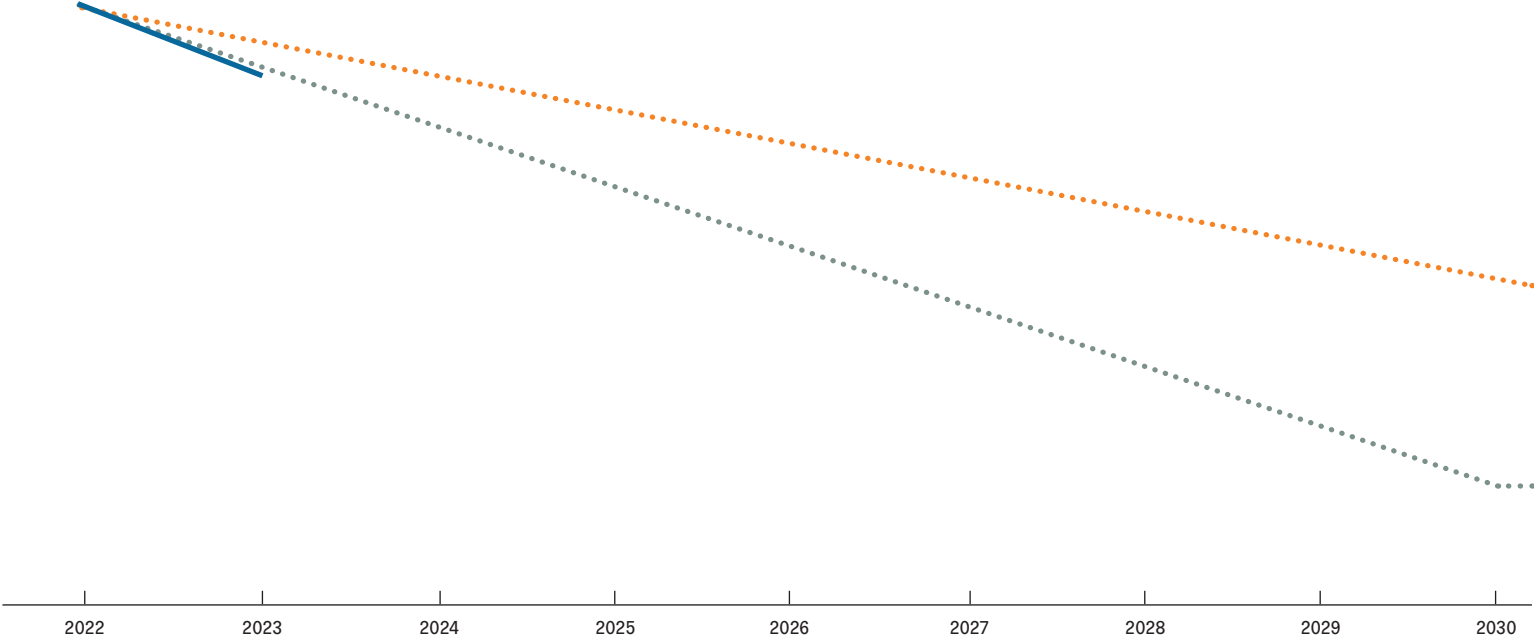
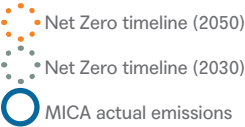
Emissions	Total (tCO ₂ e)	
Scope 1	0	
Scope 2	12.42 (location based) 0 (market based)	Electricity GHG emissions calculated as kWh x CO ₂ e (with CO ₂ e figures derived from UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting 2022)
Scope 3	17.57	Includes transmission and distribution losses, water and sewage, working from home, project related travel, commuting and waste.
		GHG emissions calculated as distance or weight or kWh per scope item x CO ₂ e (with CO ₂ e figures derived from UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting 2022). Staff commuter habits were accrued via staff survey.
Total Emissions	29.99	

Path to net zero

Scope 2	11.75	12.42									
Scope 3	21.32	17.57									
Total	<u>33.07</u>	<u>29.99</u>									

Our emissions from 2022 to 2023 have reduced by around 9% overall. This is greater than the 6% improvement required to keep on track to reach or stated goal of halving our emissions by 2030.

The data used to calculate our CO2e footprint is, to the best of our knowledge, accurate. However, we are continually improving our process of data collection and as such reserve the right to re-calculate historic statistics.



Emissions breakdown for 2023

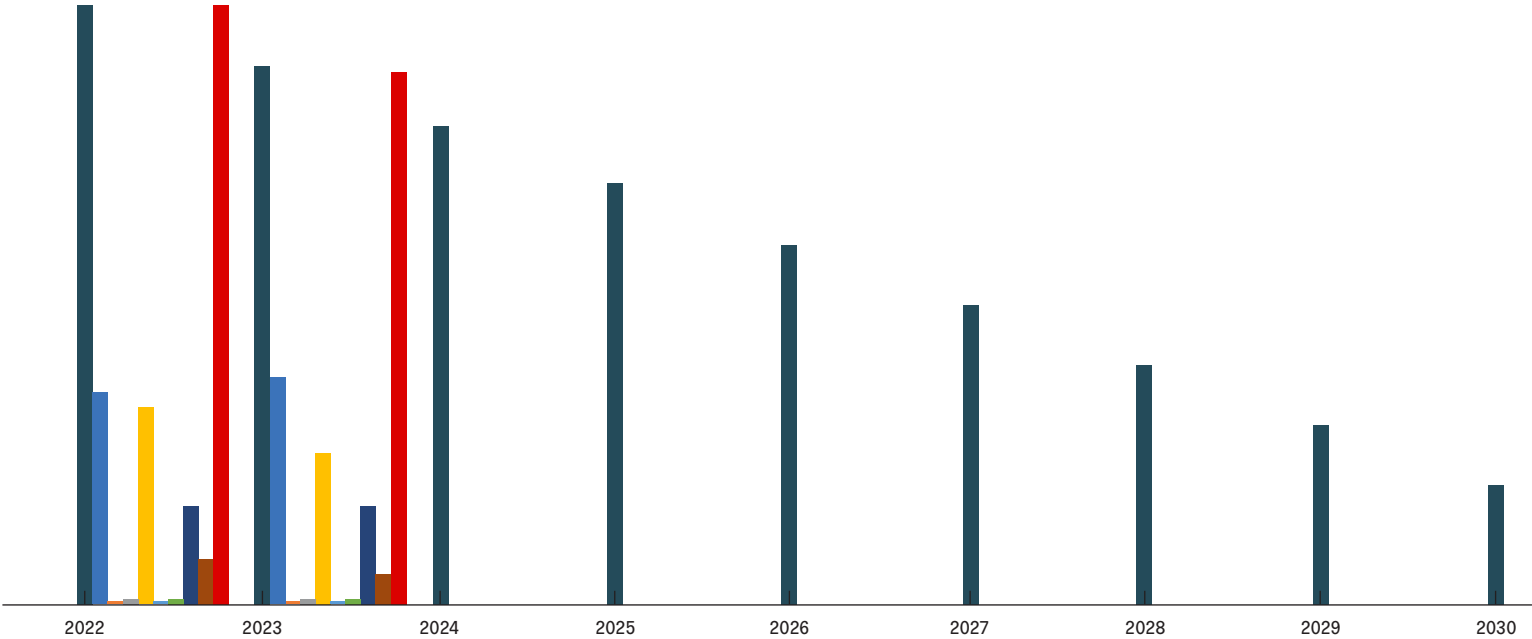
MICA's Scope 2 emissions increased from 2022 to 2023 because although we used less electricity, the carbon intensity of the UK grid increased.

The reduction in energy use is likely to be due to the replacement of the server, dishwasher and IT equipment, and a reduction in headcount from 33 to 28. This will have been partially offset by people working from the office more frequently and is reflected in the reduction in emissions attributed to home working.

Overall the emissions per person increased from 0.36 to 0.44 tonnes CO2e.

Scope 2	11.75	12.42								
Scope 3	21.32	17.57								
Total	33.07	29.99								

- Total
- Electricity
- Water
- Transmission and distribution
- Home working
- Commuting
- Trains
- Flights
- Car
- Race to Zero timeline



Carbon Reduction Initiatives

The MICA Climate Action Plan included in last year's report and further detailed over the next pages focuses on the key elements that have the largest impact on the office carbon emissions (utilities and the built fabric of the office).



Measures undertaken in 2023:

Quality Assurance

As a practice we continually look for improvement in our environmental auditing processes and maintain an environmental management system which is ISO 14001 certified.



Benefit Corporation

Our B Corp Certification demonstrates that we are meeting high standards of verified performance, accountability, and transparency on factors including environmental performance.



Replacement of dishwasher

As per our environmental policy, energy efficiency was a determining factor when making replacing the office dishwasher.



Replacement of server

The office-wide server required upgrading in 2023, offering the opportunity to reduce energy use.



IT renewal

We are undertaking a rolling programme of computer equipment renewal, with the aim of replacing all machines (within the next three years) with more efficient devices.



Scope 3 performance review

We began monitoring some of our Scope 3 activities in 2022, and since then we've been refining our data capture processes in order to be able to accurately report, measure and act.

Scope 3 reporting is a vital task as it is (outside of our electricity usage) the only opportunity to reduce emissions.

This is what we have discovered in 2023.

5%

increase in carbon expended

as a result of project related travel

This is a result of an increase in air travel, in particular one long haul return flight and an increase in rail travel as we have experienced a rise in the number of in-person meetings, particularly with a number of projects on site in 2023.

35%

decrease in carbon expended

as a result of homeworking

This is a result of an increase in staff working in the office more regularly.



Measures to be implemented in the future

The journey to net zero is ongoing and will require a ramping up of effort to achieve our stated goal of halving our emissions by 2030.

We will monitor, measure and react to our impact on carbon reduction annually.



Green Energy

The current contract with our Energy supplier extends until 2028. At which point, we are committed to switching to a supplier that provides truly green energy i.e. one that has additionality.



Offsetting

Our route map to Net Zero requires 29.99 tonnes of carbon to be offset this year. Using the Greater London Authority's recommended price of £95 per tonne, this equates to £2,850 for 2023. We have decided to use these funds to improve the energy efficiency of our office. Once reduction measures have been exhausted, we will direct the fund to offsets, using a UK based verified project.



Premises

We are not in control of the building fabric of our Camden office. This is a Landlord prerogative, but we are enquiring about entering into negotiations with them on whether they are prepared to make improvements e.g. roof insulation and better performing windows. In the meantime, we are investigating options for non-intrusive improvements e.g. window films. In the longer term, we may have to consider migrating out of our Camden office to better insulated, higher performing office space, if it's energy use intensity cannot be improved sufficiently.

Declaration and 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 and uses the appropriate Government emission conversion factors for greenhouse gas company reporting.

Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions have been reported in accordance with SECR requirements, and the required subset of 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.

This Carbon Reduction Plan has been reviewed and signed off by the board directors (or equivalent management body).

Signed on behalf of the Supplier



Gavin Miller
Director



Stuart Cade
Director

For and on behalf of MICA: 9th September 2024

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