LEVIN SOURCES

Carbon Footprint Reporting – April 2021 / March 2022

23rd August 2022

Contents

Company information: Levin Sources Limited is a company registered in England and Wales with company number 07162292 and registered office at Quern House, Mill Court, Hinton Way, Great Shelford, CB22 5LD

Reporting period: 1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022

Approved by Estelle Levin-Nally, CEO, Founder and company director, on this day, 23 July 2022

1. Introduction

RATIONALE FOR THE STUDY

At Levin Sources, we are deeply concerned by the intra- and inter-generational injustices of climate change, as well as the decline in ecological health and environmental resilience felt across ecosystems and across the planet. Climate change destroys cultures, environments, and homes, especially in the world's most vulnerable places. We understand our privileged position as part of the Global North, and our responsibility to take real action. For these reasons, Levin Sources has been monitoring its carbon footprint since 2017 in order to:

- Reduce our energy and resource costs
- Better understand our impact and the exposure to the risks of climate change
- Set meaningful annual emission reduction targets
- Continuously improve our environmental policy
- Demonstrate leadership in the sector to help strengthen our "green" credentials and inspire and enable others to act

This is Levin Sources' fifth annual carbon footprint report (the third one published). It captures our progress in achieving our climate objectives as articulated in our environmental policy (updated in 2022) and thereby living up to our commitments as signatories to the Gucci CEO Carbon Neutral Challenge, the Cambridge Climate Charter and the Forest Declaration Platform (formerly the New York Declaration on Forests.)

In this reporting period we achieved carbon neutrality and remedied our carbon debt.

What do we mean by 'carbon footprint'?

The 'carbon footprint' is a measure of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, which include carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF_6). Water vapour is not considered a greenhouse gas because its persistence in the atmosphere is very low (only a few days).

100-year Global Warming Potential values

GHG	100-year GWP
Carbon dioxide	1
Methane	25
Nitrous oxide	298
Sulphur hexafluoride	22800
Hydrofluorocarbon-23	14800
Hydrofluorocarbon-32	675
Perfluoromethane	7390
Perfluoroethane	12200
Perfluoropropane	8830
Perfluorobutane	8860
Perfluorocyclobutane	10300
Perfluoropentane	13300
Perfluorohexane	9300

Carbon footprints are measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO_2e) so that all GHG emissions can be compared. Each GHG has a different global warming potential (GWP), which is a measure of the amount of heat a GHG traps in the atmosphere. A GWP is calculated over a specific time interval, commonly 20, 100 or 500 years, to allow for the fact that GHGs have different persistence times in the atmosphere. In this report, the 100-year GWP will be used, as it is the most widely utilized. Table 1 shows how much each GHG would warm the earth over a period of 100 years compared to CO_2.

In 2012 (no more recent data found), the average British carbon footprint was around 9 tCO_2eq per person[1*], which had fortunately decreased since 2006 (around 10 tCO_2eq per person) [1]. However, if we want to keep the increase in average temperature to below 2 degrees, we need to achieve zero net emissions by 2050. And if we take into account our historical emissions, we most likely do not have the rights to emit anymore. Therefore, Levin Sources as a business should aim towards zero carbon and have a **carbon neutral** footprint.

[1] * The average British carbon footprint is the total emissions generated in the UK divided by the country's population therefore it includes emissions at work.

2. Quantification and Reporting Methodology

To align with our CEO Carbon Neutral Challenge commitment, we followed the 2020 UK Government environmental reporting guidance and used the GHG Corporate Standard, but we are not as yet able to report on all categories. We used the 2021 UK Government Conversion Factors for Company Reporting and calculated emissions from the GHGs covered by the Kyoto Protocol.

We took into account all scopes 1, 2 and 3 emissions:

- **Scope 1** emissions relate to direct emissions: activities owned or controlled by Levin Sources that release emissions straight into the atmosphere. These include emissions from controlled boilers, furnaces, company vehicles, emissions from controlled process equipment.
- **Scope 2** emissions relate to energy indirect emissions being released into the atmosphere associated to Levin Sources consumption of purchased electricity, heat, steam and cooling.
- **Scope 3** emissions relate to other indirect emissions that are consequence of Levin Sources actions. Examples of these emissions are business travel, waste disposal or purchased materials.

At the end of the report, we include a list of activities performed, often pro bono, on advocacy and policy influence to reduce emissions in the mining and minerals sector at large. Unfortunately, it is not possible for us to quantify properly the avoided emissions by Levin Sources' activities, therefore, these activities are being reported qualitatively.

BOUNDARIES

Levin Sources included available data points (e.g. emissions from certain purchased items/stationery). Our principal emissions are related to employee business travel. The figure below shows the elements included (dark blue) and excluded (light blue) in the analysis. Excluded elements either lack data or have a relatively smaller impact. We excluded meal emissions because it is not a requirement of the GHG Corporate standard or cited in Defra's guidance, however it is Levin Sources' policy to cater all company events with vegetarian food to contribute to reducing our climate and environmental impacts.

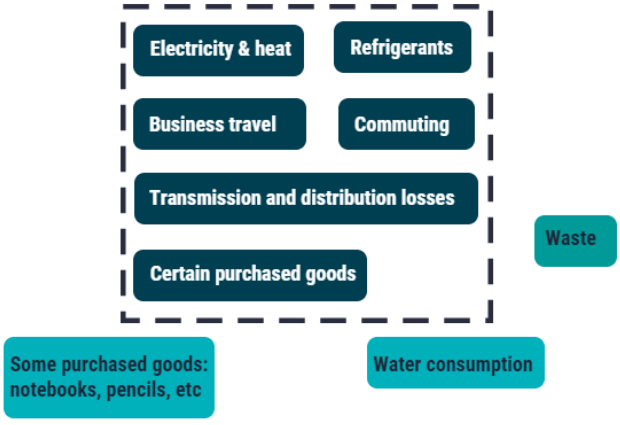


Figure 1: Elements included (dark blue) and excluded (light blue) in our analysis

DATA COLLECTION AND DATA ANALYSIS

Data sources are:

Business travel data	Travel agency Key Travel (travel booked from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022) and from individual staff communications
Electricity consumption	Electric meter readings given by the Business Centre Manager
Stationery	Estimated using prior years calculations
Refrigerants' emissions	Estimated using the Screening Method laid out on page 98 of the 2019 UK Government environmental reporting guidance

Levin Sources used the operational control consolidation approach to report emissions.

We calculated Scope 2 emissions using the location-based approach.

We set targets following the Science Based Targets setting Initiative (SBTi) tool using the absolute contraction approach. Base year is 2017, and target year is 2030.

3. 2021/22 Carbon Emissions

Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions are outlined in the table below.

Activity	2021	Specific exclusions % this represents for relevant scope	% of activity data that is estimated
Scope 1 (tCO2e)			
Fugitive emissions (refrigerants)	0.24	None	
TOTAL Scope 1	0.24		

Scope 2 (tCO2e) (location-based approach)			
Electricity and heat	0.76	None	None, building electric readings, calculated office share based on building share
TOTAL Scope 2	0.76		

Scope 3 (tCO2e)			
Air travel	34.09	None	5%
Rail travel	0.10	None	5%
Staff commuting	0.71	None	5%
Purchased goods	NA	All stationery and cleaning products	None
Purchased services	NA	100% because we do not purchase many services and it would be very costly to calculate	
Transmission & distribution	0.03	None	None

Water	NA	100% because of lack of data on water consumption	
Home office	0.38		100% - based on laptop usage by the team only
TOTAL Scope 3	35.31		

TOTAL Emissions	36.31 tCO2eq

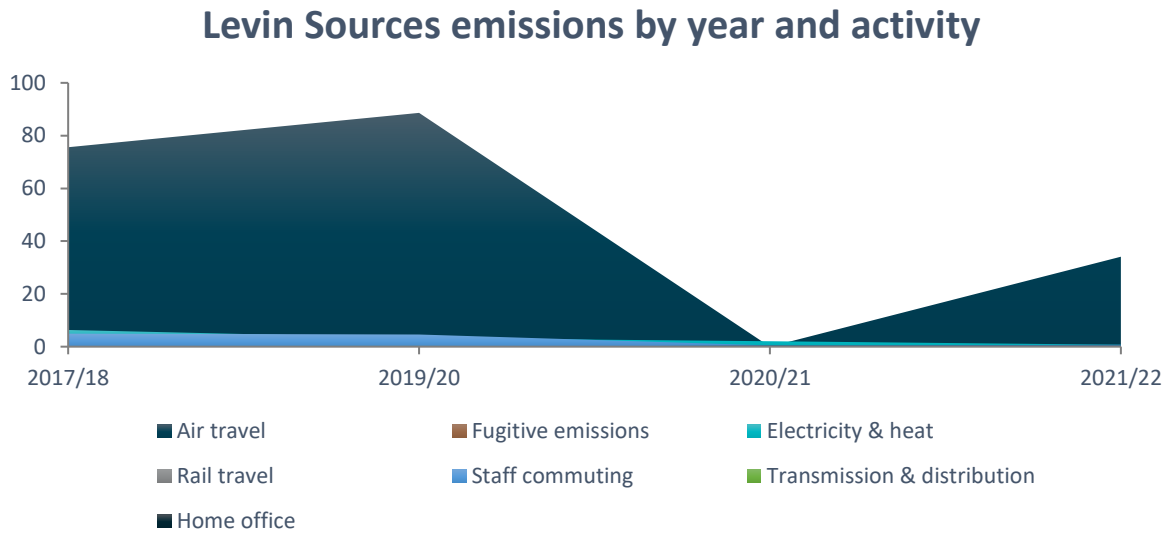
COMPARISON WITH BASE YEAR

Activity	Base year (2017/18)	Current (2021/22)	Change (%)	Base year normalised against staff (tonne/staff)	Current year normalised against staff (tonne/staff)	Change (%)	Base year normalised against financial turn over 2017/18 (tonne/1M £)	Current year normalised against financial turn over 2019/20 (tonne/1M £)	Change (%)
Scope 1 (tCO_2e)									
Fugitive emissions	1.76	0.24	-100%	0.1	0.02	-84%	1.4	0.14	-90%
TOTAL Scope 1	1.76	0.24	-100%	0.1	0.02	-84%	1.4	0.14	-90%
Electricity & heat	6.33	0.76	-88%	0.5	0.05	-90%	5	0.45	-91%
TOTAL Scope 2	6.33	0.76	-88%	0.5	0.05	-90%	5	0.45	-91%
Air travel	75.59	34.09	-55%	5.4	2.27	-58%	59.5	20.05	-66%
Rail travel	0.59	0.10	-83%	0.04	0.01	-84%	0.5	0.06	-88%
Staff commuting	4.96	0.71	-86%	0.35	0.05	-87%	3.9	0.42	-89%
Transmission & distribution	0.21	0.03	-85%	0.02	0.00	-86%	0.2	0.02	-91%
Home office	NA	0.38		NA	0.03		NA	0.22	
TOTAL Scope 3	81.4	35.31	-61%	5.8	2.35	-59%	64.1	20.77	-68%
TOTAL emissions	89.4	36.31	-60%	6.4	2.42	-62%	70.4	21.36	-70%

Normalisations were done against staff and against financial turn over:

- In the period of April 2017 – March 2018, Levin Sources had 14 core team and a turnover of £1,269,948.
- In April 2021 – March 2022, Levin Sources, had 15 core team and financial turnover of £ 1,703,960.
- The table above shows the normalised values and percentages of emissions increases or decreases.

In absolute terms, Levin Sources scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions decreased greatly, mainly due to people working from home and international travel restrictions, although emissions increased relative to the 2020/21 reporting period (see chart below). Air travel continues to be the highest contributor of CO_2 emissions.

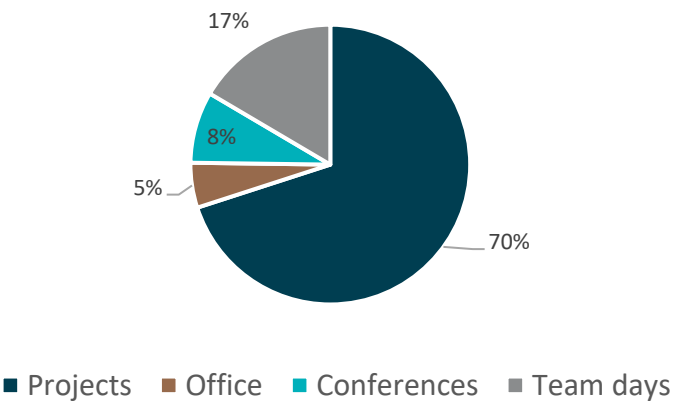


4. Emission by company activity

We calculated the share of emissions by company activity by looking at emissions directly linked to:

- project delivery (project travel),
- conference,
- team days, and
- workplace (which includes company office and team members' home offices).

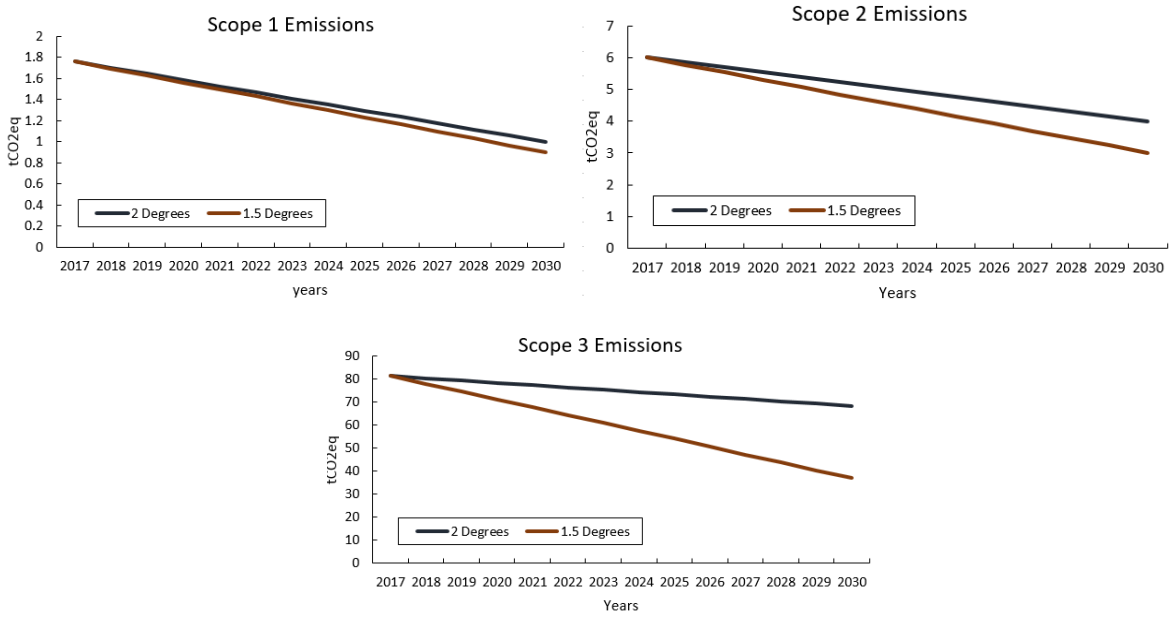
Project delivery is the company activity producing the highest emissions.



5. Emission reduction targets

Based on the SBTi tool, to contribute to keeping planetary warming below 2 degrees scope 1 and 2 emissions should be reduced by 32.5% by 2030. To stay below 1.5 degrees, a 54.6% reduction is necessary. For scope 3 emissions, based on SBTi tool the reduction should be 16% to stay below 2 degrees, and 54.4% to stay below 1.5 degrees based on SBTi tool.

See emission reductions targets for the three scopes needed yearly in the graphics below.



Levin Sources has already managed to achieve the 2030 1.5 SBTi targets for all scope emissions, although emissions increased for scope 3 compared to last year. It is important to understand that the SBTi tool's absolute contraction approach does not take into account historical emissions or the amount of emissions generated in the base year, it always asks for the same reduction percentages independently of the actual carbon intensity.

	Base year (2017)	Target year (2030)	% Reduction *Necessary*	Aim 2021	Achieved in 2021 ?
Scope 1 (tCO2e)					
Below 2 degrees	1.8	1.0	32.5	1.5	Yes – achieved 2020 & end target
Below 1.5 degrees	1.8	1.0	54.6	1.5	Yes – achieved 2020 & end target
Scope 2 (tCO2e)					
Below 2 degrees	6.0	4.0	32.5	5.5	Yes – achieved 2020 & end target
Below 1.5 degrees	6.0	3.0	54.6	5.0	Yes – achieved 2020 & end target
Scope 3 (tCO2e)					
Below 2 degrees	81.4	68.4	16.0	79.0	Yes – achieved 2020 & end target
Below 1.5 degrees	81.4	37	54.6	70.0	Yes – achieved 2020 & end target

6. Towards Zero Carbon and Offsets

Figure 2 The Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire Wildlife Trust

REDUCTION OF EMISSIONS

Although we are aligned with SBTi reduction emissions targets, emissions have already ramped up after Covid-19. In 2020/21 our total emissions were 3.9 tCO2e, nine times lower our than current emissions. The main reductions in emissions at Levin Sources in 2020/21 were due to restrictions in international air travel, which is our highest contributor factor.

CARBON OFFSETS

Levin Sources previously offset its corporate emissions through a £1,000 annual corporate membership with the Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire Wildlife Trust.

Once we became signatories of the CEO Carbon Neutral Gucci Challenge in 2020, we committed to offsetting our emissions through an accredited scheme. We did this via ACES in 2020/21 and will do the same for 21/22.

Offset costs with ACES are 15 $/tCO2e, therefore, offsetting costs for this reporting year (2021/22) are $555.

We are aware that offsetting is not the solution to the climate change problem, and, in some cases, it can worsen the situation. This is why we approach offsets in the best way possible to overcome risks and challenges.

OUR CARBON DEBT

In 2021, we remedied Levin Sources' historical emissions for the period since our foundation in 2010 by contributing to three charities. As a company headquartered in the Global North, Levin Sources recognises that the region has been responsible for around 80% of historical emissions, and therefore wishes to play its part in reducing the global footprint.

With these donations, we are hoping to remediate our historic greenhouse gas emissions and bring a positive impact to people and nature, where we work and where we live.

1. The **POLE POLE Foundation (POPOF)**, a grassroots NGO working to protect the critically-endangered eastern lowland gorillas which live in the Kahuzi-Biéga National Park, in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Selecting a DRC-based organisation was important because it is perhaps the country where Levin Sources has worked the most to support the development and formalisation of the ASM sector and mitigate the risks it poses to people and nature there.

2. The **Wildlife Trust BCN's Flowering Fens project**, a charity anchored in our headquarters' county. The most nature-depleted country amongst the G7, the UK has lost 97% of its meadows in the past century. Although Levin Sources has spent the past 4 years advocating for forest-smart mining as a way of mitigating climate and human rights risks, we know that forests aren't the only biomes that matter, and much of the guidance we have been developing on the issue is applicable to other sensitive biomes such as grasslands and meadows.

3. Because of the secondary impact of the climate emergency on human rights, including climate refugees and poverty, we wanted one of the three NGOs to be human-rights-focused. Working with its partners at the US charity Voices4Freedom, **Guernsey for Freedom** helps those in slavery escape the brutality of bondage and prevents others from becoming trapped in situations of forced labour. Slavery has been outlawed everywhere, but it has not been eradicated. For vulnerable people already at risk of slavery, the climate crisis presents a horrifying new threat to their freedom.

Of course, **donating now doesn't quite cancel out our initial emissions, so our goal going forward remains to stay as close to net zero carbon as possible**. See post with full explanations here.

OUR ADVOCACY WORK

Our clients and stakeholders play huge roles in addressing climate change in a just transition framework that doesn't leave anyone behind.

- The **mining and minerals** sector is one of the principal contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, but also one of the biggest opportunities for decarbonisation through the introduction of decarbonisation strategies along the supply chain, including more climate-smart and forest-smart mining practices.
- **Green motion** will massively reduce direct emissions, but ensuring materials are sourced responsibly is paramount.
- The **development minerals sector** will see increased demand due to climate change adaptation activities in particular, but it is underregulated and human rights aren't adequately protected.
- The **conservation community** has to advocate more effectively for better policies and practices.
- **Governments** have to regulate better, enforce, incentivise and support.

Much of our work is advising and implementing programmes in these sectors to achieve these objectives, whilst pursuing the protection and respect of human rights, responsible business conduct, and the UN SDGs and Paris Climate Goals.

This year, **we contributed to reduce the carbon footprint of the mining sector with our work in the following projects or communications**:

1. DEVELOPING A **FOREST SMART BOLT-ON STANDARD** FOR ASM, a voluntary standard whose principles, criteria and indicators can either supplement or be integrated into active mainstream ASM standards or legal frameworks, in order to enhance the protection of forest.
2. DEVELOPING THE **OECD ENVIRONMENTAL DUE DILIGENCE HANDBOOK**, which will be published by the end of the year, and will set leading practice on how to conduct environmental due diligence in mineral value chains.
3. SUPPORTING THE **FOREST DECLARATION PLATFORM**, a voluntary and non-binding international Declaration to take action to halt global deforestation. Levin Sources became an endorser of the Declaration three years ago and ever since, we have been involved in key activities to support the evolution and implementation of the Declaration.
4. BUILDING A COMPREHENSIVE **LIST OF ENVIRONMENTAL INSTRUMENTS** FOR BATTERY POLICYMAKERS, which was used by Transport and Environment (T&E) to push for more comprehensive regulations and adhere those to the draft EU Regulation on Batteries and Waste Batteries.
5. ATTENDING NUMEROUS **CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS** without remuneration to give advice on how to address environmental issues linked to ASM.

LOOKING AHEAD

Given that most of Levin Sources' core team works from home, **we wish to improve carbon accounting of home working by including legitimate carbon costs of home heating and AC**. We will prepare a questionnaire for every core team member to collect such data and will include the results in the next carbon footprint report.

In June 2022, we ran an internal meeting on this 2021/2 carbon footprint report. We will continue doing this every year, as it is the best way to onboard team members and engage them in

conversations around targets, commitments, and environmental policy reviews. Our environmental commitment also features prominently in onboarding literature shared with new staff members.

We are going to write up our carbon accounting procedure, so it is documented. We updated our environmental policy to incorporate learnings from this report on 22nd July 2022.

37 Tonnes CO_2

Serial number:
PV-PVC-KE-104000000026945-01012021-31122021-8636561-8636597-MER-0-P

From: Vanga Blue Forest, Kenya

To: Levin Sources
28th August 2022

Signed:

For and on behalf of the ACES
Robyn Shilland, Projects Manager

ACES' projects are certified against the Plan Vivo Standard.
Plan Vivo Certificates are issued and tracked through the Markit Environmental Registry.

ACES
Association for Coastal Ecosystem Services

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