



# Carbon Footprint Reporting - April 2022 / March 2023



23<sup>rd</sup> September 2023

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**Reporting period:** 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023



*Approved by Estelle Levin-Nally, CEO, Founder and company director, on this day, 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023*

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

# 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 the planet. Climate change destroys cultures, environments, and homes, especially in the world's most vulnerable places. We understand our privileged position as a team primarily based in 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 environmental credentials and inspire and enable others to act
- Model leading practices from SME carbon accounting

This is Levin Sources' third published annual carbon footprint report<sup>1</sup>, covering 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. 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 the last reporting period we compensated for our caused emissions and remedied our carbon debt through the purchase of offsets.**

### What do we mean by 'carbon footprint'?

The 'carbon footprint' is a measure of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, which include carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>). Water vapour is not considered a greenhouse gas because its persistence in the atmosphere is very low (only a few days).

Carbon footprints are measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) 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<sub>2</sub>.

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

"Privileged lifestyles in Europe, North America and other nations in the Global North produce a carbon footprint 100 times greater than that of the world's poor nations combined"<sup>2</sup>. Levin Sources staff is (and has been) primarily based in Europe and other countries in the Global North, and therefore is taking (and has taken) a greater share of the carbon footprint. However, if we want to keep the increase in average temperature to below 2 degrees, we need to achieve zero net

<sup>1</sup> Our first two reports were learning exercises for internal purposes only.

<sup>2</sup> Generation Climate Europe (2021) Global North and Global South: how climate change uncovers global inequalities. URL: <https://gceurope.org/global-north-and-global-south-how-climate-change-uncovers-global-inequalities/>

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.

## 2. Quantification and Reporting Methodology

To align with Guiding Principle number 2<sup>3</sup> of the CEO Carbon Neutral Challenge, we followed the [2020 UK Government environmental reporting guidance](#) and used the [GHG Corporate Standard](#). However, we are not as yet able to report on all categories due to the comparatively low level of emissions in these categories and the complexity of the analysis. 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.** As it is not possible for us to quantify properly the avoided emissions by Levin Sources' activities, 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. It is Levin Sources' policy to cater all company events with vegetarian food to contribute to reducing our climate and environmental impacts.

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<sup>3</sup> The CEO Carbon Neutral Challenge Guiding principle 2 states organisations should "Have an internationally recognized objective measurement of their GHG emissions that encompasses the supply chain, or, if not already in place, commit to adopting one within 12 months from accepting the CEO Carbon Neutral Challenge"

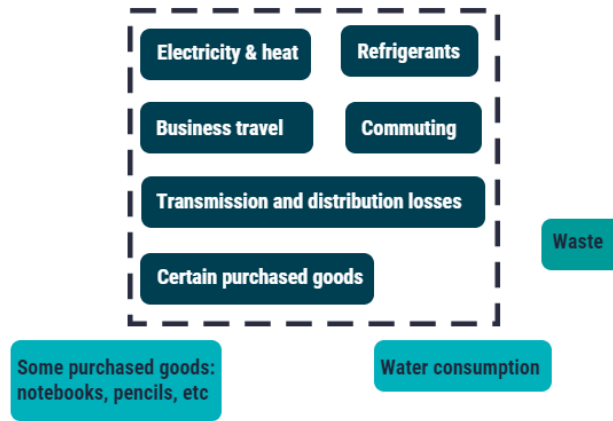


Figure 1: Elements included (dark blue) and excluded (light blue) in our analysis

## DATA COLLECTION AND DATA ANALYSIS

### Data sources are:

<u>Business travel data</u>	Travel agency Key Travel (travel booked from 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023), Aurigny personal account records, and from individual staff communications.
<u>Electricity consumption</u>	Electric meter readings given by the Business Centre Manager
<u>Refrigerants' emissions</u>	In March 2022 Levin Sources moved to its Duxford office, which does not have AC, therefore there are no refrigerants' emissions in this reporting period. In the past, refrigerants' emissions were 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<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> The Greenhouse Gas Protocol explains the operational control consolidation approach as follows: "Under the control approach, a company accounts for 100 percent of the GHG emissions from operations over which it has control. It does not account for GHG emissions from operations in which it owns an interest but has no control. Control can be defined in either financial or operational terms. When using the control approach to consolidate GHG emissions, companies shall choose between either the operational control or financial control criteria."

### 3. 2022/23 Carbon Emissions

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

Activity	2022/2023	Specific exclusions % this represents for relevant scope	% of activity data that is estimated
<b>Scope 1 (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>			
Fugitive emissions (refrigerants)	0.00	None	
<b>TOTAL Scope 1</b>	<b>0.24</b>		

<b>Scope 2 (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) (location-based approach)</b>			
Electricity and heat	0.76	None	None, building electric readings, calculated office share based on building share.
<b>TOTAL Scope 2</b>	<b>0.76</b>		

<b>Scope 3 (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>			
Air travel	33.76	None	5%
Rail travel	0.017	None	5%
Road travel	0.91	None	5%
Purchased goods	N/A	All stationery and cleaning products	None
Purchased services	N/A	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	0.54		100% - based on laptop usage by the team only
<b>TOTAL Scope 3</b>	<b>35.27</b>		

<b>TOTAL Emissions</b>	<b>36.03 tCO<sub>2</sub>eq</b>
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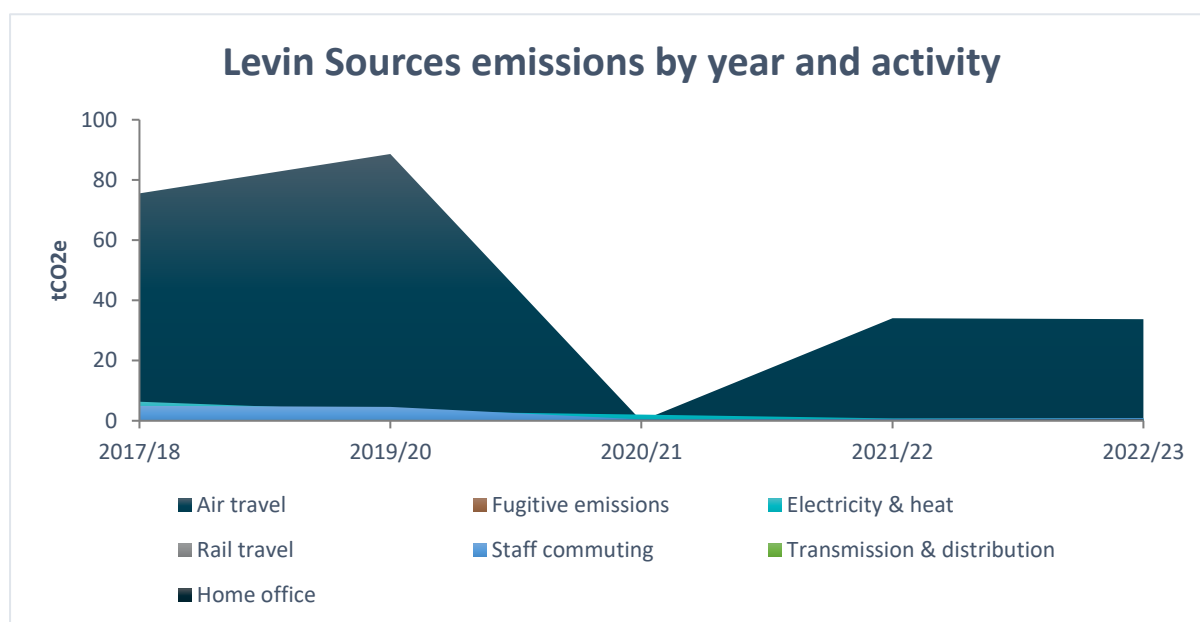
## COMPARISON WITH BASE YEAR

Activity	Base year (2017/18)	Current (2022/23)	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 2022/23 (tonne/1M £)	Change (%)
<b>Scope 1 (tCO2e)</b>									
Fugitive emissions	1.76	0.00	-100%	0.1	0.00	-100%	1.4	0.00	-100%
<b>TOTAL Scope 1</b>	1.76	0.00	-100%	0.1	0.00	-100%	1.4	0.00	-100%
<b>Scope 2 (tCO2e)</b>									
Electricity & heat	6.33	0.76	-88%	0.5	0.04	-92%	5	0.39	-92%
<b>TOTAL Scope 2</b>	6.33	0.76	-88%	0.5	0.05	-92%	5	0.39	-92%
<b>Scope 3 (tCO2e)</b>									
Air travel	75.59	33.76	-55%	5.4	1.88	-65%	59.5	17.44	-71%
Rail travel	0.59	0.02	-100%	0.04	0.00	-100%	0.5	0.01	-98%
Sea travel		0.01			0.00			0.01	
Road travel	4.96	0.91	-82%	0.35	0.05	-86%	3.9	0.47	-88%
Transmission & distribution	0.21	0.03	-85%	0.02	0.00	-89%	0.2	0.02	-92%
Home office	NA	0.54		NA	0.03		NA	0.28	
<b>TOTAL Scope 3</b>	81.4	35.27	-61%	5.8	2.35	-59%	64.1	18.21	-68%
<b>TOTAL emissions</b>	89.4	36.03	-60%	6.4	2.01	-69%	70.4	18.61	-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 the reporting period April 2022 – March 2023, Levin Sources, had 18 core team and an adjusted financial turnover<sup>5</sup> of £1,936,360.
- 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 relative to base year,** mainly due to people working from home, however, emissions did not decrease relative to the 2021/22 reporting period (see chart below). Air travel continues to be the highest contributor of CO2 emissions.



#### 4. Emission by company activity

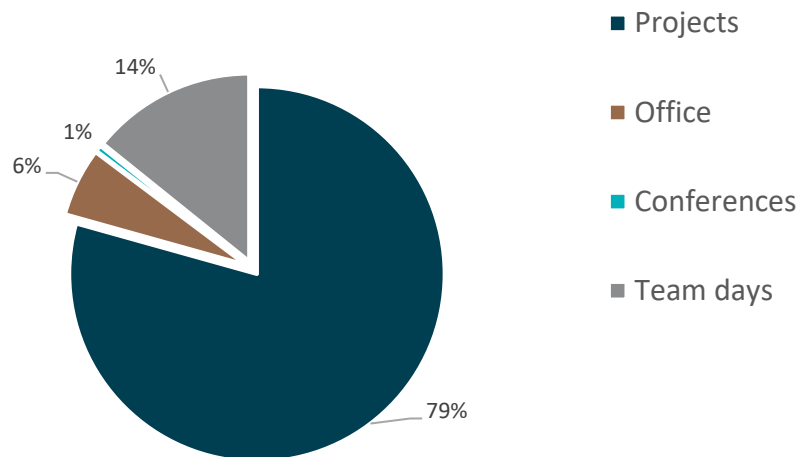
We calculated the share of emissions by company activity by looking at emissions directly linked to:

- project delivery including 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.**

<sup>5</sup> The adjusted financial turnover does not include the irrecoverable withholding tax

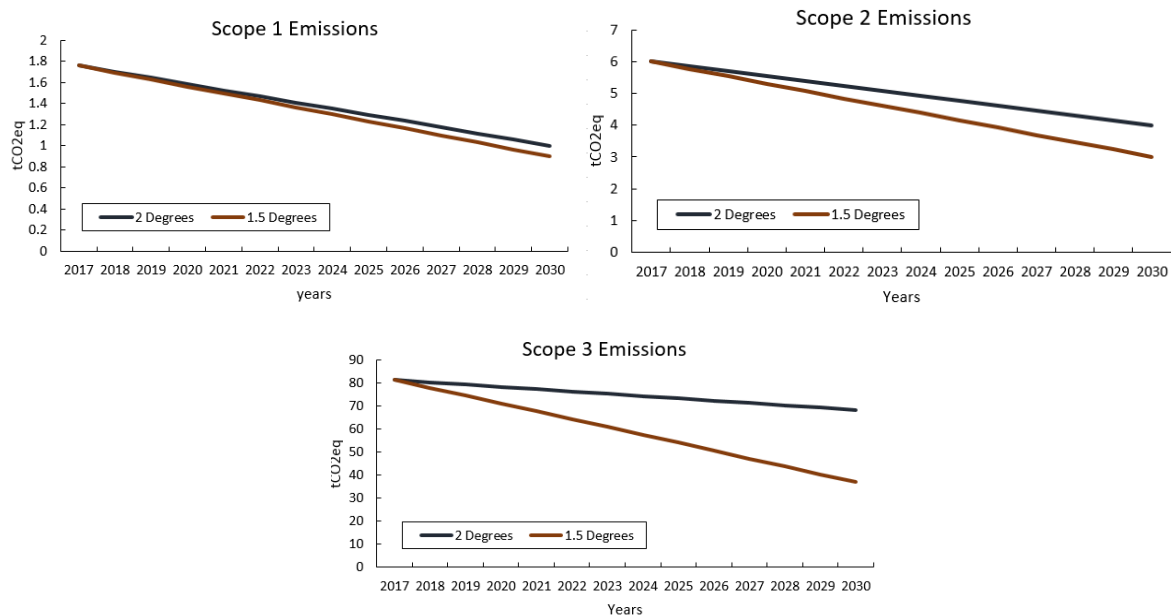




## 5. Emission reduction targets

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 since last reporting period.** 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. Although Levin Sources is following SBTi guidance and tools to report progress and calculate targets, Levin Sources has not submitted SBTi targets for official validation due to the high costs of submission.

	Base year (2017)	Target year (2030)	% Reduction Necessary	Aim 2022	Achieved in 2022 ?
<b>Scope 1 (tCO2e)</b>					
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
<b>Scope 2 (tCO2e)</b>					
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
<b>Scope 3 (tCO2e)</b>					
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

### REDUCTION OF EMISSIONS

Although we are aligned with SBTi reduction emissions targets, emissions went up in 2021/22 when restrictions Covid-19 restrictions were lifted, as stated in last year's report. Our emissions remained similar for this reporting period.

### CARBON OFFSETS

From 2017 to 2020, Levin Sources compensated for its corporate emissions through a £1,000 annual corporate membership with the [Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire Wildlife Trust](#).

Once we became signatories of the Gucci [CEO Carbon Neutral Challenge](#) in 2020, we committed to offsetting our emissions through an accredited scheme. We did this via ACES Vanga Blue Forest project in 22/23 for the third year running.

<b>Total (tCO2e)</b>	<b>22/23 emissions</b>	<b>Cost ACES (\$/tCO2e)</b>	<b>Total offsetting costs (\$)</b>
36		25	900

**Levin Sources is aware that offsetting is not the solution to the climate change crisis, and, in some cases, it can worsen the situation<sup>6</sup>.** This is why we approach offsets in the best way possible to overcome risks and challenges.

### Methodology of offset accounting

ACES' Mikoko Pamoja and Vanga Blue Forest projects generate *ex post* credits, meaning that carbon being claimed is based on demonstrable carbon benefit over the past year. The methodology used carbon calculations are based on a combination of empirical data collected over several years, and predictions in the 2013 Coastal Wetlands supplement to the IPCC guidelines for National Green House Gas inventories and VM0033 Methodology for Tidal Wetlands and Seagrass Restoration, to calculate carbon stocks and project benefits. Forest monitoring is conducted 2-3 times per year to gather and record accurate data which are submitted to Plan Vivo in order to claim annual issuances of carbon credits. Additionality has been assessed to consider the political and regulatory climate, local common practice and technical, financial and institutional implementation barriers. A baseline scenario was established based on several decades of mangrove loss data in Kenya and locally. ACES applies conservative risk buffers of 15% and 25% for Mikoko Pamoja and Vanga Blue Forest respectively. ACES is conservative in our assumptions, including applying the most conservative IPCC predictions on mangrove carbon sequestration despite our empirical data demonstrating higher rates of sequestration, and applying conservative (less than empirically measured) estimates of carbon loss in the baseline scenario. In doing so we can be confident that we are likely to under-claim carbon benefits to avoid the risk of over-claiming these benefits.

## 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** has the potential to significantly 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.

<sup>6</sup> On the limits of offsetting: The Guardian (2019) Why carbon offsetting is not the panacea Harry and Meghan might think it is. URL: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/shortcuts/2019/aug/20/why-carbon-offsetting-is-not-the-panacea-harry-and-meghan-might-think-it-is>

Lisa Song (2019) An even more inconvenient truth. Why carbon credits for forest preservation may be worse than nothing. URL: <https://features.propublica.org/brazil-carbon-offsets/inconvenient-truth-carbon-credits-dont-work-deforestation-redd-acre-cambodia/>

Jennifer Nini (2018) Is carbon offsetting really a climate solution or is it a licence to pollute? URL: <https://ecowarriorprincess.net/2018/01/is-carbon-offsetting-really-a-climate-solution-or-is-it-a-licence-to-pollute/>

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.

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

1. PUBLISHED 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. DRAFTED 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. SUPPORTED 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. PARTICIPATED IN THE **GREENHOUSE GAS WORKING GROUP OF IRMA**, an industry standard, to update greenhouse gas accounting and reduction requirements of the standard.
5. INCLUDED AN ENVIRONMENTAL ANGLE AND SUSTAINABILITY IN MANY PROJECTS PERFORMED, such as:
  - The Raw Materials Outlook portal, where environmental risks were analysed,
  - The lithium dialogue project, where lithium water risks and ways to overcome those risks were analysed,
  - The CSR in mining summer school, included development and implementation of a certified CSR manager training course on sustainability issues,
  - The work done for several companies around the establishment of internal procedures and management systems to meet the company's present and future supply chain sustainability objectives
6. [ATTENDED 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 wished to improve carbon accounting of home working by including legitimate carbon costs of home heating and AC.** We prepared a questionnaire for next reporting period (see here: <https://forms.gle/M6K4bYPD27xypRRR9>) to include the results in the next carbon footprint report. But due to the complexity of data collection and genuine attribution of heating costs to the company, for the reporting period we only based home working carbon costs on energy used to power electronic devices used when working, mainly computers.

**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.

**Our carbon accounting procedure has been documented**, so that other colleagues can do the calculations when (and if) needed.

Over the reporting period, we gathered evidence of our environmental practices for the **B Corporation assessment**, which we completed in Q2 2023. We are planning to use the B Corp dashboard and its focus on the UN SDGs as part of our ongoing reporting process.