

ecoTM
Sustainable Solutions

Sustainability Report 2021



Letter from our COO ↓

Going through, and gradually coming out of, the recent pandemic has given us the opportunity to re-evaluate who we are as a company and what we stand for.

The triple bottom line of People, Planet and Profit (and not to forget Process) remain as the company's pillars and it is vitally important that we focus on all equally and measure our performance and progress.

This report highlights key areas that showcase the results of hundreds of hours of teamwork, that have been dedicated to ensure our activities, which inherently benefit the wider environment, have as positive an impact as possible to our immediate surroundings. In fact, we strive for our facilities to sit, not only sympathetically within the local ecology, but to enhance it where possible.

This is well demonstrated through the biodiversity gains we've seen over the recent 12 months.

The output from our Green Energy plants have underpinned many of our achievements this year. These are the direct result of measures that our teams have implemented to improve reliability and output. It's not easy creating energy from waste, but our dedicated and professional operators, engineers, technicians and managers ensure that these facilities operate efficiently and above all, extremely safely.

To have zero lost time injuries is another fantastic achievement, and one which we thought aspirational at the start of the year. We operate in the second most dangerous industry in the UK, so ensuring that we all get home to our families and loved ones at the end of the shift can never be taken for granted and we must always strive for better. As with most things, and in particular, safety, we are all equal and it's vital that we remind each other of our responsibilities, and crucially, look out for one another. This is an integral part of our culture.

Those who know Eco would hopefully recognise the credence we apply to learning and development and the value this brings to each of our team members, but also the company as a whole. We encourage and sponsor team development at every opportunity and I personally get great satisfaction from challenging myself to grow, but more so, by seeing team mates develop as people and professionals, whilst with Eco.

This year will be challenging to replicate some of the great achievements of 2021, but with focus in the right areas and the dedication and hard work from our fantastic team, I have no doubt that we can continue to make a greater positive impression on our environment. Finally, can I thank everyone involved, directly and as partners of the business, for their support and incredible hard work, day in and day out. Without you there would be no business. Thank you.



Justin Dampney
Chief Operating Officer

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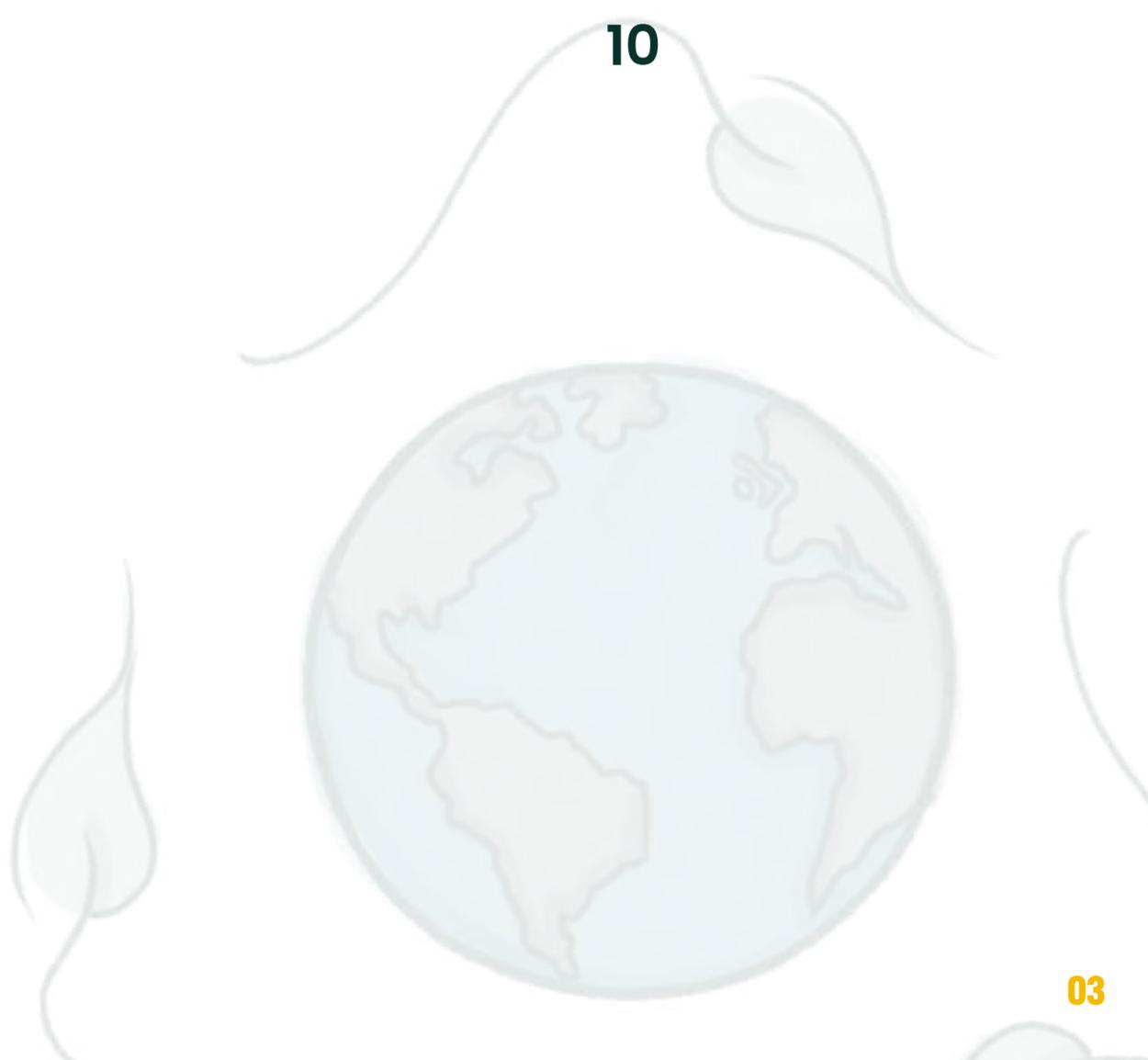
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Reducing Carbon Emissions

2021 Highlights

147,714 tonnes

CO₂e prevented from entering the atmosphere by diverting waste from landfill

20% reduction

in diesel usage by switching to hybrid machinery and renewable fuels

236,540 tonnes

waste recycled

Scope 1 emissions decreased

↓
due to generating more of our own green electricity than ever before



Reducing Carbon Emissions



Record breaking CHP & AD Plants

With a 10.4% increase from 2020, 2021 saw our Biomass CHP (combined heat and power) and AD (anaerobic digestion) produce the most green energy they've ever recorded. The improved performance of our biomass CHP plant further reduced our need for back-up, diesel fed power, which prevented in the region of 300 tonnes of CO₂ from being emitted. Our Biomass CHP plant converts waste wood into heat and power through a combustion process, and AD is a biological process where food waste is broken down by micro-organisms, which creates biogas. This is used to fuel engines, generating green power and heat. These processes transform waste into a vital resource, which supports a more circular economy and utilises our planet's finite resources rather than diverting them towards emission heavy disposal processes such as landfill.

By using circular renewable energy technologies, we are reducing both our reliance on fossil fuels and our on-site operating emissions, as well as producing enough electricity to power the equivalent of over 6,000 homes per year [1].

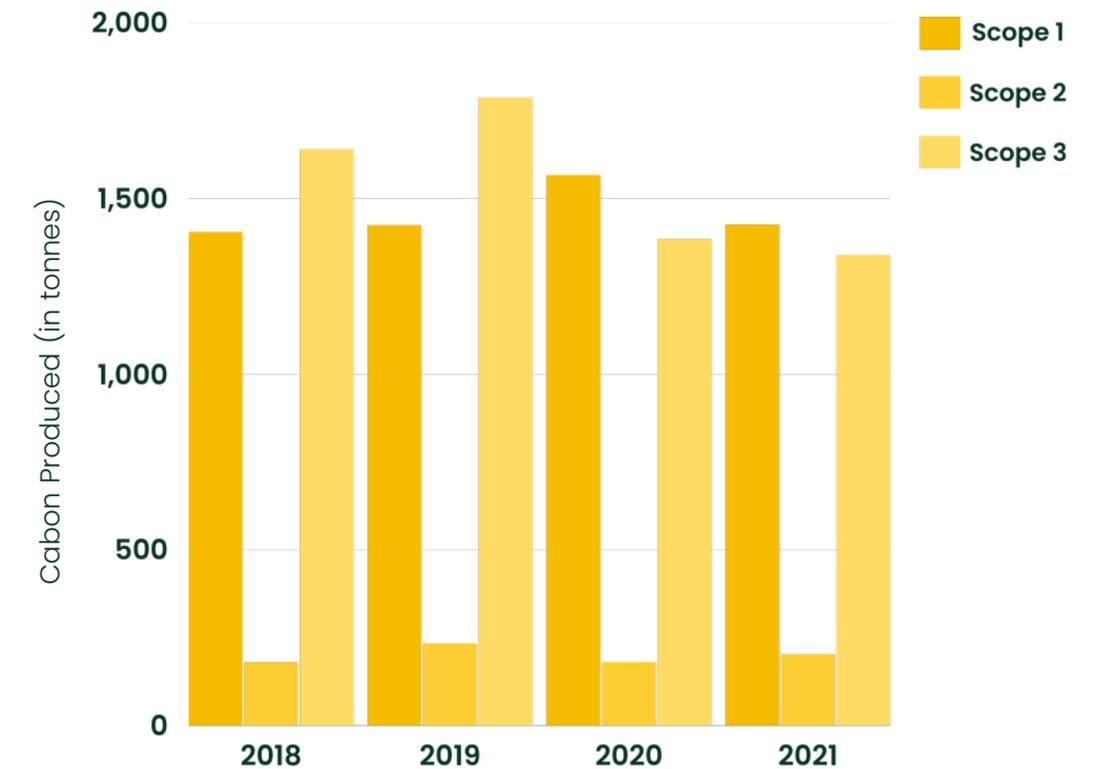
Introduction of HVO & Hybrid machinery

Hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) is an alternative to fossil fuels which doesn't introduce any new greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere when combusted to power vehicles. HVO is much more environmentally friendly as it releases only 0.2 tonnes of CO₂ per 1,000 litres burned [2], compared to diesel which produces 3.6 tonnes. We introduced this alternative fuel into our vehicle fleet to reduce emissions from burning diesel which is currently the company's biggest carbon emission producer. As a result, in 2021, we prevented almost 30 tonnes of CO₂ from entering the atmosphere by using HVO rather than diesel.

Additionally, we have recently added a hybrid Excavator to our fleet. The hybrid technology reduces the Excavator's diesel usage by 20%, preventing 7 tonnes of CO₂ from being emitted each year.

1. Based on medium household electricity use of 2900 kWh per year (profile class 1) (Ofgem 2020).

2. Crown Oil (2022) Crown HVO Fuel (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil Fuel) – Reduce up to 90% of Net CO₂ Emissions. Available at: <https://www.crownoil.co.uk/products/hvo-fuel-hydrotreated-vegetable-oil/> [accessed: 11/04/2022]



Scope 1, 2 & 3 all business (graph 2018-2021)

Emissions Scopes

The three scopes help to assess where our emissions originate from. Scope 1 covers direct emissions from company operations; Scope 2 emissions are indirect emissions derived from the generation of purchased energy (e.g., from the National Grid); and Scope 3 includes all other indirect business emissions such as company car mileage, or disposal/treatment of waste off site.

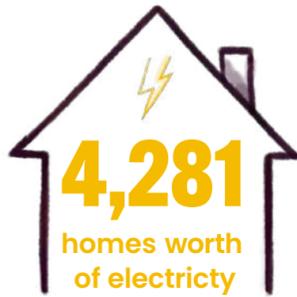
In 2021, despite an increase in production, we achieved our 2020 commitment to reduce our direct (Scope 1) emissions, with a 9% decrease from 1565 tonne CO₂e in 2020 to 1424 tonne CO₂e in 2021. This illustrates our commitment to using low carbon energy sources such as that from our CHP and AD plants across our sites. In the future, we aim to continue this downward trend by implementing further energy efficiency methods and increasing the productivity of our renewable energy plants. By creating our own green energy, we will reduce our reliance on energy from the National Grid, which is not always created via renewable methods, and in the process decrease Scope 3 emissions from disposal/treatment of waste off site as more of the waste will be utilised in the production of this energy.

Reducing Carbon Emissions

Food Waste

40,481 tonnes of food waste recycled

12,415 MWH of electricity from AD



Street Sweepings

21,788 tonnes of sweepings recycled



To create aggregate & compost like output



147,714

tonnes of CO₂e from entering the atmosphere by diverting waste from landfill

Soil



58,214 tonnes of excavated soil recycled

Wood Waste

48,618 tonnes of wood waste recycled

12,000 tonnes for Energy Recovery on site
36,000 tonnes for Energy Recovery offsite



5,162.248 MWH of electricity produced

Green Waste

67,439 tonnes of garden waste collected

30,000 tonnes of compost made



Biodiversity & Ecology

2021 Highlights

12 hectares of land
dedicated to heathland restoration
and opened to light grazing

Increasing diversity
of heathland plant & animal life

Providing habitat
for multiple reptile species including
all 3 species of snake native to the
British Isles

Biodiversity & Ecology



Heathland Creation

Since Spring 2021, we have been transforming the poor quality arable land adjacent to our Parley site into emerging heathland, and our work is already paying off! This land acts as a wildlife corridor and is now characterized by heather, gorse, and other flora, all encouraged to grow via controlled cattle grazing. Surveys of the area have included sightings of various reptiles and amphibians, including the protected smooth snake, lizards, newts, and toads, alongside recordings of buzzards, kestrels, lapwings, snipe, and skylarks, all of which are thriving in the newly restored landscape.

We hope to continue enhancing the biodiversity of the area with new additions of ponds and reptile bunds within the sites, as not only does this benefit the species that live there, but it provides an ideal setting for carbon sequestration, supporting our goals of sustainable practices and carbon reductions.

Super Soils

Over the past decade it has become increasingly clear how important soils are in our fight to combat the climate crisis; soils are key in capturing carbon from the atmosphere and sequestering it deep into the ground, alongside providing ecosystem services such as flood prevention and improving the quality of our water. Therefore, it is essential we maintain these high-quality soils. Eco's ultra-sustainable SuperSoil combines local recycled soil with recycled 12-week matured, nutrient-rich compost, removing the need for fertilisers that can damage the soil's long-term productivity and ability to effectively store carbon.

Furthermore, Eco's environmental compartments – which are being managed to transform arable land into heathland – actively sequester carbon into its soils with help from the grazing cattle which trample their own waste and old plant matter into it. From here the trampled matter can decompose and enrich the soil's network of microbial life, allowing for more plants to grow and more carbon to be taken out of the atmosphere and locked into the ground.



Our commitment in 2022

In 2022, we aim to enhance the biodiversity value on site by continuing to restore and manage the emerging heathland in our environmental compartments, with added features such as reptile bunds and ponds.

During 2022, we will plant 1,000m² of wildflower meadow at one of our operational sites in Dorset to help struggling populations of native pollinators, such as bees, butterflies and moths.

We are also committed to installing further nest boxes on site and within the heathland compartments for barn owls and other species of bird.



People



2021 Highlights

201 days

dedicated to training the team

5 internal

↑ promotions

67 bags of product

donated to local communities

ZERO RIDDOR

reportable accidents

People

Health & Wellbeing

We have over 50 amazing members of Team Eco from five different countries who all have the opportunity to develop their knowledge and enhance their skills. We're committed to the continuous development and growth of our team to support, encourage, and succeed in delivering a safer, happier, healthier working environment for all.

Supporting the health & wellbeing of our people in 2021:

- Improved health & safety performance through the launch of our Altogether Safer program.
- We committed to companywide annual pay rises based upon CPI
- Provided all employees with Life Assurance for 4 x their annual salary
- Smart health services for mental health support and 24/7 GP access
- 10% of our team were promoted internally

Having worked tirelessly through the pandemic, we were very aware of the strain our staff will have been under. In 2021, we trained 2 team members to be qualified mental health first aiders and encourage anyone who is interested, to have the training.

Safety Culture

During 2021 we increased our focus on improving our safety culture which included bespoke behavioral safety training for managers. The training was developed in conjunction with a specialist local training provider. We also worked hard to increase our staff engagement on H&S issues and make it easier for staff to discuss safety and raise concerns regarding their working environment. These initiatives helped us achieve our target of zero RIDDOR reportable accidents across our three operational sites for the year.

On top of this we undertook a program of site safety improvement works during 2021 which was led by our workforce. Through engagement we encouraged our operatives on the ground to tell us how we could help make their working environment safer and acted upon their suggestions.



Our commitment in 2022

Our target for 2022 is to ensure that all staff receive our bespoke behavioral safety training, as well as other applicable and continued engagement on health and safety issues. Another goal for 2022 is to train further mental health first aiders and raise awareness of stress within the workplace.

In 2022, we aim to introduce a paid 'giving back' day for our team to volunteer with our charity partner.

RIDDOR Reportable Incidents

2019	2020	2021
2	2	0

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