



Carbon footprint report

Sweeney Miller Law

Benchmark Year 1

April 2022 – March 2023



Commit



Measure



Reduce



Engage





Step one.

Commitment





RACE TO ZERO

Our Climate Commitment – UNFCC Race to Zero

Sweeney Miller Law recognises that climate change poses a threat to the economy, nature and society-at-large, which is why we have decided to act immediately in a full and lasting commitment by:

1. Achieving Net Zero in line with the Science Based targets set out by the UNFCCC i.e., to achieve Net Zero no later than 2050 and target a 50% reduction in emissions by 2030;
2. Setting realistic short-term and long-term targets; and
3. Maintaining and reporting the total GHG emissions of our business regularly.

In doing so, we are proud to be recognised by the United Nations Race to Zero campaign, and join governments, businesses, cities, regions, and universities around the world that share the same mission.

We acknowledge that our commitment will be reported on the SME Climate Hub website. Sweeney Miller made our pledge to the Race to Zero in November 2023.

	Year	Potential Year (if ahead of target)
Pledge to be Net-Zero	2050	2045
50% Emissions Reduction	2030	2030



Company Overview

Sweeney Miller Law is a Limited Liability Partnership, company number OC374687, registered in England & Wales with a registered address of Mowbray Villas, Burdon Road, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear, SR2 7EA

Industry – Legal services

Number of staff – 70 average during the reporting period

Number of Offices: – 2

Accreditations – Lexcel, CQS, Cyber Essentials Plus

Sweeney Miller Law is an established law firm based on the North of East of England serving clients across England and Wales.

Our approach to client work is simple: we work hard to build trust and give our clients confidence in what we do. With confidence comes greater peace of mind; we are committed to taking the stress and worry out of our client's legal matters.

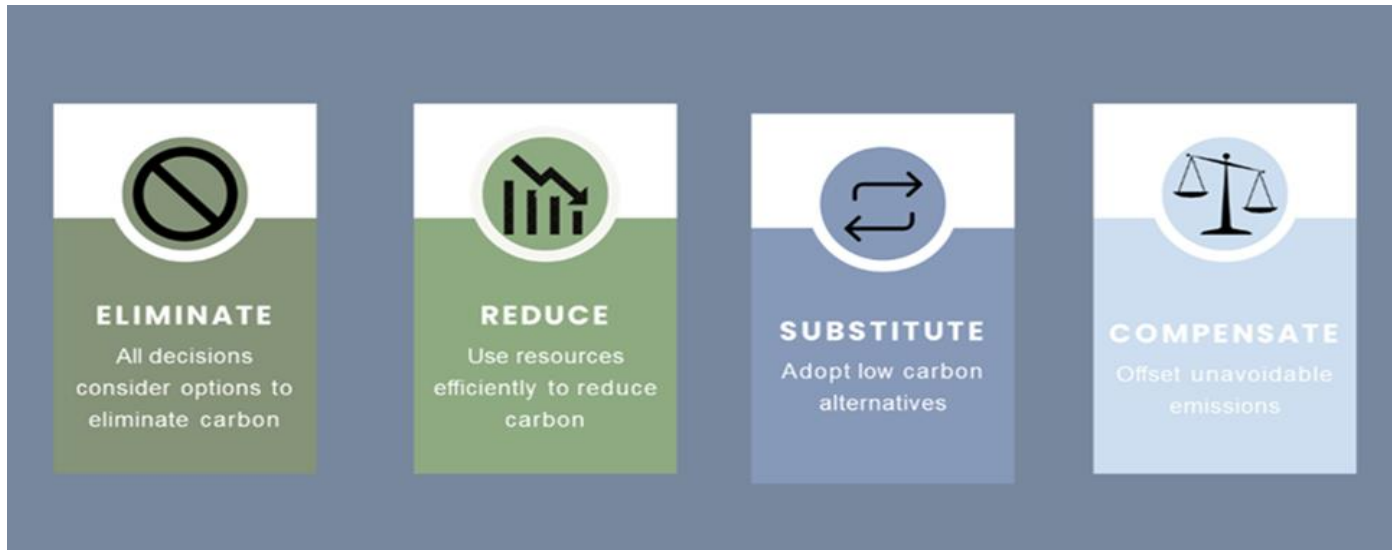
We recognise that both business and environmental sustainability will play a key role within our business foundations and values and have developed the following net-zero strategy.





Net-Zero Strategy

In determining our carbon reduction plan, we follow the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Management Hierarchy set out by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA). Sweeney Miller Law is committed to prioritising the elimination, substitution, and reduction of carbon in advance of any offsetting commitments.



Completed Carbon Reduction Initiatives

Sweeney Miller Law have implemented the following measures to date to drive our net-zero strategy:

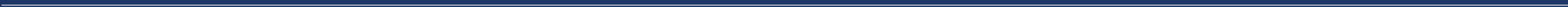
- Sustainability Consultant employed to track, report and work with us to drive our understanding and data;
- LED lighting installed;
- Printing and posting less – with the aim of becoming paperless; and
- Cycle to work scheme.

We are committed to increasing such initiatives when such opportunities present and are actively exploring the market to do so.



Step two.

Measure





Total carbon emissions
252 tCO₂e

Intensity Metrics

Per Employee



This Period
3.6
Tonnes CO₂e

Per £1000 Turnover



This Period
0.06
Tonne CO₂e

Reporting Year: April 22 – March 23 (benchmark year)

Sweeney Miller Law emitted 252 tCO₂e (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent) across scope 1, 2 and some 3 and reported using the operational control methodology, this is the equivalent to 192.7 long haul flights (London to New York).

This can be presented as an intensity indicator of 3.6 tCO₂e per total full-time equivalent employee (FTE). And 0.6 tCO₂e per £1,000 turnover.



Energy & Fuels

19.09% Total



- Electricity (Market) 15.3 tonnes CO₂e
- Gas 31.3 tonnes CO₂e
- Other 0 tonnes CO₂e



Green Electricity 0%

Green Gas 0%

Non Grid Electricity 0%

PV Wind Bio Other Non-Grid

0% 0% 0% 0% 0%

Transmission & Distribution 1.4 tonne CO₂e

Sweeney Miller Law operates from 2 offices in North East of England. We are liable for utilities procurement and management, alongside a flexible homeworking approach.

We have recorded the energy emissions using the market-based methodology – emissions remain 15.3 tCO₂e when using location based.

Electricity and gas emission were calculated using actual invoice data and meter reads.

We have included homeworking emissions using the BEIS emissions factors and total homeworking hours for, the business extrapolated over the year from an employee survey.



Business Travel

0.24% Total



Green Road
Miles
0

0%
Total Road
Miles



	Cars - ICE	0.5 tonne CO ₂ e
	Cars - Green	0 tonnes CO ₂ e
	VansTrucks	0 tonnes CO ₂ e
	Other	0.1 tonne CO ₂ e

Total Business Travel by Scope



	Scope 1	0 tonnes CO ₂ e
	Scope 3	0.6 tonne CO ₂ e

Sweeney Miller Law business travel is >1% of recorded emissions for this reporting period and essential to deliver services to clients.

Mileage was recorded from our internal finance systems using monthly business mileage usage for cars.

Other travel such as trains and planes, data has been calculated using estimations and calculations based on expense records.



Carbon footprint - Commuting

Employee Commuting

13.41% Total



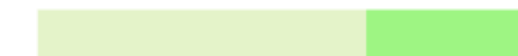
Green Road Miles
2,023.437

1.44%
Total Road Miles



Cars - ICE	33.6 tonnes CO ₂ e
Cars - Green	0.1 tonne CO ₂ e
Bus	0 tonne CO ₂ e
Rail	0.1 tonne CO ₂ e
Other	0 tonnes CO ₂ e

Zero Carbon Miles 0.27%



Walking	0.3 tonne CO ₂ e
Cycling	0.1 tonne CO ₂ e

As a service-based people business employing over 70 people, developing our culture, working from our offices is essential for our business.

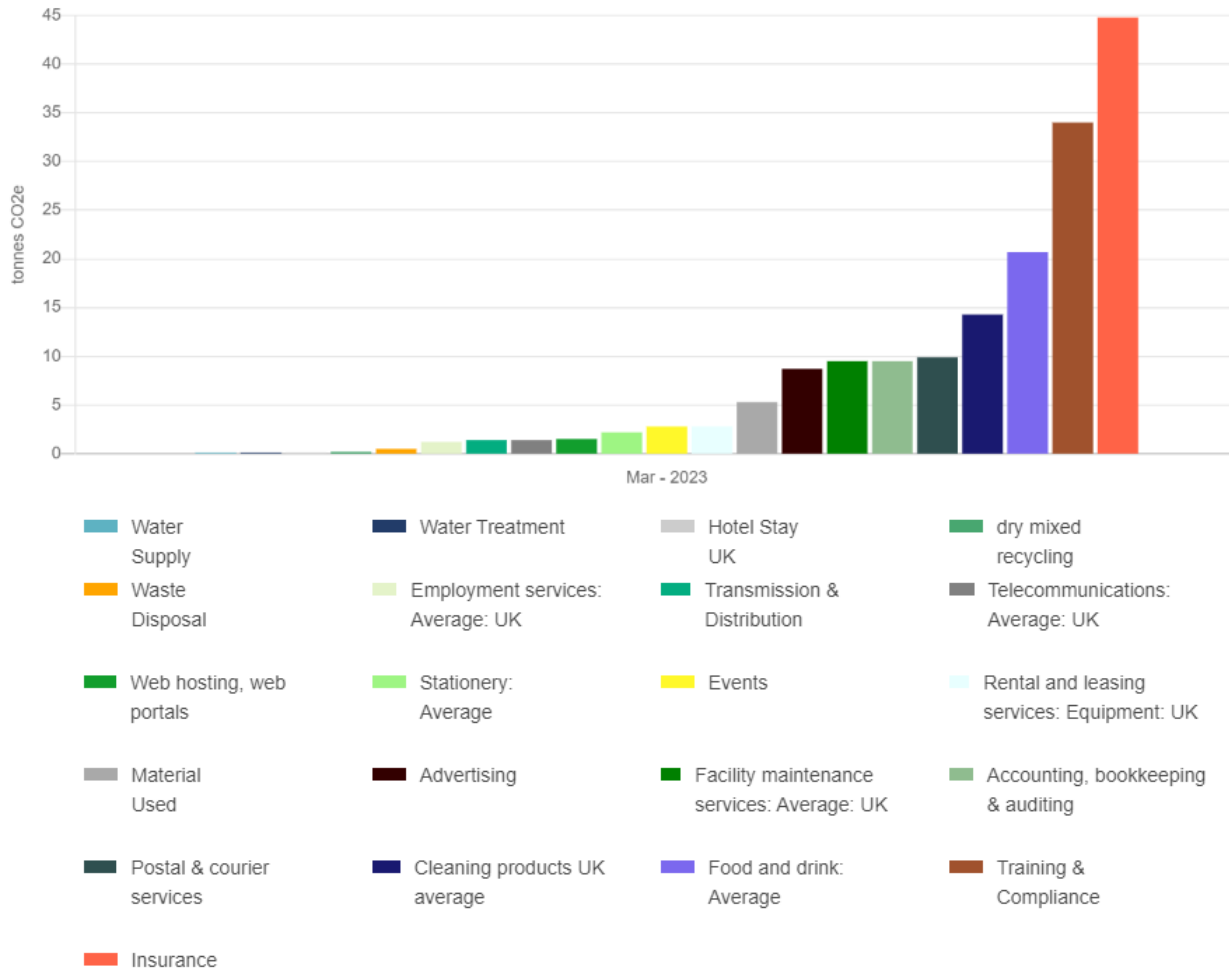
Sweeney Miller's commuting accounts for >13% of recorded emissions.

0.4 tCO₂e is saved through our staff walking and cycling to work, this is the equivalent to saving 0.5 long haul flights between London and New York.

Commuting data was calculated using two staff surveys with over 90% completion and data average and extrapolated over the year and full FTE.



Detailed Carbon (CO₂e)
From Benchmark



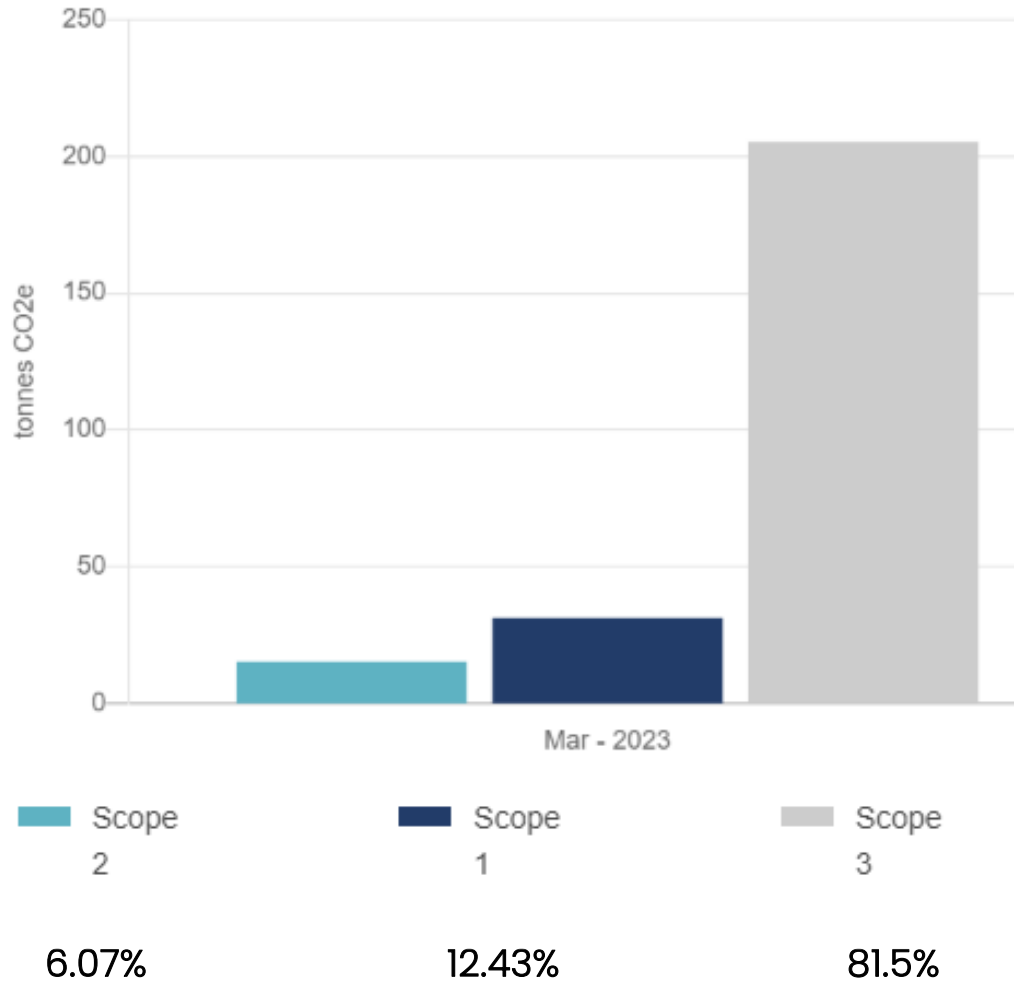
Scope 3 emissions represent > 81% of recorded emissions. As this is our benchmark year our ongoing focus will be to develop new internal processes to record more value chain emissions.

Scope 3 emissions represent our next phase of work in understanding and reducing our carbon emissions. The following categories of Scope 3 were included;

- 1 – Some Products and services
- 4 – Upstream transportation and Distribution
- 5 – Waste Generated in Operations
- 6 – Business Travel
- 7 – Employee Commuting



Carbon footprint – By Scope



As this is our initial report Scope emissions are split broadly in line with market averages for businesses that do not have a vehicle fleet , with the majority in Scope 3.

We will continue to develop our data over future reports and report on split of carbon scope.



Scope	Category	Quality	
Scope 1	Gas Usage		
Scope 2	Electricity Usage		
Scope 3	Water		
	Food Costs		
	Web hosting, portals		
	Purchased Goods and Services	Insurance	
		Cleaning materials	
		Buildings	
		Advertising	
		Accounting	
	Waste Generated in Operations	General Waste	
		Mixed recycling	
		Paper	
Business Travel	Road		
	Employee commuting		

- Data inputted in optimal format
- Spend data utilised
- Data estimated based on assumptions

This report has been created using the Environmental Reporting Guidelines, including Streamline Energy & Carbon Reporting guidance. The report uses the operational control approach to establishing the boundary. The methodology adopted in line with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol and the BEIS Environmental Reporting Guidelines. The calculations were completed using the UK Government emissions factors and the CBN Expert software including environmental input output factors.



Step three.

Reduce





The following carbon hotspots have been identified from Sweeney Miller Law's carbon footprint.



ENERGY & FUELS



PURCHASED
GOODS & SERVICES



COMMUTING



BUSINESS TRAVEL



- To align with 1.5 degrees global warming, Sweeney Miller Law will follow a Science based target pathway, setting near term targets.
- The target years show our Scope 1&2 GHG emissions near term targets in the years 2030 (90%). If Sweeney Miller Law hit these targets, the company will be aligned with 1.5 degrees global warming.
- Near term Scope 3 emission targets are to engage with 80% of suppliers and understand their carbon emission by 2030.
- Long term Scope 1&2 targets are to reduce to 0 emissions and 100% renewable electricity.
- Long term Scope 3 targets are aligned to reach net-zero by 2045.
- As an SME, it is not compulsory for Sweeney Miller to set a Scope 3 science-based target. However, it is strongly recommended that targets are set regardless, and increased reporting of Scope 3 emission categories is a priority next step.

Scope	Base Year 2022	Near term target 2030	% reduction (from base year)	Net-Zero 2045
1	15.98	1.60	90	0.00
2	5.77	0.58	90	0.00
3	230.25	138.15	40	23.03
Total	252	132.82		21.29

Table 2: Sweeney Miller's science-based targets and the required % reductions (tCO2e)

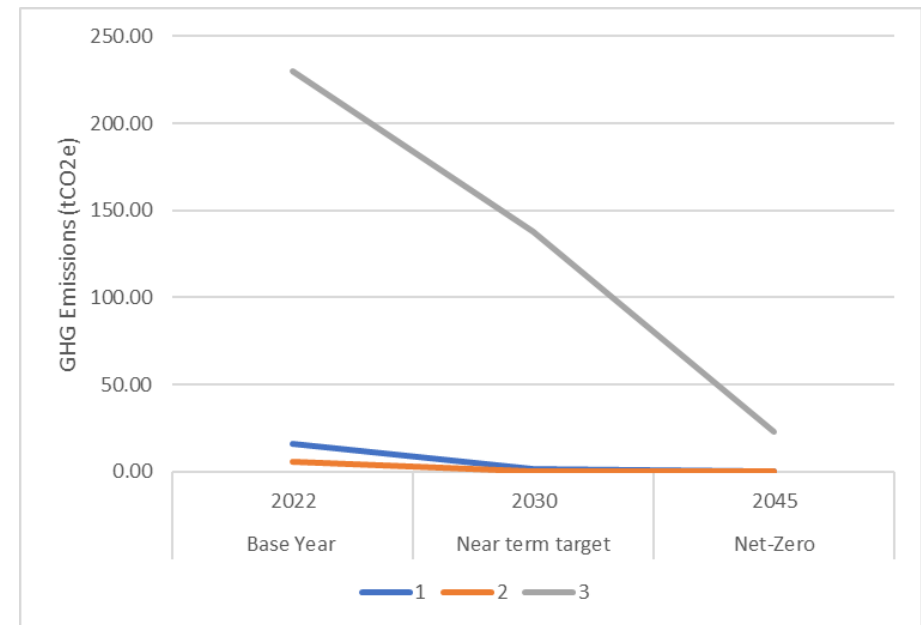


Figure 2: Sweeney Miller's science-based targets, split by scope.



Action Plan & Targets:

Utilities

Sweeney Miller Law will actively encourage a wider understanding of water and energy efficiency across the business, reducing office consumption and associated emissions whilst also supporting our homeworking staff use less.

We will review our utility contracts when the contracts allow and select renewable tariffs as soon as we are able with a target of using 100% renewable electricity by 2028.

We intend to move our Sunderland Office to a more modern and energy efficient building allowing less gas to be used to the heat the building alongside additional resources to lose less heat.

We will explore solar energy and potentially look to utilise the same at our new Sunderland Office.

Commuting

We will continue to understand our commuting data and use this to encourage greener forms of transport to reduce our emissions. – Move of premises, new survey to understand the impact and formulate a plan from next year.

We will consider implementing a electric vehicle salary sacrifice scheme and explore installing electric car charging facilities.

Scope 3 - Supply Chain

We are committed to improving the quality and quantity of our Greenhouse Gas inventory and are targeting to have engagement with and understand the carbon emissions o 80% of our supply chain by 2030.

To support, monitor and manage our ambition we continue employ the services of a sustainability consultant and track our carbon footprint.



Step four.

Engage





Stakeholder engagement

Sustainability is in our DNA, we are passionate and committed to understanding more about our impact on the environment and communities.

We commit to actively talk about our journey to our staff, supply chain and clients and through social media and marketing. Collectively we can make a difference.

Carbon Literacy & other environmental training

Carbon Literacy is “An awareness of the carbon costs and impacts of everyday activities and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions, on an individual, community and organisational basis.”

Carbon Literate citizens understand how climate change will affect them – both geographically and sectorally – and have acquired the knowledge and skills to lower their carbon footprint, with typical realised carbon savings of 5-15% per person.

Sweeney Miller Law is committed to carbon literacy training for our staff to support our ambition and encourage collective action in and out of the workplace.



Glossary



Term	Definition
Carbon dioxide equivalent (Co ² e)	Carbon dioxide equivalent (CO ₂ e) is the unit of measurement which allows different greenhouse gases to be compared on a like for like basis relative to one unit of CO ₂ .
Intensity indicator	Intensity indicators compare emissions data with an appropriate business metric or financial indicator, such as staff numbers, to allow comparison over time or with other organisations
Organisational boundaries	In setting organizational boundaries, a company selects an approach for consolidating GHG emissions and then consistently applies the selected approach to define those businesses and operations that constitute the company for the purpose of accounting and reporting GHG emissions.
<u>Greenhouse</u> Gas Protocol	GHG Protocol supplies the world's most widely used greenhouse gas accounting standards
UK Government emissions factors	These emission conversion factors are for use by UK and international organisations to report on and are updated annually, greenhouse gas emissions. From: Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
Scope 1	Direct emissions that result from activities within your organisation's control. This might include on-site fuel combustion, manufacturing and process emissions, refrigerant losses and company vehicles.
Scope 2	Indirect emissions from any electricity, heat or steam you purchase and use. Although you're not directly in control of the emissions, by using the energy you are indirectly responsible for the release of CO ₂ .
Scope 3	Includes all other indirect emissions that occur in a company value chain, eg purchased goods, travel and waste disposal
Carbon footprint	A carbon footprint is the total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions caused directly and indirectly by an individual, organisation, event or product, and is expressed as a carbon dioxide equivalent (CO ₂ e)
Benchmark year	The initial reporting year to be used to set reduction targets against
Operational control	After a company has determined its organizational boundaries in terms of the operations that it owns or controls, it then sets its operational boundaries. This involves identifying emissions associated with its operations



Thank you.

Get in touch

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