

# Carbon Reduction Plan

Supplier name: Accenture

Publication date: 30/09/21

## Commitment to achieving Net Zero

Accenture is committed to achieving Net Zero emissions by 2025.

## 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 Year: 2016** (01/09/2015 through to 31/08/2016)

### Additional Details relating to the Baseline Emissions calculations.

Accenture is a global business with operations and activities across many countries. Our environmental commitments and targets are set at a global level, with strategies and direction propagated down to the local market unit (MU) level. Environmental reporting is completed by each MU and then aggregated, and internally and externally verified to provide the global dataset. Accenture UK is part of the UKI (UK & Ireland) MU. For clarity, in this document, the emissions data provided will be focused on Accenture UK operations rather than Accenture global. Ireland emissions data will not be included.

Accenture's reporting period begins on 1 September and ends on 31 August the following year in line with the financial year. Our baseline year for emissions is financial year 2016, also known as FY16, therefore the reporting period covers 1 September 2015 through 31 August 2016. This is also the baseline year for our Science-Based Target (SBT), which aims to reduce our absolute greenhouse gas emissions by 11% against our 2016 baseline by 2025, including a commitment to reduce absolute scope 1 and 2 emissions by 65%, and a 40% per unit of revenue intensity reduction for scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions over the same time period.

This document covers Accenture's full UK operational scope for the specified period including a number of subsidiaries, if owned by Accenture in the specified period. The carbon footprint of any subsidiaries is measured and included in the numbers presented below, and in general as part of the company's UK carbon footprint reporting. These subsidiaries are all subject to the same carbon reduction commitments and initiatives laid out below and includes Avanade UK Limited and Karmarama Limited.

*NOTE: "Accenture UK frequently acquires other companies. The acquired entities appear as wholly owned subsidiaries for a period of time between six months to two years after acquisition whilst the business is integrated into Accenture. After integration is complete the entities are put into liquidation."*

*NOTE: Out of the subset of five Scope 3 emissions categories requested as per the PPN 06/21 Technical Standard, only '6. Business travel' is applicable to how Accenture currently reports on carbon emissions related to our operations. For further details on our Scope 3 emissions data, please see section C6.5*

(page 48-52) of our [Accenture 2020 CDP Response](#). Carbon emissions from our Upstream activities are part of our Purchased Goods and Services (PG&S) – our PG&S data is available to be shared if requested.

NOTE: Our methodology for measuring our carbon footprint is compliant and done in accordance with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol. All emissions from greenhouse gases (GHGs), including those in the Kyoto Protocol basket of GHGs, are measured and converted into metric tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent.

mtCO<sub>2</sub>e = metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.

**Baseline year emissions (Accenture UK data): FY16 (01/09/2015 to 31/08/2016)**

EMISSIONS	TOTAL (mtCO <sub>2</sub> e)
Scope 1	<p><b>Scope 1 total = 0.08 mtCO<sub>2</sub>e</b></p> <p><b>Breakdown of source(s):</b></p> <p>Diesel within operational control = 0.08 mtCO<sub>2</sub>e</p>
Scope 2	<p><b>Scope 2 total = 927.06 mtCO<sub>2</sub>e</b></p> <p><b>Breakdown of source(s):</b></p> <p>Total Non-Renewable Carbon Emissions = 716.16 mtCO<sub>2</sub>e</p> <p>Total Carbon Emissions from Gas = 210.9 mtCO<sub>2</sub>e</p> <p><i>(This was measured on a Market-based approach)</i></p>
Scope 3 (Included sources)	<p><b>Scope 3 total = 25,884.45 mtCO<sub>2</sub>e</b></p>
	<p><b>4. Upstream transportation and distribution = not relevant, explanation provided</b></p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> Accenture is a global professional services company, providing a broad range of services and solutions in strategy, consulting, digital, technology and operations. Due to the nature of our business, we provide our clients with services and solutions rather than goods, and as such, transportation and distribution of goods are not relevant for us.</p>
	<p><b>5. Waste generated in operations = not relevant, explanation provided</b></p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> Accenture is a global professional services company, providing a broad range of services and solutions in strategy, consulting, digital, technology and operations. Due to the nature of our business, waste generation is not a material source of GHG emissions. However, we do manage and track our e-waste as part of a broader environmental programme. In fiscal 2020, more than 99% of our total disposed e-waste avoided landfill.</p>
<p><b>6. Business travel = 25,884.45 mtCO<sub>2</sub>e</b></p> <p><b>Breakdown of source(s):</b></p> <p>Air travel = 15,908.19 mtCO<sub>2</sub>e</p> <p>Rail travel = 353.2 mtCO<sub>2</sub>e</p> <p>Taxi travel = 590.30 mtCO<sub>2</sub>e</p> <p>Company/rental cars = 354.63 mtCO<sub>2</sub>e</p> <p>Personal cars = 8,678.13 mtCO<sub>2</sub>e</p>	

	<p><b>7. Employee commuting = not relevant, explanation provided</b></p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> Employee-funded commuting is not within Accenture's operational boundary/control and is not generally in scope for our environmental measurement programme. In some instances where employee commuting is reimbursed by Accenture, it is included in our Scope 3 methodology such as within Business Travel. In our annually audited ISO14001 Aspects Assessments, employee commuting is not considered a significant environmental aspect and we exclude it on that basis. Due to the nature of our work delivery model, the majority of our employees' travel is to client sites where this is reimbursed travel and is included in our Scope 3 methodology.</p>
	<p><b>9. Downstream transportation and distribution = not relevant, explanation provided</b></p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> Accenture is a global professional services company, providing a broad range of services and solutions in strategy, consulting, digital, technology and operations. We do not transport or distribute products.</p>
<b>Total Emissions (FY16)</b>	<b>26,811.7 mtCO<sub>2</sub>e</b> <b>(0.08 + 927.06 + 25,884.45)</b>

## Current Emissions Reporting

Reporting year emissions (Accenture UK data): FY20 (01/09/2019 to 31/08/2020)	
EMISSIONS	TOTAL (mtCO <sub>2</sub> e)
<b>Scope 1</b>	<p><b>Scope 1 total = 0</b></p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> Diesel generators are the only potential source of emissions here. We reported no emissions related to this due to no activity taking place.</p>
<b>Scope 2</b>	<p><b>Scope 2 total = 187.1 mtCO<sub>2</sub>e</b></p> <p><b>Breakdown of source(s):</b></p> <p>Total Carbon Emissions from Gas = 187.1 mtCO<sub>2</sub>e</p> <p><i>(This was measured on a Market-based approach)</i></p>
<b>Scope 3 (Included sources)</b>	<p><b>Scope 3 total = 6,879.6 mtCO<sub>2</sub>e</b></p>
	<p><b>4. Upstream transportation and distribution = not relevant, explanation provided</b></p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> Accenture is a global professional services company, providing a broad range of services and solutions in strategy, consulting, digital, technology and operations. Due to the nature of our business, we provide our clients with services and solutions rather than goods, and as such, transportation and distribution of goods are not relevant for us.</p>
	<p><b>5. Waste generated in operations = not relevant, explanation provided</b></p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> Accenture is a global professional services company, providing a broad range of services and solutions in strategy, consulting, digital, technology and operations. Due to the nature of our business, waste generation is not a material source of GHG emissions. However, we do manage and track our e-waste as part of a broader environmental program. In fiscal 2020, more than 99% of our total disposed e-waste avoided landfill.</p>

	<p><b>6. Business Travel = 6879.6 mtCO<sub>2</sub>e</b></p> <p><b>Breakdown of source(s):</b></p> <p>Air travel = 4,764.93 mtCO<sub>2</sub>e</p> <p>Rail travel = 962.12 mtCO<sub>2</sub>e</p> <p>Taxi travel = 196.07 mtCO<sub>2</sub>e</p> <p>Company/rental cars = 108.3 mtCO<sub>2</sub>e</p> <p>Personal cars = 848.18 mtCO<sub>2</sub>e</p>
	<p><b>7. Employee commuting = not relevant, explanation provided</b></p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> Employee-funded commuting is not within Accenture's operational boundary/control and is not generally in scope for our environmental measurement programme. In some instances where employee commuting is reimbursed by Accenture, it is included in our Scope 3 methodology such as within Business Travel. In our annually audited ISO14001 Aspects Assessments, employee commuting is not considered a significant environmental aspect and we exclude it on that basis. Due to the nature of our work delivery model, the majority of our employees' travel is to client sites where this is reimbursed travel and is included in our Scope 3 methodology.</p>
	<p><b>9. Downstream transportation and distribution = not relevant, explanation provided</b></p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> Accenture is a global professional services company, providing a broad range of services and solutions in strategy, consulting, digital, technology and operations. We do not transport or distribute products.</p>
<p><b>Total Emissions (FY20)</b></p>	<p><b>7066.7 mtCO<sub>2</sub>e</b></p> <p><b>(0 + 187.1 + 6879.6)</b></p>

## Emissions reduction targets

Accenture is making progress towards achieving Net Zero carbon emissions by 2025.

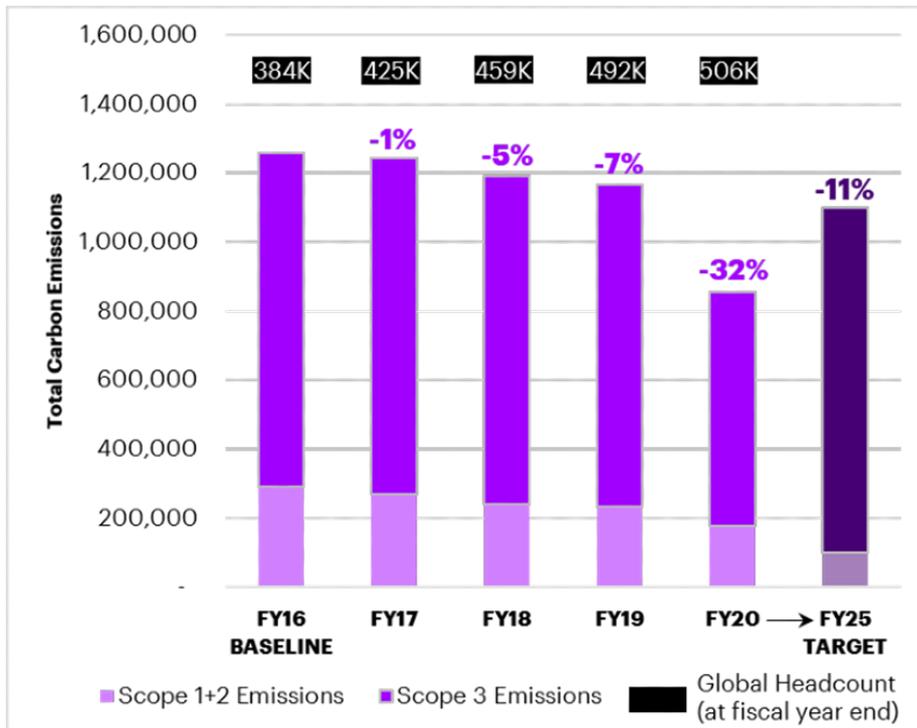
We will continue to focus on actual reductions in our emissions by powering all our offices with 100% renewable energy by 2023 (we have already achieved the goal of powering our UK offices with 100% renewable electricity), engaging key suppliers to reduce their emissions, and equipping our people to make climate-smart travel decisions.

To address remaining emissions, with all reduction routes exhausted, we are investing in a portfolio of proprietary, nature-based carbon removal solutions that will directly remove carbon emissions from the atmosphere (*details available further on in this document*).

In addition to removing greenhouse gases from the atmosphere these projects deliver material co-benefits which support the delivery of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs).

The graph below illustrates Accenture's progress as of fiscal 2020, when total emissions—reflecting short term impacts of the pandemic, scope 1 and 2 were reduced by 39% and emissions per unit of revenue were reduced by 45%.

Whilst we celebrate the temporary reductions in emissions seen in fiscal year 2020, and the important possibilities this represents, our sights remain firmly set on exceeding all elements of our Science-Based Target on a long-term basis once the impacts of the pandemic have settled.



NOTE: Accenture’s UK operations contribute to the data above which is a snapshot of a larger inventory of emissions data and reduction activities at the global level. The data captured in this graph represents activities outside the scope of PPN 06/21 such as emission data from other market units and further scope 3 emissions categories (including purchased goods & services, for example).

## Carbon Reduction Projects

Accenture has implemented the following carbon reduction projects (relevant to our UK operations) since the 2016 baseline:

- Procuring 100% renewable electricity in our locations by 2023 (RE100). We have already achieved this across our UK operations (as of FY20)
- Committing to our Zero Waste goal: By 2025, Accenture will reuse or recycle 100% of e-waste, such as computers and servers, as well all office furniture; and will eliminate single-use plastics in all locations at the conclusion of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Reducing the impact of flooding, droughts and water scarcity on our business and our people in high-risk areas. This project is in progress and being piloted in the UK
- Achieving ISO 14001 and ISO 50001 Environmental and Energy management system certifications
- Setting a Science-Based Target: Accenture’s Science-Based Target aims to reduce our absolute greenhouse gas emissions by 11% against our 2016 baseline by 2025
- Employee engagement and upskilling: Offering a range of engagement activities such as our Eco Innovation Challenge, Sustainability Quotient training, Carbon + Climate training, Eco Action campaign and eco-volunteering opportunities
- Requiring 90% of our key suppliers to disclose their targets and actions – representing approximately three-quarters of our Scope 3 emissions globally

- Operational updates at our UK offices such as an ongoing smart meter installation programme across our offices, ongoing LED lighting upgrades, rainwater harvesting implementation and energy saving zip taps.

The above projects equate to a 32% reduction in carbon emissions in FY20, against the 2016 baseline. This percentage relates to our global aggregated data, to which our UK operations contribute.

Accenture UK is committed to reducing the carbon footprint of our operations in the future through continuing to uphold the activities related to our climate commitments, standards and goals. These include:

**Maintaining and advancing our Environmental commitments to continue to reduce our carbon emissions, with a view to meeting / exceeding our SBT:**

- Continuing our commitment to achieving RE100 in the UK, ensuring that we procure 100% renewable electricity across our operations
- Striving towards our science-based target, ensuring that we meet or exceed our 11% reduction in global carbon emissions by 2025
- Continuing to ensure that we maintain our ISO 14001 Environmental Management System-certification and ISO 50001 Energy Management System-certification in the UK and drive continuous improvement
- Continually reviewing and decarbonising our supply chain, engaging our key suppliers to reduce their emissions and equipping our people to make climate-smart decisions at Accenture.

**Promoting and accelerating low-carbon technologies amongst our clients to design innovative and sustainable solutions:**

- Digital has transformed business as we know it. Embedding sustainability into our core business has the power to do the same. We also know that there is no silver bullet to address the climate and biodiversity emergencies. It requires a complete transformation of our economies and societies, and collaboration across all actors
- However, technology can, and should be, part of the solution. Professional services companies with a significant technology delivery capability like Accenture, are uniquely positioned to drive innovation through the application of technology and data driven insights, and designing solutions with our clients to drive more sustainable decision-making and consumption
- For example, Accenture works with clients to help them take a cloud first approach that benefits both their business and the planet. Green Cloud positions clients to deliver on new commitments such as carbon reduction and responsible innovation. Companies have historically driven financial, security, and agility benefits through cloud, but sustainability is becoming an imperative. Drivers like greater workload flexibility, better server utilisation rates, and more energy-efficient infrastructure all make public clouds more cost efficient than enterprise-owned data centres.

**Leveraging employee engagement to further decarbonise our business by empowering our people with knowledge on sustainability:**

- Our inaugural 'Eco Innovation Challenge' saw over 2,300 of our people globally work together in 2021 to generate over 1,200 ideas to address global environmental challenges. Seven of the ideas were progressed into Accenture's Social Innovators Accelerator, where the teams were supported with mentoring and funding. We will continue this initiative to enable our people to deliver on the promise of technology and

human ingenuity, leveraging their skills and expertise to tackle the most pressing sustainability challenges of the modern world

- We will continue to engage our people through learning and development, such as the expansion of our 'Sustainability Quotient' and 'Carbon + Climate' training programmes
- We will grow our offering of 'green benefits' to our people to ensure that they have more options and incentives to use renewable energy in their homes, take low-carbon commutes or try more plant-based diets
- Looking at the UK data in FY20, as per the table above, approximately 97% of our carbon emissions are derived from scope 3 (excluding PG&S), where travel is a considerable component. We will review our travelling processes and introduce carbon reduction projects such as encouraging trains over planes, expanding our virtual working software capabilities and implementing a carbon fee for air travel.

### **Developing an industry-leading offsetting plan which will help to achieve Net Zero in 2025:**

- As a business committed to a net-zero carbon future, we realise that an over-reliance on offsetting could prove detrimental to meeting the targets set out in the Paris Agreement and slow progress towards the transition to a net-zero economy. Therefore, our primary focus will **always** be to reduce our carbon emissions across all scopes as much as possible (and in alignment with our Science-Based Target). Only then will we rely on offsetting to remove residual emissions
- Accenture's offsets will be removal in nature (as opposed to avoidance) as only removal offsets contribute to our Science-Based Net Zero commitment. Furthermore, our offsets will be externally verified by a recognised standard setting body (such as Verra)
- We're investing in nature-based carbon removal projects around the world. These projects are the process of restoring and improving land to allow natural ecosystems to rebound and thrive, whilst removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere
- We will reforest land with native species, rebuild biodiversity, make agriculture more sustainable and help create green jobs
- All our current offset projects are High Quality Nature Based Solutions – the "high quality" refers to being "nature positive" – for example restoring native woodland as opposed to a fertilised monoculture forest. Our criteria stipulates that all our Nature Based Solutions must have material co-benefits which can be mapped to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs)
- All our projects are certified by the Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard (SD VISta), following a rigorous assessment process. In addition, our projects will be regularly audited to ensure that emissions reductions are occurring, that there are no unintended environmental or human rights concerns, and that other sustainable development benefits are being met
- The initial nature-based carbon removal projects we are investing in are projected to neutralise Accenture's remaining emissions up to c.2041. As Accenture continues to grow, we will augment this portfolio as necessary including exploring the emerging tech solutions for carbon capture as they scale.

We will fund these projects with the savings achieved by decreasing our overhead travel, in order to be more environmentally responsible.

## **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<sup>1</sup> and uses the Government emission conversion factors and vendor-specific factors where appropriate for greenhouse gas company reporting<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup>.

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

**Signed on behalf of the Supplier:**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simon Saxe". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Date: 29/09/2021

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://ghgprotocol.org/corporate-standard>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-conversion-factors-for-company-reporting>

<sup>3</sup> <https://ghgprotocol.org/standards/scope-3-standard>