

## **BRE TRUST**

### **STRATEGIC REPORT**

For the year ended 31 March 2021

---

We continue to focus on creating an inclusive environment where we can attract, retain and motivate the very best people. This year we took steps to improve our family friendly policy by aligning shared parental leave pay to the equivalent of our enhanced maternity pay, removing one of the barriers to enabling more flexibility in sharing childcare arrangements.

In the light of the Covid-19 pandemic we have also had to rapidly adapt to remote working whilst understanding what this will mean for the future of the workplace and how we enable colleagues to continue to work flexibly once the crisis is over.

#### **BRE Sustainability Plan**

Our current Sustainability Strategy **S Plan** was established in 2008 to demonstrate BRE's commitment to sustainability across 7 key areas, primarily environmental, and focusing on the BRE Garston site. It covers Energy, Water, Waste, Transport, Ecology, Procurement and Supply Chain and Communications and Engagement. As part of the plan, BRE pledged that by 2020 it would halve its environmental impact compared with the 2010 level. Supporting the UK Green Building Council Climate Pledge initiative, the BRE S Plan 2020 set a number of targets to deliver real and measurable improvements in our business and reduce our major impacts on the environment.

In addition, a group of S Plan Champions was formed, drawn from across the business and dedicated to identifying and implementing projects and engaging employees in all aspects of the S Plan. This group reviews progress against sustainability targets and projects and meets on a quarterly basis, along with the Health, Safety and Environment Compliance Manager and the Head of Estates & HSE. BRE is also certified as complying with ISO14001, which includes requirements for reporting on energy, waste and water.

#### **SECR reporting**

This is the second year that BRE Trust has been required to report under The Companies (Directors' Report) and Limited Liability Partnerships (Energy and Carbon Reporting) Regulations 2018 ("the 2018 Regulations") which require us to disclose our annual energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. However, we have always carefully monitored our energy use as part of our ISO14001 accreditation and wherever possible reduced our use of energy and in particular tried to minimise our greenhouse gas emissions.

As part of the work on complying with the 2018 Regulations we commissioned an independent report from a building services consultancy company FocusFM, to analyse the energy data from our UK activities for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 as well as comparing to the previous period. Details of this data and the methodology used to calculate the emissions are set out below.

Emissions generated for the burning of natural gas on site are considered Scope 1 (direct combustion), while emissions generated off-site from the provision of grid electricity are considered Scope 2 (Indirect energy from generating electricity) and Scope 3 (Transmission and Distribution losses associated with delivering electricity through the grid). Reporting of Emissions resulting from the use of grid electricity and natural gas were calculated using the UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting last updated June 2020.

In addition to the energy used in the buildings across our estate we also use energy for transport fuel both in company owned vehicles, which are included in Scope 1 and in hired vehicles or private employee-owned vehicles (Scope 3 indirect emissions). Fuel consumption data was calculated from a combination of employee expenses claims for fuel purchased and for miles travelled.

## BRE TRUST

### STRATEGIC REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2021

		2021	2021	2020	2020
Emissions Scope	Source	MWh	tCO <sub>2</sub>	MWh	tCO <sub>2</sub>
Scope 1	Natural Gas and business travel (company cars)	3,190	587	3,948	726
Scope 2	Electricity	2,393	606	3,957	1,011
Scope 3	Business travel and electricity transmission and distribution losses	157	84	736	258
Total scope 1&2		5,584	1,193	7,905	1,738
Total scope 1,2 &3		5,740	1,277	8,641	1,996

Intensity ratios can be used in order to compare overall emissions data with an appropriate business metric to allow a measure of comparison with other similar businesses. In the case of BRE given that most of the energy is used in the buildings occupied by the organisation we have selected an energy intensity ratio of kWh/m<sup>2</sup>.

BRE currently occupies 48 buildings with a total floor area of 29,907m<sup>2</sup>. Using the total energy consumption of the buildings used by BRE the Energy Intensity Ratio (EIR) for scope 1&2 activities is 186.7kWh/m<sup>2</sup> (2020: 264.3kWh/m<sup>2</sup>) and including all three areas, scopes 1,2 & 3 the EIR is 191.9kWh/m<sup>2</sup> (2020: 288.9 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>) which is a 33.6% fall in the EIR.

Using the total Scopes 1,2 and 3 emissions figures we can also calculate the Emissions Intensity Ratio (EmIR) for 2021 reporting year of 42.7kgCO<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>2</sup> (2020: 66.7kgCO<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>2</sup>) a fall of 36% in the Emissions Intensity Ratio driven by a combination of factors which include a reduction in on site energy use with buildings been unoccupied during the pandemic and reduced travel activity due to lockdown as well as some planned changes to energy consumption.

Over the past year we have installed LED lighting in 7 buildings on our site at Garston and replaced inefficient gas boilers in three of our buildings to reduce the electricity and gas usage. The effect of these measures will be tracked by reviewing the monthly electricity and gas consumption figures for each building over time and opportunities for further energy efficiency measures will be identified and implemented where appropriate.

### Financial Review

The financial statements have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the current statutory requirements, applicable law and the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in January 2019 (the "SORP").

The consolidated results for the BRE Trust show a net income before tax of £2,588k (2020 (restated): £3,389 k) for the year on income of £52,292k (2020 (restated): £53,936k). Maintaining the net income level with 2020 is partly as a result of the government grant relating to Covid, along with the income from tax credits and the recent actions to reduce indirect costs and the reductions in employee costs over the last two years where the average staffing levels went from 595 in 2020 down to 558 in 2021.

The BRE Trust's consolidated results are derived from its use of cutting-edge research to develop a range of products, services, standards and qualifications that are used around the world to bring about positive change in the built environment. These activities can be categorised into four broad areas: provision of third-party assurance services, advisory services on building performance, construction and fire safety, services delivered to government and commercial activities.