

# **Gardiner & Theobald LLP**

## **Streamlined Energy and Carbon Report For the period ended 30 April 2021**

The members present their Streamlined Energy and Carbon Report (SECR) for the year ended 30 April 2021. A listing of members who served during the year ended 30 April 2021 can be found online at Companies House.

The period covered by this report is for the 12 months ending 30 April 2021. Our first submission under the SECR programme was presented in 2020 and provided the baseline year results for future reporting periods.

### **Background**

Gardiner & Theobald takes its energy and carbon responsibilities very seriously. We have been measuring and substantially reducing our emissions for more than a decade. We have an extensive environmental management system (EMS) in accordance with our ISO 14001 certification (maintained since 2008). In addition, we hold the Achilles Verify accreditation, with a perfect score in the environmental category for the last 5 years.

We monitor our energy and carbon on a monthly basis and conduct internal sustainability audits quarterly. In addition, our operations are subject to annual external audits – at which point energy and carbon consumption and targets/reductions are assessed. We have participated in the Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme (ESOS) and implement the recommendations from the expert reports (most recent audit was November 2019).

In 2021, Gardiner & Theobald adopted the firm's Net Zero Carbon Policy. Our five main commitments are as follows:

1. We will continue to measure and reduce our carbon emissions from all of our activities, especially in light of recent events which may alter more permanently how we use premises and think about travel. We suspect that 2019 will be the "high water mark" as we go forward, but there is much uncertainty as of yet as to what "normal" will look like. Hence, while we promise to continually reduce our carbon emissions, we would want to understand the numbers before delineating specific targets.
2. In all of our activities – whether it is building operation, travel or procurement – we commit to being more efficient and to demonstrating real reductions in our impacts. This includes reductions in energy we can make at our buildings, and what impacts will follow from: operational changes, improvement to lighting and equipment, anticipated changes to our small power loads resulting from a move to cloud computing, etc. We agree that allowances should be purchased only as the last option and so our priority is real reductions in carbon achieved at our sites and in our activities.
3. The procurement of renewable energy which we have undertaken – and will continue to pursue – is one of the more meaningful choices we can make. We expect through our changes in suppliers to be operationally net zero carbon in our premises by as early as next year. Concurrent with this, we will continue to reduce our overall energy usage more generally, so that procurement is the option after we have run our operations as efficiently as we can.
4. We have taken, and will continue to pursue, actions and decisions that reduce "Scope 3" emissions – those from our supply chain and waste. Already, our zero waste to landfill policy helps us in this regard, but we will work backwards from here to eliminate carbon emissions at the source. This will be through a reduction in materials – e.g., our follow me printing activities – and seeking suppliers whose manufacturing and delivery enables a lower embodied carbon product.
5. Ultimately, and in steps, we aim to be net zero carbon as a firm by 2030. We believe that our first successes will come in our buildings, but we aim to drive down travel emissions as much as possible while still being able to provide our high level of service. Naturally, we will never be able to completely eliminate carbon as long as we operate, but through efficiency, better procurement decisions and, when needed, the purchase of high-grade carbon "Gold Standard" allowances, we expect to be a net zero carbon firm by the end of this decade.

# Gardiner & Theobald LLP

## Streamlined Energy and Carbon Report For the period ended 30 April 2021 (continued)

### Methodology & Metrics

We occupy nine offices throughout the UK, all of them leased. We pay energy invoices ("financial control") for three of these offices, two in London and one in Manchester.

Our two offices in London – 10 South Crescent and Whitfield Street – satisfy the "90% threshold" rule used by Government in ESOS. The carbon emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2) from these buildings are calculated directly from consumption numbers contained in invoices and presented in this report.

We have also included emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2) for our Manchester Office. These emissions are also calculated directly from utility invoices that we pay.

We occupy other premises, but these are serviced offices, and so we do not have access to energy consumption data. These form a small percentage of our overall carbon impacts.

Our travel emissions reported here are for vehicle mileage only and cover all employees of the firm. These represent the Scope 3 emissions contained in this report.

In all instances, we have followed the Government's published guidelines on SECR reporting, including using the conversion factors published by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

### GHG Emissions Breakdown

Our emissions (in tonnes) for the 12-month period ending 30 April 2021 are as follows:

|          |                              |
|----------|------------------------------|
| Scope 1: | 5.9                          |
| Scope 2: | 190.9                        |
| Scope 3: | 55.7 (employee mileage only) |
| Total:   | 252.5                        |

Our emissions (in tonnes) for the prior 12-month period ending 30 April 2020 were as follows:

|          |                               |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| Scope 1: | 43.5                          |
| Scope 2: | 297.9                         |
| Scope 3: | 229.2 (employee mileage only) |
| Total:   | 570.6                         |

### Carbon Intensity

We have chosen to monitor our progress via the intensity ratio of CO<sub>2</sub> per employee as this seems an appropriate measure for a professional services firm. With 908 employees, our intensity ratio is .28. (2020 892 employees; intensity ratio .64)

### Water

Water is provided through landlord services. Our water fixtures are mostly low-water and automatic, operated via sensor.

## **Gardiner & Theobald LLP**

### **Streamlined Energy and Carbon Report For the period ended 30 April 2021 (continued)**

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#### **Waste**

Gardiner & Theobald operates under a zero-waste-to-landfill policy through our waste provider. In addition, all of our offices have extensive recycling facilities in accordance with our EMS requirements. This substantially reduces our Scope 3 emissions.

#### **Procurement/materials**

We actively seek out and procure low impact products from local suppliers to reduce transport emissions associated with procurement.

This is particularly emphasised as a priority in our new 2021 Net Zero Carbon Policy. Please see bullet (4) on Page 1 for more detail.

#### **Commentary**

Each year, we set a target to reduce Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions over the previous year. This is something we have managed to accomplish year-on-year.

This year, we reduced our carbon emissions by more than 50% over our 2020 SECR baseline year.

This was no doubt due mainly to COVID-19 and its impact on business activities. We believe that this year will be an anomaly and that emissions will rise when work returns to normal. That being said, we have put other policies in place – notably our procurement of renewable energy – that will consistently drive down emissions on a more consistent and enduring basis. This, combined with the implementation of our Net Zero Carbon Policy, will ensure that we continually manage and reduce our carbon impacts on an annual basis.

We also have a Sustainability Policy, Travel Policy, Printing Policy and set of procurement guidelines that further assist us in reducing our emissions.

#### **Targets and additional actions**

The target articulated in our Sustainability Policy, embodied in our EMS and validated by ISO 14001 and Achilles Verify, is to reduce our Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions during the 2021 calendar year.

In addition, we are beginning to implement our Net Zero Carbon Policy that requires active monitoring, measuring and reducing emissions in all aspects of our business.

Our overall target is to be a Net Zero Carbon company by 2030.

#### **Approval**

This Streamlined Energy and Carbon Report was approved by members of the Limited Liability Partnership.



S J Bennett

#### **Designated member**

Date 24 November 2021