

## 2023

# **FOOTPRINT REPORT**



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# IN A NUTSHELL

At Accend, our mission is clear: facilitate the removal of as much CO<sub>2</sub> as possible. In 2023, we contributed to the **removal of 22,311 tonnes** of CO<sub>2</sub> while emitting 23.8 tonnes, which we fully offset. This achievement reflects our commitment to supporting innovative carbon solutions and ensuring their impact through rigorous GHG accounting. This report sets our baseline for understanding today's impact and guiding us toward increasingly sustainable operations.





emitted for every tonne of carbon removed through our projects



Total carbon footprint in tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent for 2023 (1st January to 31st December).



emitted per million US \$ revenue Considering that we are a service-based company which does not own or control facilities, **all emissions fall under scope 3**. This includes emissions from purchased goods and services, IT and office-related equipment, business travel, remote working, and rented office space (upstreamed leased assets). The bulk of our emissions are thus attributable to the services we purchased.



\*The results presented in this graph reflect the Market-Based approach as defined by the GHG Protocol

### **DEFINING BOUNDARIES**

# Organisational boundaries

The GHG emissions are reported based on the operational control consolidation approach. Accend's corporate carbon footprint considers the continued activities of the company, including mainly remote working, acquired services, equipment and business travel.

The organisational boundaries include:

- Office equipment
- Remote working: heating, lighting, internet connection and non-owned equipment embodied carbon and usage
- Cloud and digital services
- Other business services
- Business travel: transport, hotel stays and meals



### **Operational boundaries**

The operational boundaries describe the emissions associated with the company operations, categorising them as direct and indirect emissions.

Direct GHG emissions are emissions from sources that are owned or controlled by the company, while indirect GHG emissions are emissions that are a consequence of the activities of the company but occur at sources owned or controlled by another company.





Scope 1 Direct Emissions from Owned/Controlled Operations

**Scope 2** Indirect Emissions from the Use of Purchased Electricity, Steam, Heating and Cooling

**Scope 3** Other indirect GHG emissions

From within scope 3, we only included inventories of emissions from categories 1, 2, 6, 7, and 8, namely **purchased goods and services, capital goods, business travel, employee commuting, and leased assets,** as the other categories were not applicable to our business activities.

Scope 1 and scope 2 emissions typically apply to office activities when a company owns or controls the building. However, since Accend neither owns nor manages its office space, these emissions do not fall under scope 1 or 2. Instead, officerelated emissions are included in the "upstream leased assets" scope 3 category, as Accend does not control the building's energy use or policies.

All remote working emissions are assigned to the "employee commuting" category given that, under the GHG protocol, homeworking is an optional disclosure covered in the this section.

Table 2 in appendices gives an overview of the emission sources applicable to Accend and whether they are included in the assessment.

### **OUR METHODOLOGY**

For fiscal year 2023 (January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023), we calculated our corporate GHG emissions following the principles of the GHG Protocol and ISO 14064-1.

For purchased goods and services, capital goods, upstream leased assets, and certain travel-related meals, we used spend-based data modelled through EXIOBASE version 3.8.2. This Multi-Regional Environmentally Extended Input-Output (MRIO) model estimates 'cradle-to-gate' GHG emissions for goods and services across 200 categories and multiple countries, offering a detailed assessment of the emissions associated with our purchases.



For business travel, we gathered data on air, road, rail, and accommodation usage, applying emission factors from the UK's Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

To estimate emissions from remote work, we used personnel home location data along with published resources to account for heating, lighting, internet use, and the embodied carbon of non-owned equipment. Both market-based and location-based methods were applied, with the market-based method used where renewable electricity contracts are in place.

### **GHG PROFILE AND EMISSIONS BREAKDOWN**

Taking into account the various emission profiles of biochar suppliers, Accend's operations have minimal influence on the overall emissions linked to issued Carbon Removal Certificates (CORCs).

The majority of Accend's 2023 greenhouse gas emissions came from purchased goods and services, while business travel contributed about onethird of total emissions. Within the purchased goods and services category, business services—including accounting, consultancy, and legal services were the largest contributors, accounting for 58% of total emissions. Additionally, IT-related online services represented 10% of the overall emissions

Scopes and categories	Tonnes CO₂ee(market-based)	Tonnes CO₂ee(locatio n-based)
<b>Scope 1</b> : Direct emissions from owned/ controlled operations	0	0
<b>Scope 2</b> : Indirect emissions from the use of purchased electricity, steam, heating, and cooling	0	0
<b>Scope 3</b> : Other indirect emissions (market- based)	23.83	23.85
Category 1: Purchased goods and services	17.28	17.28
Category 2: Capital goods	0.20	0.20
Category 6: Business travel	5.75	5.75
Category 7: Employee commuting (market- based)	0.49	0.51
Category 8: Upstream leased assets	0.11	0.11
Total FY2023	23.83	23.85

### **CARBON INTENSITY METRICS**

To provide a comprehensive view of our carbon performance, we've outlined key intensity metrics for the 2023 fiscal year. These figures illustrate Accend's **high carbon efficiency** in relation to our activities and operations:

- Our carbon intensity per CORC issued is 1.07 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e, with just a slightly higher intensity of 1.13 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e per CORC sold.
- Relative to revenue, our carbon intensity stands at 6t CO<sub>2</sub>e per million US dollars of revenue.

Intensity metric	Value
kg CO₂e/CORC issued	1.07
kg CO₂e/CORC sold	1.13
tCO <sub>2</sub> e/millionUSD (turnover before any deductions)	6



### **MITIGATION STRATEGY**

Accend is committed to walking the talk when it comes to the mitigation hierarchy, prioritizing the reduction of our emissions before considering any offsetting measures. Below is a list of actions we plan to reinforce or undertake to achieve meaningful emission reductions in our operations.

#### **Purchased goods & services**

- Collaborate with suppliers to measure and reduce their carbon footprint
- Prioritizing suppliers with low carbon footprints or using certified sustainable practices

#### **Capital goods**

- Prioritie refurbished equipment
- Repare and maintain current equipment to maximise lifespan
- When new equipment is required, consider models with lower embodied carbon and efficient energy consumption

#### **Business Travel**

- Avoid travel when possible and promote remote alternatives.
- Optimise unavoidable trips by including multiple meetings within a single trip.
- Adopt a train-first policy for trips that can be completed in less than 6 hours by train
- Opt for direct flights for unavoidable air travel and choose economy class, as it has a lower per-passenger emissions impact.
- Prioritize sustainable hotel options for team accommodation during business travel
- Favour meat-free options during team seminars and retreats

#### **Employee Commuting**

- Support the team in switching to renewable energy options at home by offering incentives and guidance
- Promote best practices for setting up home workspaces to minimise additional energy needs, such as heating or cooling only a dedicated office space or only use double screen when necessary

#### **Upstream Leased Assets**

- Optimize space by ensuring the rented office area is used efficiently and meets operational needs
- Encourage the office owner to assess the service's carbon footprint and establish climate goals

### **CARBON NEUTRALITY PORTFOLIO**

To offset our 2023 residual emissions, we have chosen to retire CORCs from projects that we know intimately, have visited, and conducted robust MRV (Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification) for, as they are part of our curated high-quality CDR portfolio. These projects offer significant co-benefits and represent a diverse range of geographical locations.

We have retired 24 Carbon Removal Certificates (CORCs) from the following projects to offset our 2023 emissions:



Located in Normandy, France, the Sylva Fertilis facility produces a premium biochar, the only one in France authorized for commercial sale. Used in organic agriculture, it is highly sought after by municipalities across France for watering green spaces and has also been selected by prestigious wine houses in the country. With a very large surface area and high organic carbon content, Sylva Fertilis biochar boasts exceptional water retention properties.



Wakefield BioChar aims to make the planet healthier through their "better soil, better world" philosophy. Based in Valdosta, Georgia, a city with a long history in the forestry industry, the company produces high quality biochar from pulp and paper residues as well as sawmill waste. They have a range of branded biochar products and compost blends sold through retailers such as Lowes, Amazon, and Sam's Club. The company also supplies local farmers with biochar to improve grass yields, and uses biochar blends for land remediation projects. In 2023, Wakefield was recognized as the fastest growing environmental company in the US in the inc. 5000 list.





Are is a company that specializes in producing bio-based construction materials from sustainably managed local forests. The CO<sub>2</sub>e sequestered by the tree is stored for 50 to 100 years or more.

Their process is highly efficient, ensuring the removal of 532 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e per m<sup>3</sup> of timber product. The company has four production sites in Norway, each serving the local building market. They use high-tech computer control cutting processes to produce roof trusses, joists, and other precut wall elements, which minimizes waste. The large share of renewable energy in Norway also contributes to low process emissions. All products are made-to-measure, so there is no loss of materials on site.



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### APPENDICES

#### **1. UNCERTAINTY ASSESSMENT**

This uncertainty assessment identifies specific areas within our Scope 3 inventory where data may be less reliable or subject to variability. As noted by the GHG Protocol, 'identifying and documenting sources of uncertainty can help companies take steps to improve inventory quality and increase confidence in the results.'

The table below highlights the primary sources of uncertainty in our inventory and the potential impact on data accuracy

Scope 3 categories	Parameter uncertainty (emissions data, inventory data, emission factors and GWP values)	Scenario uncertainty (methodological choices)	Model uncertainty (model limitations)
1. Purchased goods and services	Expenditure data was collected from company records, encompassing all expenses. Variability in GWP values arises from each emission factor source using a distinct methodology.	No uncertainty other than the spend-based emission factor allocation method, external to Accend.	Uncertainty due to model limitations of emission factor sources.
2. Capital goods	All capital goods were included based on expenditure data from company records. No supplier-specific data or detailed equipment types were collected, so a spend-based emission factor was applied. Variability in GWP values exists, as each emission factor source employs its own methodology.	No uncertainty other than the spend-based emission factor allocation method, external to Accend.	Uncertainty due to model limitations of emission factor sources.

Scope 3 categories	Uncertainty Parameter	Scenario uncertainty	Model uncertainty
6. Business travel	Specific activity data was collected from each individual, including airport origin and destination for air travel, distance for road and rail transport, and hotel stays per trip. Spend data from company records was used to estimate emissions from meals. Variability in GWP values arises from each emission factor source using a unique methodology.	The only uncertainty arises from the emission factor allocation method, which is external to Accend, and the choice of an average or representative emission factor for each mode of transport.	Uncertainty due to model limitations of emission factor sources.
7. Employee commuting	Uncertainty arises from assumptions about energy consumption, as variations occur based on individual workspace usage, the number and wattage of bulbs, user behavior, and the efficiency of the heating system. Additionally, variability in GWP values exists because each emission factor source employs a unique methodology.	Related to published references used to model the energy consumption and equipment chosen to model embodied carbon of IT equipment.	Uncertainty due to model limitations of emission factor sources.
8. Upstream leased assets	Uncertainty arises from the absence of supplier-specific data, necessitating the use of expenditure data and a spend-based emission factor. Additionally, variability in GWP values is due to each emission factor source employing its own methodology.	No uncertainty other than the spend-based emission factor allocation method, external to Accend.	Uncertainty due to model limitations of emission factor sources.

#### 2. EMISSIONS BREAKDOWN PER CATEGORY AND EMISSIONS SOURCE

Scope 3 category	Emissions source type	Total emissionsmarket based (kg CO2e)	Total emissions location based (kg CO₂e)
1. Purchased goods and	Business services (accounting, legal, consultancy, etc.)	13,918	13,918
	Membership, registration and events fees	586	586
	Goods purchased	171	171
services	Insurance services	170	170
	IT services	2,265	2,265
	Phone, post and internet services	109	109
	Bank services	63	63
2. Capital goods	Office machinery and equipment	204	204
Business travel	Air transport	4,714	4,714
	Car transport	403	403
	Train transport	19	19
	Tram transport	0.3	0.3
	Bus transport	58	58
	Hotel stay	303	303
	Meals	250	250
7. Employee commuting	Lighting	26	29
	Heating	381	393
	IT equipment electricity consumption	30	35
	Internet access network	3	3
	IT equipment (not company owned)	46	46
8. Upstream leased assets	Leased office space	116	116
TOTAL FY2023		23833	23852