



Through  
Technology

# Beyond Net Zero

Through Technology Environmental Impact Plan

Updated 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022



# Introduction

Climate change is a significant issue and a challenge that we take seriously. This document describes in plain English our commitment to fighting climate change and how we go about achieving that outcome.

Our intent is to be an exemplar for organisations of our size, significantly exceeding any national targets that are set for us and applying common sense to ensure the measures we take are proportionate, sustainable, practical and effective for an organisation of our scale and scope.

We are also mindful of “greenwashing” and therefore explain clearly and exactly what we are doing and how.

We welcome comment on advice on how the measures outlined in this document can be improved (via email to [sustainability@throughtechnology.uk](mailto:sustainability@throughtechnology.uk))

# What is our environmental impact plan?

We are committed to protecting the environment through how we operate our business and by promoting environmental consideration with our partners, suppliers, customers and people.

Our Environmental impact plan (this document) sets out our ambition, plans and progress in fighting climate change. The plan will:

- Explain what we see as our role in fighting climate change;
- Explain what we have done so far and “how we got here” in terms of developing our approach and minimising environmental impact.
- Define the scope of our environmental impact
- Set out our plans and process to further minimise our environmental impact.
- Explain our current and estimated future environmental impact and emissions.
- Provide a defined commitment from our business to these measures, now and in future.

We have developed this plan to:

- Drive continual improvement in our environmental performance
- Transparently communicate our environmental ambition and priorities to our stakeholders, including our colleagues
- Nurture an environmental culture which places environmental sustainability at the heart of our business decisions
- Develop the baseline against which to set targets for our environmental performance. Track and measure progress both effectively and accurately
- Help demonstrate the environmental benefits of what we do

# Our role in fighting climate change

## Promoting and providing sustainable IT Services

Through Technology is a UK SME Business that works with large government departments and their enterprise-scale IT suppliers.

We therefore have a larger role to play in promoting and exemplifying sustainable IT services and practices than our company size would suggest.

We must ensure that environmental impact is a key consideration in solutions that we deliver. We must also help our customers to define requirements, evaluate bids and assure solutions and delivery to ensure that they meet or exceed the required standards and contribute meaningfully toward goals for Net Zero and beyond.

## Optimising and Operating our business to minimise impact

As with every business, we have a responsibility to minimise our environmental impact.

Increasingly this is becoming not only a moral obligation, but a requirement of doing business with UK Government and other environmentally-conscious customers.

To this end, we must *continually* look to reduce Through Technology's impact of the environment, looking to first to minimise emissions and secondly to offset those that we cannot entirely remove.

Where climate change is already happening and will continue to do so. We must also ensure our services to customers are not adversely effected by changes and adverse weather events.

## Collective Effort

.By definition, climate change is a global problem requiring collective solutions.

We must also therefore do our share in contributing toward national targets and the global effort to reduce climate change.

We will do this by publicising and explaining the measures that we take as a business. Aiming to exceed the targets and expectations of a company our size and encouraging open and direct conversations with our customers, suppliers, staff, partners and peers.

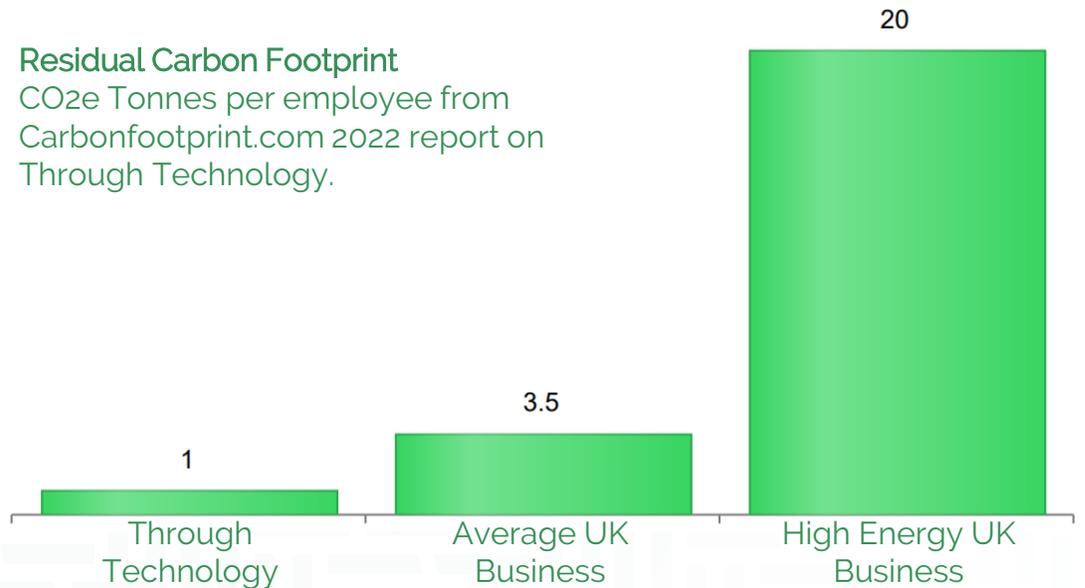
# How we got here

## A good head start

Through Technology was incorporated in 2017 with a business model leveraging cloud services and hybrid working. This led to a highly efficient business, both in terms of value for money for customers and carbon emissions, as we do not manufacture or operate buildings and vehicles.

Coupled with some simple policies around public transport and cloud first, this meant when we looked into carbon reduction we were already in a very good place, with a very low figure for carbon emissions per employee compared to UK averages

We started to look at further reducing our environmental impact in early 2021.



# How we got here

## Defining our own approach

“Keep It Simple, Stupid” is a common teaching in business. We therefore decided in 2020 to define our own approach based upon referenceable best practice and review it annually as our business grows, changes and the national and global positions on climate change evolve.

We have since had our carbon calculations and approach reviewed and certified to the Carbon Neutral Plus (PAS2060) standard by the experts at Carbonfootprint.com.

That approach is published in the remainder of this document and we invite comment from anyone with material views on how it can be improved. Our approach to this problem will be reviewed annually based upon changes in best practice, company scale and practices and changes in the environment itself.

# Scope of our Emissions

## Infrastructure and Supply Chain (Indirect emissions)

### SCOPE 1

- Cloud Computing Supplier Services, including datacentres and IT Infrastructure.
- Partner Products & Services

### 1b

- Working from home (staff)
- Staff travel
- Consumables

## Through Technology Operations (Direct Emissions)

### SCOPE 2

- Operational Emissions, currently:
  - No buildings
  - No product manufacture
  - No vehicles
- Business practices

## Energy (Indirect emissions)

### SCOPE 3

- Customer Digital & Technology Services
  - That we provide
  - That we help procure
  - That we assure
  - That we support
  - That we integrate
- Customer sites & business practices

We have categorised our emissions into discrete scopes based upon the GHG Protocol.

# Scope 1a – Upstream, Indirect, Large Suppliers & Partners

## Ambition

**Influence** our supply chain to manage their operations and products in a manner that positively contributes to UK or Global Climate change targets.

## How will this be reached?

We recognise our limited capability to influence large “enterprise-scale” organisations based upon our own scale and purchasing power. These organisations will also typically have their own mature approaches to corporate social value and environmental responsibility.

We will therefore seek to:

- Learn from and share best practice;
- Purchase new services with consideration of supplier eco-credentials.
- Help partners achieve and demonstrate compliance with the environmental standards, targets and procurement assessments of our HMG customers and the Crown Commercial Service.

## Example Organisations

Microsoft (Gold Partner)  
Archive360 (Partner)

## How will it be monitored?

Specific tests as part of Through Technology Playbook “How we purchase services” & “How we assure solutions”.

Results and feedback from submitting or red-teaming bids with our various partners.

# Scope 1b – Upstream, Indirect, Staff and Small Suppliers

## Ambition

Where we have little direct emissions, this is by far our largest scope.

Our ambition therefore is to **actively manage** this scope. With the goal to rapidly reach a Carbon Negative position (beyond Net Zero).

NB: We have included Associates (contractor resource) within this scope. While they are technically supplier businesses, their footprint is similar to our employees and we actively wish to manage all emissions generated by work on our projects.

## How will this be reached?

We will ascribe the emissions from homeworking staff and associates to our business and actively seek to minimise them through our business processes and communications, through:

- Minimising travel through hybrid working and online collaboration
- Using public transport wherever practical.
- Communicating best practice and carbon reduction initiatives with our staff and associates through company news and meetings.

We will re-calculate our emissions annually or more frequently should we choose. We will then annually offset double our residual carbon footprint such that we achieve and maintain a **Carbon Negative** position.

## Example Organisations

Through Technology Employees  
Through Technology Associates  
Small/Medium business partners

## How will it be monitored?

- Annual recalculation of carbon emissions and annual offsetting. Charges/certificates;
- Minuted AGM and SMT discussion of strategy.
- Communication of policies and best practices via the Through Technology Playbook & internal blogs.

# Scope 2 – Direct, Through Technology Operations

## Ambition

**Maintain** an optimal carbon footprint as our business grows, and changes to both provide and require new services.

## How will this be reached?

With no premises, vehicles, internal IT infrastructure (other than cloud services) and no product manufacture, Scope 3 is exceptionally limited and therefore considered fairly optimal.

Figures for cloud service consumption (e.g. Office 365) are factored into our upstream.

We will seek to maintain this position by:

- Ensuring that climate change impact is factored into all decisions for the procurement of new facilities, buildings, services and assets.
- Ensuring climate change is considered as part of our bids for new services or customers.

## In Scope organisations

Through Technology

## How will it be monitored?

Specific steps in the Through Technology Playbook “How we purchase Services and Assets”.

# Scope 3 – Indirect, Energy

## Ambition

**Support** our customers to achieve their own standards and requirements for reducing carbon emissions.

## How will this be reached?

In our role as leaders and influencers of customer digital and technology programmes and strategy, we have significant ability to support them in achieving the targets set out by HM Government.

We will do this by:

- Helping define requirements and assess other supplier's solutions and bids based upon a clear understanding of best practice and extant HMG Guidance.
- Ensuring climate change impact is considered in our design, delivery and assurance activity on behalf of customers.
- Communicating openly, directly and effectively with our customers and their suppliers on climate change standards, best practice and expectations.

## In Scope organisations

Through Technology  
Public & Private Sector customers  
Third-party Suppliers

## How will it be monitored?

- Specific steps in the Through Technology Playbook "How we assure designs".
- Frequent internal briefing of our teams;

# Planning for Climate Change

Climate change is happening now with 1.5C change now considered to be inevitable. Businesses must therefore plan for the impact of climate change and ensure resilience in their operations and delivery to customers.

Through Technology's operating model is inherently resilient to climate change where:

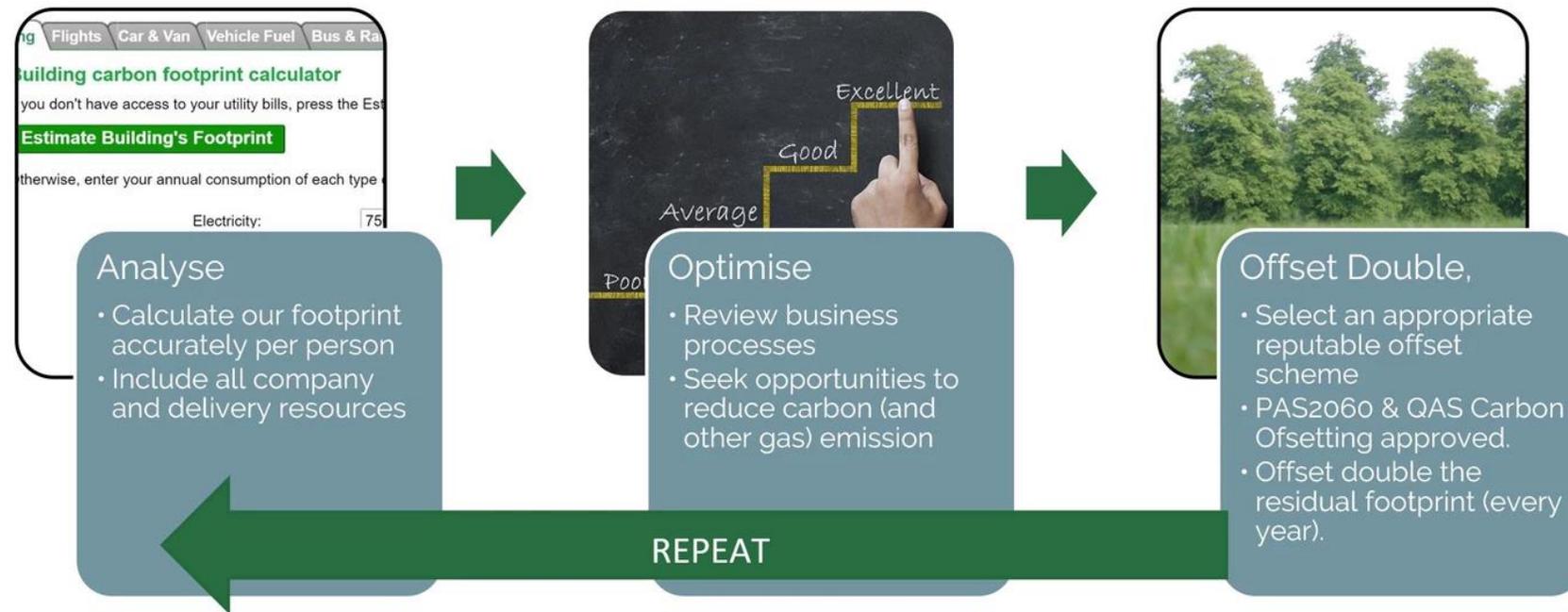
- We operate Hybrid Working, with staff and associates working from homes, remote locations or client offices and using geo-graphically resilient cloud services.
- We do not have premises (except for on-demand London office provision) or a single geographic hub for the organisation.

At the time of writing, we do not foresee any immediate requirement to adapt our business for future climate change. This position will be reviewed annually.

# Our Carbon Reduction Strategy



We will take a cyclical approach to environmental impact reduction. Where each year (September) we will analyse our carbon emissions and calculate our Carbon Footprint, review our business processes and progress, take any identified proportionate steps to further optimise our company's environmental impact.



Only once that impact has been minimised, will we then use accredited offsetting schemes to ensure the capture of our residual carbon footprint. Our policy is to offset double our residual carbon emissions using reputable, certified schemes that plant appropriate trees in appropriate locations in the UK. Targeting those regions identified by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) as suffering higher deprivation such that any offsetting is also benefitting the UK economy where local investment is need the most.

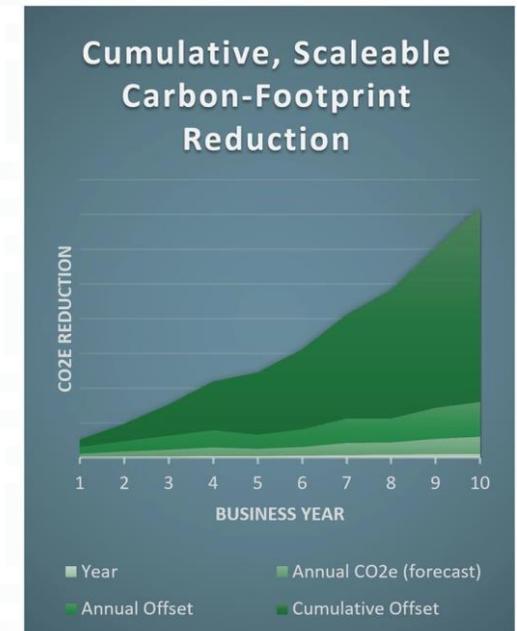
# But Offsetting isn't cool...(ing)

As we write this plan, Offsetting and tree planting schemes have hit the headlines, on the basis that they businesses can use them to appear “green” without actually changing their practices and because certain overseas offsetting schemes have been shown not to actually deliver any benefits.

This is why offsetting is the final step in our carbon reduction cycle approach and used to address our residual carbon footprint *only after* we have calculated it and optimised wherever possible to minimise it. It is also a reason for using a trusted UK supplier (carbonfootprint.com) to undertake offsetting with certified schemes within the UK. So we are consciously avoiding the trap of “Green Washing” for which these schemes are criticised.

Furthermore, our policy of offsetting double our residual carbon footprint achieves several outcomes:

1. It ensures that our processes more than account for any lack of precision in our carbon calculations..
2. Because trees last for many years, annually planting double our residual carbon footprint will result in an exponential growth in the impact of our carbon offsetting.
3. Basing offsetting (and its associated charges) against our actual emissions means that the cost of this activity will remain broadly proportionate to our business scale... And therefore be affordable for our business now and in the long term.
4. It ensures that our business is increasingly **Carbon Negative** from day one of the plan and in perpetuity. A step beyond national and global targets for Carbon Neutrality and Net Zero.
5. It supports our wish to lead by example in fighting climate change.

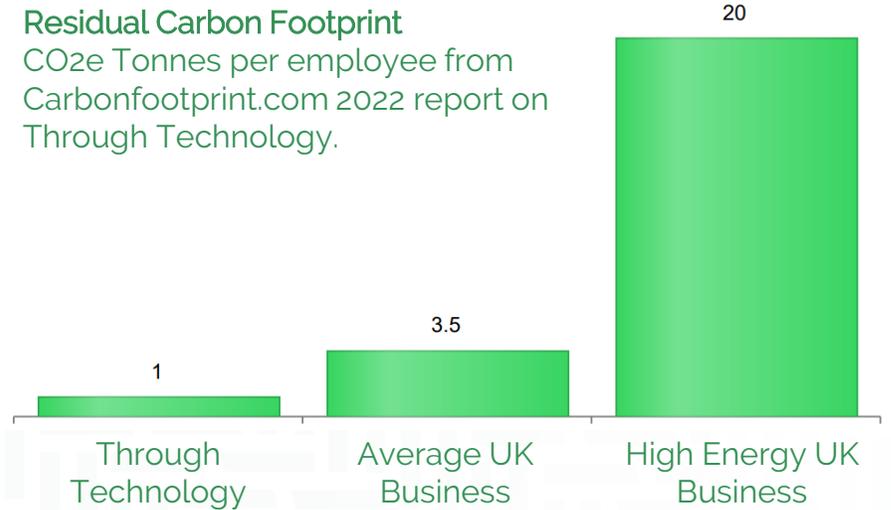




# Where we stand now

In March 2022, we did our latest carbon review, recalculating our carbon footprint, looking for further ways to minimise it and taking the additional step of engaging carbonfootprint.com again to formally review and certify our carbon reduction plans, resulting in our business being certified Carbon Neutral Plus (for offsetting >150% of our residual carbon emissions).

We did not find any further scope to reduce our residual carbon footprint (despite discussion with carbonfootprint.com). So our residual footprint remains at a low 1tCO<sub>2</sub>e. As our business grows and such things become financially viable with scale, we will review options to start employee schemes for adoption of hybrid/electric vehicles, renewable home energy and other factors.



# The Numbers

Our Carbon Reduction Strategy started in Summer 2021 and has already far exceeded the Net Zero target, by removing more CO2 from the atmosphere than our business has ever created. The change in scope 3 emissions over time only reflects changes in our staffing and not any reduction in the carbon-efficiency of our business.

| Calendar Year | Emissions (Tonnes CO2e)                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                            | Mitigations & Impact (Tonnes CO2e) |                     |                                  |                                  |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|               | Scope 3 – Indirect                                                                                                                                                                                         | Scope 1 – Direct                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Scope 2 - Energy Indirect                                                                                                                                                  | Total Residual CO2 per year        | Offsetting per year | Residual CO2e (after Offsetting) | Cumulative CO2 Impact over time. |
| 2018          | 5                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                            | 5                                  | 0                   | 5                                | 5                                |
| 2019          | 10                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                            | 10                                 | 0                   | 5                                | 10                               |
| 2020          | 16.47, comprising...<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buildings (including Homeworking): 9.50</li> <li>Automotive business travel: 4.33</li> <li>Rail &amp; Tube business travel: 2.64</li> </ul> | NB: Through Technology does not utilise an office, with 100% of their employees working from home. Furthermore, no carbon emissions are produced through the use of company owned vehicles, process emissions from product manufacture, or refrigerants, meaning we do not register any emissions within this scope. As 100% of staff work from home, which falls under transport related activities in scope 3 of the GHG Protocol reporting boundaries, no scope 1 emissions are produced by our business operations | NB: Through Technology's homeworking model means that all energy consumption falls under transport related activities in scope 3 of the GHG Protocol reporting boundaries. | 17                                 | 60                  | -43.5                            | -28.5                            |
| 2021          | 17, comprising...<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buildings (including homeworking): 8.50</li> <li>Automotive business travel: 3.50</li> <li>Rail &amp; Tube business travel: 2.40</li> </ul>    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                            | 17                                 | 34                  | -17                              | -45.5                            |

# Our Environmental Commitment

Through Technology commits.....

1. To operating our business in a carbon-efficient manner, selecting partners who will do the same.
2. To annually calculate our business carbon footprint and seek each year to further reduce our environmental impact by optimising our systems and processes.
3. To achieve and maintain a *Carbon Negative* position through annually offsetting double our residual carbon footprint using appropriately certified and reputable expert suppliers.
4. To openly discuss and encourage these and further measures within our business and with our customers, suppliers and staff.

Make a Difference... Through Technology



# Supplemental Material

The following information is provided as  
appendices for use in Q&A .



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# Appendices

## Tools

After review of various options, Through Technology selected CarbonFootprint.com to calculate our carbon emissions and for Carbon Offsetting (tree-planting) scheme on the following basis:

1. **Reputation** - CarbonFootprint.com is certified to the PAS2060 standard and is used by our primary customer (Her Majesty's Government) to offset carbon emissions from ministerial travel. It is important to us to work with a reputable provider that our customers recognise.
2. **Independent Assessment and Compliance** – Carbonfootprint.com's calculation methodology is independently assured to the PAS2060 and Quality Assurance Standard (QAS).
3. **Supporting Local Business**, CarbonFootPrint.com's team are based locally to our sustainability lead in Hampshire, UK.
4. **Appropriate & Regional Tree Planting**, CarbonFootprint.com's tree-planting schemes plant trees appropriate to the local ecology and gave us the option to select a specific UK geo-region. Through Technology's social value policy is to focus region-specific activity in areas identified by the [Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities](#) as having higher deprivation.

## Estimation

Our Carbon Footprint has been calculated using carbonfootprint.com's calculator and figures for home working and transportation, which are certified to the PAS2060 standard. Calculations have then been validated by their consultants, resulting in award of our Carbon Neutral Plus certification.

# Appendices

## Assumptions

The following assumptions have been made for impact forecasting.

1. **Further optimisation** – We believe our business practices are currently highly optimised to minimise carbon emissions. While we will seek new opportunities for this annually, we have not figured further optimisation into our forecasting.
2. **Growth of the business** – We have modelled based upon more conservative growth than our business is currently (and had historically achieved).. Greater growth will further increase our carbon capture annually and cumulatively with an overall positive environmental impact if other factors remain unchanged.
3. **Indirect Emissions** – The only indirect emissions factored into our Impact Forecast are those of staff and associates (contractors) working directly with Through Technology. Whilst we recognise we have a greater than average influence with larger customers and major partners/suppliers, we cannot claim their victories as our own.

## Copyrights and Image Attributions

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The forest image used in our eco-logo as part of our Environmental Commitment on page 14 was created by German Photographer and Mathematician Dietmar Rabich. Both the original and our logo version are licensed under the [BY-SA4.0 Creative Commons License](#).

## References

IPCC – Global Warming of 1.5C Report - [Global Warming of 1.5 °C — \(ipcc.ch\)](#)

Carbon Footprint Calculators and Offsetting - [carbonfootprint.com - Home of Carbon Footprinting](#)

Procurement Policy Note 06/21 – Carbon Reduction - [Procurement Policy Note 06/21: Taking account of Carbon Reduction Plans in the procurement of major government contracts - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Through Technology Limited - [www.throughtechnology.uk](#)