

# Interim Report - Carbon Reduction Plan

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February 2024

Supplier name: Behavioural Insights Limited

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## Commitment to achieving Net Zero

Behavioural Insights Limited, trading as The Behavioural Insights Team (“BIT”), is committed to achieving Net Zero emissions by 2045. In addition to BIT’s commitment to Net Zero, BIT has also targeted a reduction in carbon emissions of 10% by FY25/26, from its baseline FY19/20.

### ***Note about our interim report status 2023***

In response to changes in our organisational structure over last financial year, we share an *Interim* Carbon Reduction Plan. Following our transition to a new parent organisation, social innovation charity, Nesta, we have relocated to new premises and embarked on a comprehensive process to streamline reporting procedures across the entire group. While these transformative initiatives are in progress, we recognise the importance of transparent communication and accountability. In this interim report, we outline our current progress and immediate steps towards reducing our carbon footprint. It is worth noting that more extensive analysis and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission calculations are currently in progress with a new provider, and as such, the figures presented in this policy are subject to change as we continue our commitment to sustainability and carbon reduction.

BIT is also committed to mitigating the impacts of climate change through its work. BIT’s Energy, Environment and Sustainability team work with policy makers, NGOs and private partners across all aspects of sustainability including promoting decarbonisation, building climate resilience and protecting nature & biodiversity. Further, BIT regularly produces thought leadership on [Net Zero Strategy](#) and related environmental challenges aimed at enabling others to apply behavioural insights to achieve sustainability goals.

Where possible, BIT makes efforts to conserve energy and reduce waste in its offices as well as supporting its staff to make sustainable choices. BIT is a relatively small company (<230 people globally) and therefore there are limits to the carbon reduction commitments that are feasible.

Alongside a commitment to reduce its carbon emissions, BIT has committed to compensate for all of its ongoing carbon emissions, including those from travel, by investing in carbon-reduction projects. This commitment applies from 1st August 2021 onwards.

Whilst offsetting carbon is an important step in mitigating the impacts of emissions, we recognise it is not a substitute for reducing carbon emissions. BIT is therefore committed to reaching Net Zero in addition to carbon neutrality, rather than reaching Net Zero through offsets alone.

## 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.

<b>Baseline Year:</b> FY19/20	
<b>Additional Details relating to the Baseline Emissions calculations.</b>	
BIT has chosen the Financial Year 2019/2020 as its Baseline Emissions period.	
<b>Baseline year emissions:</b> 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020	
<b>EMISSIONS</b>	<b>TOTAL (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) 302.8 tCO<sub>2</sub>e</b>
<b>Scope 1</b>	As a research organisation, BIT does not have any significant Scope 1 energy usage or emissions. <b>Total = 0 tCO<sub>2</sub>e</b>
<b>Scope 2</b>	To calculate its Scope 2 emissions, BIT has taken the total electricity usage figures from its office in London and added an estimate of the energy usage for staff in its office in Manchester, which has a number of workstations within a serviced office. Emissions were then calculated using the GHG Protocol tool. <b>Total = 12 tCO<sub>2</sub>e</b>
<b>Scope 3 (Included Sources)</b>	<p>Business Travel: BIT has used the GHG Protocol tool to calculate its carbon emissions from business travel, including flights, trains, taxis and public transport, based on km travelled. <b>Business Travel = 290.687 tCO<sub>2</sub>e</b></p> <p>Waste generated in operations: BIT has estimated the emissions incurred from the waste generated in its offices in London and Manchester using the GHG Protocol Tool. <b>Waste generated in operations = 0.122 tCO<sub>2</sub>e</b></p> <p>Downstream transportation and distribution: As a research organisation, BIT does not have any significant downstream transportation or distribution energy usage or emissions.</p> <p>Upstream transportation and distribution: BIT has a number of suppliers who provide products and services to its business and at this time, BIT does not have data on their emissions.</p> <p>Employee commuting: At this time, BIT does not collect data for employee commuting.</p> <p><b>Total = 290.809 tCO<sub>2</sub>e</b></p>
<b>Total Emissions</b>	<b>302.8 tCO<sub>2</sub>e</b>

## Current Emissions Reporting

Reporting Year: FY22/23	
Current year emissions: 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023	
<b>EMISSIONS</b>	<b>TOTAL 112.745 (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) in the UK</b>
<b>Scope 1</b>	As a research organisation, BIT does not have any significant Scope 1 energy usage or emissions. <b>Total = 0 tCO<sub>2</sub>e</b>
<b>Scope 2</b>	To calculate its Scope 2 emissions, BIT has taken the total electricity usage figures from its office in London (NB we have moved office locations this FY) and added an estimate of the energy usage for staff in its office in Manchester, which has a number of workstations within a serviced office. Emissions were then calculated using the GHG Protocol tool. <b>Total = 12.770 tCO<sub>2</sub>e</b>
<b>Scope 3 (Included Sources)</b>	<p>Business Travel: BIT has used the GHG Protocol tool to calculate its carbon emissions from business travel, including flights, trains, taxis and public transport, based on km travelled. This is where most emissions were reduced.</p> <p><b>Business Travel = 99.976 tCO<sub>2</sub>e</b></p> <p>Waste generated in operations: BIT will be reporting using a new method alongside Nesta's process and therefore calculations are still in process. This will likely include estimates from a waste audit completed by mid 2024 and be included in the 2023 - 2024 reporting year.</p> <p><b>Waste generated in operations = this will be calculated using a new method from the year 2023 - 2024.</b></p> <p>Downstream transportation and distribution: As a research organisation, BIT does not have any significant downstream transportation or distribution energy usage or emissions.</p> <p>Upstream transportation and distribution: BIT has a number of suppliers who provide products and services to its business and at present BIT does not have data on their emissions. Going forward where possible we will aim to use spend data to calculate upstream transportation and distribution.</p> <p>Employee commuting: At present BIT does not collect data for employee commuting. We will aim to report employee commuting going forward by using a survey to identify employee commuting details including: number of days employees commute and distance travelled per mode of transport. We may use a representative sample of employees to calculate this. <b>These will be reported starting from next year e.g. 2023-2024. This will include sending out an employee survey to calculate employee commuting and spend data to calculate upstream transportation and distribution.</b></p> <p><b>Total = 99.976 tCO<sub>2</sub>e</b></p>
<b>Total Emissions</b>	<b>112.745 tCO<sub>2</sub>e</b>

## Previous Emissions Footprint

<b>Reporting Year:</b> FY21/22	
<b>Current year emissions:</b> 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022	
<b>EMISSIONS</b>	<b>TOTAL 32.52 (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) in the UK</b> <i>NB this took place during covid which impacted business operations significantly.</i>
<b>Scope 1</b>	As a research organisation, BIT does not have any significant Scope 1 energy usage or emissions. <b>Total = 0 tCO<sub>2</sub>e</b>
<b>Scope 2</b>	To calculate its Scope 2 emissions, BIT has taken the total electricity usage figures from its office in London and added an estimate of the energy usage for staff in its office in Manchester, which has a number of workstations within a serviced office. Emissions were then calculated using the GHG Protocol tool. <b>Total = 17.90 tCO<sub>2</sub>e</b>
<b>Scope 3</b> (Included Sources)	<p>Business Travel: BIT has used the GHG Protocol tool to calculate its carbon emissions from business travel, including flights, trains, taxis and public transport, based on km travelled. <b>Business Travel = 14.57 tCO<sub>2</sub>e</b></p> <p>Waste generated in operations: BIT has estimated the emissions incurred from the waste generated in its offices in London and Manchester using the GHG Protocol Tool. <b>Waste generated in operations = 0.055 tCO<sub>2</sub>e</b></p> <p>Downstream transportation and distribution: As a research organisation, BIT does not have any significant downstream transportation or distribution energy usage or emissions.</p> <p>Upstream transportation and distribution: BIT has a number of suppliers who provide products and services to its business and at present BIT does not have data on their emissions.</p> <p>Employee commuting: At present BIT does not collect data for employee commuting.</p> <p><b>Total = 14.62 tCO<sub>2</sub>e</b></p>
<b>Total Emissions</b>	<b>32.52 tCO<sub>2</sub>e</b>

## Emissions reduction targets

### Context of our interim report

This is our *interim* report and so we will be constructing our emission reduction targets and details on carbon reduction projects when we release our final report as it is likely that our figures will change as we aim to include other Scope 3 emissions like employee commuting. We are currently redeveloping our reduction target and plan.

**Please note that our total emissions from this reporting period (112.745 tCO<sub>2</sub>e) is currently lower than our FY25/26 target (263 tCO<sub>2</sub>e).** This is due to a much lower number of flights in the current reporting year than our baseline year.

**We will review this target after our final report is published and adjust accordingly if our total emissions remain lower than our baseline year.**

Below are our carbon reduction methods from our FY21/22 report. Text in red indicates actions we will take once our final report is released.

## Carbon Reduction Projects

### Carbon Offsetting

Since 1st August 2021, BIT has committed to compensate for all of its ongoing carbon emissions, including those from travel, through investing in carbon-reduction projects.

The two organisations BIT has chosen are:

- ACES, which protects blue carbon ecosystems in Southern Kenya.
- Tradewater, which identifies and destroys refrigerants.

These providers were chosen based on two criteria:

1. Good evidence of impact (additionality).
2. Evidence of "co-benefits" – benefits to the environment and/or local community above and beyond the reduction in CO<sub>2</sub>e.

**We are still committed to compensate for all of our ongoing carbon emissions after our final report is published.**

### Other continuous measures

In the FY 2022/2023, we moved offices to a location which is more energy efficient and we have been deliberate about reducing travel for work.

### Conserving resources and reducing of waste

BIT is committed to using energy and water efficiently and reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill sites. This is put into practice by:

- Using energy efficient and motion-sensor lighting where possible;
- Supporting and empowering staff to be energy conscious, using behavioural interventions to encourage switching off equipment when not needed and minimising water use by, for example, the use of eco wash settings for dishwashers and washing machines;
- Ensuring all refrigeration and air-conditioning units are properly maintained and regularly serviced;
- Recycling and using recycled products where possible;
- Encouraging staff to minimise the use of single-use plastics and requesting suppliers not to use single-use plastics where possible;
- Operating a 'digital by default' office, including external communications; and
- Setting photocopiers and printers to double-sided and black and white printing by default.

### **Supporting sustainable choices**

BIT is committed to supporting and enabling staff to make sustainable choices.

This is put into practice by:

- Deliberate extra considerations to only travelling by air when needed, co-scheduling work, if possible
- Encouraging staff to use public transport, cycle or walk wherever possible;
- Offering and encouraging use of the Cycle to Work Scheme and having cycle storage and changing facilities at the office;
- External meetings are remote by default - a shift from previously defaulting to in-person - unless organised otherwise
- Encouraging staff to work remotely where business need does not require them to be in the office; and
- Offering staff vegetarian or vegan options for staff lunches and work events.

**We are still committed to these 'Other continuous measures'.**

## Declaration and Sign Off

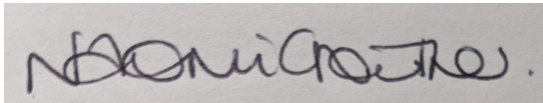
This interim Carbon Reduction Plan has been completed to the best of our current abilities in accordance with PPN 06/21 and associated guidance and reporting standards for Carbon Reduction Plans.

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 appropriate Government emission conversion factors 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 Interim Carbon Reduction Plan has been reviewed and signed off by BIT's Leadership Team.

### Signed on behalf of the Supplier:

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature appears to read 'Naomi Crowther'.

Naomi Crowther, Finance Director

Date: 13/02/2024

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<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>