

Case Study: Higgins Construction PLC

For over 50 years, Higgins Construction PLC has built a reputation as one of the most forward thinking construction companies in the UK. It is a business that is committed to building better, stronger, safer and more sustainable communities.

This is Higgins Construction's seventh year of business Carbon Footprint Reporting. Higgins Construction first calculated the carbon footprint of its office and fleet for the year ending December 2011 and set a target to reduce emissions by 5% annually. This includes emissions from energy use in the building (natural gas and purchased electricity), from fuel used by the fleet, and from water consumption in the offices.

The relative carbon footprint in 2017 was 3.33 tCO₂e per employee, compared to 3.01 tCO₂e in 2015. An increase of 10.6%. However, over the past 3 years, Higgins has managed to reduce its carbon emissions per employee by an average of 5.2% per year. Higgins Construction's total carbon footprint in 2017 was 633 tCO₂e, an increase of 13.6% from 2016.

The increase in carbon footprint can be attributed mainly to a 96% increase in carbon emissions from the vehicle fleet, and in particular a significant increase in total distances travelled by diesel vehicle.

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The increase in fleet carbon emissions has been partially offset by a 15% decrease in emissions from electricity consumption. This is mostly attributed to updated 2017 Defra emission conversion factors that reflect the greening of the UK National grid for electricity. Actual kWh electricity consumption reduced by 1%.

Higgins now has 5 electric cars points installed in its car park. In 2017, it also continued to replace LED lights as and when it needed to replace lights. It has also installed a new fire system, which will save on batteries.

To meet its sustainability commitments going forward, Higgins should:

- Understand the reasons for the large increase in fleet vehicle distance travelled – whether this is related to the location of construction sites in 2017, or due to other factors – and take action to reduce emissions over the rest of 2018
- Develop further policies to incentivise the switch over to hybrid and electric vehicles in its fleet
- Incentivise other low carbon travel options and car sharing where feasible
- Carry out further assessment of its office energy use, with a focus on natural gas consumption

What Higgins Construction PLC did in 2017

Higgins Construction has achieved certification to The Planet Mark™ based on its average emissions reductions over the last 3 years.

Investment to the **Eden Project** to support education on climate change

633 tCO₂e

measured carbon included electricity, natural gas, fleet, and water

5.2%

average reduction per employee over 3 years. 13.6% total carbon footprint increase in 2017.

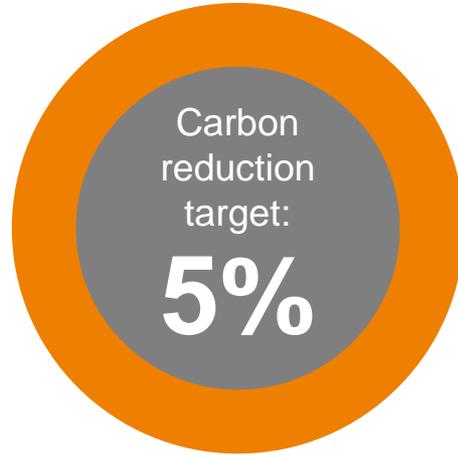
260 tCO₂ stored in one acre of protected rainforest

Commitment to engage employees and suppliers to drive improvement

15% reduction in electricity emissions

What Higgins Construction PLC plans to do in 2018-19

TARGETS



Recommendations

- Data collection: Investigate the installation of a real time energy monitoring system, and the reasons for higher transport mileage in 2017
- Energy efficiency: An 'energy audit' will help identify where most energy is being used and potential wastage from equipment, lights and heat loss. Investigate the upgrade of heating controls
- Fleet efficiency: Arrange safe and fuel efficient driving training for all drivers. Plan driver routes to finish at their homes
- Travel: Promote the uptake of public transport use, and car sharing, where feasible.



Total carbon footprint overview

Higgins Construction

Reporting year ending 2017 / Highlights

Carbon footprint (tCO ₂ e)	633.1
Per employee (tCO ₂ e)	3.3
Carbon footprint comparison	13.6%
Comparison per employee	10.6%
Next reduction target	5%
Data quality score	16 out of 20

Used	691,263	kWh of electricity
Used	829,995	kWh of natural gas
Used	2,107	m ³ of water
Travelled	1,310,339	fleet km for business

Boundary: Loughton office operations

Emissions measured:

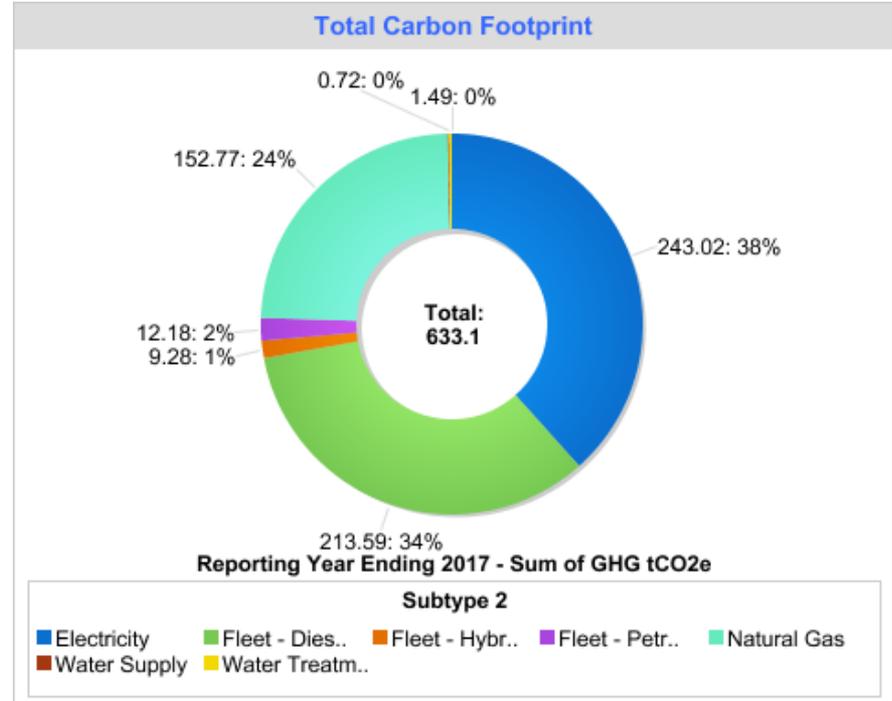


FIG 1- Total carbon footprint by emission source for reporting year ending 2017

The Planet Mark™

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The Eden Project

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