# aurecon Bringing ideas to life



## Carbon footprint report

Aurecon's annual carbon footprint report for the financial year 2023

01 July 2022 - 30 June 2023

#### MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

At Aurecon, we continue to strengthen our commitment to sustainability, and this includes acting on our responsibility to actively participate in the drive to a net zero emissions future. Not only as designers, engineers, scientists, and advisors, but also as innovators and individuals acting on climate change.

Produced annually, Aurecon's carbon footprint report aims to guide the organisation's climate risk related initiatives in alignment with the Aurecon Blueprint goals and our commitment to the United Nations Global Compact.

The report presents a summary of the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from Aurecon's operations during the 2023 financial year.

You can read more about our commitment to sustainability and the United Nations Global Compact on our <u>website</u>.



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## Bringing ideas to life

Aurecon is a design, engineering and advisory company. Our purpose is bringing ideas to life, to imagine and co-create with our clients a better future for people and the planet. Our culture of Believe it. Say it. Do it. reflects our deep commitment to our clients and each other to build trust and create a better future together.

As designers, engineers, scientists and advisors, we play a vital role in helping the communities and economies in which we work transition to a more sustainable, liveable future.

A vibrant and sustainable future is not an impossible dream. The choices we make today, will change the way the world is tomorrow.

The health of our people, our communities and our planet guide our choices. We embed our sustainability objectives and targets firmly in our strategy, operations and culture.



## Our climate change commitment

Aurecon's business is one source of greenhouse gas emissions, so we are taking responsibility and implementing appropriate measures to reduce the impact we have on the world. We have made a commitment to become net zero in our operations by 2025. We have set our goals around the areas of our business where we can make the biggest difference.

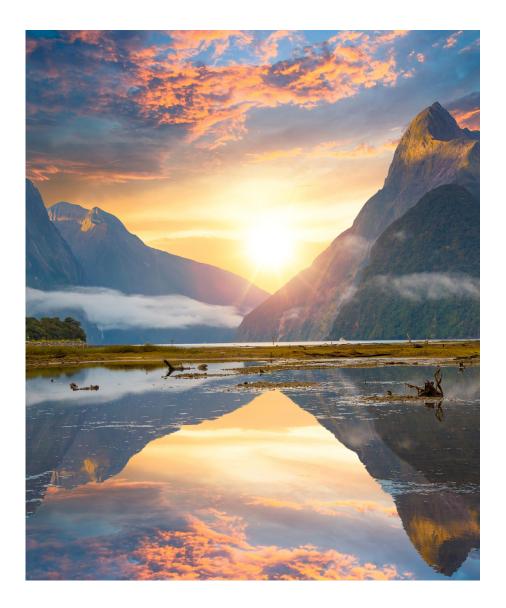
By 2025 we will achieve net zero emissions covering:

- Owned or controlled sources (Category 1)
- Purchased energy (Category 2)

Other indirect emissions from Aurecon activities we do not own or control, such as business travel, waste, and water (Category 3-5)

The move to decarbonise our business and transition our services comes in anticipation of a 100 percent net zero emissions future.

We will achieve our targets through risk-based decisions, balancing investment in emissions reduction measures against offsets. Over time we expect the need for offsets will reduce.





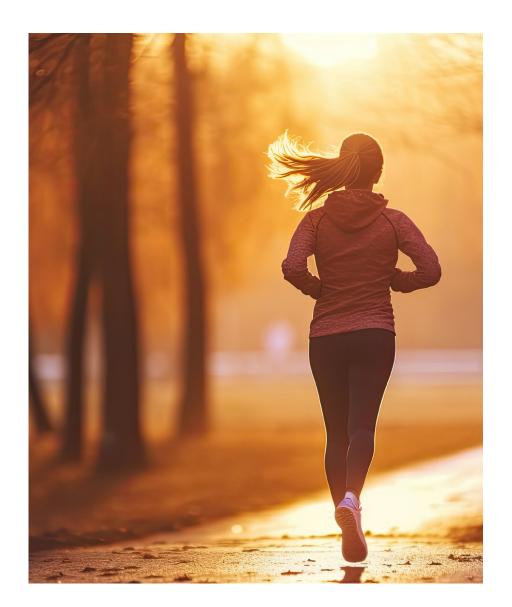
## Managing our environmental footprint

Aurecon manages its environmental footprint through the following actions:

- The application of an effective Environmental Management System compliant to ISO 14001 and commitment to follow relevant environmental laws and regulations
- Looking beyond compliance to take everyone at Aurecon along on the journey to a net zero emissions future
- Implementing measures to minimise greenhouse gas emissions and consumption of energy, water and consumables and the reduction of waste generation (visible impacts)

- Measuring and monitoring our carbon footprint from our operations via internationally recognised standards, like the Greenhouse Gas Protocol— Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard
- Developing the pathway and priorities to achieve net zero emissions by 2025. Focus areas include, flights, electricity, fleet and commuting, visible impacts, supply chain, and carbon credits.
- Annual verification of our carbon footprint by an independent third-party certifier in accordance with the ISO 14064-1:2018 standard

You can access a copy of Aurecon's Environmental Policy <u>here</u>. You can access a copy of Aurecon's Sustainability Policy <u>here</u>.



#### Measuring greenhouse gas emissions

In FY 2023, we continued to conform to ISO 14064-1:2018. After conducting a significance assessment for all potential emission sources, we reported on 17 emissions sources within Categories 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 (Figure 1) across our 27 operating offices in Australia, New Zealand and Asia.

Our emissions in FY 2023 increased overall by 42% compared to FY 2022 (i.e., from 13,090.57 to 18,618.31 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>-e). This increase can mainly be attributed to our air travel, with related emissions totalling 6,339.79 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e.

Our top five sources of emissions by percentage share were: air travel (34%), equipment (16%), superannuation (8%), employee commuting (6%) and office occupancy<sup>1</sup> (6%).

In FY 2023, the overall emissions increase was due to:

- Increase in air travel activity after Covid-19 restrictions further eased and changes in DEFRA<sup>2</sup> emission factors, leading to a 234% increase in emissions from FY 2022, from 1,900.74 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e to 6,339.79 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e.
- Increase in land travel activity (leased and rental cars), with a 30% increase in emissions, from 588.18 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e to 764.31 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e.



- Increase in hotel stays, leading to a 75% increase in accommodation-related emissions from 298.11 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e in FY 2022, to 522.72 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e in FY 2023.
- Significant increase in Category 4 emissions for the products and services we purchase such as communication (126%), equipment (40%), and office occupancy cost (119%).

From 1 January 2023, we entered into a 100% Renewable Energy agreement in Australia with Iberdrola. This has contributed to a notable decrease (36%) in our energy emissions across Aurecon's Australia offices.

Each year we continue to drive initiatives that reduce our emissions at the source. We are seeking to walk the talk in aligning the sustainability advice we provide to clients with how we manage our own business' decarbonisation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In recent years, Aurecon has expanded the scope of the emissions sources it reports on, resulting in additional business areas that are now contributing to our carbon footprint and resulting in higher emissions. These include equipment, superannuation, and office occupancy which fall under emission scope categories 4 and 5, respectively.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Aurecon uses the air travel emission factors provided by the U.K. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) for flights taken by our people located in Australian and Asian offices. DEFRA updated the emission factors for FY 2023 due to reduced occupancy on flights that has not recovered to pre-Covid-19 levels.

Figure 1: Greenhouse gas emissions<sup>3</sup>

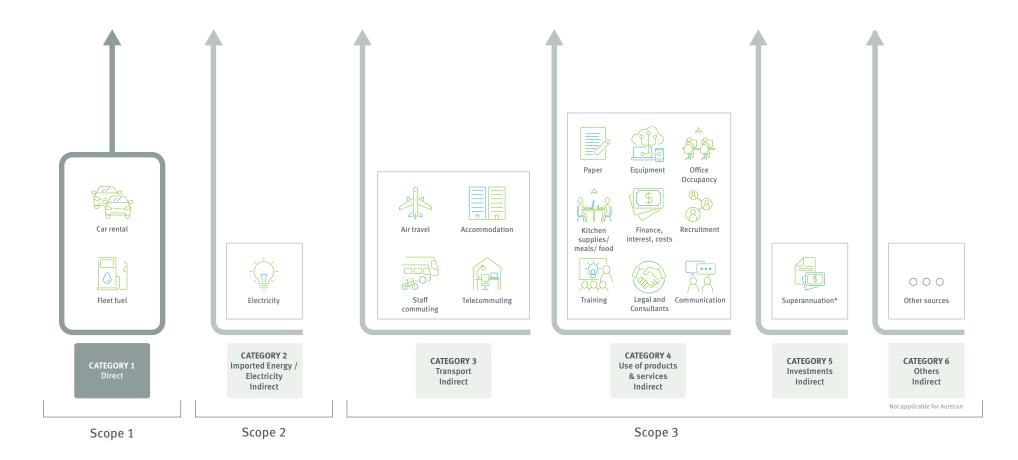
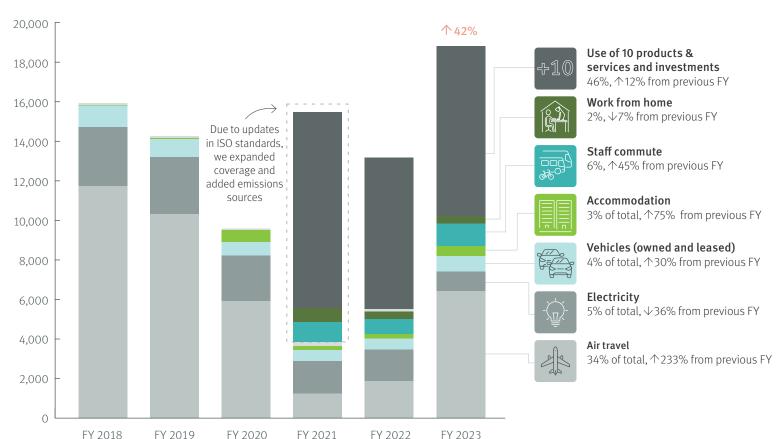




Figure 2: Absolute tCO<sub>2</sub>-e emissions across Australia, New Zealand and Asia - annual trends



#### Notes:

- Our inventory covers all operating offices; however certain emission sources do not apply to some locations due to the availability of data.
- In FY 2023, the number of emissions under 'Use of Products & Services and Investments' have been reduced from 17 to 10, following a significance assessment. Other sources deemed insignificant for reporting include other land business travel, waste and water.
- As of 1 January 2023, Aurecon entered into a 100% Renewable Energy agreement in Australia with Iberdrola. This has contributed to a notable decrease (59%) in energy emissions across Aurecon's Australia offices.

#### **About Aurecon**

Aurecon is a design, engineering and advisory company that brings ideas to life to create a better future for people and the planet.

For more information, please visit **aurecongroup.com** 

