



SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

2023



INTRODUCTION

We are proud to present the Roberts Sustainability Report for 2023.

This report shows the progress we have made over the past year in reducing the negative effects we have on the environment and improving our social impact.

We've continued to approach the topic of sustainability with an open mind, drawing from many different ideas on the topic. This outlook has allowed us to make the improvements outlined in this report and we aim to continually develop by keeping up to date with the latest science and technology and by constantly re-evaluating our strategy.

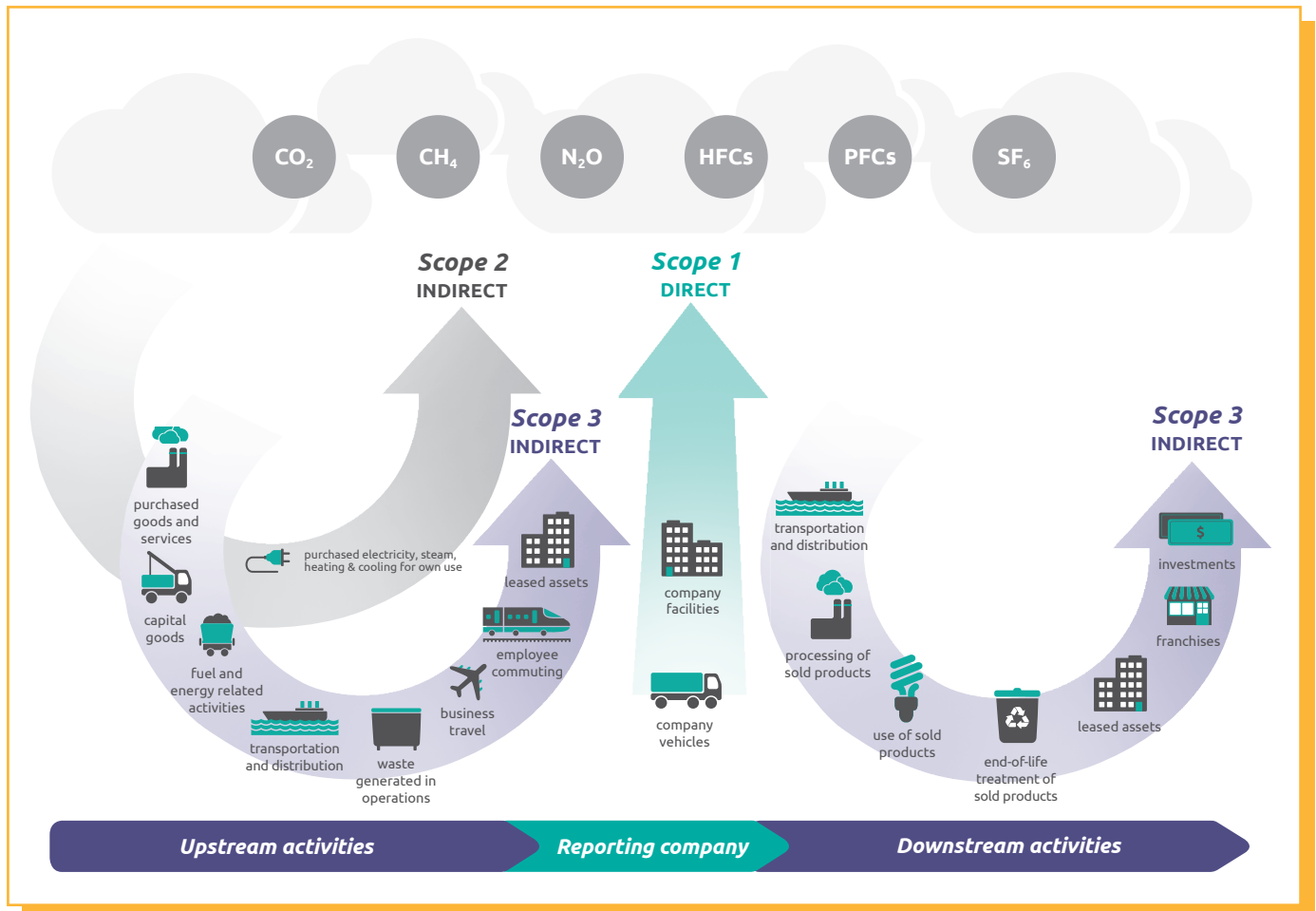
We hope you enjoy reading this year's report.



OUR PLANET

The Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHG) breaks emissions down into three scopes which you can see below.

Overview of GHG Protocol scopes and emissions across the value chain.



Scope 1 and 2 Emissions – Net Zero 2035

Our initial focus has been on Scopes 1 and 2. For these we have committed to Net Zero by 2035, reducing our emissions in these categories by at least 90% by 2035 from our baseline year of 2020.

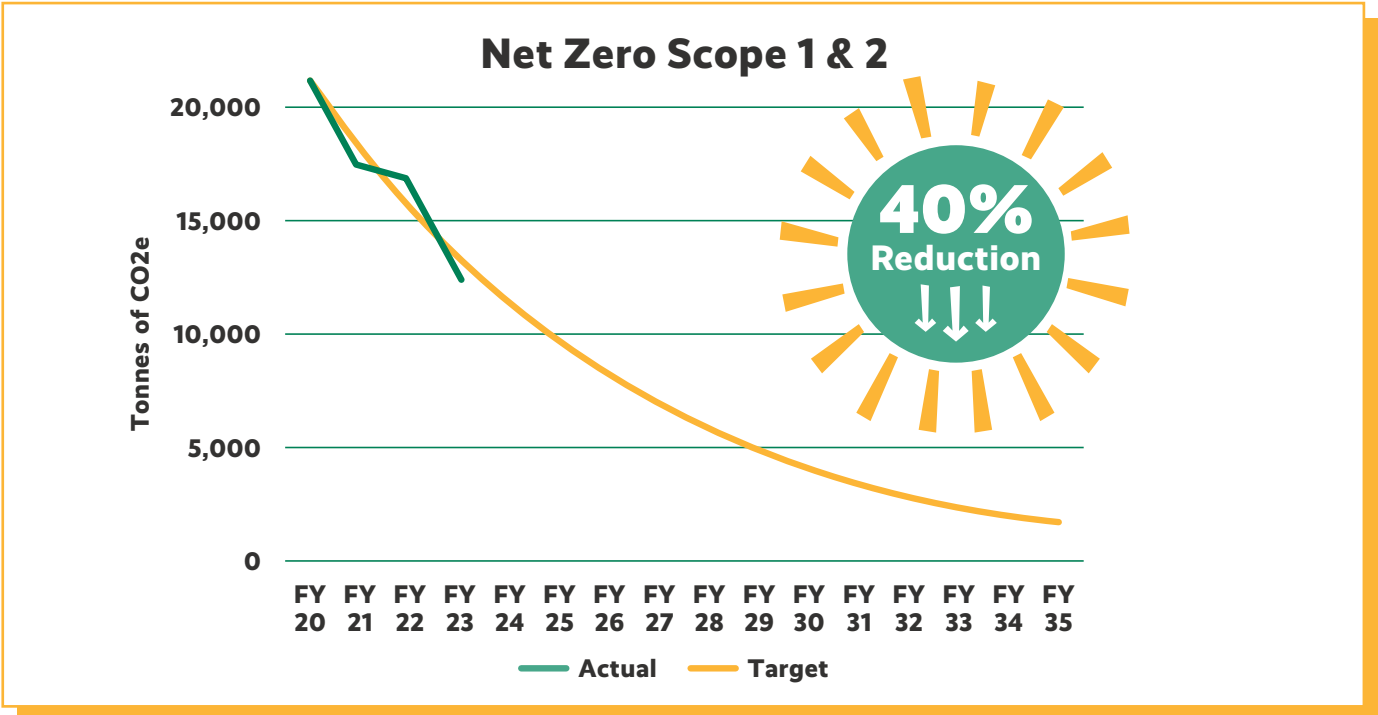
To achieve Net Zero for Scope 1 & 2 we must reduce emissions on average 14% per year up to 2035. So far, we have reduced our emissions by 40%.

Scope 3 Emissions

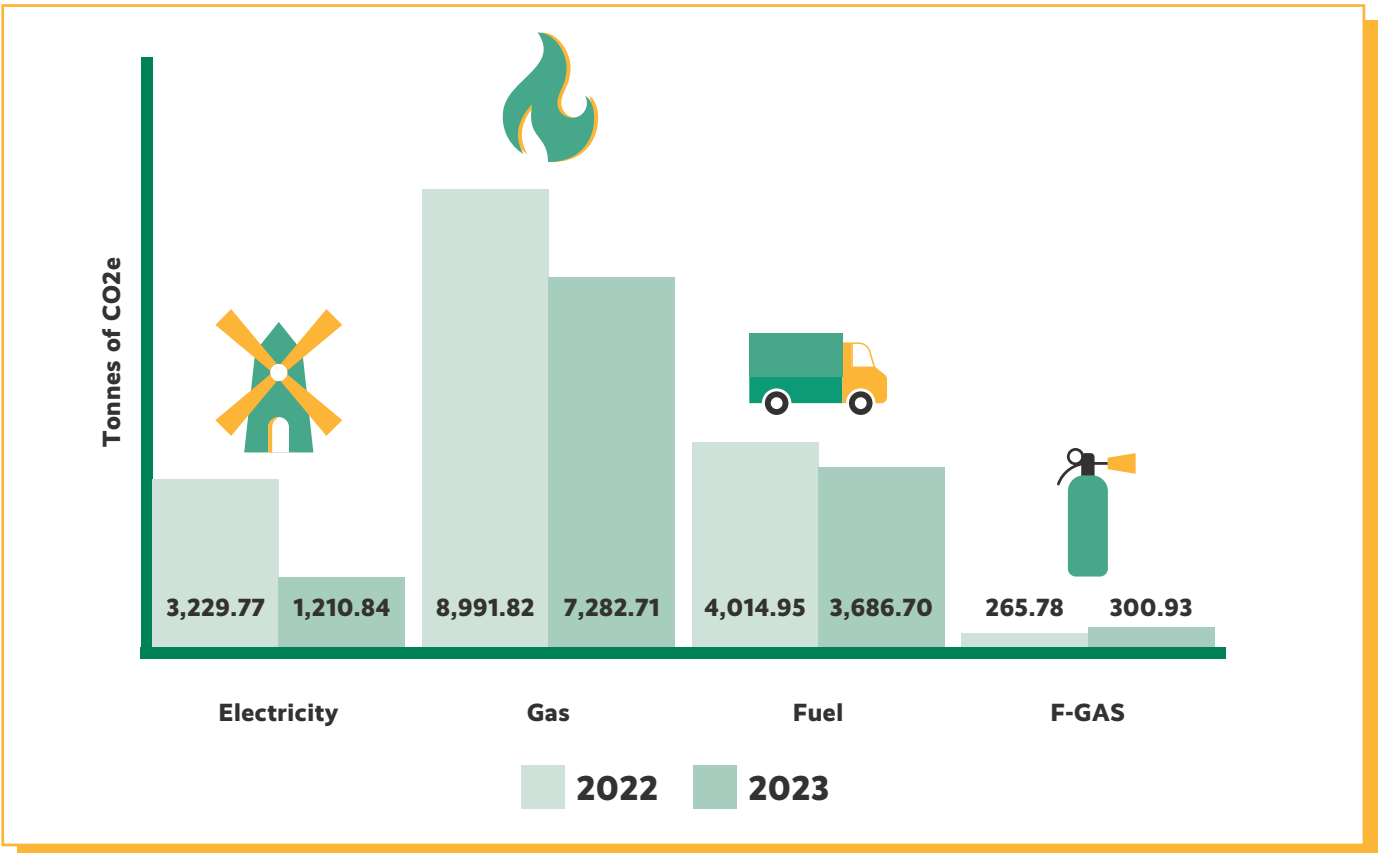
For Scope 3 we are committed to Net Zero by 2050, however, we're working on quantifying these emissions and developing a roadmap for all three scopes, validated by the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi).



OUR ACTUAL EMISSIONS VS TARGET REDUCTION FOR 2023



BREAKDOWN OF OUR SCOPE 1 AND 2 EMISSIONS FOR 2022 AND 2023



ELECTRICITY AND GAS

- We purchase 100% Renewable electricity.
- We continue to investigate self-generation of electricity across our sites, including CHP and Solar.
- We are closely monitoring the development of hydrogen as a future alternative to natural gas.
- We continue to improve sub metering to identify efficiency opportunities across the sites.
- We have moved our IT storage systems to the Cloud, with Cloud First. This has resulted in large energy savings as well as being 80% more efficient.



VEHICLES

- We're closely following developments in the future fuel technologies for our HGVs, CNG being trialled currently.
- We have a range of new Euro 6 DAFs that use remix Michelin tyres, the same for all our existing fleet.
- Michelin's remix tyres offer a similar life expectancy to an original Michelin, whilst saving approx. 50 litres of oil, 44kg of rubber compound and 60kg of CO2.
- We use dynamic routing via Paragon to optimise our routing and reduce fuel consumption.
- We provide EV chargers for our staff and visitors to help encourage the use of electric vehicles for commuting and business travel.



PACKAGING

- We believe in the Reduce Reuse Recycle concept.
- Reducing the weight and size of packaging and constantly re-evaluating these factors, whilst monitoring packaging waste on a weekly basis.
- Our Bakers Basco bread baskets that we use to transport bread safely to our customers are Reusable many times.
- Our lightweight Polyethylene bread bags are Recyclable and carry an OPRL recycling logo.



DEFORESTATION AND LAND USE CHANGE

Here at Roberts, we understand the direct impact we have on biodiversity through our supply chains, with multiple ingredients being associated with deforestation and land use change. The main impacts occur at the start of our supply chains, where the ingredients are grown and harvested. Although we use a lot of flour in our recipes, we also use high deforestation risk ingredients such as palm oil and soy.

The world's forests absorb huge amounts of carbon dioxide, support millions of communities and are home to thousands of unusual plants and animals, like the Proboscis monkeys. Deforestation refers to the clearance or removal of a forest or stand of trees, which is then used for another purpose, such as agriculture or animal grazing. Of the multiple social and economic issues associated with deforestation, climate change is now one of the most pressing matters we face. The protection and restoration of our natural ecosystems, especially rainforests, is given as one of the many ways we can curb the dangerous effects of rising greenhouse gas, emissions and stay within the 1.5 degrees temperature rise from preindustrial levels.

It is hard to find a product that doesn't contain palm oil, from soap to pizza, it is a prominent part of many global supply chains. Its popularity is mostly due to its versatility, as well as it being more efficient than other similar crops. Increasing demand for palm oil in manufacturing has led to vast swathes of tropical forest being removed in Southeast Asia. Unfortunately, the soybean industry is also one of the largest drivers of deforestation, with over 75.5 million hectares cultivated across the globe. Unlike palm oil, soy is grown mostly in South America, and is linked to deforestation and land use change in the Amazon, and Cerrado Biomes in Brazil.

We realise that completely switching to alternatives such as rapeseed oil can cause further environmental and social harm. The diagram shows that the yield of various other palm oil alternatives is much lower. We believe that through the ethical, sustainable supply chains that are in place, continuing to use certified sustainable palm oil will ultimately protect further degradation of the earth.

Guided by the recent EUDR, and the UK's Environment Act, Roberts will be completing all relevant due diligence of high deforestation risk commodities. This will include collecting detailed information that ensures that products comply with all relevant legislation.

For more information, please see our palm oil policy.



Comparison of global oil yields by crop plant
Oil yields in tonnes per hectare (t/ha)



BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity refers to the variation in life from all sources, such as terrestrial and marine and includes diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems. Although not always the case, variation in the number of plants and animals signifies a healthy natural environment and high biodiversity. In the UK, biodiversity has suffered huge losses, with land use change and urban sprawl leading to a decrease in many once abundant species. In recent years, the protection of biodiversity has become a very prominent issue, with emphasis being put on the many benefits we gain from healthy ecosystems. An example of such a benefit would be the pollination services carried out by bees, which many plants require to grow. Here at Roberts, we recognise that we can take steps to promote biodiversity and are currently working on projects that will improve nature on our site and the surrounding landscape.

- We are lucky enough to have a small brook running through our site. The health of this water is imperative, with Cheshire and more locally, Northwich, having a very strong fishing culture. We recognise the importance of protecting recreation for future generations, as well as keeping in line with all required environmental legislation and our discharge permit. We are therefore looking at improving the riparian habitat of the brook for habitat creation and water filtration.
- The steps we take will not only help biodiversity, but it will also play a vital part in giving people an opportunity to reconnect with nature and get a sense of what the countryside would have looked like before many of our wild meadows were lost.
- All our future developments will be compliant with relevant biodiversity net gain legislation.
- We also created a log pile habitat on our land. This was done with a fallen tree that we had on site and will create vital habitats for a multitude of invertebrates and animals such as hedgehogs, who need somewhere cozy over winter.



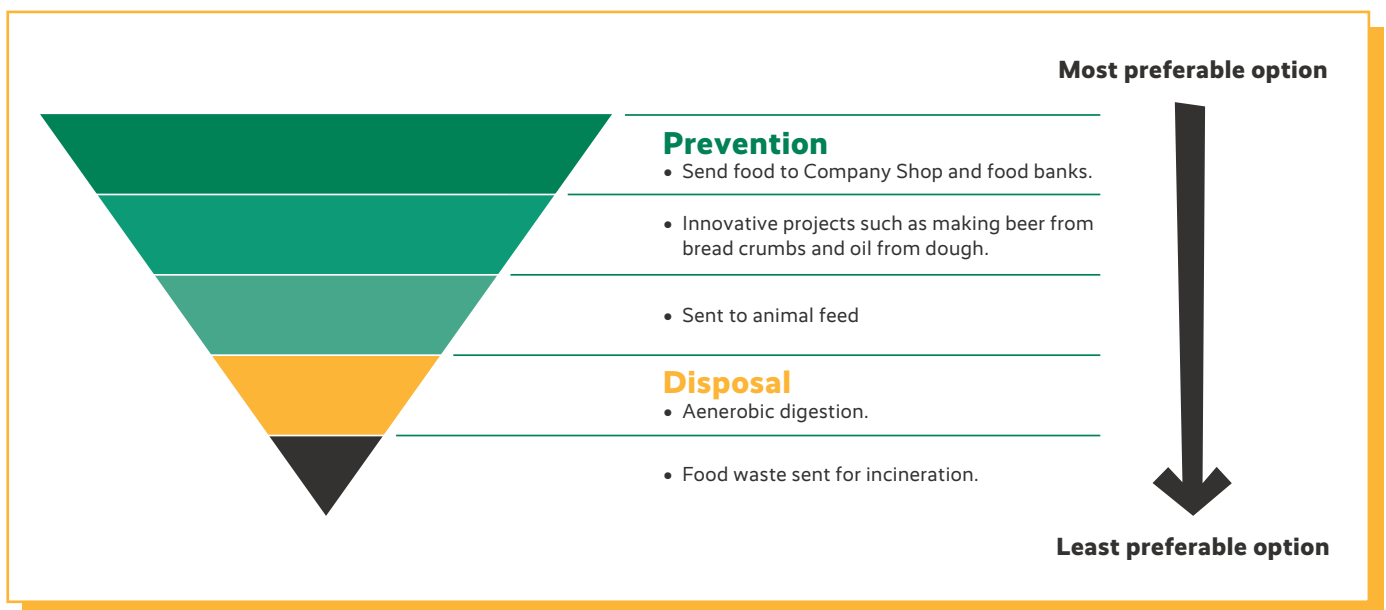
WASTE MANAGEMENT

Did you know that of all food produced, about 17% goes to waste. This causes lots of problems for the environment and accounts for around 8% of global emissions.

Here at Roberts, a lot of hard work and pride goes into making our products, and we want them to be enjoyed by as many people as possible. To reduce our environmental impact, we have a few ways in which we distribute our surplus products.

- If our products can't be consumed by people, we have some alternative methods of waste reduction. We are an innovative company and are constantly looking for new opportunities to develop. We are currently involved in a project with Toast, who use our waste bread to brew beer. We have also teamed up with The Clean Food Group to look at how we can recycle bread to produce alternative oils that can be used in our recipes. Not only will these projects reduce the amount of waste we produce and palm oil we use, but they will also move us towards a more sustainable, circular production model.
- We have partnered with a farmer that collects our waste dough and bread. This can then be used to supplement the diet of his animals, reducing the need to import additional nutrition such as soy.
- Another way we can reduce our waste is by passing on our message to the customer. The average person wastes 95kg of food each year, and so there are several steps that can be taken at home to help the environment. We have information on the back of our packaging that lets people know that many of our products can be frozen.
- In 2023, we sent 5887.47 tonnes of waste dough and bread to animal feed.

Our waste hierarchy, with prevention being the preferred option, and disposal a last resort.



OUR PEOPLE & OUR COMMUNITY

With approximately 700 colleagues across two sites, we're proud to play an important role within our community.

CHARITY

Cash for Kids is a charity that helps children that need it most across the UK. By fundraising all year around, they have raised over £23,000,000, allowing them to ease the burden of the cost-of-living crisis, as well as running Mission Christmas, which aims to bring the joy of Christmas to disadvantaged homes. We are very proud to have been a part of Mission Christmas in 2023. We donated £5000 and are very proud of our drivers who helped out by using Roberts lorries to deliver presents around the country.

BREAD DONATIONS

We always want to get our bread into people's homes, and so we work closely with local food banks donating bread weekly to the people in our communities that need it most. We also have a very good relationship with Company Shop, sending 300 tonnes of food to them in 2023.

This Christmas we ran the big Roberts bread giveaway, where we donated 118,000 loaves of bread and rolls to families in need. These products were distributed with the help of FareShare and Community Shop.



Ruth Downes from FareShare and Will Harrop, Head of Sustainability and the Environment at Roberts.





This Christmas, our HR department also ran a food bank appeal in our staff shop. 5 hampers of food were collected and donated to Mid Cheshire Food Bank.

BAKING IN SCHOOLS

Our baking in schools program delivers a free activity for children from all backgrounds, providing children with basic bread making skills which they can use to bake with their families. We also introduce the basics of baking on a large manufacturing scale.

- 9 schools visited during 2023.
- 452 pupils experienced our baking programme.
- Every child took away with them a loaf they had baked, a recipe card to recreate the experience at home and a 'brilliant school of baking' certificate.

TRAINING

- We have a new in-house learning platform which not only caters for mandatory training, but has a suite of courses where colleagues can enhance their learning in many subjects. We also support colleagues through external professional qualifications in areas such as Finance & Procurement.
- We are proud to be a member of Management Development Services Ltd (a not for profit organisation), who aim to equip young people with experience and training to give them the confidence and ability to rapidly become senior business leaders within the food and fresh produce industry.
- We currently offer apprenticeships in HR, driving and engineering.
- We've introduced mandatory sustainability goals to performance reviews to build understanding and to drive improvements across the business.





WHAT'S NEXT

- 2023 – Switch to Renewable Electricity. ✓
- 2023 – Electric Vehicle Chargers installed. ✓
- 2023 – New Waste management provider installed to reduce waste and increase percentage of recycling. ✓
- 2024 – Quantify Scope 3 emissions.
- 2024 – Develop Roadmap to reduce Scope 3 emissions.
- 2024 – Near term and Net Zero targets agreed.
- 2024 – SBTi validation.

