

## Environmental Policy

### Overview

Concern for the environment and the promotion of a broader sustainability agenda are integral to Aether's professional activities and the management of our company. We aim to follow and to promote good practice, to reduce the environmental impacts of all our activities and to help our clients and partners to do the same.

Aether is an SME, based in serviced accommodation in Oxford; our core business is to provide environmental and climate change consultancy services to national and international clients. Due to the nature of our work, we recognise that our main environmental impacts originate from business travel, resulting in emissions to air. To address this, we have committed to funding any additional costs incurred from choosing low carbon travel modes within Europe. It is our aim to continue to reduce the environmental impacts of our business and operate in an environmentally responsible manner.

Aether is a certified Carbon Neutral company, and since January 2012, have been offsetting our Scope 1 and Scope 2<sup>1</sup> emissions as well as emissions from staff commuting and business travel. These are verified by a tool that meets the criteria set by the Quality Assurance Scheme. This ensures the accurate calculation of emissions, use of high-quality carbon credits, and cancellation of carbon credits used to offset at the end of each calendar year. In May 2021, Aether signed up to the SME Climate Hub<sup>2</sup>, aiming to be net zero by 2050.

Aether's Environmental Management System (EMS) was initially certified by the Low Carbon Kent Hub. In recognition of our annual offsetting and the continuing management and improvement of our environmental performance, Aether was awarded the Gold Level of the STEM scheme. As this scheme is no longer funded, as an alternative, Aether now has ISO14001 accreditation.

As a company we strive to positively affect our local environment and we support our staff volunteering at local ecology centres.

### Responsibility

This environmental policy applies to all our operations including management, office services and consultancy services. Katie King is responsible for ensuring that the policy is implemented. However, all members of staff have a responsibility in their own activities to ensure that the aims and objectives of the policy are met.

### Objectives

Aether's objectives are to:

- Reduce our waste and whenever possible to reuse or recycle our waste.
- Purchase products and services that do the least damage to the environment.
- Offset all of our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that we have been unable to avoid.
- Minimise the company's energy consumption and conserve supplies to minimise the consumption of natural resources.
- Enhance our local impact on the environment through volunteering programmes.

### Targets

The following targets have been set:

- To steadily reduce our carbon footprint with the overall aim to be net zero by 2050
- Ensure that our team is fully aware of our objectives to minimise our environmental impact and implement these within their work and their business travel and commuting.

### Communication

If you wish to obtain further details about our environmental management system or would like to discuss our progress against our objectives, please telephone +44 (0)1865261466.

Katie King, Operations Director, 03/07/2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. King".

Next review: July 2025

<sup>1</sup> Scope 1 and 2 emissions refer to the GHG Protocol definitions. Scope 1 refers to direct GHG emissions (emissions from sources that are owned or controlled by the reporting entity). Scope 2 refers to indirect emissions from the consumption of purchased electricity.

<sup>2</sup> [Home - SME Climate hub \(businessclimatehub.org\)](https://www.businessclimatehub.org)