

iMAGECO

IMAGINE, INNOVATE, INITIATE

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

June 2023



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A LETTER FROM OUR MD

The print industry has some work to do in improving its green processes and striving towards a more sustainable future. There are many problem areas within the industry, from the materials used and supply chain through to the general high levels of carbon emissions created from operations.

At Imageco, sustainability is core to what we do. We continue to invest in better practices and operational improvements like the installation of solar panels and top of the line printers like those we have installed from HP and swissQprint.

On top of this, we have put a huge amount of work into ensuring that we only offer the best of the best when it comes to our sustainable alternatives, and we will never stop searching for further improvements we can make to our product portfolio.

A high point for Imageco on our sustainability journey has been the development of our sustainability sub-brand: ImagECO. We believe that a collaborative approach is the best way we can create a greener future for the world, and we hope to continue in our efforts to educate and share best practice with those in the industry.

Nathan Swinson-Bullough, MD, Imageco





1.

MISSION STATEMENT

When it comes to sustainable print, we know our stuff. We are aware that our industry uses a lot of power, and we know the materials can be damaging to the environment. We're striving to lower the emissions caused by our operations and one of the ways sustainability can really be achieved is through the types of materials we work with.

Over the past few years, Imageco have shifted the way we run modes of production towards a circular, low-carbon-emission operation. By turning to alternative printing methods, such as those offered by HP and SwissQprint and Zünd, we've been able to set an example for how wide format print companies can help promote a greener future.

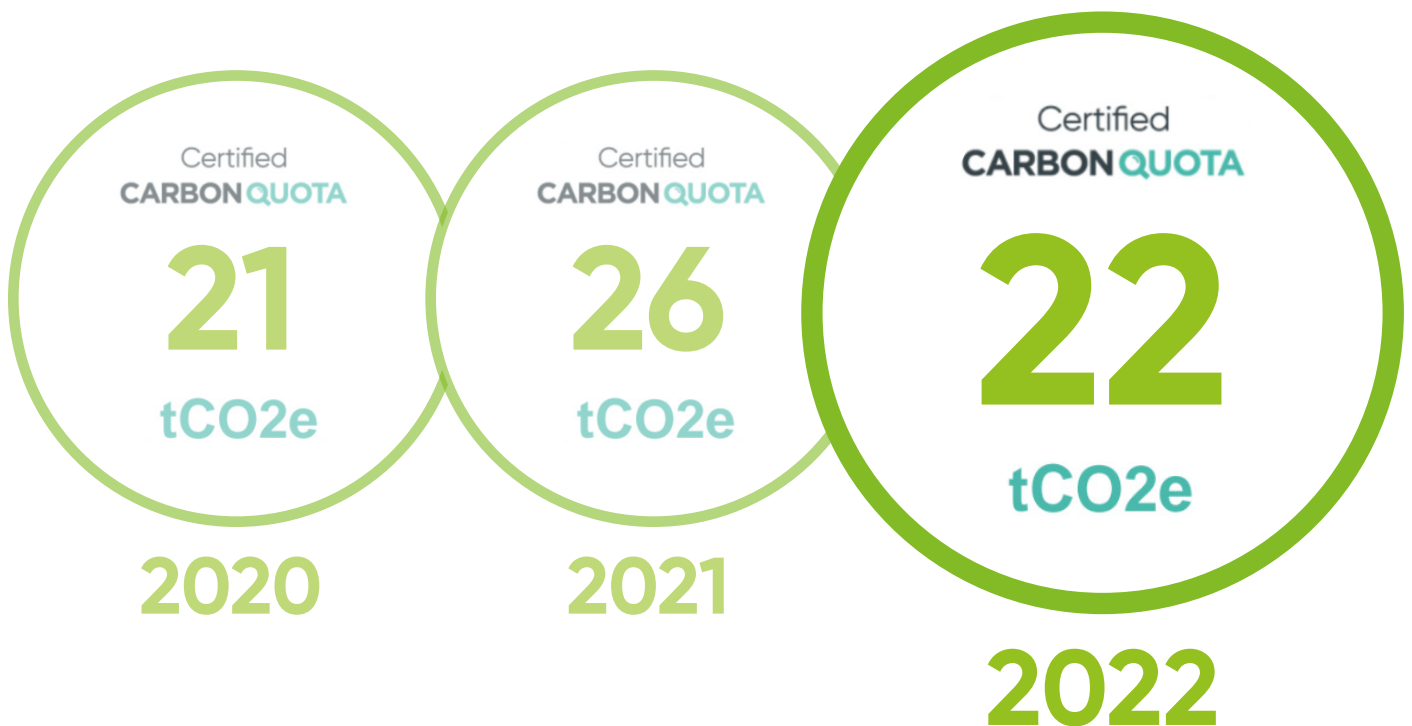
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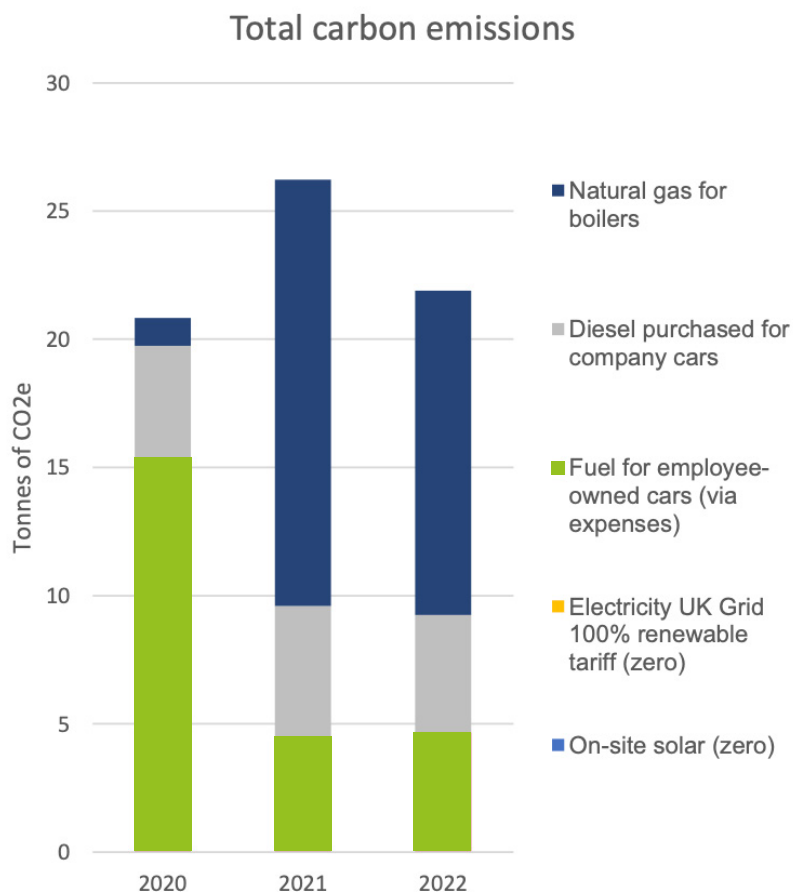
IMPACT STATEMENT

Operational Carbon Footprint

As a business that is striving to become as sustainable as possible, it was crucial for us to investigate where we currently stand in terms of our operational carbon footprint. Utilising the expertise of CarbonQuota, we have tracked our carbon footprint since 2020.



CARBON DISCLOSURE



	tCO ₂ e		
	2020	2021	2022
Scope 1	5.45	21.91	17.22
Scope 2 (market based)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scope 2 (location based)	34.02	54.19	27.63
Scope 3	15.38	4.31	4.67
Total (market based)	20.83	26.22	21.89
Total (location based)	54.86	80.41	49.52

In 2022, we reduce our carbon footprint by 4.33 tonnes of CO₂e compared with the previous year, and 2022 is also considered our baseline year. Whilst our carbon footprint was marginally smaller in 2020, this included the pandemic and a decline in manufacturing activities, whereas in 2022 we were back to operating at full capacity.

HOW THAT COMPARES


Our absolute carbon reduction savings are equivalent to:



Flying around the world 1 time in economy class...



...or driving 19 thousand miles...



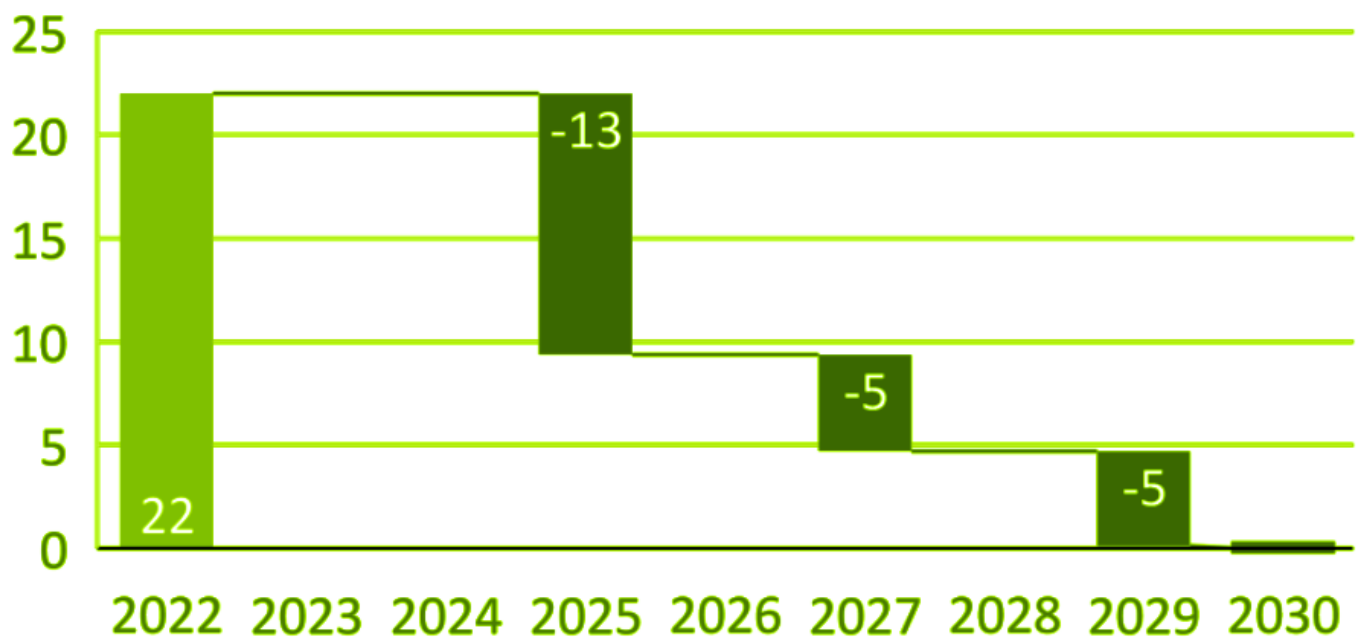
...or boiling just enough water for 0.5 million cups of tea

Carbon Reduction Strategy

To minimise our carbon footprint further and work towards that all-crucial carbon neutrality, we will follow the recommended carbon reduction plan. We will be targeting 3 tonnes of CO₂e reduction per year. To support with this our plan encompasses three core areas for improvement:

1. Replacing natural gas boilers. This can offer a possible carbon reduction of 13 tCO₂e
2. Invest in a company fleet of electric vehicles, which could offer a 5 tCO₂e reduction
3. Transition existing car fleet with electric vehicles, which could also offer 5 tCO₂e reduction

These actions could enable us to become carbon neutral by 2030 by following the trajectory demonstrated in the graph.



Future Carbon Data Insight

Not only this, CarbonQuota will be expanding the reporting in our business, to give us a more granular view of our activities. In the coming year, we will be able to gain invaluable insight into the carbon footprint of every project we undertake and the products we use, to determine those more high-impact projects and how we can minimise the associated carbon footprint. This is also insight we can pass onto our clients, so they understand the footprint associated with their print project.

These line-item level reports will enable us to even plan and model what-if scenarios based on the most intricate details.

3. GREEN PROCESSES

At Imageco we fully understand how integration of workflows can eliminate over-production. Our ethos is to use less energy and maximise our material usage to generate cost-effective business practices and improve our green credentials.

swissQprint

Sustainability is always at the forefront of our minds at Imageco, and it is a huge consideration when looking to implement new technology in our collection. Our swissQprint Nyala 4 flatbed printer combines multifunctionality with efficiency, constantly considering its ecological footprint. The economical printer has no ozone, barely any rejects or waste, and modest maintenance requirements, all with an ISO 20690:2018 certification to demonstrate energy efficiency. swissQprint also utilises ink sets that are VOC-free and Greenguard Gold certified.

HP

HP Latex technology provides us with the perfect solution to producing quality prints while still reducing our carbon footprint. The technology on offer addresses a full spectrum of health and environmental concerns (from ink chemistry to indoor air quality) which work hand in hand with their top of the line print machinery. With an end-to-end approach, HP continues to set the standard for more sustainable large-format printing.

The HP Latex 800W provides 50% higher productivity levels compared to previous HP models due to the incorporation of the latest and greatest printheads, with more nozzles and producing speeds of up to 36m²/hr. The HP Latex 800W is ENERGY STAR rated, to demonstrate its incredible energy efficiency. HP also utilises the innovative Eco-Carton Ink Cartridges that deliver an 80% reduction in plastic consumption across a device's lifetime and achieve a 66% CO₂e reduction.

EFI & ZUND

Improved colour accuracy and repeatability are also key contributors to optimising processes which encourage more eco awareness by removing waste and reducing reprints.

Investment into our Efi Vutek GS3250LX Ultradrop Pro and Zünd G3 Cutter has meant increased productivity and significantly reduced waste. By implementing software to the Zund we have increased our ability to nest work effectively. This reduces media consumption and allows us to line up further work.

WASTE

We operate using a recycling policy for acrylic, dibond and all paper and card products. Everything is taken independently of regular waste, which is handled by our waste management facility, Reconomy, who have a strict no-landfill policy.

In addition to this we now have a take back scheme in which we work with local companies to return their used POS and graphics to be repurposed into new materials or sent away to be correctly recycled.

Not only this, we have recently been certified by FESPA UK that we meet the FESPA UK Waste Accreditation standards.

FESPA UK is a globally-recognised non-for-profit association for the print sector, and the goal of this accreditation is to provide an impartial waste scheme, that will help to dispose of graphics waste in the most responsible way. It enables Imageco to effectively manage our waste, increase our recycling rates, eliminate landfill, and realise significant cost savings. Their structured framework allows us to review and optimise their waste systems and gain personalised recommendation for improvement.

To achieve this gold standard in waste management, FESPA undertook a thorough investigation of our entire waste stream, investigating each waste plant where our waste is taken and the associated treatment process.

The compilation of this investigation led to the following summary:

- Imageco has 100% recycling where it is achievable
- When this is not a possibility, there is 100% green energy recovery
- For every tonne of waste, there was a clear documented audit trail

In 2023 our waste treatment composition was:

- Total Waste: 62.55 tonnes
- Recycled: 11.95 tonnes
- Waste to energy: 50.60 tonnes
- Landfill: 0





4 GREEN PRODUCTS

At the heart of our eco-friendly mission is our passion to seek out and stock the most innovative, environmentally friendly products on the market. We utilise a wide array of green alternatives within our product offering such as PVC free products, FSC approved wallpapers, digitally printable FSC approved wood and 100% recycled acrylic.

XANITA

We work with Antalis UK, who provide us with Xanita fibreboard. Xanita is an engineered fibreboard manufactured from fibres recovered from recycled used cardboard boxes. Xanita boards strength means it can be used to construct anything from entire exhibitions stands to usable furniture.

DISPA BOARD

Dispa is a sign & display board with a flat smooth bright white print surface – perfect for vibrant colours. Its durability is down to its unique embossed core which is made from 100% paper. Not only is it FSC certified, but it's fully recyclable. We use Dispa for short term promotional campaigns, hanging signs, displays and POS.

ECO WALL CANVAS (UFabrik Textile Eco)

In the face of global climate change, we wanted to do more and were delighted to announce UFabrik's Eco Wall Canvas has been added to our portfolio. The product is made from 50% PET bottle waste & 50% recycled polyester. It answers the growing demand for environmentally friendly green materials as well as tackling the world's plastic problem. Eco Wall Canvas is a woven canvas and is great for one-piece wallcoverings and art reproductions. This is a highly sustainable textile with 100% recyclable afterlife, being REACH and Global Recycled Standard certified.

Eco Wall Canvas is printable with Latex, or UV inks and is available in different widths up to 310cm (122").

KAVALAN PVC-FREE BANNERS

CMYUK's Kavalan PVC-free banners have the performance, look and feel of a coated textile/ banner material. This product is perfect for indoor and short-term outdoor display and banner applications and all exhibition wall wraps and backdrops. It is printable on both sides and compatible with both UV and Latex ink sets.

SWEDBOARD ® Fibre

SWEDBOARD delivers fibreboard is a flame-retardant format. It is a board with high-strength and rigid properties that can be used for small 3D structures to full exhibition stands. Due to its strength, it doesn't crack when bending. To add to this, the board aligns with our ambition to source sustainable materials as it is 100% recyclable and FSC certified with small CO2 emissions, and there is almost no waste of raw material in the production phase.

KATZ DISPLAY BOARD

Katz Board is a premium substrate designed specifically for digital printing. It is created from a wood pulp core, made from spruce wood with a unique and ecological production process. The glazed paper lamination is half matt coated with illustration paper on both sides. It is ideal for use in POS signage and displays, hanging displays, interior design and we can also utilise an outdoor Katz board which has water resistant poster paper on both sides which is ideal for short-term outdoor use.

ECO BOARD

Cygnus board is made from 100% fibre, meaning it is fully recyclable. The eco board is resistant to water and moisture, so it is perfect for all short term signage and retail POS applications. We also use it for hoardings. This environmentally friendly alternative is compostable and biodegradable, so it is easily disposable.

OCEAN TEX (UFabrik Backlit Textile Eco)

Ocean Tex (UFabrik Backlit Textile Eco) is a backlit textile produced from 100% recycled plastic waste bottles. The material is produced to the highest standards ensuring stunning back and frontlit applications. OceanTex is top coated for use with UV, latex and solvent inks and ensures the most brilliant colour reproduction. Not only this, it is 100% recyclable after use. It is crease and wrinkle-free on tension with no bruising or marking when folded, making it the ultimate material for all backlit applications in retail, event, and exhibition graphics.

GREEN SERVICES

5.



Cardboard Engineering

To avoid the plastic-based materials that are commonplace in the sector, we have dedicated extensive time and effort to establishing our cardboard engineering services. Our expert engineers can take flat sheets of cardboard and create 3D, bespoke structures to meet any brief. Cardboard engineering is a great alternative for exhibition stands and POS displays, as it can be entirely built from cardboard, durable for reuse, and then able to be recycled at its end of life.



ExhiBox

The ExhiBox is an Imageco-owned creation. It's a revolutionary sustainable exhibition stand that is made from Xanita, a lightweight, recyclable material that is 100% repulpable. At Imageco, we decided that the plastic-heavy, tricky to recycle and not to mention, tricky to assemble exhibition stands currently on the market weren't doing justice to our planet. So our team got to work on developing a new solution that would combine eye-catching design with clever structural engineering.

6. PACKAGING

Packaging can be a major contributor to wasteful processes in any industry, with the main concern being plastic waste. In the print industry we're looking to find ways to ensure that everything we pack, and ship is done so in a the most sustainable manner possible.

WRAPPING

At Imageco, we endeavour to avoid plastic waste where possible and to protect our valuable shipments, we use Hexcel Wrap. Hexcel Wrap is the next generation of protective wrapping and is designed to be a sustainable alternative to bubble wrap with a 100% recyclable and biodegradable material content.

This sustainable packaging filler keeps products in place with its interlocking design without any need for adhesive tape to stop it unwrapping.

PACKING

All Imageco products are packaged using biodegradable cardboard boxes or tubes, everything, down to the plastic tube caps, are recyclable.

TAPE

Polypropylene (PP) is a recyclable thermoplastic polymer widely used in many different products. PP is rugged and resistant to different chemical solvents, acids, and bases. We use PP tape as it's a completely recyclable product.

7.

CARBON OFFSETTING

We are largely aware of the amount of carbon we emit through our processes and through business miles in our vehicles, this is why we've teamed up with Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust to ensure we're offsetting our carbon emissions by planting trees.

YORKSHIRE DALES MILLENNIUM TRUST

Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust are a non-profit organisation that since 1996 have planted over 1.5 million broadleaf trees in the white rose country. They have been creating native woodland of all shapes and sizes throughout the Yorkshire Dales and Nidderdale.

YDMT recognise the huge importance of planting trees, as do we. To provide even more incentive to reduce carbon emissions, we are offering to plant a tree for every sale of our recycled plastic bottle wall covering as well as our recycled plastic bottle lightboxes.

This initiative can have far reaching effects, such as;

- ✗ Creating habitats to support wildlife and increase biodiversity.
- ✗ Create natural spaces where people can enjoy themselves and fall in love with nature.
- ✗ Protect the landscape against flooding and restore water quality.
- ✗ Restore part of our natural landscape that's been lost to deforestation. The UK currently only has around 13% woodland cover, compared to the EU average of 37%, in the Yorkshire Dales, this falls to around 4.8%.

Imageco's Contribution

2021-2022 – 102 Trees Planted
2022-2023 – 117 Trees Planted



ALLSTAR ECOPOINT PROJECTS

Allstar and Forest Carbon have partnered to create EcoPoint to make it simple for holders of Allstar fuel cards to balance the consequences of their journeys in new UK government certified carbon woodlands.

Over time these new woodlands will not only capture a vehicle's carbon dioxide, but they will also help to reduce flooding, provide habitats for nature, capture other atmospheric pollutants, purify rivers, and offer recreational space for people.

EV CHARGING POINTS

To utilise this abundance of renewable energy, we have recently installed two EV charging points that are used for employees' vehicles. A large component of our scope 3 emissions is employee travel and over time we hope to expand the usage of electric vehicles that are powered on site by renewable energy.

CARBON OFFSETTING

8. RENEWABLE ENERGY

We cannot establish a green-first mindset in the print and signage industry without first looking at ourselves, and our energy consumption. To support our transition to a greener future, we teamed up with local green energy suppliers to introduce solar power into our facility. We choose this form of renewable power as solar power is currently the most consistent source of green energy available, so we decided to use the sun as our power source.

SOLAR PANELS

We installed 256 tier-one photovoltaic solar panels onto our roof in order to generate green electricity. The solar power system technology manages the power input and usage, it understands how much power is needed and where to draw it from. In the case of rare shortfalls, it bridges the gap from the mains supply, which has also been 100% renewable energy since the end of 2021. Ensuring there is absolutely no loss of operating capacity, at any time. Meaning we can still fulfil the biggest jobs, working day and night to meet the highest demands while staying green.

Since the installation, our solar panels have generated 70,000 kWh of energy, which is equivalent to 48.9 metric tons (48,900 kg) of carbon dioxide (Co2). This is the equivalent to powering **6.4 homes** for one year or 11 gasoline-powered passenger vehicles.



VOLTAGE OPTIMISER

Alongside our solar panels, we have installed a top-tier voltage optimiser which serves to drastically cut excessive power consumption, reducing carbon emissions by limiting profligacy.

Our voltage optimisers have helped to reduce our energy consumption, saving around 26,000 and 9,300 CO2 per year.

EV CHARGING POINTS

To utilise this abundance of renewable energy, we have recently installed two EV charging points that are used for employees' vehicles. A large component of our scope 3 emissions is employee travel and over time we hope to expand the usage of electric vehicles that are powered on site by renewable energy.

AWARDS & ACCREDITATIONS

ISO 14001

ISO 14001 sets out the criteria for an environmental management system and can be certified to. It maps out a framework that a company or organization can follow to set up an effective environmental management system.

Designed for any type of organization, regardless of its activity or sector, it can provide assurance to company management and employees as well as external stakeholders that environmental impact is being measured and improved.

ISO 14001 provides requirements with guidance for use that relate to environmental systems. Other standards in the family focus on specific approaches such as audits, communications, labelling and life cycle analysis, as well as environmental challenges such as climate change.

In 2022 we were delighted to receive our official ISO 14001 certification. Over several years we spent time heavily investing in the refinement of our processes and actions to become more sustainable and the ISO 14001 certification has solidified our place as a sustainable business. In applying for the ISO 14001, we wanted to prove that we were hitting everything we could to become greener as a company to the best of our abilities. With more and more of our clients searching out sustainable printers, this is a great achievement for us.

Carbon Reduced Status

We have been working with CarbonQuota since 2020 to support our carbon neutrality journey. CarbonQuota undertakes extensive analysis of our day-to-day operations in order to establish our operational carbon footprint. This footprint is the sum of the absolute carbon emissions associated with our buildings and vehicles.

As described earlier in our Impact Statement, in 2022 we reduced our carbon emissions by 4 tonnes compared to the previous year. This reduction certifies us as a 'Carbon Reduced Printer'. We will continue to work on our commitment to maintain this status in 2023 and eventually become carbon neutral.



Antalis Interior Design Awards

Special Sustainable Prize – 2023

FESPA Awards

Display and POP on Paper and Board – 2023

UK Graphic Awards

Wide-format Printer of the Year: under 30 employees – 2023

UK Graphic Awards

Wide Format Printer of the Year
(Under 30 Employees) – 2022

UK Graphic Awards

Best in Show – 2022

FSB Awards

Community Award – 2022

UK Graphic Awards

Leisure and Hospitality Project of the Year – 2021

UK Graphic Awards

The Green Award – 2021

UK Graphic Awards

Wide Format Company of the Year
(Under 30 Employees) – 2021

The British Sign Awards

The Green Award – 2020

The British Sign Awards

Covid Extra Mile Award – 2020



10. OUR PARTNERS

Improving our own operations and processes is meaningless unless we are partnering with people who share our green ambitions. Our supply chain is at the centre of all that we do here at Imageco, so we are including our partners sustainability promises in order to provide clarity that every element going into the productions of our products are coming from the right people.



FESPA is a global federation of national associations for the screen printing, digital printing, and textile printing community. Its mission is to be the leading globally connected imaging community re-investing its profits for the purpose of inspiring, educating and growing the industry.

FESPA has been a key component of Imageco's growth and supported us in so many ways, and we have always been actively involved in their community to promote sustainable practices across the sector.

Our Managing Director, Nathan Swinson-Bullough has recently been named Vice President at FESPA.

Nathan said:

"I am very proud to be named Vice President of FESPA UK. I have worked with the team for a long time and have admired the work they have done to provide opportunities for the print community both in the UK and Europe.

I am excited to work with the team to continue FESPA UK's legacy well into the future."



Suzi Ward, Managing Director of FESPA UK, provided her thoughts on the organisation's new appointment:



"I am thrilled that Nathan will be stepping up to Vice President.

He has been such a positive influence since joining the board, helping guide the association with our Sustainability and Next Generation initiatives. Nathan puts 100% into his role on the board and I have no doubt that this will continue when he becomes Vice President. I am really looking forward to seeing what the next few years brings and what we can achieve as an association with the boards support."



2. HP – Our Ink and Printer Providers



Partners green mission:

Executive Summary of policy follows, full sustainability handbook is in HP's supporting documents.

What is sustainability?

Running a successful print shop means meeting business goals, customer requirements, and regulations. In this context, the business world is discussing sustainability. Moving beyond environmental topics, sustainability focuses on creating a better world by embracing three core aspects: environment, economy, and social equity. Sustainability leverages the optimal aspects of your company and helps address areas of opportunity.



Opportunities and challenges

The new market reality PSPs are under increasing pressure from customers, employees, and regulators to address environmental sustainability as well as workplace health and safety. Leveraging HP Latex Printing Technologies as a foundation for environmental credentials can help drive more growth in business and can help provide the advantages needed to succeed in today's environmentally conscious marketplace. Environmental considerations are becoming a critical business issue for PSPs. If you fail to meet the requirements of environmentally conscious customers—along with increasing government regulation—your print shop, and your business, is in jeopardy. More customers, large and small, are requesting print campaigns with reduced environmental impact. In addition, customers are requiring compliance with legal regulations including documented proof that environmental standards are met.

PARTNERS

3. Reconomy – Our Waste Management Partners

Partner's Green Mission:

Reconomy has been supplying waste management solutions since the year 2000.

In April 2019 formally known Prismm were acquired by Reconomy, the UK's leading provider of outsourced recycling services, waste management and consultancy.

They have built specialist skills and knowledge across all areas of waste output from UK factories, including the most difficult materials that are often still landfilled. They have developed solutions across all areas of waste with the aim of achieving zero landfill for their clients.

They have strong and trusted relationships with an extensive network of waste contractors across the UK, allowing them to match the best local contractors in the area for the specific waste output of client sites.

They are proven waste service providers and trusted waste consultants for many suppliers and associations including the BPIF (The British Printing Industries Federation)

Two of Reconomy's Board members are on the Board and Council of The Recycling Association – the leading waste material lobbying company for the UK.

They have a proven track record and now manage over one hundred waste sites in the UK.



4. Antalis – Our Sustainable Product Supplier

Antalis is part of the Kokusai Pulp & Paper Group, a worldwide leader in Papers, Packaging and Visual Communication distribution headquartered in Japan and listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange (ISIN JP3293350009) with JPY 659.1 billion turnover in 2023.

In Europe and Latin America, Antalis is the leading B2B distributor of products and services in Papers and industrial Packaging, and number two in the distribution of Visual Communication media. Headquartered in the Paris area (France), Antalis operates in 31 countries serving over 100,000 customers with a team of 4,000 employees and breakthrough e-commerce solutions.

Their 83 distribution centers, focused on eco-responsibility, provide world-class services.

As a leading international distributor of communication support materials, Antalis strongly believe that our development must take into account economic, social and environmental concerns.

Green Connection

The group has always worked closely with its suppliers, customers and other stakeholders to combine innovation, added value and the pursuit of environmental excellence and supported the local sustainable development efforts of its subsidiaries.

In order to ensure that a coherent message underpins these different actions and to deliver a consistent, structured, group-wide green strategy, Antalis has developed an umbrella corporate green identity known as the 'Antalis Green Connection'. In tangible terms, this means that dedicated green communications tools such as corporate communications materials, product brochures and leaflets will carry an immediately recognisable logo, the 'green stamp', when referring to green projects or initiatives.

The Green Star System

A simple and irrefragable system that assesses the level of eco-responsibility of paper types which takes into account the origin of the fibre and the manufacturing process. It attributes a star ranking to each paper product, from zero to five stars based on its environmental performance. For even more traceability, Antalis has created Antrak, the Antalis suppliers' platform that guarantees that your product comes from a responsible supply chain.

Eco Responsible Product Offering

Antalis has developed one of the broadest environmentally friendly product offerings on the market today, comprising products that adhere to stringent environmental credentials and are suited to all types of printing and finishing techniques.

Xanita – Gold Partner

Xanita is the standout product of Antalis' product portfolio, it has sustainability rooted at its core. At Imageco we utilise this product practically every day, it's the core component of many of our bespoke exhibitions and is the basis of our innovative ExhiBox solution. Our dedicated use of this sustainability-engineered product has led us to become **Gold Partners** for Xanita, which we are incredibly proud of.



iMAGECO

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