



*Making the Difference* SUSTAINABLY



Making the difference

2021



# Making the Difference Sustainably

## *Our Vision –*

*Be recognised as a proactive, environmentally focused business.*

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To deliver an environmentally sustainable service, where we have a positive impact on the environment that we work in, supporting environmental aspirations of our shareholders, stakeholders, clients and our communities, achieving Net Zero carbon emissions and leaving a positive legacy on the environment for future generations.

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# Introduction

*At Vertas Group Limited we recognise that we have a responsibility to protect and enhance the environment we work in, creating lasting legacy for future generations to come.*

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**For us, this means committing to minimising the impact of our operations on the environment, particularly our emissions to air, land and water, and continually improving our environmental performance.**

We strive to work collaboratively with our stakeholders, clients, suppliers, contractors and local communities to support their environmental aspirations and to drive positive environmental change throughout our supply chain.

Our Environmental Strategy is a tangible demonstration of our commitment to positive environmental change. It sets out a strategic framework and our vision to deliver an environmentally sustainable organisation.



# Our Commitment

*Our Environmental Strategy is driven by our responsibilities and commitment to:*

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- Achieving Net Zero by 2030
- Protecting the environment that we live and work in, acting in an environmentally responsible way at all times
- Leaving a positive legacy on our environment for future generations
- Promoting continual improvement and demonstrating our achievements
- Fulfilling our obligations to continually reducing our environmental impacts, particularly relating to emissions to air and land and waste generation
- Ensuring legislative compliance with relevant regulations and adhering to industry standards and best practice across all of our operations
- Fulfilling our broader role in supporting national/local commitments to the environment including targets for carbon emissions, climate change and waste
- Embedding Vertas Groups values and behaviours throughout our organisation.

**Our Environmental Strategy forms part of the wider Vertas Groups Corporate Social Responsibility Policy, fulfilling our social, economic, and environmental obligations throughout the communities that we live, work in and support, ultimately leading to a responsible and sustainable organisation.**

We will implement Our Environmental Strategy across all of our service areas, through the Environmental Working group, champions and a series of initiatives that support the delivery of our commitment and key objectives.

Many of our initiatives relate to making continuous improvements in directly reducing the impact of our services and operations on the environment through managing our consumption of resources and emissions. For Vertas Group this means understanding our greatest impacts on the environment and identifying feasible and effective ways to continually manage these.





# Our Environmental Journey – Making the Difference Sustainably:

*Our Environmental Strategy will be implemented across our organisations operations through the following series of objectives, which will support the delivery of our long term commitment to Net Zero:*

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- To minimise and actively manage waste through elimination, reduction, re-use and recycling.
- To systematically reduce resource consumption and progress to zero waste to landfill through best practice, our environmental management system and cultural change
- To improve the environmental performance of our buildings and infrastructure by moving towards carbon neutral energy performance, adopting environmentally conscious procurement practice, promoting renewable energy systems, reducing water consumption and waste output
- To actively promote and encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport across Vertas Group, whilst acknowledging business needs
- To engage with the organisation's suppliers and contractors to ensure that goods and services are sustainably procured and meet the Group's environmental standards and, in turn, that they demonstrate and progressively improve their own sustainable environmental performance
- To foster a culture of environmental responsibility throughout the organisation through training and information
- To engage fully with our clients to ensure the involvement of a key stakeholder in environmental improvements across our services
- To integrate environmental responsibility into Vertas Group's strategies, plans and policies as they are written or revised
- Adopting operating practices that seek to minimise environmental impacts through continuous improvement, training, and the use of new technology.
- Operate and adhere to our Environmental Management system in accordance with ISO 14001 & 50001 standards, ensuring continuous certification.



# Delivering our Environmental Strategy:

*The Environmental Strategy focuses on four key themes:*

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## 1

### Waste & Recycling

**To minimise and actively manage waste through elimination, reduction, re-use and recycling by:**

- Committing to diverting 100% of waste away from landfill
- Minimise food wastage across the services we provide
- Removal of single use plastic throughout our business activities
- To recycle at least 95% of total waste produced by 2025
- Review all waste streams and work to minimise waste generation, maximise recycling and minimise unnecessary consumption



## 2

### Energy and Carbon Management

**To improve the environmental performance of our buildings and infrastructure by moving towards carbon neutral energy performance, adopting environmentally conscious procurement practice, promoting renewable energy systems, reducing water consumption and waste output by:**

- Developing and monitoring data which identifies our carbon footprint
- Identifying key energy usage/users within the organisation and work with these areas to reduce their carbon footprint.
- Research appropriate offsetting methods for Vertas Group, stakeholders and clients where required
- To support key stakeholders in identifying their energy consumption and key areas for improvement



# Delivering our Environmental Strategy:



## 3 Travel and Transport

**To actively promote and encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport across Vertas Group, whilst acknowledging business needs with the aim to achieve a fully EV fleet by 2030 by:**

- Improving the emission efficiency of equipment, plant and vehicles throughout the organisation
- Introducing Low emission vehicles and electric vehicles into the fleet by 2030
- Monitoring and reducing our business mileage and fuel consumption by promoting alternative and non-travel option ways of working and reducing associated emissions



## 4 Sustainable Procurement

**To positively influence the sustainability performance of suppliers and the sustainability credentials of the good and services that we procure by:**

- Adopting a Sustainable Procurement policy
- Specify sustainable, environmentally friendly products wherever appropriate / available
- Ensure where appropriate sustainable environmental criteria are used in the award of new requirements
- Source and utilise ethically sourced / produced products e.g. Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance, Organic etc where possible or practical
- Introduce more locally sourced products into the food supply chain where available, practical or financially viable
- Work with key suppliers to encourage sustainability improvements throughout the whole supply chain; including but not limited to:
  - Avoiding products with particularly harmful substances
  - Favouring economical products with recycled content or that are biodegradable
  - Encouraging the use of sustainable distribution & logistics e.g. Electric vehicles, route planning software







# Raising Awareness, Training and Communication

*Awareness and effective communications are key to the success of Making the Difference Sustainably throughout the organisation and will be fundamental to our Environmental Strategy and initiative. We will raise awareness of sustainability issues and communicate environmental achievements to all stakeholders, both internal and external by:*

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- Raising awareness of environmental issues through training and development of all colleagues and encourage innovations that will enhance our environmental performance development
- Highlight awareness to clients, colleagues and our wider communities of environmental issues and how they relate to the organisation's activities as well as their own
- Fostering a culture of environmental responsibility throughout the organisation by embedding Vertas Group Limited's values and behaviours
- Promoting internal and national campaigns and initiatives to raise environmental awareness throughout the organisation.



# Monitoring, governance and management

*The objectives will be monitored and measured by the Directors within the Continuous Improvement Group workflow.*

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**The Board of Directors will review the Environmental Strategy on a regular basis within formal Board Meetings and review the achievements of the agreed objectives, targets and KPIs.**

The Environmental Working Group will be responsible for implementing the strategy, monitoring and evaluating our performance throughout the year and will meet on a regular basis to report on progress against our targets set.

The Environmental Strategy will be reviewed on an annual basis considering the growth of the business, technology, legislation changes and our own performance.





# Thank you for reading our document.

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