



Aura Carbon Footprint Summary Lizzie Laybourne

1. Introduction

Aura Technology have set targets in line with the Science Based Targets Initiative to reduce their emissions as much as they can to achieve net zero emissions. According to the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi), to achieve net zero emissions, an organisation needs to reduce their carbon footprint by 90% from their baseline year. The remaining 10% are the residual emissions, which the amount that needs to be inset (through internal carbon removals) or offset (by purchasing carbon credits) to reach net zero. Even if a baseline carbon footprint is considered low, it does not mean that if they continue to operate in the current way, that it would be in line with the UKs commitment to be net zero by 2050. Aura therefore must aim to make as much progress towards meeting the 90% reduction target inherent in the net zero target as it can, without compromising its ability to deliver its organisational objectives. Aura should look into ways to inset or offset their residual emissions, but this should only occur once the organisation is confident it has reduced their carbon footprint as much as it can. Once Aura have implemented their action plan and reduced emissions as much as is practical, they will have met the aims of the plan. The ability to meet the targets as set out in the SBTi standards will vary from sector to sector. As the standard is updated, the methods used will update as well, and it is important that Aura technology continue to calculate their emissions in line with these standards and ensure they include as much of their work as they can in these calculations.



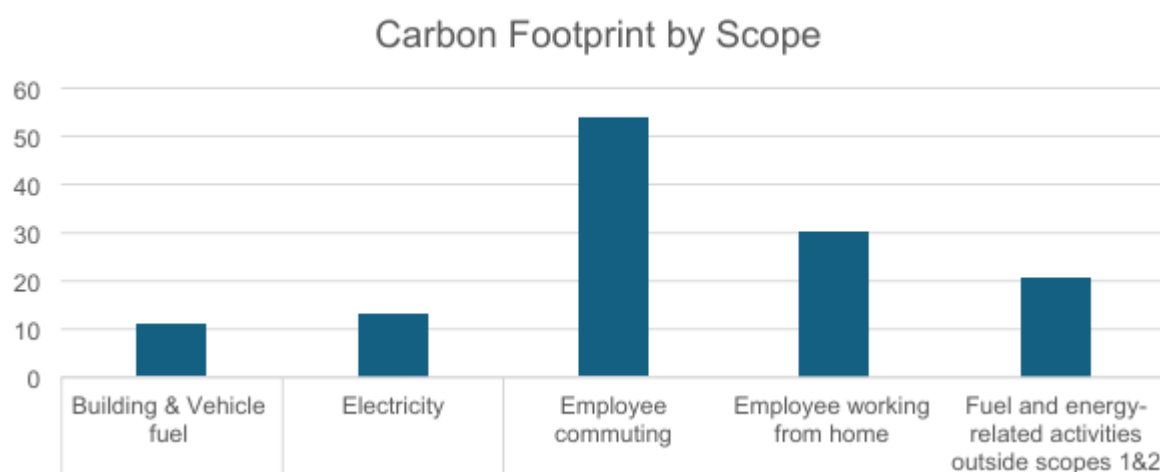
2. Summary of Emissions

From the data provided by Aura Technology, the baseline carbon footprint of these categories is estimated at 127.85 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. The term 'carbon dioxide equivalent' is used to include all greenhouse gases emitted into one figure. This is done by comparing their Global Warming Potential (GWP) to carbon, and using that figure as a multiplier.

Table 1: Carbon footprint totals

Scope	Activity Type	Total
Scope 1	Building & Vehicle fuel	10.74
Scope 2	Electricity	13
Scope 3	Employee commuting	53.57
	Employee working from home	30.12
	Fuel and energy-related activities outside scopes 1&2	20.42
Total		127.85

Figure 1: Carbon footprint by scope





Elements of the methodology where no data was provided is assumed to not be used by Aura Technology or no data found. If the latter is the case, methods to identify these elements would improve the accuracy of the carbon footprint going forward. Key areas of work important to include are business travel and purchased goods and services. It is recommended that Aura Technology reduce their emissions at source, putting into practice measures to reduce their carbon footprint to as close to zero as possible. This involves reducing scope 1 & 2 emissions first, with at least a 90% reduction in these scopes, to be in line with net zero targets. Then, reducing indirect emissions in scope 3, by as much as is feasible. Commuting is a significant part of Aura's carbon footprint, however influencing people's commuting patterns can be difficult. Making staff aware of public transport routes and communicating with staff is a good first step in working to reduce these emissions.

The challenges inherent in reducing these operation emissions by 90% by 2030 should not be underestimated. Clearly should Aura grow and employ more people an increase in operation emissions is likely. As the strategy develops and evolves a per FTE target may also be considered appropriate.

Over the next few years, therefore, Aura will need to consider how much of its resources should be invested in potentially costly programmes to reduce the carbon footprint, such as investing in renewables, improving energy efficiency and encouraging staff to commute more sustainably. The action plan below will help to reduce operational emissions and more significant changes need to be made to reach net zero.

3. Recommended actions

Recommendations for reducing these areas of your carbon footprint are as followed. This is an assumption based on the information given at this time, with uncertainty over measures already in place. Key actions with a high impact are highlighted in bold.

Buildings and utilities

Undertaking an energy audit to better understand how efficient buildings are, and taking this learning forward to improve building efficiency



Using LED lighting

Adjusting thermostats to a lower temperature. Keeping certain radiators off in unused areas and utilising individual thermostats where needed.

Installing reflector panels behind radiators to increase efficiency.

Assessing the seals on windows and doors.

Ensuring equipment is not left on standby. An individual landline phone left on standby could cost £150 per phone per year.

Ensuring the buildings are well insulated, including pipework.

Uninsulated solid walls and floors lose heat

Install renewable alternatives at buildings, such as solar power or air source heat pumps

Install water butts to reduce water use

Using renewable electricity and gas suppliers

Policy and procurement

Introduce a procurement questionnaire to be used for all purchases, altered for different levels of expense.

Ensure that all procurement takes into account the sustainability of the product as the main priority when purchasing.

When items are replaced, they need to be disposed of appropriately or passed on to other members of staff to reduce wastage.

Transportation

Considering EVs in the first instance for new fleet vehicles.

Encouraging cycling through the bike to work scheme

Implementation of an EV salary sacrifice scheme.

Encouraging staff to improve the sustainability of their commutes, especially with a nearby bus route and train station. Incentives and car sharing scheme can help to reduce this further

Other

Climate literacy training should be considered to improve staff knowledge on carbon emissions, climate change science and adaptation. This is strongly recommended as it gets staff thinking about their own impact at work, and would help to reduce emissions.