

# Vagabond Tours Climate Action Plan

Since signing the Glasgow Declaration in 2022, we completed several initiatives and encountered challenges in our progress towards a zero-carbon company. We outline the achievements and challenges below.

## 1. Ecollective

We commissioned Ecollective to accurately measure the company's total carbon footprint.

**Who are Ecollective?** Ecollective is a London-based company that supports businesses to arrive at *“the numbers, strategies, and guidance they need to take quantifiable action on the climate crisis and hit Net-Zero sooner rather than later.”*

They helped us categorise Vagabond's carbon emissions into 3 scopes (listed below) to arrive at an overall carbon footprint for the company and each guest who toured with us in 2022.

To summarise, Ecollective showed the average carbon footprint per Vagabond customer per day (kg of co2e) was 40kg, with the total carbon footprint for the entire company at 990,195kg.

[See the full report here](#)

Scope	Direct/ Indirect	e.g.	Total Carbon Emission	% of total figure
Scope 1 and 2	Direct /indirect	Vehicles/Diesel  Office electricity/heating	138,154kg	14%
Scope 3 (excluding customer flights)	Indirect not owned	Internal flights Business travel Employee commuting Waste Purchasing Accommodation Hotels meals included Meals not included activities	852,041kg	86%

<b>Total carbon footprint for the company</b>			990,195kg	100%
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Based on the 2022 results, Vagabond Tours has identified 4 main areas to target to attain a 7% decrease in our total carbon emissions.

Achieving a 7% reduction will result in a 50% reduction in our carbon footprint per day by 2030, in line with the headline goal of the Glasgow Declaration.

**The 4 main areas are**

**Flights:**

To minimise staff flights where possible.

- To use long haul rather than short haul and use only airlines that are committed to net zero emissions by 2050 like Aerlingus.
- To encourage our customers to also use such airlines when flying to Ireland.

Through our online communications, we encourage our customers to offset their flights to and from Ireland through a simple carbon calculator tool and advise customers to avail of the offsetting option that their airline will offer them at online checkout.

We also encourage through our online communications that customers sponsor a native tree to be planted in Ireland with [Wolfgang Reforest](#) not just for their flights to and from Ireland but for other vacations and households.

**Accommodations:**

Vagabond is engaging with our hotels to take a survey to measure their carbon footprint through Ecollective. Through this survey, we hope to inspire change within the hotels that we currently use and to collect data. This will be an annual survey sent out by Vagabond Tours to monitor and gather data so it can be used to measure the decrease, if any, in carbon emissions. We are hoping to achieve a reduction of 20% in the next year.

**Vehicles:**

We hope to purchase an electric vehicle in 2024. Depending on the availability in the market and the performance required for our tours. We have been offsetting the carbon from our vehicles since 2018 through a tree-planting

organization called Wolfgang Reforest and will continue to do so. In the meantime, we aim to extend the working lives of each vehicle.

We have also been using a company called [South Pole](#) who develop and finance projects around the world that reduce carbon emissions, protect biodiversity and bring real benefits to local communities. We recently offset our total (990,195kg) carbon emission from 2022! Through South Pole Making us carbon-neutral for that year!

The project we chose was the Rio Anapu-Pacaja Forest Protection situated in the northwest of Brazil, Para state, in the micro-region of Portel.

The aim of the project is to strengthen local governance and put an end to illegal logging in the region, the project has been working closely with the local Riverine people and traditional rural villagers around the project area, to gain their land tenure documents and eventually full freehold title deeds.

Through this project, we aim to conserve the Brazilian Amazon rainforest, which in turn effectively reduces climate-warming emissions associated with deforestation, safeguards invaluable biodiversity, and protects the livelihoods and cultural heritage of native communities who call it their home.

### **Office Energy**

Since changing our office lighting to LED, we have seen an energy decrease of 2/3rds overnight! We use an energy supplier called Energia which is a 100% renewable energy supplier in Ireland.

We aim to be 100% off grid by 2025 - generating and storing all our electricity using solar panels and batteries. We aim to replace the gas boiler with a heat pump, powered by solar and battery by 2030.

### **Challenges**

We are aware that it will take time and commitment to achieve our sustainability goals. We acknowledge that Scope 3 is somewhat out of our control, but we aim to encourage and inspire where possible.

**Flights:** Unfortunately we cannot force our customers to only fly with specific airlines that are committed to net zero emissions, but we can encourage them to do so. We do this through our online marketing

**Accommodations:** As with flights we cannot force our hotels to lower their carbon footprint, but we are aiming to encourage this through our online survey emailed annually and face-to-face interaction from our guides while out on the road.

**Vehicles:** Finding availability of electric buses on the market that suit our company's needs. We use Mercedes Sprinter buses. Unfortunately, there is no viable option in terms of range and availability.

## **2. Sustainability Leader**

We have employed one of our previous driver/guides as our sustainability leader whose job is to drive forward our carbon action plan for the future.

## **3. Challenges aside! We are committed to making the change!**

- Vagabond Tours has been offsetting vehicle carbon emissions since 2018!
- Our office headquarters have been solar-powered since 2019.
- Our driver/guides hand wash the tour vehicles with a product called NoH2O. With the exception of 'end of tour' cleaning, We have been doing this since 2017, giving annual savings of over 70,000 liters of water. This minimises the use of jet washes, saves water, and stops harsh chemicals from entering the environment.
- We have been B Corp certified since 2021. We aim to remain certified. We were the very first B Corp-certified travel and tourism company in Ireland!
- We are in the process of achieving gold standard certification accredited by [Sustainable Travel Ireland](#).
- We aim to make all equipment last at least 25% longer. For example, vehicles, trailers, computers, and phones.
- We aim to refurbish before replacing staff uniforms.
- Purchase locally: locally owned hotels, restaurants, retail experiences, and visitor attractions e.g. Gougane Barra Hotel Co. Cork locally owned hotel all food onsite is sourced from the local area

- Ethical purchasing: To purchase items designed with the circular economy in mind - that can be reused or easily recycled
- All waste is recycled at Vagabond headquarters with minimal waste going to landfill.
- We have employed one of our previous driver/guides as a sustainability leader whose job is to drive forward our carbon action plan for the future.