



# risual

Experts in Transformation

## Carbon Reduction Plan

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**risual**

**risual Limited**

**Carbon Reduction Plan**

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**Table 1: Version Control**

Version	Status	Date	Author	Reviewer	Changes
0.1	Draft	01/11/2021	Eddie Adams	Kate Lincoln	Initial Draft
1.0	Final	11/11/2021	Eddie Adams	Kate Lincoln	Approved
1.1	Draft	13/01/2023	Jenny Cooper	Eddie Adams	Initial Draft
1.2	Draft	25/01/2023	Jenny Cooper	Eddie Adams	Minor changes
1.3	Approved	26/01/2023	Jenny Cooper	Kate Lincoln	Approved
0.2	Draft	31/01/2024	Jenny Cooper	Eddie Adams	Initial draft
0.3	Draft	23/02/2024	Jenny Cooper	Eddie Adams	Minor changes
1.4	Approved	08/04/24	Jenny Cooper	Kate Lincoln	Approved



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# 1 Commitment to achieving Net Zero

risual understand our responsibility to protect the environment in which we operate. In line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, we commit to improving our environmental performance across all our business processes and try to encourage our business partners and those in the wider community to help support this effort.

risual Limited is committed to achieving Net Zero emissions by 2030.

# 2 Baseline Emissions Footprint

Baseline emissions are a record of the greenhouse gases that have been produced in the past and were produced prior to the introduction of any strategies to reduce emissions. Baseline emissions are the reference point against which emissions reduction can be measured.

Reporting Year: 2022	
Additional Details relating to the Baseline Emissions calculations.	
2022 was the first year since COVID-19 that risual has done business with no COVID restrictions. In 2022 risual company events took place, employees travelled to client sites and stayed in hotels if necessary, and risual offices were open for all employees to work from if they wished to do so. Going forward 2022 will be the baseline year for the emissions footprint.	
EMISSIONS	TOTAL (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)
Scope 1	<p>n/a</p> <p>Scope 1 emissions are direct greenhouse gas emissions that occur from sources that are controlled or owned by the reporting organization. e.g., emissions associated with fuel combustion in boilers, furnaces, vehicles.</p> <p><b>risual does not have any emissions that fall within this scope. We do not burn fuel at our offices that release emissions or have company vehicles.</b></p>
Scope 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electricity usage (offices) – 0 kg</li> </ul> <p>Scope 2 emissions are indirect greenhouse gas emissions associated with the purchase of electricity, steam, heat, or cooling. They are accounted for by the reporting organization as they are a result of the organization’s energy use.</p> <p><b>risual’s electricity usage at our offices is the only impact that falls into this scope, however risual procure 100% renewable energy which zero’s our emissions associated with usage. Emissions associated to electricity T&amp;D are included in scope 3.</b></p>



<b>Scope 3</b> <b>(Included Sources)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black bag waste – 815.23kg</li> <li>• Hotel stays – 1,309.95kg</li> <li>• Business Travel – Land &amp; Air – 21,362.53kg</li> <li>• Water Supply – 123.09kg</li> <li>• Employee commuting – 18,843.09kg</li> <li>• Upstream distribution – 1,890.06kg</li> <li>• Downstream distribution – 18,081.87kg</li> <li>• Gas usage (homeworkers) – 77,441.62kg</li> <li>• Electricity usage (homeworkers) – 7,927.90kg</li> <li>• Electricity T&amp;D (offices) – 1,041.19kg</li> <li>• risual Christmas Party (Event) – 2,640.96kg</li> <li>• risual Family Day (Event) – 599.05kg</li> <li>• risual Summit (Event) - 2,539.28kg</li> </ul>
<b>Total Emissions</b>	<b>152.55 tCO<sub>2</sub>e</b>

## 3 Current Emissions Reporting

<b>Reporting Year: 2023</b>	
<b>Additional Details relating to the Current Emissions calculations.</b>	
<p>In 2022, risual was acquired by the Node4 Group. 2023 marked the first year in which the effects of the business acquisition could be observed, particularly in terms of environmental impact. This was due to factors such as employees travelling to other offices for meetings and collaboration. Company and marketing events also began to be jointly organised. While risual continued to operate predominantly remotely, there was a push for employees to return to the office for collaborative work.</p>	
<b>EMISSIONS</b>	<b>TOTAL (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>
<b>Scope 1</b>	<p>n/a</p> <p>Scope 1 emissions are direct greenhouse gas emissions that occur from sources that are controlled or owned by the reporting organization. e.g., emissions associated with fuel combustion in boilers, furnaces, vehicles.</p> <p><b>risual does not have any emissions that fall within this scope. We do not burn fuel at our offices that release emissions or have company vehicles.</b></p>
<b>Scope 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electricity usage (offices) – 0 kg</li> </ul>



	<p>Scope 2 emissions are indirect greenhouse gas emissions associated with the purchase of electricity, steam, heat, or cooling. They are accounted for by the reporting organization as they are a result of the organization’s energy use.</p> <p><b>risual’s electricity usage at our offices is the only impact that falls into this scope, however risual procure 100% renewable energy which zero’s our emissions associated with usage. Emissions associated to electricity T&amp;D are included in scope 3.</b></p>
<p><b>Scope 3</b> <b>(Included Sources)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black bag waste – 1176.59kg</li> <li>• Hotel stays – 2,766.4kg</li> <li>• Business Travel – Land &amp; Air – 38,887.38kg</li> <li>• Water Supply – 91.61kg</li> <li>• Employee commuting – 17,484.89kg</li> <li>• Upstream distribution – 1,731kg</li> <li>• Downstream distribution – 5,400.68kg</li> <li>• Gas usage (homeworkers) – 83,581.57kg</li> <li>• Electricity usage (homeworkers) – 8,617.38kg</li> <li>• Electricity T&amp;D (offices) – 1,002.09kg</li> <li>• risual Christmas Party (Event) – 139.40kg</li> <li>• risual Family Day (Event) – 543.45kg</li> <li>• risual Summit (Event) - 2,465.40kg</li> </ul>
<p><b>Total Emissions</b></p>	<p>160.02 <b>tCO<sub>2</sub>e</b></p>

## 4 Emissions reduction targets

In order to continue our progress to achieving Net Zero by 2030, we have adopted the following carbon reduction targets to facilitate a gradual decrease in Node4’s emissions. Our aim is to reduce emissions gradually by increasing the percentage of emissions offset each year, starting from 2024.

2024 – 144.02 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (offsetting 10% of 2023 emissions = 16 tCO<sub>2</sub>e)

2025 – 128.02 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (offsetting 20% of 2023 emissions = 32 tCO<sub>2</sub>e)

2026 – 112.02 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (offsetting 30% of 2023 emissions = 48 tCO<sub>2</sub>e)

2027 – 96.02 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (offsetting 40% of 2023 emissions = 64 tCO<sub>2</sub>e)

2028 – 80.02 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (offsetting 50% of 2023 emissions = 80 tCO<sub>2</sub>e)

2029 – 40.02 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (offsetting 75% of 2023 emissions = 120 tCO<sub>2</sub>e)

2030 – 0 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (offsetting 100% of our 2023 emissions = 160.02 tCO<sub>2</sub>e)

This plan assumes a linear increase in the percentage of emissions offset each year. It also assumes that our total emissions remain constant at the 2023 level, which may not be the case in reality. We will regularly monitor and evaluate our progress towards our carbon neutrality goal. This will allow us to make necessary adjustments to our strategies and keep our emissions reduction on track.



In situations where our emissions are found to be higher than the 2023 baseline, we commit to offsetting these additional emissions. This is to ensure we meet the target emissions set out in this carbon reduction plan. By doing so, we maintain our commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by 2030, regardless of fluctuations in our emission levels.

## 5 Carbon Reduction Projects

### 5.1 Completed Carbon Reduction Initiatives

risual have continued to invest and have secured a fixed renewable energy tariff with Smartest Energy for both of its offices in Stafford meaning the electricity risual uses emits zero emissions. The only emissions released into the environment as a result of risual using electricity is for the Transmission and Distribution of the Electric further reducing risual's negative impact on the environment.

risual continued its membership to the Staffordshire Business & Environmental Network (SBEN) which provides members with subsidised and free environmental initiatives and improvements. In January 2023, risual had LED lighting installed in both of its offices as a grant subsidised by SBEN. SBEN confirmed that risual would save 67% in emissions as a result of this change. However, since the installation of the LED lighting, there has been an increase in the transmission and distribution of electricity to the office. This is attributed to the office space being utilised more frequently in 2023 compared to 2022.

Nonetheless, when comparing the emissions from May 2022, prior to the LED lighting installation, with those of May 2023, there is a noticeable reduction. In May 2022, the emissions were 4771kwh, equating to 84.38kg, whereas in May 2023, the emissions were 3646kwh, equating to 64kg. This illustrates a reduction of 23.5% despite the increased office usage.

risual has refined its method for calculating the emissions associated with upstream and downstream spend. Now, any purchases over £1000 that are delivered from the same warehouse are divided by the number of items delivered. Prior to the change in calculation risual were observing significant emissions associated with delivered goods, despite all deliveries coming from the same warehouse. Since implementing this new calculation method, risual has seen an 8% decrease in emissions associated with upstream spend (goods being delivered to the offices). This is a reduction from 1890.06kg in 2022 to 1731kg in 2023, and a 70% decrease in emissions associated with downstream spend (goods being transported away from the office eg. To clients) from 18,081.87kg in 2022 to 5400.68kg in 2023. This improved calculation method has helped to provide a more accurate representation of the emissions associated with risual's supply chain.

As risual continues to operate predominantly remotely, with the majority of employees on hybrid employment contracts, there has been a further decrease in employee commuting to risual offices. Commuting emissions have dropped from 18,843.09kg in 2022 to 17,484.89kg in 2023. In addition to these measures, risual continues to invest in the Cyclescheme. This is an employee benefit that offers savings of 25-39% on bikes and accessories. It serves as an incentive for employees who live close to the risual offices in Stafford to commute by bicycle, further contributing to the reduction in commuting emissions.

While commuting emissions at risual have decreased, emissions related to business travel have seen an increase of 82%, due to the encouragement Node4 group collaboration. To help counteract this rise and as part of risual's Environmental Objective Plan for 2023, the company has introduced an electric car scheme as an employee benefit. This scheme aims to reduce emissions associated with business travel. As of August 2023, all risual employees have the option to participate in the Electric Vehicle Scheme - Octopus Vehicles as part of their employee benefits. This initiative is a significant step towards reducing the environmental impact of risual business operations.

Compared to 2022, risual's company events, such as the Family Day, Summit, and Christmas party, have been localised to the risual offices. This has reduced the need for booking hotels and lessened the distance employees need to travel. In the planning stages of all company events, risual's Quality & Compliance team, who oversee environmental performance and are responsible for the ISO 14001 standard, are now involved to ensure the impact on the environment is considered. This approach has



led to significant reductions in emissions associated with these events. There was a 94% reduction in emissions from the 2022 Christmas party compared to 2023. The Family Day event saw a 9.2% reduction in emissions from 2022 to 2023, and the Summit saw a 3% reduction in emissions. These reductions in emissions show risual's commitment to reducing its environmental impact across all aspects of its operations.

While risual continues to work towards reducing their emissions through environmental improvements, in line with their ISO 14001 certification and Environmental Objective Plan for 2024, risual recognise that achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 will require some emissions to be offset. In Autumn 2023, risual began reviewing potential carbon offsetting providers. risual determined that all potential providers and projects should be validated by at least one of the following programmes: the United Nations' Certified Emissions Reductions (CER) programme, the Gold Standard's Voluntary Emission Reductions (VER), or Verra's Verified Carbon Standard (VCS). As of January 2024, a shortlist of the top three offsetting providers has been proposed to the Executive Board for review. Once approved, risual will form a partnership with the chosen offsetting provider to further their commitment to environmental sustainability.

## 5.2 ISO 14001 Certification

In 2023, risual continued to uphold its ISO 14001:2015 certification from BSI (certificate reference: EMS 771432). This certification represents a best standard framework for Environmental Management and has contributed significantly to risual meeting its environmental requirements and commitments. To maintain the quality of this management system, risual conducted 31 internal audits throughout the year.

Since being acquired by the Node4 group, risual has expanded its environmental perspective and established an Environmental Management Review across the group. This review not only ensures risual's emissions are in compliance with the ISO 14001 standard, but also fosters best practice by learning from other entities within the group. It also facilitates the implementation of environmental improvements at a group level, further reducing emissions.

Furthermore, risual continues to be compliant with the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations (WEEE) 2013 by financially supporting the national network of WEEE recycling centres established by local authorities through Valpak. (risual Limited registration ID: 600492). This commitment to environmental responsibility and sustainability underscores risual's dedication to reducing its environmental impact.

## 5.3 Future Carbon Reduction Initiatives

In the future we hope to implement further measures such as:

- Investment in a Green Zero Emissions courier to reduce our emissions relating to Downstream Distribution.
- Continue to invest time and money in office energy efficiency improvements including purchasing Smart Plugs and cleansing the Sever Room at our offices in Stafford.
- Conducting an Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme (ESOS) assessment at risual offices to identify further opportunities for improving environmental performance.
- risual employees to partake in volunteering activities which contribute to carbon offsetting in the local community.

# 6 Declaration and Sign Off

This Carbon Reduction Plan has been completed in accordance with PPN 06/21 and associated guidance and reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans.





Emissions have been reported and recorded in accordance with the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the GHG Reporting Protocol corporate standard and uses the appropriate Government emission conversion factors for greenhouse gas company reporting.

Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions have been reported in accordance with SECR requirements, and the required subset of Scope 3 emissions have been reported in accordance with the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Standard.

This Carbon Reduction Plan has been reviewed and signed off by **Kate Lincoln, Director of Corporate Resources.**

Kate Lincoln

Director of Corporate Resources, risual Limited