

rivingtonstreetstudio

Carbon Reduction Report 2020

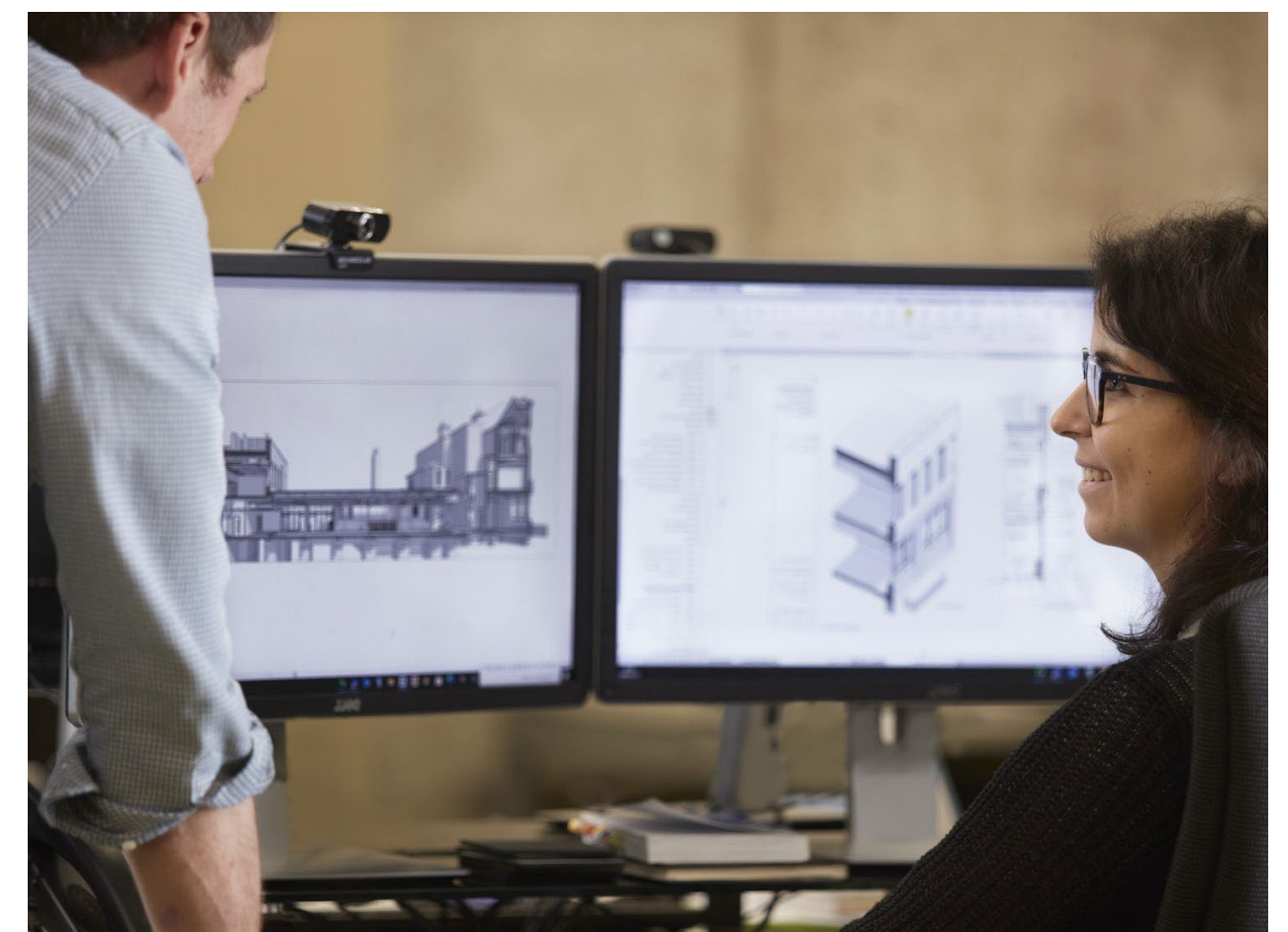




About Rivington Street Studio

RSS is an award-winning London architectural practice established in 1989, which specialises in the education and housing sectors. The practice has deep roots in sustainability delivering the first Passivhaus accredited school in the country in 2015. Since then, RSS has produced numerous projects that provide industry sustainability exemplars.

We employ 32 members of staff and are based in our office in East London, where we moved in 2017.



Introduction

As a practice, we recognise that the most significant impact we can have on carbon emissions is through the design of our projects, however we believe measuring our business carbon footprint each year is important as a way of demonstrating our commitment to net zero and increasing carbon literacy within the team.

We produced our first baseline carbon reduction report last year. This showed our main emissions related to office electricity use and IT purchases. We agreed to expand the scope of our investigations to include employee travel and employee footprinting


This year has unfortunately been a year of unprecedented change to the way we work due to the global pandemic. In light of this, we agreed to measure the impact on our office footprint of working at home during this year.



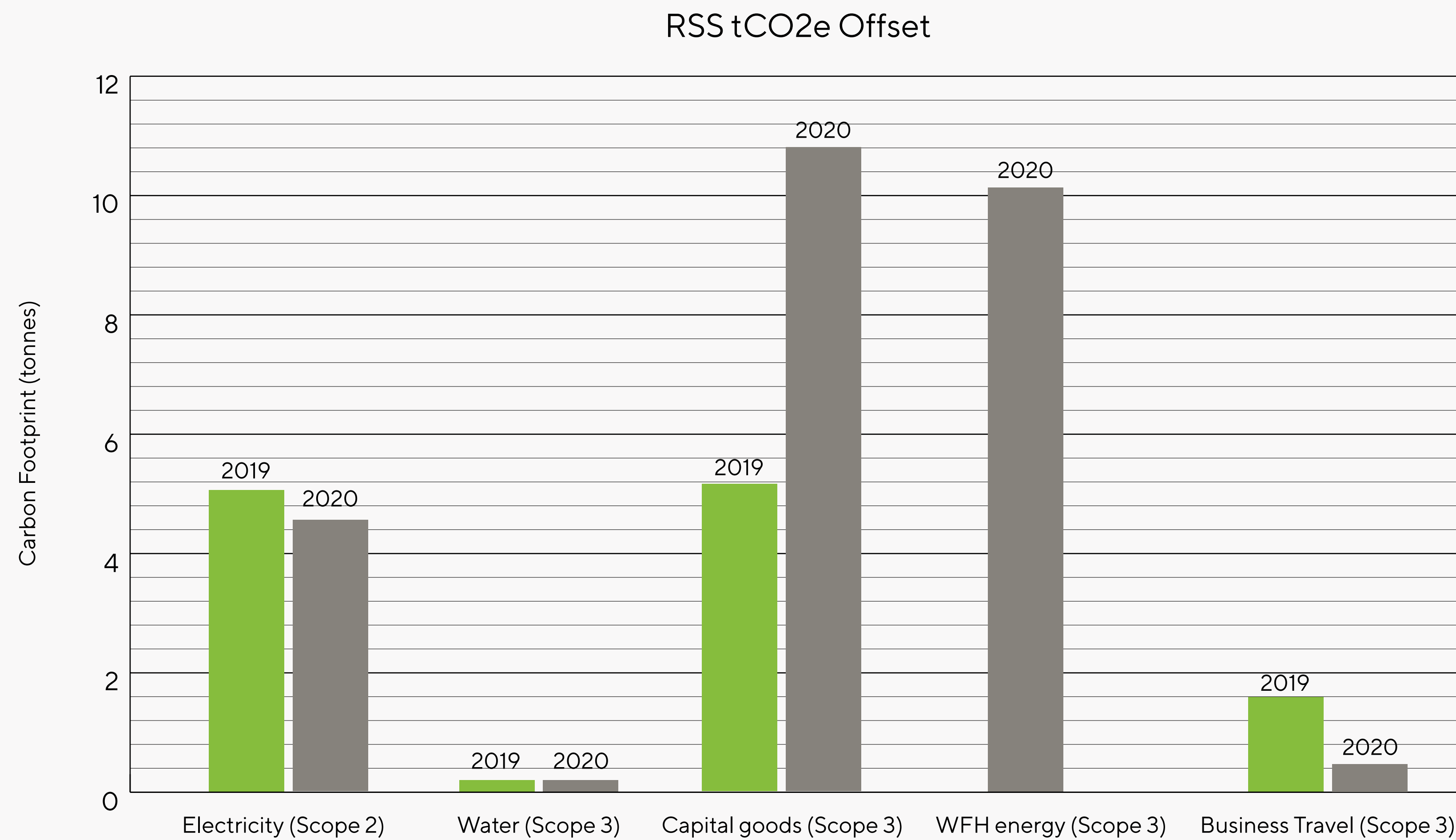
What have we measured?

This year we measured out scope 1 and 2 emissions and within scope 3, we measured water use, business travel and capital goods.

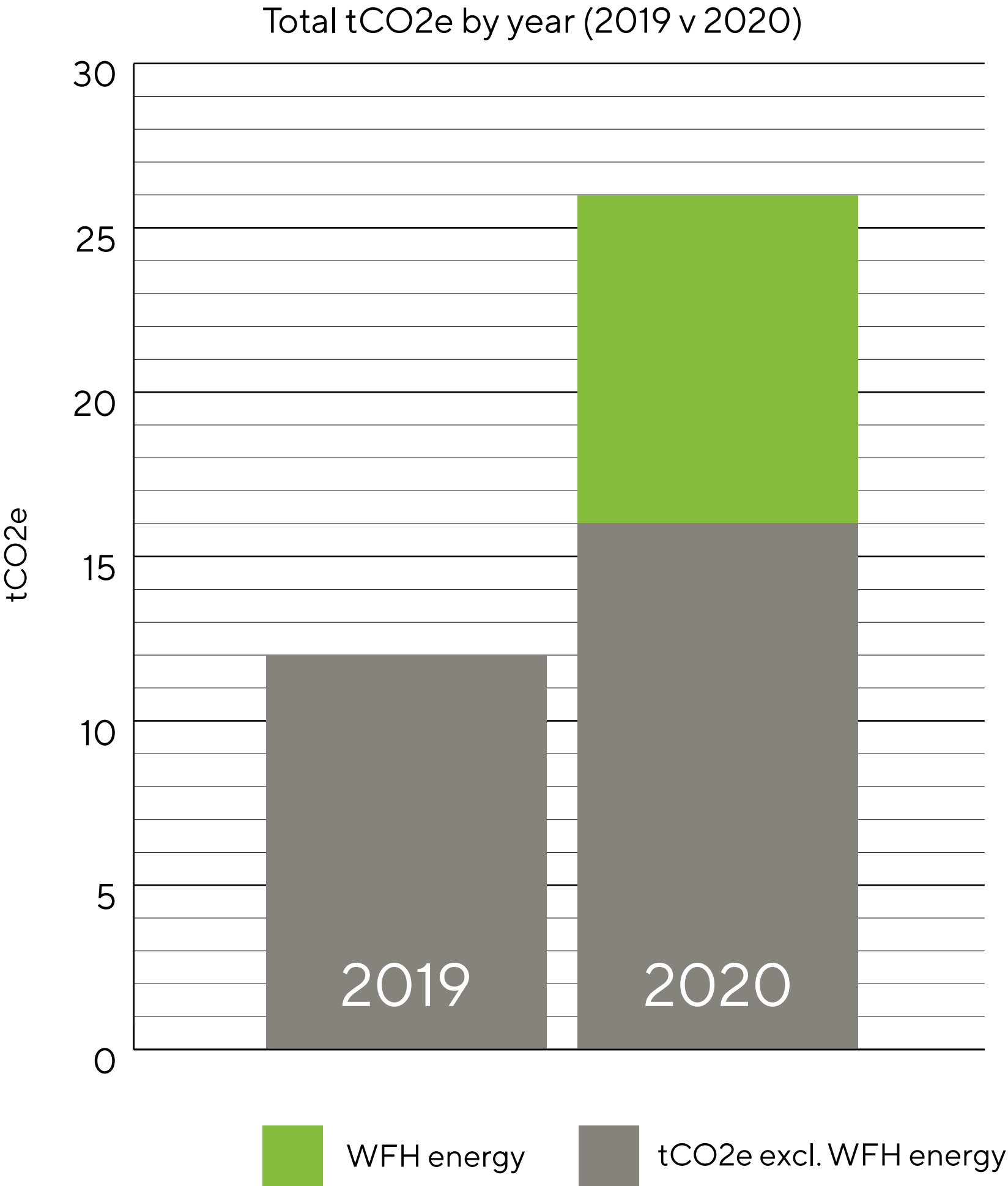
Our Results

Scope	Category		Total	Carbon Factor (kg Co2e)	Total kg Co2e	Carbon Factor Reference	Carbon Footprint (tonnes Co2e)	Carbon Footprint per person (tonnes CO2e)
1	Fuel Combustion	Gas	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	0
2	Utilities	Electricity	19797.20 kWh	0.23314	4,615.52	19, S2, UK Electricity, F24	4.6155192	0.14201598
		Water	500 cm3	0.344	172.0	19, S3, Water supply, E18	0.172	0.00529231
3	Capital Goods	iPhones, IT	10.774.00 kgCO2e		10.774.0		10.774	0.33150769
	Fuel and energy-related activities	Working From Home energy				Carbon Footprint Ltd/ DEFRA	10.1	0.31076923
	Business Travel	Taxi	2,726.54 km	0.14549	396.68	19, S3, Business travel - land, E71	0.3966843	0.01220567
		Tube	2,292.35 km	0.0275	63.04	19, S3, Business travel - land, E90	0.063039	0.00193968
		Bus	43.1 km	0.07856	3.39	19, S3, Business travel - land, E80	0.003386	0.00010418
		Train	914.5 km	0.03694	33.78	19, S3, Business travel - land, E87	0.0337816	0.00103943
	Total tCO2e					26.158411		

Comparison to our baseline year of 2019



Comparison of 2019 and 2020 scope





Employee footprints 2020

The average carbon footprint for a team member is 11.32 tCO₂e, with the lowest sitting at 6.89 tCO₂e and the highest at 21.75 tCO₂e. We would expect these figures to go up next year when travelling is easier. Almost a third of our team have parents who live abroad. This seems to be a significant factor

Conclusions and key findings

This year, our carbon footprint sits at just over 26 tonnes of CO₂e. This represents a significant increase overall compared to last year. However, as the graphs on the previous pages show, there are clear reasons for this. With everyone working at home, we have absorbed into our office footprint the amount of carbon produced due to employees heating their homes. We have also had to purchase an unusual amount of IT equipment to facilitate home working. Our office electricity bill has dropped as the office was closed for periods of time. Our business travel footprint has also reduced considerably as business meetings have been held remotely. This is a very unusual year and we would not want to draw any long term conclusions about our office footprint from this data. Should there be an adoption of working at home to an extent moving forward, we will need to understand how to better account for this and indeed how to mitigate this impact. We will also need to address the energy load from an IT system that is constantly 'on' due to remote working.

The employee footprinting shows we are using, as an average, more than a typical UK citizen, whose average footprint is approximately 10 tCO₂e. This figure may be higher if all greenhouse gases are included – up to over 12 tCO₂e, but we are unsure how the carbon footprinting software accounts for these 'extra' greenhouse gas emissions. So, we are close to average this year and may do worse next year, in light of travel restrictions lifting for those employees with family abroad..

Next year, we aim to analyse this data in more detail.





Next steps

We will need to take a few years to understand how unique the impact of the pandemic is on carbon emissions. It will then be possible to target savings related to working practice. In addition to the further scope 3 emissions identified this year on the table on the next page, we are looking to add employee commuting and downstream transport and distribution next year.

Scope of Carbon footprinting exercise



	2019 (Baseline)	2020	2021	2022
Scope 1				
Fuel Combustion	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Scope 2				
Purchased electricity/ heat				
Location based	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Market based				Yes (100% renewable)
Scope 3 (upstream)				
3.1 Purchased goods and services (coffee, hotels, food and drink, milk, sandwiches, printing paper, alcohol, water, tea, laundry)				Yes
3.2 Capital goods (IT equip, phones, fitout and refurb)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
3.3 Fuel and energy-related activities Work from home energy	n/a	Yes	Yes	Yes
3.4 Upstream transportation and distribution	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
3.5 Waste generated in operations (amount of recycling and landfill waste)				Yes
3.6 Business travel (flights, train, bus etc)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
3.7 Employee commuting (Based on a typical week)			Yes	Yes
3.8 Upstream leased assets	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Scope 3 (downstream)				
Downstream transport and distribution (couriers)			Yes	Yes
Processing of sold products	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
End-of-life treatment of sold products	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Waste disposal and treatment of products	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Downstream Leased assets	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Operation of franchises	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Operation of Investments	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Employee footprints				
All staff WWF footprints		Yes	Yes	Yes



rivingtonstreetstudio

28 Navigation Road London E3 3TG

Telephone 020 7739 8945

rivingtonstreetstudio.co.uk