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# CARBON REPORT 2021

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ACS

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ADVANCED  
CLOTHING SOLUTIONS  
EST 1997

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## ABOUT ACS


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ACS is the largest fashion rental and resale fulfilment centre in the UK. Our turnkey reverse logistics solution enables brands and retailers to introduce a circular fashion model, like rental or resale, into their business model alongside the existing ecommerce model. At ACS, we take care of everything behind the scenes for our brand partners. This includes (but is not limited to): warehousing, order management, RFID integration, advanced eco-friendly cleaning and sanitisation, textile care and repair, picking, packing and dispatch.

With 25 years' experience, our brand partners benefit from an additional source of revenue, increased sustainability credentials and the time to grow their brand, safe in the knowledge that our processes are agile, ethical, sustainable.

### ACS CARBON REDUCTION GOALS


Engrained within our company ethos is sustainability and circularity with consideration to our planet, our people, and economic profit. We are proud to be operating as a Carbon Neutral business and striving towards net-zero emissions by 2025. We prioritise personal development and continuous improvement throughout our business and continue to innovate and strive for sustainable change within a traditionally linear fashion industry.

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## A WORD FROM ACS EXECUTIVES

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It's never been more important for businesses to recognise and consider the environmental impact their operations have on the planet and their people.

Having specialised in fashion rental and renewal for c. 25 years, we recognise that ACS is in a position to create positive, sustainable change. We are proud to work with brands and retailers across the UK and Europe to enable the shift from the traditionally linear (take-make-dispose) model, towards circular fashion, like rental and resale.

We embarked on the journey to net zero emissions in 2018, and are committed – and on track – to achieve this by 2025. Despite the challenges we faced during lockdown restrictions, our commitments towards sustainability and reducing the emissions from our operations remained the same throughout. This was one of the best decisions we made as a management team, and we are proud to announce that ACS is now operating as a Carbon Neutral business.

Reaching carbon neutrality signifies our commitment to continuous improvement and the progress we have made to-date. However, it's important to note that carbon neutrality is not our end goal. As ACS continues to grow, we will continue to invest our time into projects that will reduce our carbon footprint further, increase biodiversity and enhance the lives of our people and local community.

- ACS Chief Executives



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## SUMMARY

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ACS Clothing worked with Climate Partner to calculate ACS Corporate Carbon Footprint for the year 2019. Calculations were based on the world's most widely used greenhouse gas accounting standards for companies: Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (GHG Protocol). ACS clothing decided to use 2019 data as opposed to 2020 as this best represents current and future consumption and operational data.

This report provides an overview of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions generated by ACS Clothing's activities throughout the above-mentioned period, including heating and vehicles (Scope 1), electricity (Scope 2) as well as business travel, employee commuting, remote working, upstream energy, waste, logistics and procurement (packaging and production materials & consumables and print products) (Scope 3).

The Corporate Carbon Footprint has been used to develop a holistic climate action strategy. It helps to identify carbon emissions hotspots, set carbon reduction targets and define climate action goals.

**Total (t CO<sub>2e</sub>): 1,218.05**



**Carbon neutral**  
Company

[ClimatePartner.com/16375-2109-1001](https://ClimatePartner.com/16375-2109-1001)





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# METHODOLOGY

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ACS Clothing followed the control approach when establishing organizational boundaries. Under the control approach, a company accounts for 100 percent of the GHG emissions from operations over which it has control, such as sites and vehicles.

## OPERATIONAL BOUNDARIES WERE SET AS FOLLOWS:

**Scope 1 (direct emissions):** Company facilities, with no directly owned vehicles reported. Cooling agents have been excluded from the assessment due to unlikely materiality of the associated emissions as ACS Clothing does not own large refrigerators and there have not been any significant refills in their air conditioning system throughout the reporting period.

**Scope 2 (indirect emissions):** Purchased electricity.

**Scope 3 (indirect emissions):** Business travel, employee commuting, upstream energy, inbound and outbound logistics, waste and procurement. The category related to procurement includes materials and consumables, which refers to all products, materials and packaging consumed by ACS Clothing throughout their operations, excluding the clothes manufactured by their clients, given the lack of operational control over these items. Items that are incorporated into the study include hangers, suite bags, IT equipment, printer ribbons, loops and labels and scrapped clothes, including the production, disposal and transportation of these items. Emissions related to external data centers were considered non-material and therefore excluded from this assessment. The inbound and outbound logistics of garments were assessed using primary data provided by the client on types of transport used, with distances and overall calculations completed by the University of the West of Scotland, using DEFRA's greenhouse gas emissions database on emission factors.



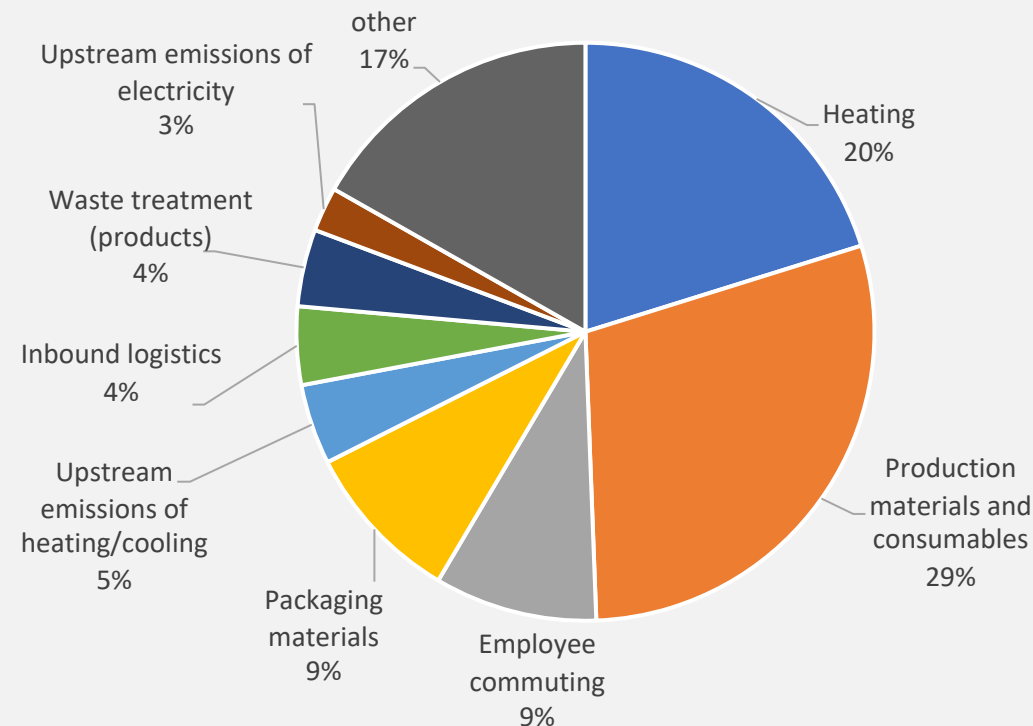
# CARBON FOOTPRINT 2019

In 2019, ACS Clothing's business activities generated a total of **1,218,045.40 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>e**, 20.2% of which were Scope 1 emissions, 15.6% Scope 2 emissions and 64.2% Scope 3 emissions.

ACS procurement of consumables was the most emission-intensive activity and represents the largest share of the company's carbon footprint, followed by heating and employee commuting.

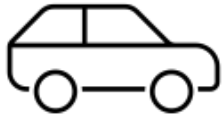
	[kg CO <sub>2</sub> e]	[%]
Scope 1	245,868.00	23.9
Scope 2	189,887.70	15.6
Scope 3	953,595.80	62.4
Results	1,218,045.40	100

## EMISSIONS BREAKDOWN



# CARBON FOOTPRINT 2019

1,218 (t CO<sub>2e</sub>) is equivalent to:



...a distance of  
**3,782,770 km** driven by  
car



...the annual CO<sub>2</sub>  
footprint of **145** European  
citizens



...the amount of CO<sub>2</sub>  
sequestered by **97,444**  
beech trees per year

ACS continues to adapt internal business processes to capture CO<sub>2e</sub> and reduce emissions:

- ✓ Eco-friendly laundry processes
- ✓ Zero waste to landfill
- ✓ Recycle grey water
- ✓ Research and Development
- ✓ Electric Vehicles and charging points
- ✓ Employee cycle initiatives
- ✓ Beehives on site
- ✓ Smart LED lighting
- ✓ Wildflowers



# CLIMATE PARTNER OPINION STATEMENT

This is a statement of support for the carbon footprint report of ACS Clothing Ltd. as undertaken by third-party assessors ClimatePartner UK Ltd.

ClimatePartner was commissioned by ACS Clothing to calculate the company's carbon footprint for the reporting period of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

ClimatePartner carried out an assessment of ACS Clothing's emissions in line with the [GHG Protocol](#) - A Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard and ISO 14064-1: Greenhouse gases – Part 1: Specification with guidance at the organisation level for quantification and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions and removals, and can confirm that the data supplied by ACS Clothing was credible and consistent. All data gaps, results, and recommendations have been transparently included within the report.

The project with ACS Clothing included data collection by ACS, the use of our software platform, consultations between the parties to identify outliers and data gaps, research of relevant emission factors, and the calculation of the company's carbon footprint.

In line with the GHG Protocol, all data has been measured against five key areas: Relevance, Completeness, Consistency, Transparency, and Accuracy.

## ▪ **RELEVANCE**

Using an operational control approach, the GHG emissions of the company has been calculated across Scopes 1, 2, and the following subcategories of Scope 3 (category numbering follows the GHG Protocol):

- (1) Purchased goods and services: packaging, production materials, consumables and print products
- (3) Fuel and Energy-related activities not included in Scope 1 or Scope 2
- (5) Waste generated in operations
- (6) Business travel: plane, train and other vehicle travel
- (7) Employee commuting: Emissions linked to remote working were also considered
- (8) Upstream transportation and distribution

These have been identified by ClimatePartner as the most relevant areas of Scope 3 to assess.

## ▪ **COMPLETENESS**

Reported environmental data covers all of the most relevant areas of the business that fall under its operational control.

## ▪ **CONSISTENCY**

The same methodology has been used throughout the process when using assumptions and secondary data, if primary data was unavailable.

## ▪ **TRANSPARENCY**

ClimatePartner has stated clearly in the report the methodology used for the calculation, the breakdown of the emissions themselves, and some high-level recommendations.

## ▪ **ACCURACY**

To our knowledge, the total GHG emissions calculated are considered accurate within the limits of the quality and completeness of the data provided. Where opportunities for improving data quality were identified, these were communicated to ACS. As far as is practical, the GHG assessment has been produced without bias.

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acsclothing.co.uk

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**If you would like to find out more about the  
findings in this report, please contact:**

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