

# **MGISS Sustainability Report 2022**

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## **Abstract**

The following document summarises the sustainability initiatives at MGISS during the financial year of 2021/2022 and beyond.

Corporate sustainability alongside Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) has become an integral part of business operations in the past decade. MGISS has been helping their customers with sustainability for years by increasing efficiency, reducing emissions, and improving data quality and capture. However, sustainability has only been recognised as an underlying benefit. Nowadays, sustainability is considered a primary benefit and is often a necessary requirement for future adaption plans.

During this financial year, MGISS has focused on calculating their carbon footprint, implementing operational standards with ISO14001, as well as introducing several processes and schemes to encourage sustainable initiatives in the workplace.

A carbon footprint audit was completed in conjunction with Liverpool John Moore's University Low Carbon Eco-Innovatory. This concluded that their carbon emissions across 2022 were approximately 11.45 T with most emissions falling under employee commuting. The Octopus EV Salary Sacrifice Scheme was implemented to help reduce this figure alongside incentives to increase use of public transportation into the workplace. Additionally, they gained their ISO 14001 accreditation for Environmental Management, meaning that as a business, they comply with the expected standards to ensure stringent environmental management of their assets.

MGISS's commitments for 2023 is to continue their sustainable efforts and commit to carbon neutrality through offsetting engagement with their environmental industry clients in exchange for carbon credits. Additionally, they'll continue to monitor their carbon output and provide carbon tracking, that demonstrates how their customer-centric solutions are not only efficient, cost-effective and data quality driven, but how they also provide a degree of carbon reduction certainty.

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## 1.0 Abbreviations and Definitions

Scope 1 Emissions: covers emissions from sources that an organisation owns or controls directly.

Scope 2 Emissions: covers emissions that a company causes indirectly when energy it purchases and uses is produced.

Scope 3 Emissions: covers emissions that are not produced by the company itself, and not the result of activities from assets owned or controlled by them, but by those that its indirectly responsible for up and down its value chain.

MGISS: Mobile GIS Services

LCEI: Low Carbon Eco-Innovatory

LJMU: Liverpool John Moore's University

ESG: Environment, Social and Governance

EV: Electric Vehicle

WFH: Work from Home

ESA: European Space Agency

## 2.0 Background

MGISS provide a range of geospatial solutions and professional services which focus on high-accuracy location intelligence and insight. Their increased interaction with larger utility and infrastructure organisations covers water, gas, electricity, highways, and telecommunications. MGISS is committed to these top industry providers to help them future-proof their assets, avoid disruptions, and deliver continued service to their customers. Whilst supporting these vital services, MGISS is dedicated to protecting what is considered the greatest asset: the planet. MGISS solutions enable customers to become more sustainable, through increasing efficiency and data quality, whilst reducing emissions and minimising waste. However, there was a need to quantify these claims, which remains a key focus at MGISS entering 2023.

The concept of sustainability has been around for a long time. Although, corporate sustainability and Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) has become an integral part of operations in the past decade. With increasing demand for sustainable solutions, MGISS aim to become a reliable market leader in GIS mapping solutions, with a purpose driven by the need to protect our world against the threat of climate change. At MGISS our purpose is as follows:

**“Improving lives through data-driven, sustainable infrastructure.”**

This purpose aligns with their commitment to solving operational and environmental challenges faced by customers in critical infrastructure as part of the UK and international

Green Recovery Strategy. They work with a growing number of the UK's water companies including Northumbrian Water, Severn Trent and South West Water to support their Green Recovery initiatives which includes habitat restoration, reducing leakage and supply interruptions and identifying hazards in proximity to critical buried assets using space satellite services.

In the 2020-21 fiscal year, MGISS started to initiate their sustainable agenda. They were awarded the Liverpool City Region Innovation Fund in 2020 under the Clean Growth, Tech for Good and Net Zero themes focussing on building a platform, Location to Insight, to reduce onsite customer interaction through virtual training delivery (4). Additionally, the launch of their new website structure in 2021 also reduced their web-based carbon content.

In 2022, MGISS took great strides to improve internal processes including the establishment of their business carbon footprint and that of their products, as well as achieving the ISO 14001 accreditation. These activities will help MGISS continue to evolve their sustainable practices throughout their supply chain, abiding by standards, policies and audits. In order to reduce emissions at the source, they provided employee commuting incentives and introduced an EV Salary Sacrifice Scheme.

## **3.0 2022**

This section reports on the progress and achievements of MGISS including sustainability initiatives in the past fiscal year. This spans from October 2021- October 2022 unless stated otherwise.

### **3.1 Low Carbon Eco-Innovatory**

#### **3.1.1 Introduction**

The Low Carbon Eco-Innovatory (LCEI) creates innovative low carbon goods, processes and services developed through collaborative partnerships between local companies in the Liverpool City Region (LCR) and University researchers, students, and academic staff.

The LCEI works with Small-Medium Enterprises (SMEs) across the LCR to identify opportunities for low carbon development which will benefit both businesses and the wider community. They designed a bespoke action plan to assist local businesses to increase long term profitability whilst committing to a low carbon future.

The LCEI assisted MGISS by developing a carbon calculator tool to calculate and monitor their carbon footprint. This skill helped us develop a condensed version of this calendar on our website, allowing website visitors to calculate their own carbon footprint.

#### **3.1.2 Data Collection**

The following section summarises the data collection process with the assistance of Dr Cameron Kelly at the LCEI at Liverpool John Moore's University (LJMU). The results of the carbon assessment were generated in line with the methodology set out in the 'Environmental Reporting Guidelines: Including Streamlines Energy and Carbon Reporting Guidance, which defines the following equation for determining Greenhouse Gas Emissions (1).

$$\text{Activity Data} \times \text{Emission Factor} = \text{GHG Emissions}$$

This equation is applied using activity data supplied by the company and conversion factors published annually by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (2). The results of this assessment were presented by Dr Cameron Kelly in the form of an Excel Carbon Assessment Tool developed by the LCEI. This tool is continually updated and is used to monitor MGISS' carbon footprint across Scope 3 emissions.

The data used to calculate the carbon impact was supplied in the form of bills and tabulated results. These values were then used to calculate the environmental impact of each activity using the UK Government conversion factors for the reporting of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. Although, some assumptions were made, and some data was omitted from the study. This included the following:

- A shared water and electricity meter meant that bills had to be split between several neighbouring businesses. This breakdown was based on the proportion of the floor area of the building rented, which accounts for 20.55%.
- No gas was supplied or used on site.
- Waste was estimated to be 35kg per month based on the size of the waste bins.
- Working from Home (WFH) and commuting data was generated based on a staff survey examining the average number of times each employee would commute to work. This data was only collected for 2021 and a manual collection survey was implemented to track employees' daily commutes in 2022.

### 3.1.3 Results

Table 1 provides a breakdown of the MGISS emissions associated with each activity and scope. Note that any activity not included in the assessment was defined as 'Not Applicable' (N/A) to indicate that the assessment did not account for that activity.

MGISS has no direct emissions, so does not contribute towards Scope 1 and 2 emissions, therefore 100% of all emissions are from Scope 3 activities. The lack of Scope 1 and 2 emissions is down to the lack of gas supply and company-owned vehicles. As a leased premises, the office is also provided with renewable energy and as a result, the impact of electricity is considered to have zero or negligible impact. This is also reflected across 2022.

Emissions are defined across three scopes (3):

- Scope 1 Emissions: covers emissions from sources that an organisation owns or controls directly.
- Scope 2 Emissions: covers emissions that a company causes indirectly when energy it purchases, and uses is produced.
- Scope 3 Emissions: covers emissions that are not produced by the company itself, and not the result of activities from assets owned or controlled by them, but by those that its indirectly responsible for up and down its value chain.

## ***2021***

In 2021, MGISS produced 14,639.74kg CO<sub>2</sub>e. The results show that a significant portion of MGISS's environmental impact comes from staff commuting at 9.1T CO<sub>2</sub>e representing approximately 62.2% of company emissions. A further 5.2T CO<sub>2</sub>e comes from managed asset vehicles accounting for approximately 35.6%. Combined, these two elements equate to 97.8% of their emissions. The remaining 2.8% is spread across water, waste and work travel. This identified the use of vehicles for transport and commuting became an area of significant interest for future carbon reduction measures and became a focal point for reduction goals in 2022.

Figure 1 shows the monthly fluctuations in the employee commuting carbon output across 2021 and 2022. Overall, this shows that commuting habits in 2021 produced more carbon than those in 2022. The flatline result of 2021 commuter emissions is due to monthly averages taken from an employee survey which established how many times per week each employee would commute to work and what mode of transport was most used.

## ***2022***

In 2022, MGISS produced 11,510 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e. Similarly, the results show that a significant portion of MGISS's environmental impact derives from staff commuting at 4.9T CO<sub>2</sub>e representing approximately 42.3% of company emissions. A further 5.8T CO<sub>2</sub>e comes from managed asset vehicles accounting for approximately 50.3%. Combined these elements equate to 92.3% of our annual emissions. The remaining 7.7% is spread across water, waste, work travel and Working From Home (WFH) electrical supply.

Despite an overall reduction, work travel emissions have increased, but this is due to the fact that they are more closely monitored by recording any claimed journeys by train, bus or taxi, which was not done previously.

Through manual tracking of employee commuting habits, MGISS have seen an approximate 36% reduction in emissions in 2022. The majority of MGISS employees that work from the office multiple times a week commute for less than 5 miles by car instead of using public transport. Therefore, in July, they introduced a one-off incentive to all employees to reduce their individual emissions, whereby the winner received a £50 voucher for their efforts. Coincidentally, this competition amongst colleagues coincided with the lowest dip in employee commuting emissions across 2022. This dip could also be explained by improved weather conditions encouraging cycling and walking to work; however, the link cannot be ignored. Therefore, a quarterly competition could be run to see if there is a correlation to reduce emissions further.

#### 3.1.4 Conclusions and Commitments

Both 2021 and 2022 share similar proportions in terms of Scope 3 emissions, with an overall reduction in emissions across the board. According to Table 1 and Figure 2, 2021 carbon emissions reduced by approximately 36% overall. Despite this reduction, employee commuting and managed asset vehicles remain the two highest sources of our carbon emissions.

To reduce these emissions entering 2023, MGISS will continue to monitor its carbon output closely and aim to implement more employee incentives. As evident in Figure 1, the reduction in carbon is not only due to improved weather conditions during summer months, but because an employee incentive was introduced for the month to see who could reduce their individual footprint the most.

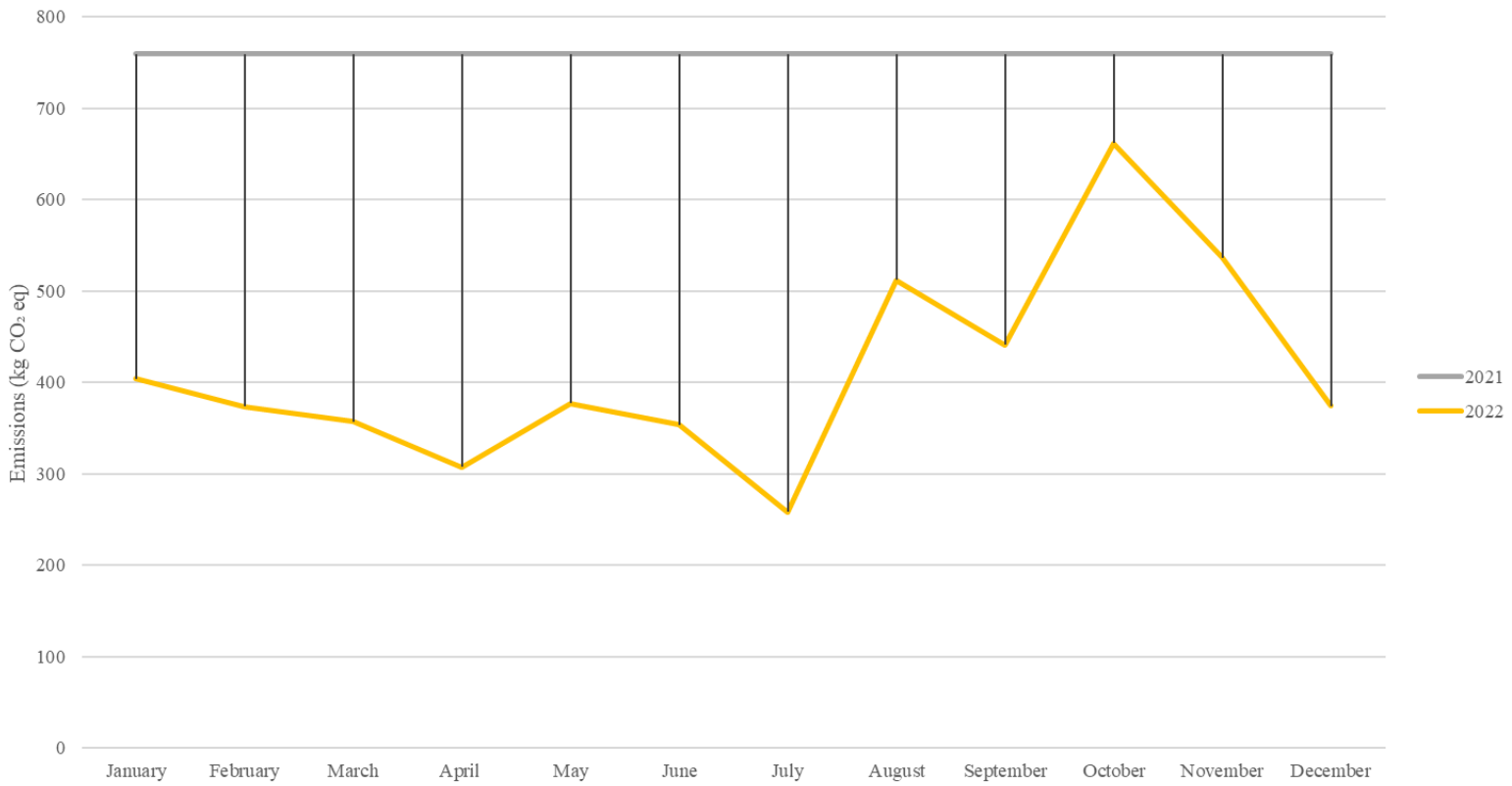
Based on the recordings of the past two years MGISS are committing to a further 8% reduction, with the aim of lowering emissions as much as possible to then offset the remainder through an ethical scheme or through one of our environmental customers. More time will be invested into sustainable infrastructure to maintain its sustainable status. Additionally, they will endeavour to properly manage and reduce emissions further through encouragement of public transportation and carpooling by providing resources about the benefits of making small sustainable changes.

By properly tracking their emissions in house, an immediate reduction in emissions is evident. Therefore, internal tracking will also continue in 2023.

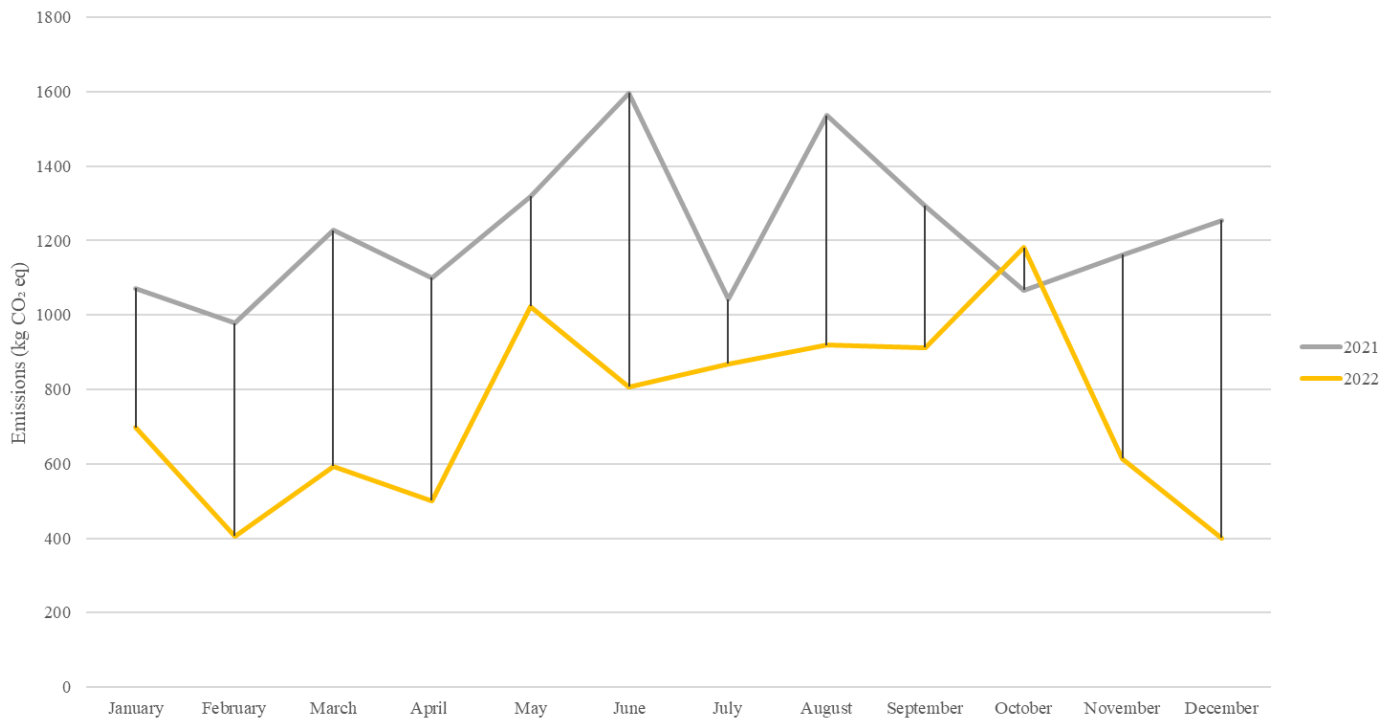


Scope	Activity	2021 emissions (kg CO <sub>2</sub> e)	2022 emissions (kg CO <sub>2</sub> e)
Scope 1 – Direct emissions	Gas	0	0
	Fuel	0	0
	Company owned Vehicles	0	0
<b>Total - Scope 1</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Scope 2 – Indirect emissions	Electricity supply	0	0
<b>Total - Scope 2</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Scope 3 – Indirect emissions	Water supply	1.16	3.98
	Water treatment	2.11	7.27
	Managed assets	5221.70	5843.62
	T&D- UK electricity	52.91	106.64
	Waste 1 - Refuse	8.94	6.26
	Waste 2 - Metal	NA	NA
	Waste 3 - Plastic	NA	NA
	Waste 4 - Paper and card	NA	NA
	Staff commuting	9109.94	4954.89
	Working from home, Electricity supply and T&D	161.19	135.27
	Work Travel	81.80	328.9
<b>Total - Scope 3</b>		<b>14639.75</b>	
<b>Total Scope 1,2 &amp; 3</b>		<b>14639.75</b>	

## Comparison of Monthly Commuting Emissions



## Comparison of All Emissions



## 3.2 ECO-I Northwest

ECO-I Northwest was introduced to MGISS through working with the LCEI. Whilst the LCEI developed a carbon tool to monitor and establish how to lower carbon emissions, ECO-I NW focuses on the low carbon economy and green recovery by supporting businesses with commercialisation strategies. This falls in line with the ambitious targets set by the UK Government to reduce carbon emissions by 78% by 2035 and be net-zero by 2050.

ECO-I NW is currently working with MGISS to provide evidence that the solutions provided to the utilities, infrastructure and environmental sectors are the most sustainable solutions offered in the geospatial technology market.

This project is ongoing, with the aim to produce three case studies across the utilities, environment, and infrastructure sectors, showing the sustainable carbon saving benefits of MGISS solutions. In most cases, this involves providing details of replacing traditional surveying methods with MGISS's GIS based solutions, which not only provides time efficiency and high-data quality data capture, but also a significant carbon saving, which should be recognised as another primary benefit. Through customer success stories, MGISS hopes to prove to their current and future client base that they offer sustainable solutions to the geospatial technology market.

Details of the ongoing case studies are outlined below.

### 3.2.1 [Utilities: Severn Trent Water](#)

Locating the exact positions of a buried assets without GNSS technology is a difficult, time-costly, and expensive task. Previously, Severn Trent relied on steel tape measures to measure and record their buried water mains. If errors were made during these measurements, it could easily disrupt maintenance and repair operations.

To enhance data and locational accuracy, this method has since been replaced with an MGISS GNSS technological solution. The integration of GNSS technology software has sped up surveying times whilst improving the accuracy of their recorded data. The implementation of MGISS Z-Transform solution has offered further improvements enabling the calculation of depth.

Steve Allen, Severn Trent's Systems Owner, has recognised three benefits of these solutions: time, cost, and quality. However, it is our aim to prove that saving carbon emissions should be identified as another primary benefit of our solutions.

Whilst offering an accuracy to within 100mm, a significant improvement to the 300mm standard required using tape measures. The additional knowledge of depth increases the degree of certainty that excavation of the pipes for maintenance and repair can be accessed with minimal disruption and on the first attempt. This reduces time and additional costs of excavation of additional sites to locate the buried asset.

Over time, this will save carbon emissions as the correct crew and tools will be dispatched to site, reducing operational site time and deployment of multiple teams using additional vehicles and tools to manufacture the repair.

Additionally, MGISS are working with Severn Trent as part of their Green Recovery Project, where they aim to remove and replace 26,000 lead pipes across two trial areas across their catchment. By continuing to provide MGISS solutions and support, they will continue to operate smoothly and with minimal disruption aiding the reduction of their projects carbon footprint.

MGISS aims to work with Severn Trent to quantify these claims and provide evidence that carbon is being saved due to the implementation of their solutions.

**“It’s the speed needed to operate the business. We understand our network better. Unfortunately, it used to take 80 days from a main being laid to it going onto our records. With GNSS we can do it live.”**

- Severn Trent Water

### 3.2.2 [Environment: Northumbrian Water Group](#)

MGISS has been partnering with Northumbrian Water Group (incorporating Essex and Suffolk Water) since 2016, providing consultancy and advice relating to the Geospatial technology landscape, and more specifically, the development of high accuracy, GNSS-enabled mobile GIS solutions for data quality improvement. Since the introduction of their MGISS solution, many formerly paper-based processes have been fully digitalised, replacing traditional surveying methods. A few examples are outlined below.

As part of NWG’s Clean Water Assets, MGISS successfully introduced new satellite positioning equipment together with techniques to enhance the positional accuracy of captured data. Now, field operatives can accurately record the real-world location and depth of new and existing assets. The system provides a simple and intuitive field inspection workflow reducing surveying time whilst increasing data and locational accuracy

As part of NWG’s Ecological Habitat and Invasive species schema, MGISS successfully introduced an ArcGIS Online-based field inspection system for NWG to carry out UK Habitat Classification and invasive species inspections across their northern and southern regions. The system provides a simple and intuitive field inspection workflow with a seamless field-office solution which allows users to report live on habitat coverage and invasive species for any given NWG site.

Further to this, we are approaching a specific (water industry wide) problem with NWG and ESA (European Space Agency) and embarking on a 2-year project leveraging Earth Observation data and services to explore supply interruption reduction and recovery alert services. This is explained further in section 3.2.3.

MGISS aims to work with Northumbrian Water Group to quantify these claims and provide evidence that carbon is being saved due to the implementation of our solutions.

### 3.2.3 Infrastructure: Surrey County Council

#### **2019**

In March 2019, Surrey County Council (SCC) procured a high accuracy mobile data solution to capture highway boundaries and modernise working practices with a cost-effective, secure, and easy-to-use solution.

For this project, over 5400km of highway needed to be captured. Approximately 4600km had been captured using legal records and traditional surveying methods. The remaining area consisted of rural roads that required capture to define the legal limits of the highway.

Traditional survey methods were manual and inefficient, utilising a tape measure and paper map to plot and check the highway boundary with additional validation required to ensure a level of accuracy was applied. MGISS's solution provided a quick surveying period, capturing data in-situ to a high degree of accuracy. The implementation of MGISS solutions was set to reduce predicted surveying times from 1127 days to 170 days.

The additional benefits of MGISS solution included the ability to undertake surveys individually where appropriate, assist with complicated boundary issues, identify mapping inconsistencies, and provide a carbon saving. The carbon reductions will be seen in reduced time travelling to site and vehicle usage accounting for a significant carbon reduction.

**“We are very happy with the solution provided by MGISS. To date we have been using the equipment on a case-by-case basis and the data recorded has been invaluable in proving the limit of highway. The accuracy achieved in the field has been consistently high. Teams across Surrey Highways have expressed a great deal of interest in the solution and there are many possibilities for further use of the equipment in several applications.**

- Surrey County Council

2022

MGISS aims to work with Surrey County Council to show how our solutions have not only improved data accuracy but also reduced the carbon footprint of their ongoing projects.

## The MGISS Solution



**85% Time Saved**



**50% Resource  
Reduction**



**3 years worth  
surveying reduced  
to 6 months**

### 3.3 ISO 14001

ISO 14001 is an internationally recognised standard for environmental management systems (EMS). It provides a framework that organizations can follow to effectively manage their environmental responsibilities, reduce their environmental impacts, and improve their environmental performance.

The adoption of this global standard has helped MGISS comply with increasingly stringent environmental laws and regulations, as well as building trust with customers and other stakeholders.

MGISS was awarded ISO 14001 in March 2022 and maintained its accreditation in this year. To do this, MGISS undertakes regular audits and Integrated Management review meetings in which the environmental management system is reviewed for its performance. This includes the evaluation of supply chain partners to ensure environmental protocols are being followed to regulatory standards.

Improvements for 2023:

- Fire safety measures
- First Aid training to team members
- Additional COSHH requirements
- Postal services
- Printer ink cartridge disposal

- Used electrical disposal

### 3.4 [European Space Agency \(ESA\) Project IPAS](#)

At the end of 2022 MGISS signed a contract with the European Space Agency to undertake a 2-year project (IPAS) which is estimated could significantly reduce the 300.000 tonnes of carbon created through 1 trillion litres of water lost from the UK water utility network each year.

IPAS will leverage satellite data and imagery to monitor water and gas buried pipelines and assets, and alert asset owners to hazards from development in proximity to their networks. Currently, the UK water industry have no holistic monitoring beyond normal field operatives working on the network and some investment in IOT/sensor technologies to monitor exceptions inside the network, and UK gas networks operate expensive, continual flying programmes which are extremely damaging to the environment.

MGISS currently deploy asset capture solutions which focus on getting accurate asset data capture “right first time”, reducing expensive site revisits and travel time by field operatives and introducing technology such as GNSS which is highly productive compared to traditional surveying methods. Our solutions have been enabling carbon reduction across large asset networks for nearly a decade, however this will be dwarfed by the potential savings from the successful deployment of IPAS

MGISS will be using the IPAS project to determine the positive environmental impacts of our solutions in more detail and determining the actual carbon reduction impacts for our target customers.

### 3.5 Other Initiatives

#### 3.5.1 [Cycle-To-Work Scheme](#)

MySchemes is an online employee benefits platform that enables employers to offer a range of salary sacrifice schemes to their employees. MGISS introduced the Cycle Scheme through this platform in 2021 allowing employees to purchase or rent a bike at a fraction of the cost.

Cycle to Work operates as a salary sacrifice employee benefit, meaning that employees pay through their gross salary, creating savings on Income Tax and National Insurance repayments.

The introduction of this scheme not only provides a cost-benefit to MGISS employees, but it also provides an opportunity to encourage a cycling



commute to reduce company emissions. Since, the largest portion of MGISS emissions derives from employee commuting by car, this provides an additional carbon saving benefit.

### 3.5.2 [Octopus Electric Dreams EV Salary Sacrifice](#)

The octopus EV Scheme was launched at the end of September 2022 giving MGISS employees the opportunity to lease an EV for a fraction of the cost.

Employees pay through their gross salary, before tax and other contributions are deducted, this means they save on Income Tax and National Insurance payments. Benefit-in-kind tax is also redeemable.

If the scheme has a successful uptake in the following year, there could be an opportunity to expand the scheme and introduce an EV company pool car to reduce business emissions further when visiting clients.

## 4.0 Future Commitments

The MGISS vision is as follows:

**“To be the UK’s trusted provider of sustainable geospatial solutions by 2025”**

MGISS is committed to empowering customers critical decision-making. Transforming our businesses with innovative data-centric expertise. Transforming the lives of the people they serve, with a more sustainable world for future generations.

### *External Commitment*

For years, MGISS has been helping their customers become more sustainable by increasing the efficiency of their operations, reducing emissions, and supporting safety whilst strengthening preparedness. We have already proven that our solutions increase efficiency, are cost-effective and provide better data quality to our customers, however, there needs to be a greater focus on quantifying our sustainable solutions. By quantifying these actions through customer success stories, we can continue to work in this space and use carbon reduction as another key selling point of our solutions. Therefore, MGISS will commit to provide evidence of the carbon savings of its solutions and publish them to a wider audience.

As a business, we must continue to adapt to the new market conditions and with growing industries and their needs, becoming more sustainable and improving their competitiveness to survive and thrive.

### *Internal Commitment*

Based on the recordings of the past two years MGISS are committing to a further 8% reduction, with the aim of lowering emissions as much as possible to then offset the remainder through an ethical scheme or through one of our environmental customers. More time will be invested into sustainable infrastructure to maintain its sustainable status. The

reason for this 8% reduction is because it is a realistic goal for the business as it continues to expand and generate more revenue.

Our commitment is to become carbon neutral by continually monitoring our carbon output, minimising it to the lowest it can be and then offset the rest through our work exchange in the environmental consultancy sector. This way, we are not just committing to planting trees in an unknown project with unknown benefits, but we are helping our customers in exchange for carbon credits.

We plan to reach these goals through a range of activities- from engaging with our environmental clients and monitoring our Scope 3 business emissions to improving the management of our supply chain through ISO 14001 compliance-

Sustainability is an incredible growth opportunity that MGISS will push into 2023 and beyond. The demand for sustainable solutions is high, and we wish to continue to push into this space and provide more sustainable solutions to our customers.

## 5.0 References

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(3) National Grid; *What are scope 1, 2 and 3 carbon emissions, National Grid Group*. Available at: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/stories/energy-explained/what-are-scope-1-2-3-carbon-emissions> (Accessed: January 02, 2023).

(4) Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (2022) “Liverpool City Region SMEs to benefit from £2.3m fund to boost growth, innovation and jobs,” 5 October.