

ESG report

At Volac, we understand the fantastic nutritional benefits that dairy brings to a healthy global population, and we also recognise the footprint of delivering those benefits. Volac is passionate about dairy nutrition and excited by the opportunity to use our technological knowhow and operational solutions to continue to lead the industry in rapidly lightening this footprint as we become a net zero company.



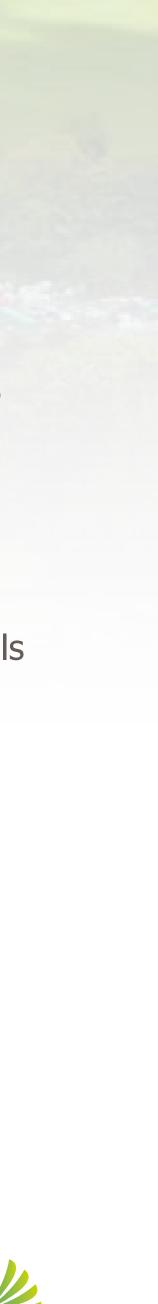
As a business that both sources from - and supplies to – the dairy industry, it is crucial that we not only carefully measure and reduce our own environmental impact, but also develop market-leading solutions to help our customers meet their climate targets too. Alongside this, we strive to do business in the right way, having a positive impact on our employees, customers, suppliers and the wider society.

2023-24

Our company sustainability journey has evolved over many years and the Leadership Team and I are delighted to share our progress to date and our clear plans for the future in this, our first formal sustainability report. Over the past year, we have undertaken extensive analysis on our carbon emissions which has enabled us to set what we believe are ambitious, but achievable, net zero targets of Scope 1 and 2 by 2030 and Scope 3 by 2045. Like many businesses, we have key raw materials that pose sustainability challenges, and you can also learn more about our proactive approach to these in this report.

David Neville Group CEO





A summary of ESG at Volac

With manufacturing sites across the British Isles and raw materials sourced from around the globe, the scope of our ESG strategy is far reaching. Our key areas of focus are set out below:

Environmental

Measuring and reducing our impact on the world we share



Our focus:

- Measuring and reducing our carbon footprint as we establish a comprehensive roadmap towards Net Zero
- Transitioning to renewable energy sources
- Minimising resource utilisation including water
- Working with industry experts to set targets on plastic and waste reduction
- Ensuring that our work supports our customers' sustainability targets

Social

our People strategy

• Building a safe, sustainable, fair and flexible workplace.

Providing opportunities and support to all through

- Safeguarding human rights throughout our business, including through our supply chain
- Supporting local communities around our sites and wherever we have an impact
- Approaching sourcing ethically to minimise our impact









Governance Doing business in the right way

Ensuring we are clear about how we operate

- Delivering accounting integrity and transparency
- Appropriate corporate structures to ensure legal and ethical compliance
- Responsible Sourcing Code
 - Sourcing policies for our key raw materials (palm oil, whey, wood)

Ensuring the business is being run for the good of all stakeholders

- Avoiding conflicts of interest
- Managing risk proactively
- Independent internal auditing
- Ensuring our employees feel safe to be themselves



Company values





Performance

Ambition

Our company values of Performance, Ambition, Collaboration and Trust underpin everything that we do and our approach to sustainability follows the same principles.



This means we strive to do business in the right way, whilst having a positive impact on our employees, customers, suppliers and wider society.





Environmental Strategy

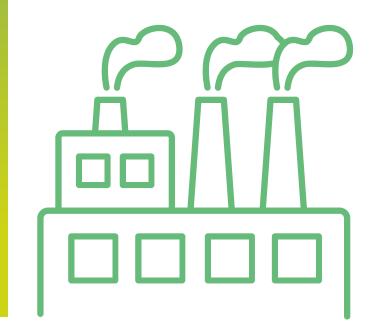


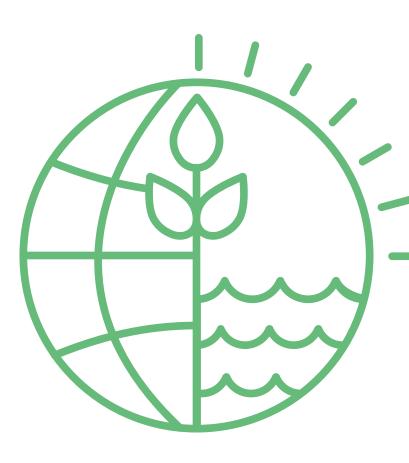
Environmental strategy - key highlights

2013

Removed heavy fuel oil from Felinfach

site, through converting to Liquified Natural Gas (LNG), with some Kerosene usage, removing circa 9000t of Carbon*





2014

ISO50001 introduced pan-business to ensure tracking and external verification of energy usage.

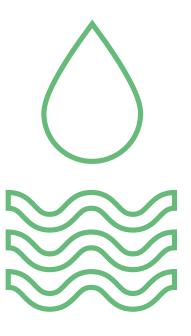
* Based on EU ETS update 2013 – 2018 data + See individual case studies in report

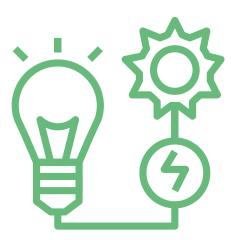
2016

Biomass combined heat and power plant - Felinfach⁺

2017

Reverse osmosis plant - Felinfach⁺





2018

Solar park - Felinfach⁺

2020

Green electric purchasing programme implemented across business

2022

Carbon footprinting project commenced

Group Energy and Environment Manager position created and filled











Investing in renewables

Our 20 megawatt biomass plant at Felinfach was officially opened in 2017 by HRH Prince of Wales (now King Charles III). The energy it produces is exported to the adjacent Volac dairy plant which consumes 100% of the Biomass plant output. The plant uses wood as a fuel which is sourced from sustainably-managed forests.

Our Felinfach solar park was acquired in 2018. It consists of 1,680 solar panels, each producing 260w, providing renewable electricity for our warehouse operations, while also exporting back to the national grid.







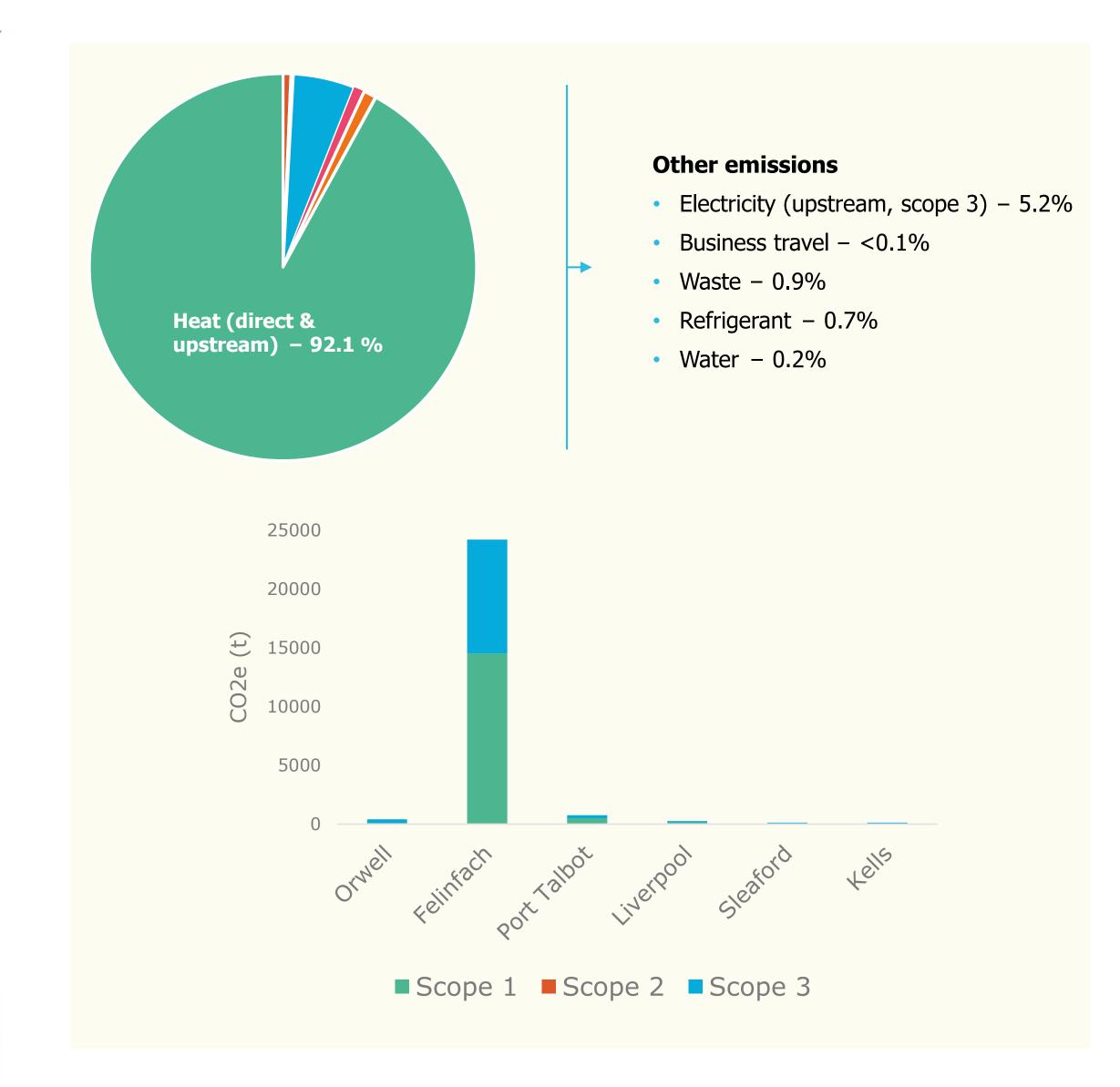
Focus on emissions

Over the last year, ClimatePartner has completed an external assessment of the carbon emissions at our five UK operations sites (Felinfach, Orwell, Liverpool, Port Talbot and Sleaford) and one ROI site (Kells) to produce a Corporate Carbon Footprint.

The results show that the majority of our Scope 1 and 2 emissions relate to our operation at Felinfach, due to the large amount of **direct** emissions from heat used at the site. Currently, 60% of the heatrelated consumption at the site comes from sustainable biomass (accounting for just 22% of the emissions), with the remainder coming from the Liquified Natural Gas (LNG). It is therefore a priority for 2023 and beyond to look at options to reduce these Scope 1 emissions.

Our other major 'hotspot' relates to **refrigerant losses** across our sites. Most of our sites are using the newest R-32 refrigerant gas, which reduces the climate change impact of these losses, but they remain an area that will require focus.





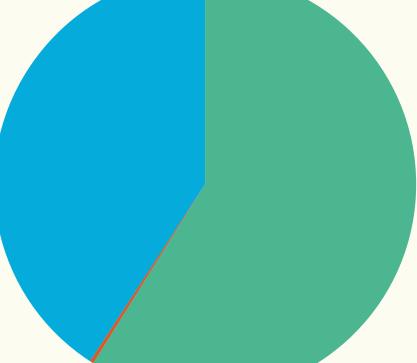
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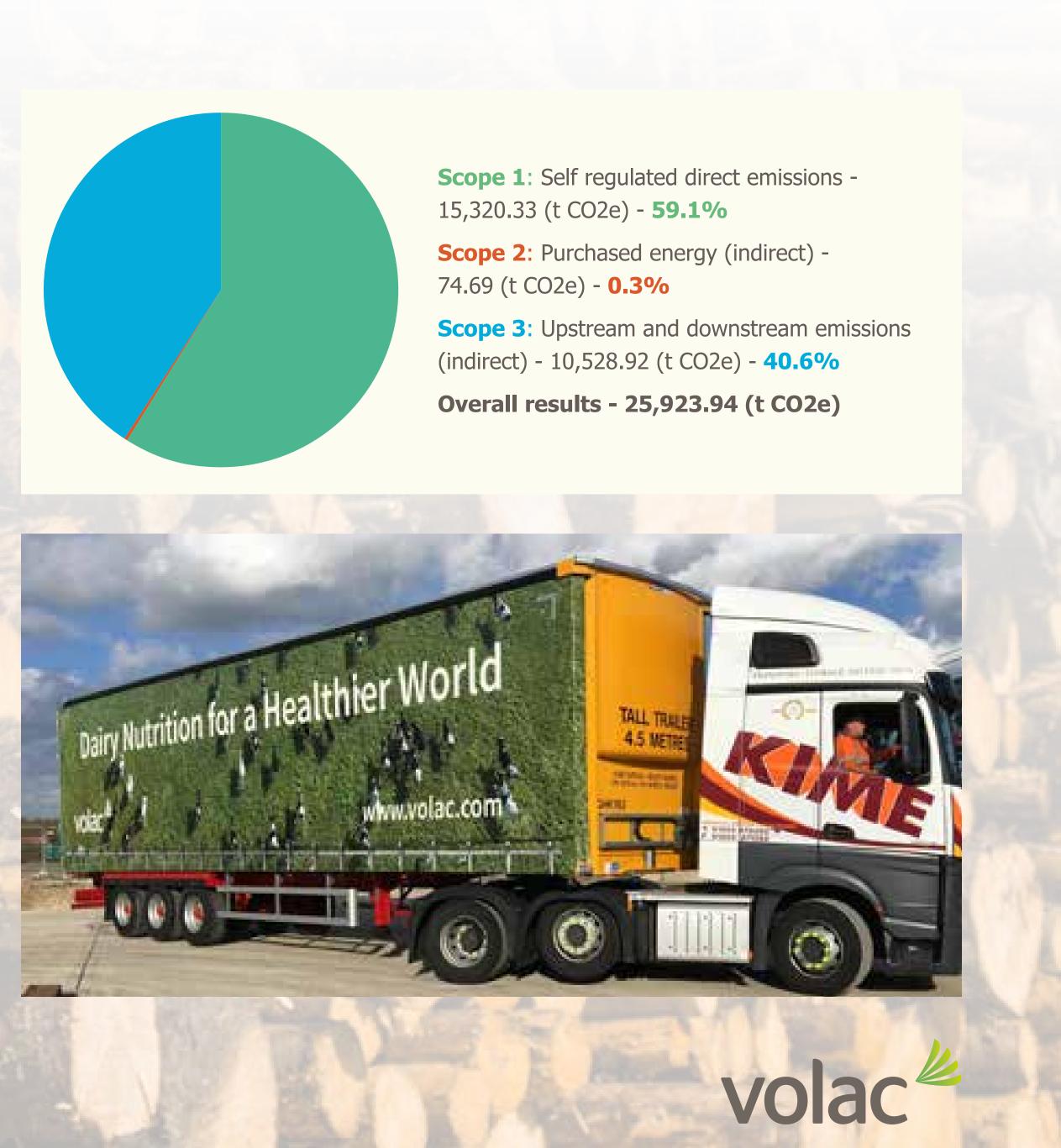


Understanding our Scope 3 data

Scope 3 emissions are always the most difficult to accurately determine and to influence, as they are not directly within the control of the business. At this stage, it has not been possible to assess any downstream Scope 3 emissions (such as onward transportation, use of sold products, etc.) and we have not included upstream calculations for raw materials, capital goods, transportation and distribution of raw materials and leased assets. In future years, we want to increase the reach of our assessment into these additional Scope 3 areas to get a more complete picture of our carbon impact and we'll share this in future sustainability reports.

This includes understanding the emissions of our whey supply base. Here, most of the work we have done so far has used 'database' numbers. While these numbers are globally-recognised, we would prefer to use primary data from the specific whey suppliers we work with. We are currently working together with our suppliers to understand the carbon footprints of these supply chains and operations and hope to complete this work by the end of 2023.





Focus on packaging

Packaging is a continual focus for the business, and we are running business-wide projects to find solutions that enable us to reduce and recycle.

- At our Sleaford site, the majority of bulk bags, clear plastic and cardboard are taken away for recycling, removing around 30 tonnes from landfill each year since 2017.
- We are running trials of thinner plastic liners in our sacks and reduced use of shrink wrap around our sites.
- We are moving to recycled packaging content rather than using virgin material, with 25% of our materials changed to recycled so far.



Group targets - environmental

2024

Full Scope 3 emissions measured by H1

Understand whey supply base emissions by Q1

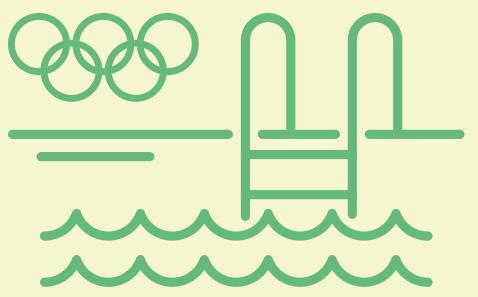
2024-25

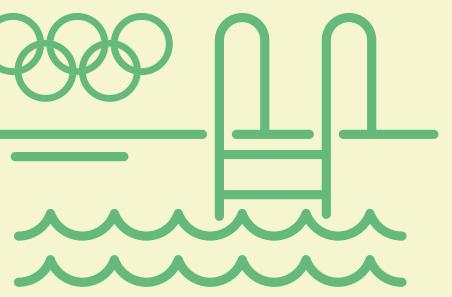
Build a full Net Zero Roadmap linked to Science Based Targets 2028

5% year-on-year reduction of water and waste until 2028 from 2021 baseline

Municipal waste: 875t to 750t

Water: 427,831m³ to 348,471m³ (roughly 32 Olympic sized swimming pools)





2030 **Carbon Net Zero** on Scope 1 and 2

2045

Carbon Net Zero on Scope 1, 2 and 3





Whey Nutrition

DIVISION

Vision:

To be the best whey protein supplier in the eyes of our customers and Europe's #1 supplier of whey protein isolates, all produced in a sustainable way.





Unlocking the power of whey

Here at Volac, we believe that dairy nutrition is critical to health and wellbeing. Our whey ingredients support the health of people by providing high quality nutrition and functional ingredients.

Our ingredients can be found in food products that people enjoy around the world. By unlocking the power of whey, we also support farmers and their ability to prosper in the future.

Our whey protein concentrates and isolates are highly nutritious and can be found in a broad array of food products that support consumer's performance and active lifestyles, from powdered shakes to protein bars and more.

The latest addition to our ingredients range, Volactive Pro2O, is a whey protein isolate that allows manufacturers and consumers to explore a broad range of fruity taste experiences, without compromising on nutritional benefits.

Volactive® Pro₂O® READY T© MIX

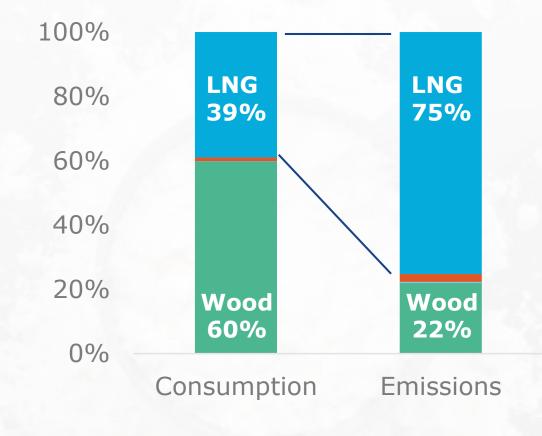




Our progress

In our whey nutrition business, sustainability is embedded in how we do business and we are ambitious in our plans for the future. Reducing greenhouse emissions and water use sit alongside food safety and workforce health and safety as our top priorities for the business - we have done a lot already but know there is more to do to.

- At our Felinfach manufacturing site, we have made significant investment in renewable energy and water saving initiatives over the past decade but there is more we can do. Our next steps are to look at how we can reduce LNG as a fuel source by investing in further use of renewables such as wind, solar, hydrogen and heat pumps.
- In order to further reduce our carbon footprint, we are also currently carrying out a feasibility study into an AD plant fed solely by recycling factory waste into renewable energy for manufacturing.



LNG represents 39% of Felinifach's heat consumption, but emits 75% of the carbon

In 2022, we completed product footprints on a full Life Cycle Assessment basis (LCA) on a selection of our current whey nutrition products, and these have been positively received by our customers. Our next priority is to refine the Scope 3 emission data by obtaining primary data from our suppliers by Q1 2024, especially for our incoming whey supply, rather than using industry average figures.

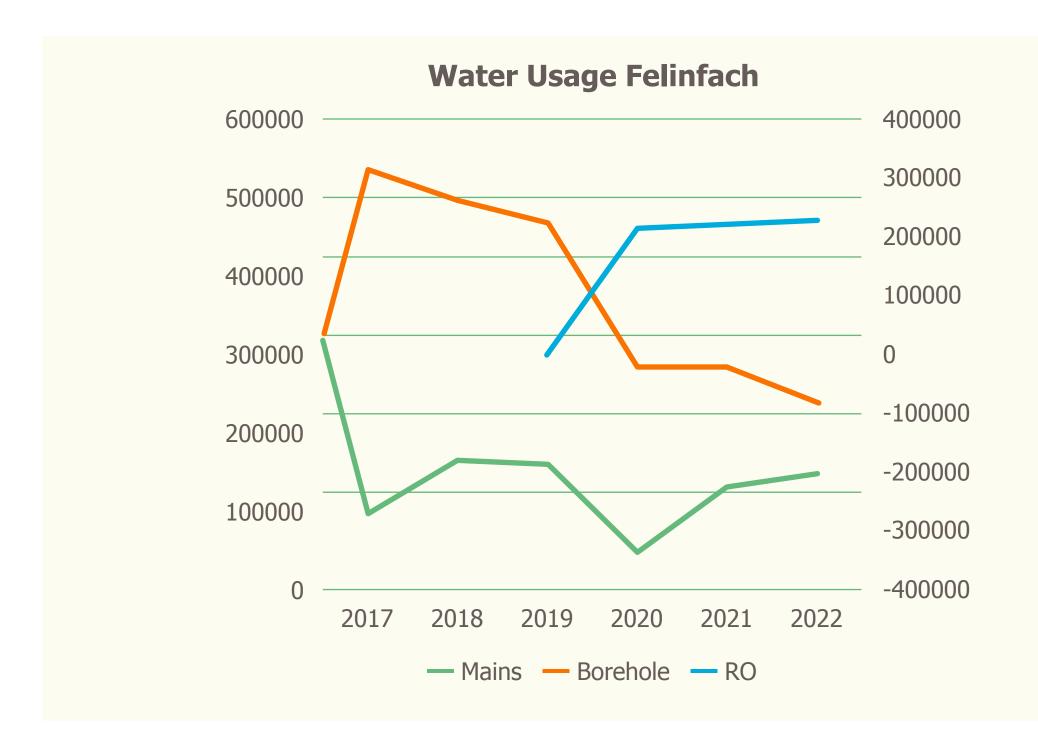






Case study: Water use

In 2017, we installed a reverse osmosis plant at our Felinfach wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) to recover water and return it back to use onsite. This has led to a 47% decrease in borehole water abstraction at the site from 2017 – 2021 and we continue to work on ways to reduce our use of mains water.





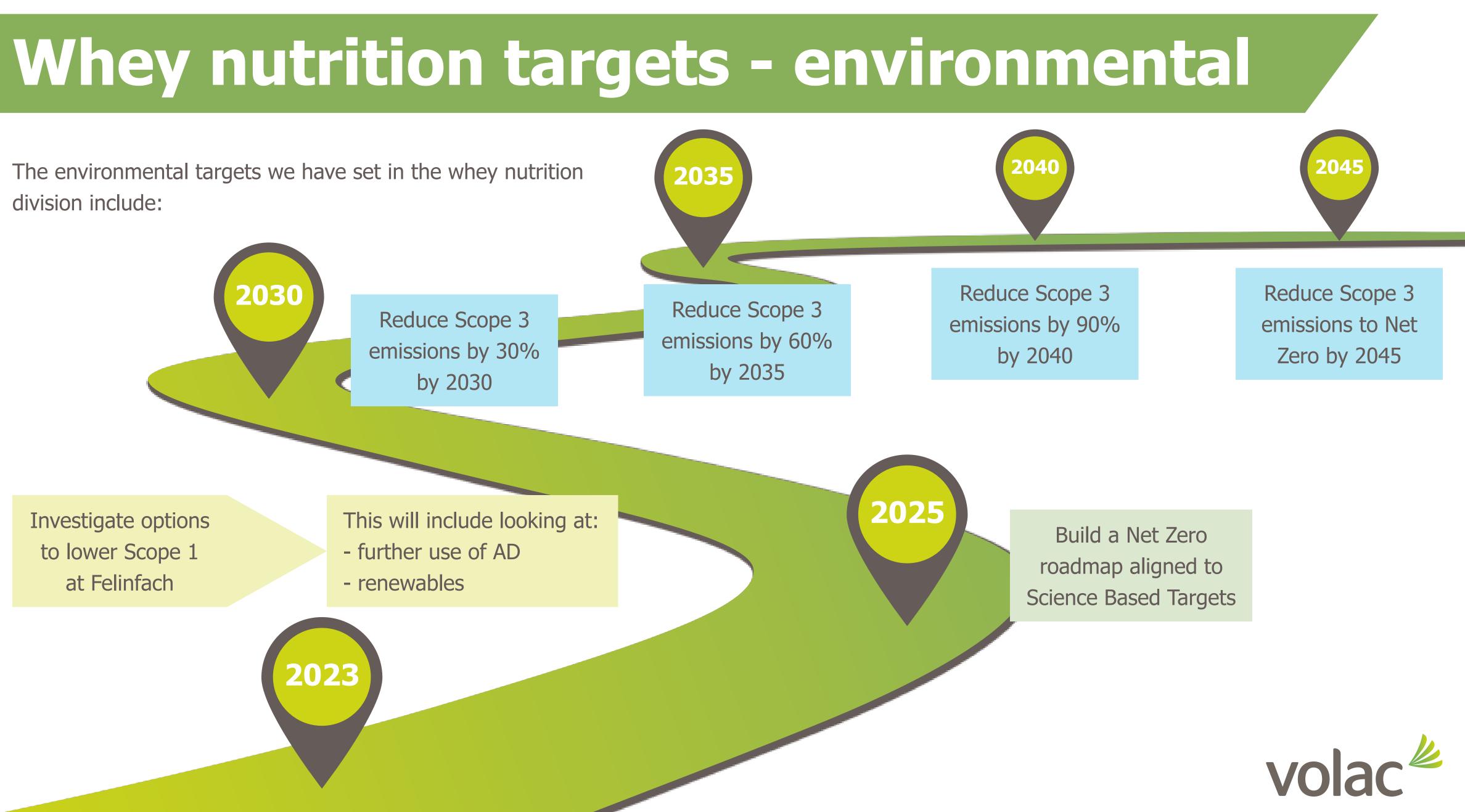
2016 **535,455** M³

2021 **283,970** M³

Reduction of 251,485 M³ abstracted water.







Animal Nutrition

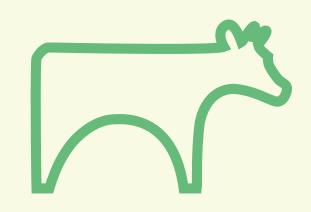
DIVISION



Advancing livestock efficiency with sustainable lifecycle solutions

Our animal nutrition division is committed to developing products that support sustainable farming. Feed is a key input for all farms – Volac provides solutions to increase feed efficiency at many of the critical stages of farm production, which in turn support overall farm efficiency

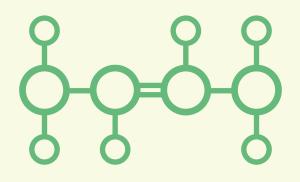




Forage Preservation Better quality forage for increased feed efficiency

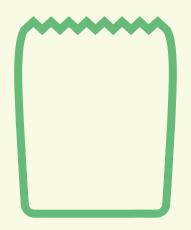
Young Animal Nutrition Healthy start for better lifetime production

and help mitigate the emissions associated with a farm's outputs. Alongside this, we are conscious of our manufacturing processes and sourcing decisions, working to ensure the lifecycle of our products provides a net climate benefit to our customers.



Rumen-Protected Fats

Providing energy to increase milk yields, body condition and improve fertility as well as reducing methane production



Feed Additives Supporting livestock feed efficiency

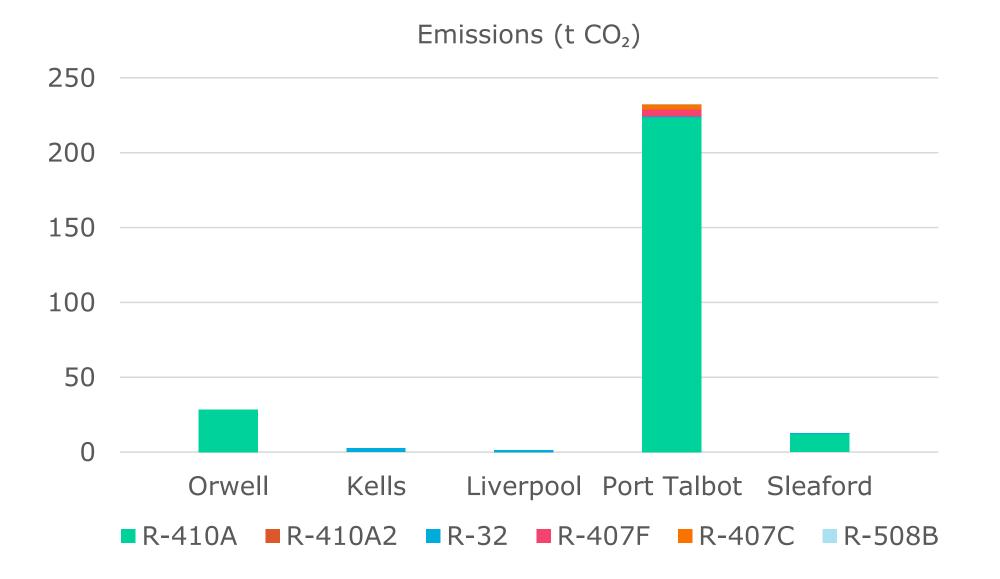


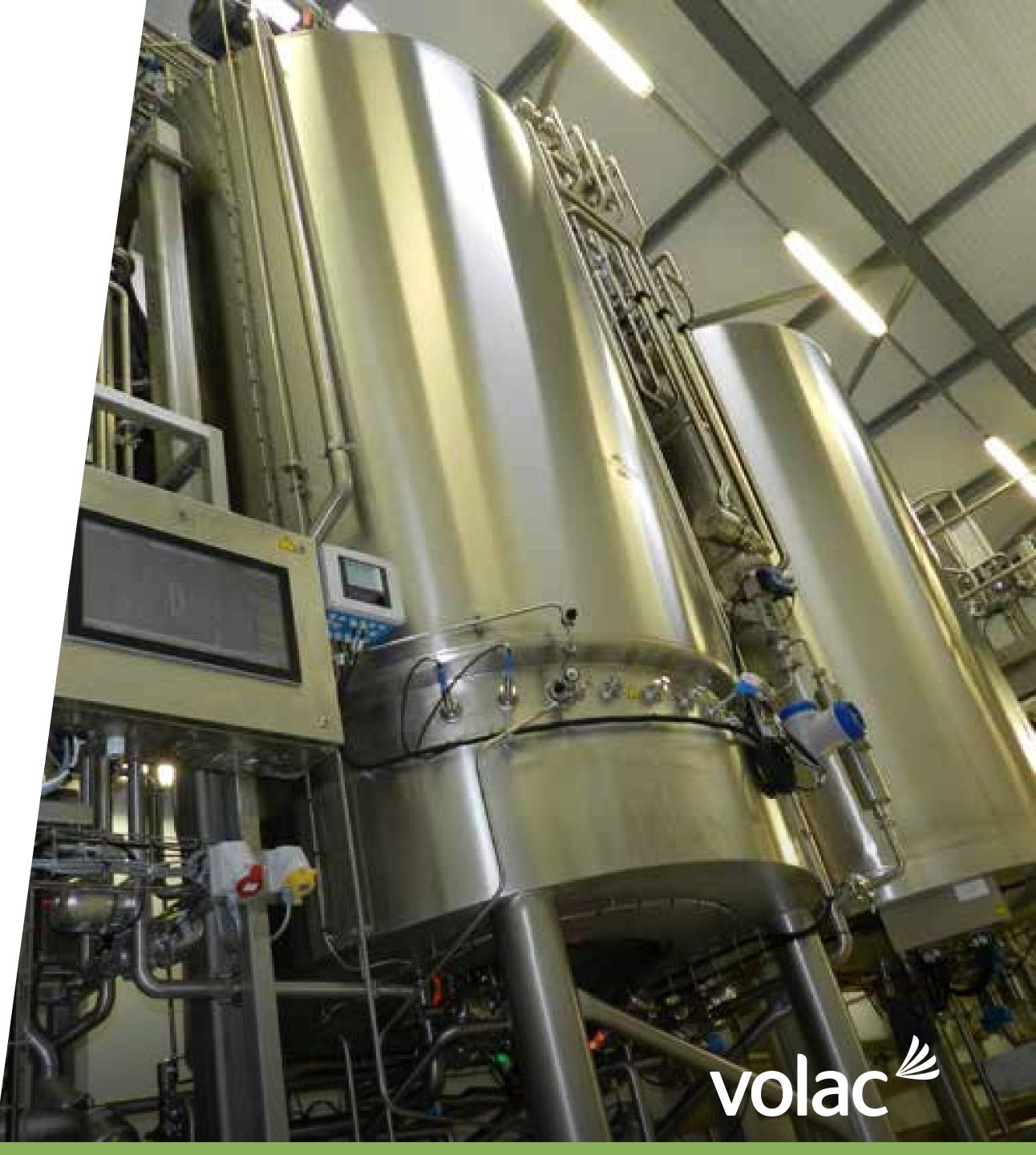


Our progress

Identifying key areas

Our carbon analysis work at our Volac International Ltd / Volac Feeds Ltd Animal Nutrition manufacturing sites has identified that Port Talbot would be the largest contributor of CO2e (t) emissions, should there be a leak, due to the use of an older refrigerant gas, so this is a key area of focus for the future.





Gathering data

We know that for the dairy industry to reach net zero, it needs robust data to measure the carbon footprint of every input coming onto the farm, as well as understanding how these inputs provide an efficiency benefit both financially and environmentally, with animal welfare in mind. Providing this data is a priority area for the animal nutrition division. We are currently working to obtain full CO_2 e analysis on our key products this year. We are also working with external animal nutrition specialists on data modelling to validate the performance benefits of Volac products on farm, as we know how important it is to our customers to have this life cycle assessment data.

Education

We believe that knowledge transfer is key to spread the positive messages surrounding the dairy industry. At Volac, we focus on providing technical information to allow our farmers to maximise their efficiencies and focus on animal health. We also collaborate and lead on industry discussions, research and innovation.



Did you know?

In 2019, Volac helped to facilitate the establishment of an industrygovernmental initiative: the Dairy Productivity Collaboration. A key achievement of this collaboration was the establishment of the AHDB Strategic Dairy Farms network which shares good practice through on-farm and virtual events, providing access to industry experts and the latest research to support all dairy farmers in improving efficiency, health and welfare and sustainability.





Case study: Rumen-protected fats

Here at Volac, we believe rumen-protected fats play a vital role in efficient and sustainable animal nutrition.

The Megalac[®] brand was the first of the rumen-protected calcium salt formulations and has now been on the market for over 40 years, offering a high-fat feed supplement for dairy cows and other ruminant livestock. Our product development process is rooted in science and research to ensure we continue to lead the market and support efficient and sustainable milk production systems.

How does Megalac[®] improve a farm's efficiency?

- Provides a highly-concentrated source of energy without disrupting rumen function
- Improves milk production
- Improves fertility
- Improves feed efficiency
- Helps reduce heat stress
- Reduces methane production



Did you know?

Adding fats such as Megalac[®] to a ration provides energy to the cow in a form that isn't fermented in the rumen, thereby reducing the proportion of methane-generating fermentable organic matter required for milk production. Early work reported a 7.5% reduction in methane when Megalac[®] was added to a dairy ration, resulting in a 13.7% reduction per unit of milk (Andrew et al., 1991)







Case study: Young animal nutrition

Young animal nutrition - the foundation of future herd performance

Volac calf and lamb milk replacers contain a unique blend of functional proteins to ensure future performance (trial results available).

Maximising early life feed efficiency with a Volac calf milk replacer gives a calf the best opportunity to reach its age-at-first-calving at 24 months, which is imperative for lifetime efficiency.

- Volac Milk replacers are totally unique due to our bespoke manufacturing technique, resulting in better digestibility allowing youngstock to focus more of their energy on growth and development - setting them up for improved fertility and enhanced milk yields when they join the milking herd (Cooke. J, 2023).
- Better quality youngstock means high quality animals which have an environmental benefit due to fewer non-productive animals within the herd and a lower environmental footprint per litre of milk.

Did you know?

We follow a strict UK and Ireland liquid whey sourcing policy for our milk powders, to ensure the best quality and lowest environmental impact of this important product – a circular process sourcing from and delivering to the dairy industry.



Case study: Silage additives

Preserved forage is a highly cost-effective feed for livestock farmers. Maximising feed value and quantity is essential in a sustainable dairy system to ensure that as much of the animal's feed requirements as possible can be homegrown.

Backed by 30 years of research, Volac's range of Ecosyl silage inoculants use patented preservation technology to lock MTD/1 - a unique high performance strain of Lactobacillus plantarum – into a super-stable microorganism that can be used to support efficient fermentation of grass, maize or wholecrop silage. Through the rapid production of lactic acid, Ecosyl helps to quickly inhibit undesirable bacteria and ensure:

- Good Fermentation (High ratio of Lactic acid)
- Faster pH fall
- Less protein breakdown
- Lower dry matter losses

...resulting in a more palatable silage, with higher metabolisable energy, higher true protein and less wastage (from spoiled feed).

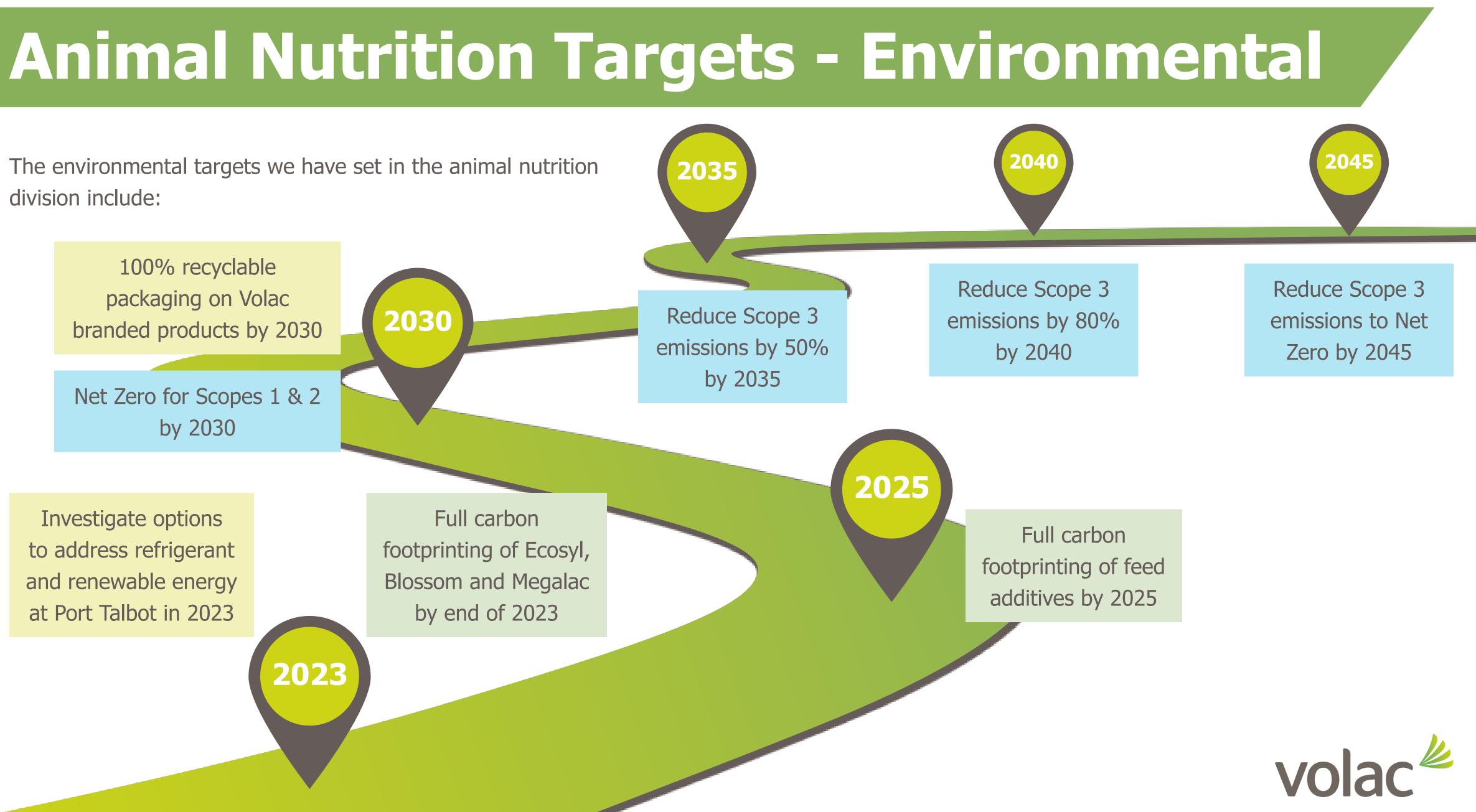
Did you know?

In 15 independent dairy trials, cows fed a range of silages conserved with Ecosyl yielded an average of an additional 1.2 litres of milk per cow per day compared with feeding untreated silage.





The environmental targets we have set in the animal nutrition division include:

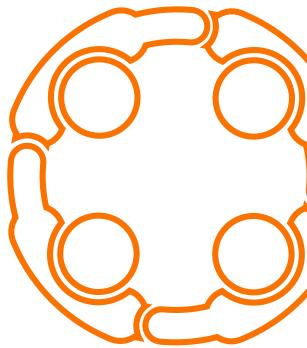


Social Strategy





Our 2025 People Strategy commits us to delivering a sustainable workplace for our employees, where our staff enjoy and feel proud to work for Volac, and where we have a positive relationship with the communities in which we are based. Our family-run foundations are important to our colleagues and our focus is on creating



an engaging work environment of mutual prosperity and a collaborative culture where information is readily shared, and teams learn together. We monitor and report a number of key performance indicators around our people strategy, including employee engagement, employee retention and gender pay.



Since the pandemic, health and wellbeing has become a key focus and we have worked hard to transform our business into one that promotes hybrid working and places strong importance on mental health. We have worked in the last few years to bring our values of Performance, Ambition, Collaboration and Trust to life, and we now run 'Town Hall' monthly online meetings, normally hosted by members from the Leadership Team. Despite operating in shift patterns, attendance at these is usually high with colleagues valuing this engagement opportunity with the senior team.



volac

Our latest People Strategy has the following focus areas:



A sustainable and engaging workplace

This includes increased focus on inclusion and belonging, a strong focus on health and wellbeing, opportunities for volunteering, an improved Employer Value Proposition and ensuring our workplace environments are engaging across the business.

Building an efficient and effective organisation

Ensuring our organisation structures deliver for the business and for our colleagues.

Becoming a learning organisation

A long standing priority for the business, this ensures a comprehensive offering in terms of Performance and Development Reviews, e-learning and leadership programmes.

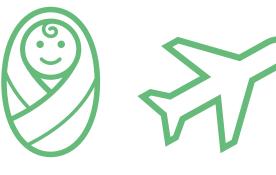


Our progress

What have we done?

2016

• Introduction of Employee Assistance Programme



2017

- Introduction of enhanced maternity and paternity pay
- Increase in holiday entitlement, including more loyalty days and days off for wedding/ civil partnership
- Utilising Apprentice Levy for further education



- Introduced a 'Talent Strategy' which resulted in an increased number of women in our succession pipelines
- First reporting of Gender Pay Gap (mean 27, median 4)

2019

• Introduction of Culture Amp engagement survey "Have Your Say"

2020

- Introduction of Mental Health First Aiders and Wellbeing focus
- Mental health dropins during the period of COVID



- 2021
- Plan (UK)
- Introduction of US health insurance
 - (Volac Inc.)

• Introduction of Simply Health Cash

2022

- Improved US benefits offering for all in Volac Inc
- Felinfach recognition awards
- Hybrid working policy
- Degree apprenticeships
- Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging training completed by all line managers
- Cost of living payment and early payment of part of bonus
- Gender Pay Gap Report shows significant improvement (mean 8, median 0.3)
- Recognition by Healthy Working Awards Schemes (Wales)

2023

- Revised enhanced maternity and paternity pay
- Small Benefit Exemption (Ireland)
- "Volac Rewards" campaign
- Renewed focus on wellbeing
- Menopause policy
- Annual calendar of health and wellbeing related initiatives







Case study: Great Volac Milk Ride

This charity bike ride first took place in 1999 with colleagues cycling from our manufacturing facility in West Wales to the company's head office in Orwell near Cambridge. The business has now held this event ten times, pedalling between various Volac and customer sites throughout Europe, raising hundreds of thousands of pounds for Cancer Research UK. In 2022, 40 team members once again cycled the 250-mile route from Felinfach to Orwell, raising £32,000 in memory of former employee Alistair Sampson from Northern Ireland, who recently lost his battle with cancer.

Betty Lawes Foundation

The Betty Lawes Foundation was set up by the founder of Volac's wife to provide funding for a small number of selected charities which are connected to local Volac staff communities, and which make a real difference in terms of environmental, biodiversity, economic, health or social sustainability. Money raised by the 2022 Great Volac Milk Ride was match funded by the Foundation to give a grand total of £64,000.



Case study: Volac Leadership Programme

The Volac Leadership Programme (VLP) has been running since **2016** and aims to develop talented first line leaders across the business. 74 colleagues have now been though the course, which takes place over 3-4 months and comprises a series of multi-day workshops, including guest speakers from the Volac Senior leadership team, project work and 1:1 mentoring with a previous course participant. Throughout the programme, members are encouraged to:

- Understand their unique self and what they bring to the business
- Put this into practice within the context of Volac's values -Performance, Ambition, Collaboration and Trust.

The course culminates with each participant presenting their project to their peers, line managers and Volac Directors, sharing their leadership approach and what they bring to the business, plus a summary of their project results.

As well as personal development, the VLP enables participants to forge links with colleagues in other functions, understand more about the business as whole, and raise their profile within the organisation. The programme is now highly regarded, and staff are proud to be invited to participate. Our aim is that 30% of participants in Leadership Programmes take on new responsibilities at Volac within a year of completing a course.









Case study: Local community initiatives

We are proud of our strong links with the communities in which we operate.

At our Felinfach operation, we have a site-based CSR group who is actively engaged in the community and facilitates fundraising for local charities through a variety of events.

Other activities include:

- Sponsorship of the Lampeter under-10's football club
- Regular engagement with local educational institutions and students
- Sponsorship of Lampeter Women's rugby club kit



Gwyl Pel Droed Ieuenctid LAMPETER AFC **Junior Football Festival**







Our key targets - social



Mean Gender Pay Gap to be at 0 +/-5%

Increased score

in engagement sections of survey from **2021** baseline



Every hire stays

for at least two years at Volac

Zero leavers

citing lack of flexibility/ working conditions as a reason for leaving





Governance Strategy







At Volac we believe in doing business in the right way.

This means ensuring we operate transparently and with integrity, running the business for the good of all stakeholders and creating a culture where everyone feels safe to be themselves. We welcome external scrutiny of our business including thorough statutory auditing, and a programme of independent internal auditing. We also engage with EcoVadis sustainability assessments to monitor our ongoing performance.

Responsible sourcing is something we take extremely seriously, launching our Responsible Sourcing Code in 2018. In 2019, we launched our Volac Employee Code of Conduct and formed our Sustainability Strategy Group in 2022.

We are proud to hold the following ISO certifications:

- ISO 45001 health and safety management (Group)
- **ISO 50001** energy management (Group)
- ISO 9001 quality management (Group)
- **ISO 14001** environmental management (Felinfach, Liverpool, Port Talbot)





Our progress - Governance

2018

Responsible Sourcing Code established



Enhanced cyber security systems introduced



2019

Volac Employee Code of Conduct



Palm oil sustainability policy published

Internal auditing introduced

2021

Collaborative work on palm report:

'Breaking Down Fat and Oils - a catalyst to transform the global edible fats and oils system'





2022

Sustainability Strategy Group formed





Case study: Palm Sourcing

We use a variety of fractions and derivatives of palm in our products. As the highest yielding vegetable oil crop with nutritional characteristics that offer many benefits in dairy nutrition, it is not appropriate to simply replace palm with an alternative – instead we must work to ensure that it is produced in a sustainable and responsible manner.

For our Megalac product range, we were one of the first UK nutrition businesses to use only palm oil derivatives from sources that fulfil 'No Deforestation, No Peat and No Exploitation' (NDPE) criteria or are sourced from RSPO Certified Sustainable Palm Oil producers. This ensures that:

- producers protect virgin rainforest and work to progressively reduce greenhouse gas emissions on existing plantations.
- there is no development on peatland and, where feasible, producers must explore options for peat restoration.
- palm must be produced in way that respects and encourages the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the rights of indigenous and local communities.

Now, across the business, we only use products which have been supplier assured to align to NDPE criteria or that are RSPO Certified.



In addition, we recognise that our impact in this area is relatively small. Sustainably-produced palm oil requires all in the supply chain to play their part, including governments and consumers.

As a result, we work hard to **influence broader stakeholders** including customers, processors, retailers, government, and NGOs to further develop the sustainability, traceability and responsible sourcing of palm products. An example of our collaborative work is the 2021 report we developed with Forum for the Future, Unilever, WWF & M&S, which provided a catalyst to transforming the global edible fats and oils system.



Case study: Risk Management

Cyber security prevention and education

Keeping our business safe online is a key priority both for us and our customers. To manage our risk in this area we self-assess our cyber security systems annually to National Cyber Security Centre standards and have these verified by an external



assessor. We have a system in place to continuously monitor password vulnerabilities and undertake comprehensive training and testing, via our KnowBe4 training programme:

KnowBe4 training

All new users are added to our KnowBe4 platform and complete a proficiency assessment upon joining the company. In addition to this, ongoing security awareness training takes place across the business including:



• 2 compulsory sessions per year for every employee and anybody that has access to our systems

- 1 security awareness proficiency assessment (SAPA) every year • Controlled simulated phishing attacks with ongoing training for
 - colleagues that click on simulated emails
 - Cyber posters (Digital) regularly refreshed and displayed across all sites
 - Physical USB sticks placed in company locations containing a friendly virus that alerts us if the device has been plugged in

We are seeing a steady improvement month-on-month in this area including:

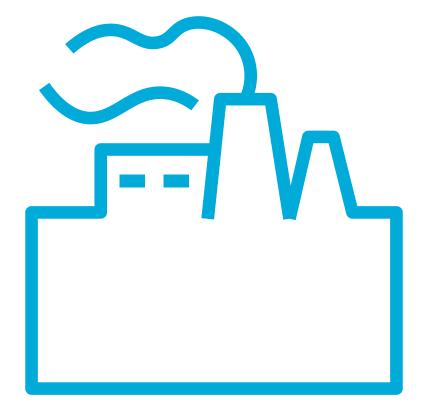
- Iess clicks on simulated emails
- more phishing emails reported to IT (both simulated and nonsimulated) reported
- ✓ all sites targeted with USB sticks have handed them in without plugging them into their laptop or pc first







Our targets - Governance

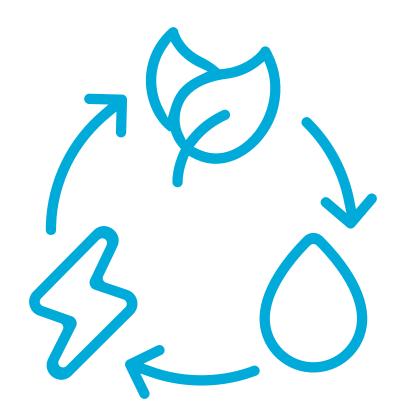


Maintain external factory, H&S, energy, environment certifications (ie ISO and Ecovadis)



Keep working to create a diverse, inclusive environment where everyone feels they belong





Continue committment and focus on **risk** management

Embed **Sustainability** Strategy Group in the business





Conclusion

We know that there is a need for sustainable, long term change across our whole supply chain and this means taking action, sometimes without knowing all the answers.

We will have to commit to some goals without knowing how to reach them.

At Volac, we are well-placed to help lead on this journey and are confident that with the right commitment and drive, and through collaboration with the right partners, we will be successful.

Without doubt, we will need to adapt as we progress, adding new commitments as we move forward and encountering currently unforeseen challenges and ethical dilemmas along the way.

We will continue to report on our progress, as we work to provide sustainable dairy nutrition for a healthier world.







