



colefabrics

Sustainability Report 2024

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Introduction

This report covers the period between the 1st of January to the 31st of December 2023 for our Nottingham Site only.

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Our Company Profile

Cole Fabrics Plc is a small to medium enterprise, consisting of 57 employees. Our headquarters is based in Nottingham, UK. As a family-run business, we are dedicated to creating local employment opportunities while supplying our products globally.

In a nutshell, we are all about ribbons, from garment wash care labels to decorations that adorn gifts. But we don't like to be boxed in; we are not just ribbon aficionados, we also make:



Bows



Tassels



Totes



Pouches



Suit Covers



Elastic Cords

We take pride in our outstanding reputation in the UK for conducting business following the highest principles of business ethics. Our dedication to honesty and full compliance with current laws and regulations underscores our commitment to responsible business practices.

We have been working on our sustainability journey adding to our list of certifications and memberships as detailed below. We are continually working hard to increase our certifications to provide more assurance to our customers.

1996 OEKO-TEX

Gained authorisation to The STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX®. A globally recognized testing and certification system for textile raw materials, intermediate and end products of all processing stages as well as used accessory materials.



2005 ISO 9001

Gained ISO 9001. A globally recognized standard to creating, implementing and maintaining a quality management system.



2009 BRCGS

Gained BRCGS. The Global Food Safety Standard for Packaging Materials.

2012 SEDEX

Became a SEDEX member. Company Number: ZC1013095. (Supplier Ethical Data Exchange)



2014 SMETA

First SMETA Audit completed. SMETA (Sedex Members Ethical Trade Audit) that encompasses all aspects of responsible business practice.



2023 ISO 14001

Gained ISO 14001. International standard for environmental management systems.

SMETA SMETA audit completed.



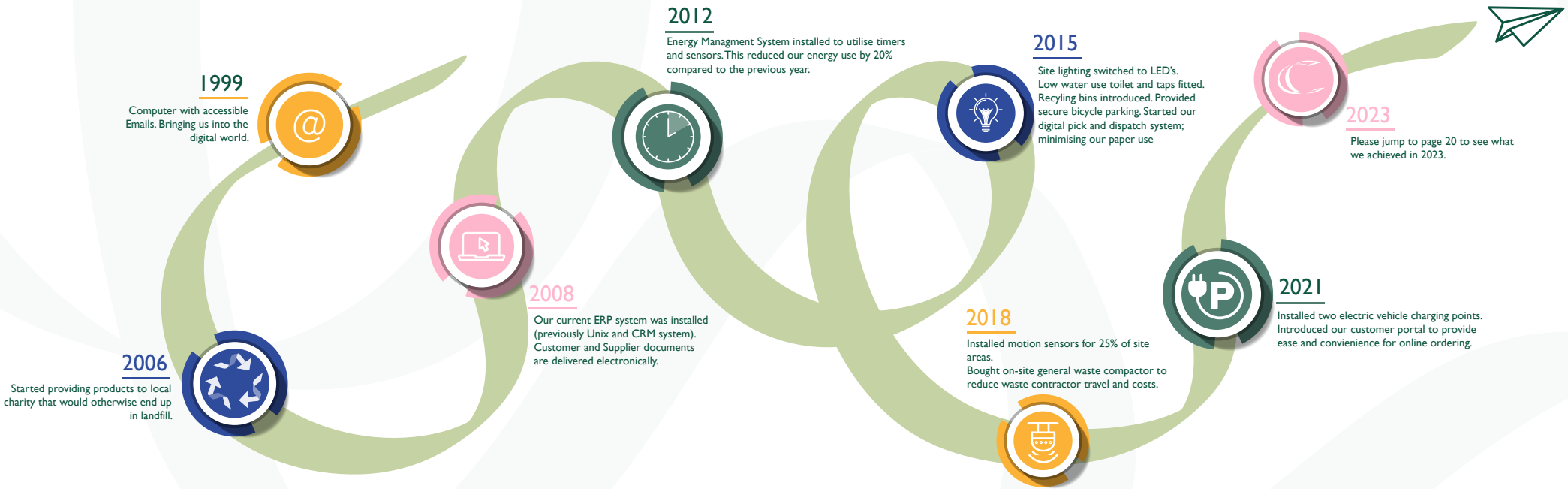
2019 ICO.

Gained our Data Protection certification.

ECOVADIS
Joined Ecovadis.



Our site efficiency and sustainability journey



Our Commitment to the Environment and Sustainability

We were very pleased to gain ISO:14001 in 2023, the recognised international standard for environmental management systems. This involved training all employees to collectively champion this standard, as not one person can do this on their own. We have made our commitment to sustainability part of our induction for new employees as this is an integral part of our company culture.

This report includes our second carbon footprint calculation that covers our Nottingham offices and factory operations. We dive deeper into our Scope 3 data to improve our understanding of our stakeholder activities too.

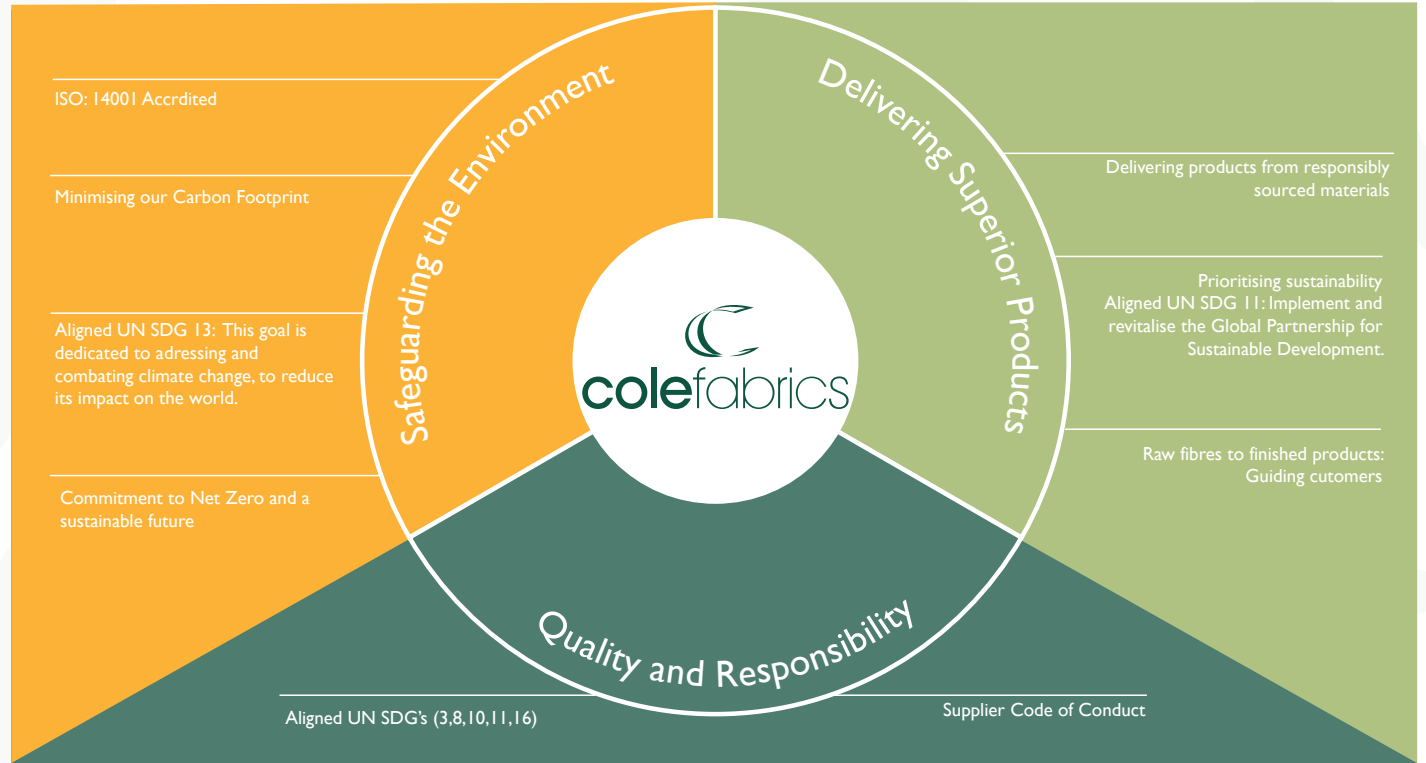
Due to our business size, there is no legal requirement for us to calculate our carbon footprint or publicly publish this data. However, we know how important this is and how monitoring our emissions empowers us to identify areas for improvement. By proudly and transparently reporting our carbon footprint each year, we set an example for other industries and businesses to follow.

It's with great pride that in this report we declare our commitment to transforming into a Net-Zero business, outlined on **page 14**. This bold initiative reflects our dedication to minimising our carbon footprint, prioritising sustainability, and contributing to a healthier planet. We understand the urgency of addressing environmental challenges, and this commitment signifies our active role in fostering a more sustainable and responsible business model.

Our Mission

Our Vision and Strategy are built on three key ambitions.

We are driven by doing business the right way; we believe in facilitating improvements and innovation to help manufacture the best materials without compromising the environment for the future.



Our Company Values

For each of our company values, we have aligned the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) to demonstrate our commitment to sustainability; highlighting our current and future actions to achieve these global objectives. Integrating the UN SDGs into our company's core values, our goal is to drive meaningful change and create a positive impact within the organisation and the community. We have aligned our business activities to the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) to report on our Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) on **page 18**, we have included the UN SDGs that collaborate with the GRI topics.

Our People



Our Community



Our Supply Chain



Our Planet



Our People



Our Aligned UN SDG Goals



We stand for equality and human rights across the company, ensuring the business can thrive. We aim to protect and empower all workers, and insist they have fair treatment and safe working conditions.

We promote a diverse and inclusive workplace ensuring everyone feels welcome and can thrive to their full potential.

- Women hold 27 % of the managerial roles
- 49 % of employees live within a 10 mile radius*

*Based on 72 % of employees completing a commuting survey for our 2023 carbon footprint.

People are at the core of our company, and we pride ourselves in the individual talent and unique skills they bring. We are proud to incorporate apprenticeships as part of our commitment to job creation and encouraging future employment opportunities.

We are committed to prioritising our staff's well-being and ensuring our health and safety practices surpass industry standards.

All staff have access to

- Counselling and Support Services
- 2 members of staff are mental health first aiders
- Employee Assistance Programme of up to 4 hours
- Perk box; a rewards and benefit platform
- External professional development opportunities
- Free seasonal fresh fruit to encourage healthy snacking
- Free bread, butter and jam to provided sustenance
- Profit sharing after the entitlement period

Internal Communications

We conduct two comprehensive performance evaluations each year to provide valuable feedback, cultivate continuous improvement, and support the professional development of our dedicated staff.

Before COVID-19 we performed company-wide weekly meetings that we only re-introduced in September 2023. These meetings allow us to provide regular strategy updates, what is happening for the week ahead and share any local incentives and awareness initiatives.

From 2024 onwards, we plan to use this meeting to share updates on our progress toward our Net Zero commitments outlined on **page 15**.

Our digital internal communication board is updated weekly, highlighting upcoming events, news updates and targets. We especially like to use this communication board for employees who allow us to celebrate their birthday with them - plus they get a free cake!

Training

We incorporate different training depending on the requirements of each staff member.

Mandatory Training

All staff members receive comprehensive training in company-wide policies, standards, and any relevant legal requirements. This ensures that everyone is well-versed in the protocols we must follow, promoting a consistent and compliant work environment.

Mentor Training / On-the-job training

Our culture emphasises the importance of helping and supporting each other in any training endeavours. We believe in providing cross-training opportunities to relevant staff members, ensuring they can support the team effectively. This approach not only enhances individual skills, but also strengthens the overall team by creating a collaborative and versatile work environment.

Choosing to Train

We encourage employees to inform us if there is any additional training they feel would benefit them. During performance evaluations, we include a specific question to ensure employees are asked about their training needs. This also includes externally financially supported courses that are relevant to the employee's role and development.

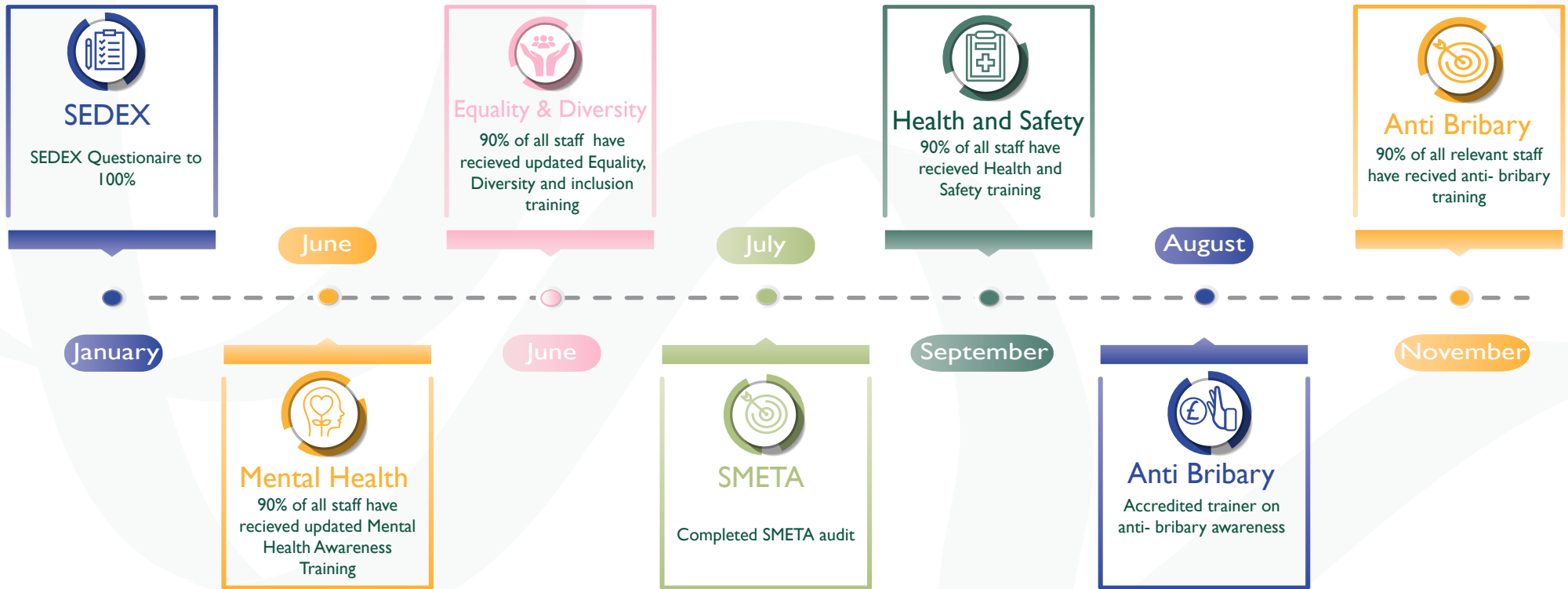
Our overall internal mandatory training adherence for 2023 was 94 %.

The reason this is not 100 % is due to employees who are absent from work for an extended period of time; this includes employees who are on maternity leave or long-term sick leave. Employees are provided with a full induction after such instances to ensure they are up to date with their training.

Our training covers, but is not limited to the following;

- Manual handling, and Health and Safety
- Fire Safety Awareness
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH)
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Site Security
- ISO 9001 Quality Management System
- ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems and Environmental Awareness
- BRC Hygiene
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and Mental Health Awareness
- Harassment Awareness and Anti-Bribery Awareness

Our completed 2023 Training Targets



Our Health and Safety Targets

We take health and safety very seriously as it underpins everything we do at Cole Fabrics. Here are our targets to reach by 2025.



These targets are as of the 31st December 2023

Our Health and Safety KPI's

	Accidents and Incidents	Reportable Incidents (RIDDOR)	Missed Days Through Injury	External Visits
2022	3	0	1	0
2023	12	0	0	1

Lean and Continuous Improvement

We persistently integrate lean principles into our organisational culture, providing the foundation for empowering our team members to drive meaningful improvements across all processes. This commitment ensures a continuous pursuit of efficiency, innovation, and excellence, shaping the very fabric of our dynamic workplace.

2023 Best Lean examples

Ribbon Hanks.

At the beginning of 2023, we engineered some brand-new machines to hank our ribbon to provide a more efficient way of manufacturing and reducing packaging. Our regular practice involves winding the ribbon around a cardboard core to create rolls. Once the desired length is achieved, the ribbon is cut and a sticky tab is added to secure the ribbon to prevent it from unravelling. The ribbon hanks, however, only require a label around the centre of the ribbon to secure it and prevent it from unravelling.

If we use the example of one standard 25 mm recycled polyester 5-metre ribbon, the hank packaging uses 95 % less than compared to the ribbon roll packaging. Our team did a LEAN assessment of how to package the hanks and procured inner boxes that our hanks fit beautifully into and consequently, the same can be said for the outer boxes- wasting no space so we aren't shipping fresh air. Taking the example above if we sell 1,000 hanks the transit packaging uses 20 % less compared to the equivalent ribbon roll transit packaging.

Our ribbon hanks help to eliminate 77% of packaging waste*.

*Based on the 25 mm recycled polyester 5-metre standard ribbon compared with our regular practice of producing ribbon rolls, this does not include the weight of the ribbon fabric.

Bin co-ordination.

We enhanced our environmental efforts by strategically colour-coordinating waste bins throughout our premises. This thoughtful initiative simplifies waste disposal, making it easier for everyone to distinguish and correctly dispose of waste in the designated bins. Contributing to our commitment to sustainability and responsible waste management. Compared to 2022, our recycling rate for 2023 increased by 1.8 %.

Looking to the future

-Set up an employee committee

-Implementing more waste streams within the business

-More Lean ideas throughout the business.

Our Community



Our Aligned UN SDG Goal



Charity Support

We proudly collaborate with the Rushcliffe Play Forum, a local charity, exclusively managed by dedicated volunteers. Through consistent weekly donations, we provide material that their members can purchase, cost-effectively, for arts and crafts. This initiative is more than philanthropy; it's a commitment to enhancing lives socially and physically while creating opportunities within and around our local community. We are delighted to have been supporting this charity for over a decade to contribute to a foundation of creativity, resilience, and community support.

For over 15 years we have actively contributed to the **Breast Cancer** campaign through the provision of the symbolic pink ribbon pins. This enduring commitment plays a crucial role in promoting awareness.

In December 2023 we raised over £100 for Save the Children's annual event that raises money for children in the UK and globally. We have been donating to this charity for over 10 years. We find joy in the festive spirit as our staff don their Christmas jumpers in support of this cause. Through this simple yet festive gesture, we contribute to the invaluable work of Save the Children.

Memberships

We are active members of the East Midland Chamber. This membership enhances our business by providing access to webinars presented by local businesses and experts in their fields, particularly on topics related to sustainability. Additionally, it offers valuable networking opportunities.

Looking to the future

- Continue current charity relationships
- Get involved in any local initiatives to help the local community

Our Supply Chain



Trading with Suppliers

We are a global business, and we operate to the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) base codes and are committed to responsible sourcing.

- We work closely with our supply partners and promote open and honest relationships.
- We validate our partners as part of our quality management system requirements, and these validations are refreshed every two years.
- We monitor our supply chain's certifications and seek further assurance where needed.
- We acknowledge our limited influence to drive industry-wide changes in this area, but we can selectively choose our partners who align with our own trading standards.

Our preferred supply partners will have at least one of the following

- ISO 9001 or similar Global Quality Management System
- Registered as a SEDEX member (Supplier Ethical Data Exchange)

We expect all supply partners to work within the parameters of the ETI:

- Employment is freely chosen.
- Freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining are respected.
- Working conditions are safe and hygienic.
- Child labour shall not be used.
- Living wages are paid.
- Work hours are not excessive.
- No discrimination is practiced.
- Regular employment is provided.
- No harsh or inhumane treatment is allowed.
- Open and honest information to our customers

Our Aligned UN SDG Goals



We sold products to customers in 51 countries in 2023,
Performed visit reports for 28 % of our Tier 1 suppliers.

Our customer satisfaction survey results revealed 73 % of our customers gave us a perfect score of 5 out of 5.

Our Customers and Products

Our goal is to provide the highest standards of customer service and support. We are committed to ensuring our products meet the specific needs of our customers while adhering to product safety standards and relevant compliance. Some customers require bespoke products, and our projects and design team proudly turn our customer visions into reality.

Our Supplier Code of Conduct

We created our first supplier code of conduct in 2023 and this was sent to tier 1 suppliers to determine which policies, standards and certifications they adhere to. We have also included the importance of environmental stewardship and how this is pivotal in minimising the global impact. This code of conduct allows us to understand where in their journey our suppliers are and how we can support them going forward. Upon request, we are pleased to provide customers with information on the specific supplier criteria under which their products are manufactured. We embrace transparency, and welcome customer audits into our supply chain. This practice is particularly significant as our diverse clientele often demand strict adherence to specific criteria, assuring compliance and regular audits of our supply chain.

Visiting suppliers

Our Environmental and Sustainability (E&S) Developer travelled to China, in November 2023, to understand how our supply chain operates. During this visit, our E&S developer conducted supplier visit reports, to document notice boards containing certificates, health and safety information etc. This educational initiative played a crucial role in enhancing transparency and accountability across our supply chain. The acquired knowledge has been invaluable; providing a profound understanding of the manufacturing processes behind our products and the environments in which they are created. This first-hand insight empowers us to make informed decisions, ensuring the ethical and sustainable production of our offerings.

Furthermore, this will empower our E&S developer to refine and advance our metrics, enabling a deeper understanding of our supply chain environmental impact in the future. By leveraging the insights gained from the exploration of the supply chain, we are better positioned to enhance the accuracy and effectiveness of our environmental assessments, ultimately contributing to more informed and sustainable business practices.

In addition our China and Europe based teams regularly visit and audit our supply chain.

Looking to the future

- Continue to improve traceability through our supply chain; mapping where our raw materials are sourced
- Increase collaboration on responsibly sourcing raw materials
- Map all our bought raw materials and packaging products to establish what certifications and accreditations they have.

Our Planet



Our Aligned UN SDG Goals



9.3 % decrease in our general waste compared to 2022 data.
 100 % of our waste is diverted from landfill compared to 2022.
 15.8 % absolute reduction in our total greenhouse gas emissions compared to 2022.

In recognising the impact of our decisions on both people and the planet, we have consistently integrated sustainability into our product development. Our commitment to excellence extends beyond product innovation, as we actively collaborate with suppliers; sharing knowledge and expertise to enhance the overall sustainability of our offerings. The sense of satisfaction is profound as we source a growing portfolio of sustainable options.

Our Carbon Footprint

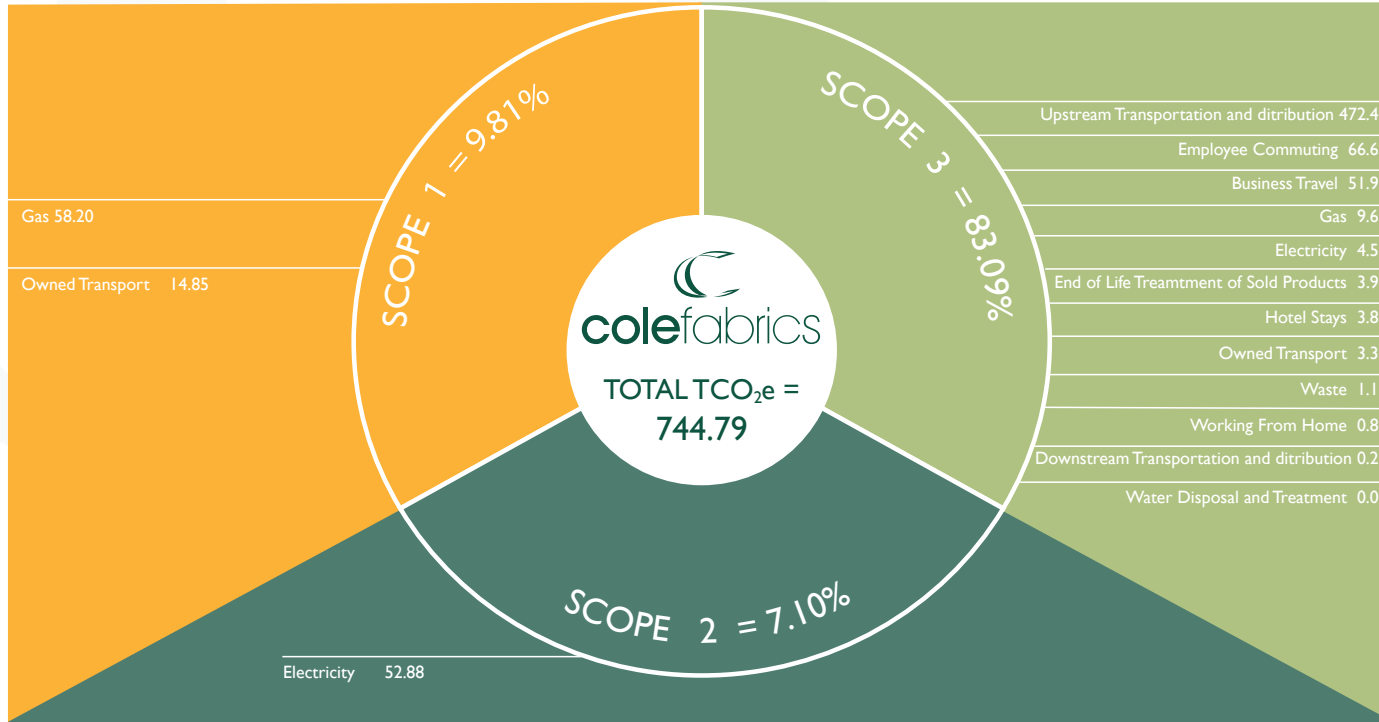
Our first documented carbon footprint report was conducted and supported by Nottingham Trent University in 2022. They performed our scope 1 and 2 for 2021 and 2022 to capture comparable data to see if we had decreased our annual Carbon Dioxide equivalent (CO₂e). This preliminary report included some of the relevant scope 3 categories where the data was easily accessible.

We maintain a commitment to transparency by openly reporting on our scope 1 and scope 2 information, along with the relevant scope 3 data in accordance with the greenhouse gas (GHG) protocol. Recognising the varying relevance of scope 3 categories to different businesses, we have identified those that are applicable to our operations, and currently, we have data for 7 of these scope 3 categories. We are actively engaged in the process of obtaining more information as this will allow for accurate and complete data. There are, however, limitations to the GHG conversion factors that are publicly available from the UK Government, as they do not yet have a complete set of data to calculate all scope 3 categories.

Scope 3 categories that have been included in the graph on the next page are:

- Fuel and energy-related activities
- Upstream transportation and distribution
- Waste
- Business Travel
- Employee commuting
- Downstream transportation and distribution
- End of life treatment of sold products

Our 2023 Carbon Emissions by Scope TCO₂e



Our Yearly Total Carbon Emission Figures

Year	TCO ₂ e
2021	913.03*
2022	907.08*
2023	744.79

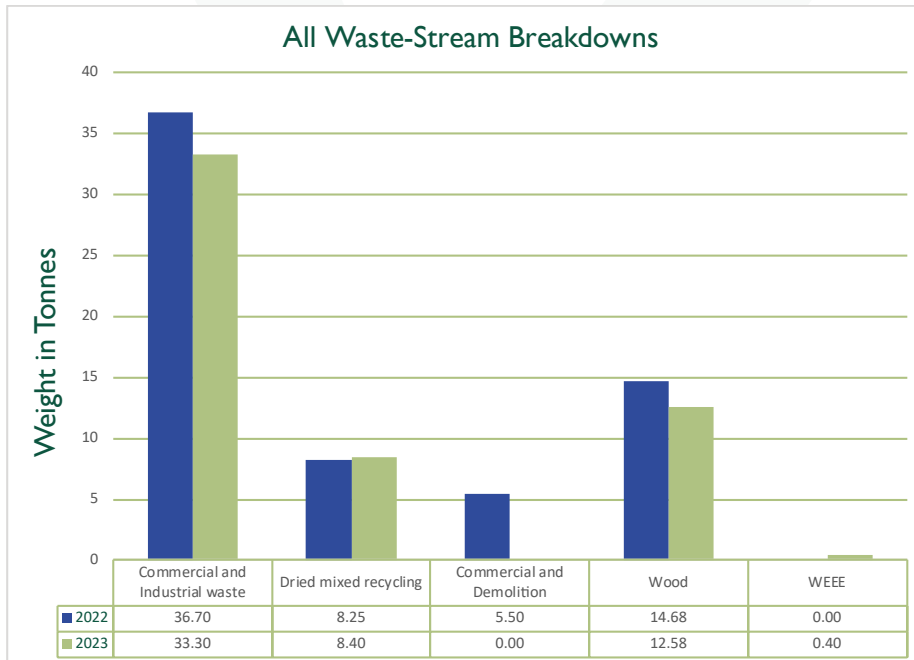
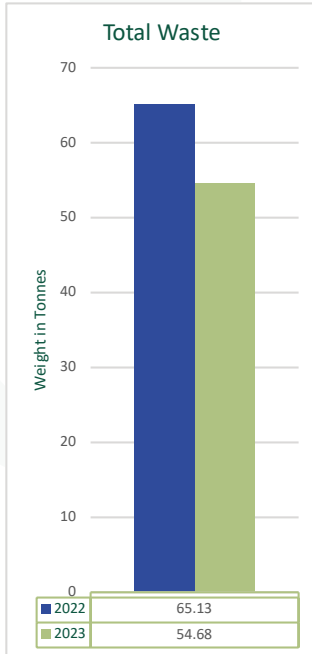
* Includes recalculation of upstream freighting data; using more accurate data to capture total carbon emissions.

Our 2023 percentage breakdown of Carbon Emissions in TCO₂e *



*Categories below 1% have not been included in the graph above. These include: Downstream Transportation and Distribution, Water and Wastewater, and Working from home.

Our Waste Breakdown



Net Zero 2050

What is Net Zero?

Simply put, the balance between the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced is removed, leaving zero emissions in the atmosphere.

How did Net Zero 2050 come about?

The UK government passed the Climate Change Act in 2008, and this law committed to reducing the UK's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 80 % by 2050, compared to 1990 levels. In June 2019, the UK government amended the above 2008 legislation to reduce GHG emissions by 100 % from 1990 levels by 2050.

The Paris Agreement 2015, adopted at COP21, the overarching goal was to reach a legally binding agreement to limit the global temperature increase to no more than 1.5 °C. Crossing this limit, as described by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), would unleash far more severe impacts on our climate- including biodiversity loss, and extreme weather conditions. The Paris Agreement also stated that by 2030 emissions need to be reduced by 45 % by 2030 and reach zero emissions by 2050.

Our Commitment to Net Zero

As we undertake the ambitious initiative of achieving net zero by 2050, our commitment serves as the cornerstone of our transformative efforts. Grounded in a vision of sustainability, we are firm in our dedication to adopting strategic measures that propel us toward a net zero future. This commitment is not merely a pledge; it embodies a dynamic evolution, showcasing our determination to positively impact the environment and contribute to a more sustainable world. Since we cannot do this alone, we invite all our stakeholders to join us on this impactful journey.

However, we understand and acknowledge factors beyond our control and the broader need for investment in innovation to pave the way forward to aid in reducing global greenhouse gas emissions. Creating our roadmap to net zero 2050 has been established with infrastructure being in place to enable our milestones to be completed. We will update our roadmap with our progress and report on this within our annual sustainability reports going forward. To construct our roadmap to net zero, on the next page, we are using 2021 as our Net Zero base year and we have plotted out our trajectory to reach our net zero goal. To be on track, we must halve our base year emissions by 2030, and we hope to eliminate at least 90 % of our emissions by 2050.

Our Roadmap to Net Zero



By 2025

- 50 % of our core stock range of polyester ribbon to be made of 100 % post-consumer mechanically recycled polyester.
- Switch the company van to a lower emission option.
- UK procured secondary and tertiary plastic packaging to contain at least 30 % recycled content.
- Source 100 % deforestation-free timber products and packaging (certified to FSC or PEFC)



By 2028

- Switch to a 100 % renewable energy tariff
- 50 % of tertiary packaging to be circular
- Educate key suppliers in reducing the use of fossil fuels as raw materials and as energy
- Start sourcing regenerative materials for products
- Solar panels installed to provide our site with at least 10% of renewable electricity.



By 2030

- 100 % of all core stock products created from recycled or regenerative materials
- Know our core stock product's environmental impact and make this data visible to our customers to allow them to make informed decisions.
- 100 % circular packaging procured for primary, secondary and tertiary level
- Start the process of replacing our main building roof



By 2050

- Reach Net Zero emissions
- All packaging to be part of the circular economy
- Solar panels installed to provide our site with at least 70% of renewable electricity.

Our Net Zero Trajectory



Sustainable Materials

For over 20 years, we have been intricately weaving sustainability into our products. Our determined efforts have culminated in the curation of our sustainable range. This collection embodies our commitment to sourcing raw materials exclusively from certified regenerative or recyclable sources, steering clear of fossil fuels.

- Chemically recycled polyester
- Mechanically recycled polyester
- Tencel™
- Paper
- Organic and Recycled Cotton
- Acetate

To find more information on these materials, please follow this link: <https://sustainable.ribbon.com/>

The table below shows our 2023 raw material sales breakdown by weight.

Material	Percentage
Polyester	42%
Cotton*	33%
Recycled Polyester	16%
Acetate	4%
Tencel	3%
Nylon	2%

*This includes GOTS, BCI, Recycled and Virgin

Polyester Core-Stock Products

The polyester core stock packaging product sales, using the breakdown by weight is as follows:

	Year	
	2022	2023
Recycled Polyester	17%	31%
Polyester	83%	69%

By 2025, our aim is to phase out virgin polyester yarn by 50% within our core stock range.

Circularity In Textiles

We recognise that recycling our products with textile waste could offer a straightforward end-of-life solution. However, the majority of our products have small dimensions and pose a challenge as they can become entangled, potentially disrupting the machinery used for recycling larger textiles. This underscores a global need for improved infrastructure to effectively manage textile waste.

We enthusiastically welcome the UK government's consultation on the textile waste hierarchy as a positive step towards addressing these challenges and fostering sustainable solutions for the future. To read about this consultation please use this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/waste-prevention-programme-for-england-2021/outcome/summary-of-responses#chapter-6-textiles>

We promote the reuse of our products, from decorating a gift to being a hair tie. However, to responsibly dispose of these items at their end of life they must currently be put into general waste bins.

Looking to the future

- Continually measure the rate at which carbon emissions are reduced annually, ensuring steady progress towards the goal of Net Zero by 2050.
- Continually reduce the amount of waste created.
- For all our core stock polyester products to be made from post-consumer 100 % mechanically recycled yarn.
- Breakdown our Cotton products data into GOTS, BCI, Recycled and Virgin materials.

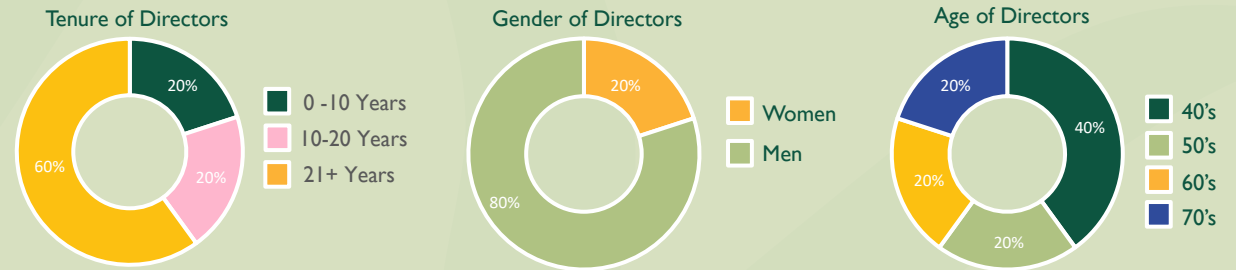


Our Governance

The Board of Directors are engaged in all matters, especially those concerning sustainability. Meeting once a month to ensure the strategy is in alignment with company goals. Additionally, tasked with the critical responsibility of overseeing and monitoring the management of the company. The Board of Directors duties include:

1. Corporate Strategy and Organisational Structure: Making decisions on the overarching corporate strategy; ensuring alignment with the company's goals, including climate-related risks and opportunities, and determining the organisational structure to support the strategic objectives.
2. Finance and Accounting Oversight: Providing supervision and guidance on financial matters, including budgetary decisions, financial reporting, and adherence to accounting principles.
3. Quarterly Investment Budgets: Playing a crucial role in determining and approving budgets. This involves evaluating proposed investments, considering financial implications, and ensuring alignment with the strategic objectives.

Composition of the Board of Directors



Our Global Reporting Initiative

GRI Number	GRI Topic	Business Alignment to GRI	UN SDG	Business Alignment to UN SDG	Page Report
103	Management Approach	We have adopted a comprehensive management approach to address ESG issues, integrating environmental and sustainability into our corporate strategy and operations; to address climate-related risks and opportunities. Investing in new technologies and processes- including energy efficiency, and approaches to recycling and reusing materials; products and packaging.	12	-Promotes sustainable consumption and production patterns	16
			13	-Taking action to combat climate change	13
			16	-Promotes effective, accountable and transparent business operations and stakeholder engagement	10
			17	-We are committed to building effective partnerships for sustainable development	11
301	Materials	We disclose the types and percentage quantities of materials used in our onsite manufacturing process We have stated our stance on the materials we source and the sustainable practices we follow to reduce environmental impacts	9	-Contribute to fostering innovation within the sector	16
			11	-Procuring sustainable materials to minimise environmental impact	13
			13	-Reduce the environmental impacts of our materials; minimising the resilience on fossil-fuel based materials	17

GRI Number	GRI Topic	Business Alignment to GRI	UN SDG	Business Alignment to UN SDG	Page Report
302	Energy	We report on our energy within scope 1 and 2 of our carbon footprint and aim to reduce our emissions annually	7	-Improving energy efficiency and reducing our GHG emissions -Adopting more sustainable energy sources to minimise environmental impact -Improving energy efficiency within the business to mitigate GHG emissions.	13
			11		13
			13		
304	Biodiversity	We are committed to responsible sourcing, preservation and minimising our ecological footprint; ensuring our suppliers are aware of these practices too	15	-Promoting the conservation of aiding and restoring ecosystems	11
306	Waste	We report on our waste management, showing the weights for the different waste streams	12	-Improving our waste streams and reducing our waste generation.	14
401	Employment	We promote diversity, equal opportunities and fair labour practices within our workforce. We provide free fruit, bread, butter and jam to contribute to our employee	8	-Inclusive, sustainable local economic growth promoting decent work for all. -Promoting healthy snacking and ensuring employees have access to a meal throughout the working day -Ensuring equal pay for equal work and fostering an inclusive workplace culture.	5
			2		
403	Health and Safety	We are committed to the health and safety of our workforce; this is pivotal to ensuring everyone is safe and promotes well-being for all	3	-Promotes healthy lives and includes efforts to minimise workplace accidents and injuries	7
404	Training and Education	We invest in employee training and development to enhance skills and promote lifelong learning	4	-Contributing to ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all -Reducing inequalities by promoting equal access to education and lifelong learning -Providing skills and knowledge to employees to address sustainability challenges.	6
			10		
			17		
414	Supplier Social Assessment	We provide a self-assessment questionnaire annually to all our suppliers to ensure compliance with labour standards and human rights principles	10	-Holding suppliers accountable for fair treatment of staff and promoting ethical business practice -Ensure that our supply chain aligns with sustainable consumption and best practices -Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies through responsible business conduct -Strengthening global partnerships for sustainable development	11
			12		
			16		
			17		
416	Customer Health and Safety	We are committed to product safety and quality. We ensure that our products are REACH compliant and for the products that need further certification the industry standard testing is conducted.	3	-Ensuring that our products are safe, effective and promote quality	11

We are aware of the GRI sector development standard for textiles during 2024-2026. We look forward to aligning our business ESG with the standard once it is published.

Our Achievements in 2023

- Gathered data for the Sustainability Consultancy at NTU to perform our first carbon footprint for 2021 and 2022. This included our full scope 1 and 2 emissions plus 5 categories from scope 3 emissions.
- Signed up to the National Packaging waste database as an individual company, not with a compliance scheme. Empowering us with the knowledge of our obligations within our operations.
- Upgraded our heating management system to an intelligent energy management system. This smart upgrade allows for the system to monitor, control, and adapt to patterns to optimise energy usage.
- Instigated an external water audit to see where we could improve. We were pleased that this audit showed no new recommendations for us across our site.
- Created our first Corporate Social Responsibility report.
- Kept up to date with EPR and business readiness forums provided by DEFRA.
- Continued contribution to research groups for ongoing optimisation of EPR data collection and Plastic Packaging tax user interface options.
- Revamped our sustainable ribbon website.
- Added more paper products to our collection.
- Hired our Compliance Manager- created a digital integrated management system.
- Confirmed from our waste contractor that we are a zero-waste-to-landfill company.
- Passed our ISO 14001 Environmental Management System audit.
- Bought a new Hybrid van- Delivery in January 2024!
- Met with a local councillor to discuss what the council is doing for local businesses and employees to help reduce everyone's carbon footprint.
- Drafted our procurement and purchasing policy and completed our Supplier Code of Conduct

Cole Fabrics
Romandus House
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West Bridgford
Nottingham
NG2 6HF

Dear Cole Fabrics team

On behalf of Breast Cancer Now I would like to say a huge thank you to Cole Fabrics for your continued support of our work. Since teaming up with us, your generous donations of pink ribbons have been used at numerous Breast Cancer Now events including our Pink Ribbon Walks, Walk 100 Miles challenge, The Women's Tour and our annual fashion event, The Show. Your ribbons have given our supporters the opportunity to share their stories, motivations and memories of loved ones. For our Pink Ribbon Walks, these messages of strength, hope and solidarity for people who have been, and continue to be, affected by breast cancer form a powerful and moving backdrop to the start and finish of the Walks.

I am delighted to share with you that Cole Fabrics' support has helped raise over £11.5 million for Breast Cancer Now. This is a staggering amount that has helped to power our world-class research and provide even more life-changing care for people affected by breast cancer.

At Breast Cancer Now we're determined to make sure anyone affected by the disease gets the best possible treatment and care. We're working side by side with hospitals and their patients to improve breast cancer services.

By supporting Breast Cancer Now, you are helping us take another step towards our goal that by 2050, everyone who develops breast cancer lives – and is supported to live well.

Thank you once again for your generosity. We couldn't achieve our goals without the support of people like you and I hope that we continue to work together in the future.

Warmest wishes,

Rachael Franklin
Director of Fundraising, Communications and Engagement

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