

Starbank Panel Products Limited



Qualifying Explanatory Statement in Support of PAS 2060:2014 Other-party Validation

November 2021

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1. Introduction

This document forms the Qualifying Explanatory Statement (QES) to demonstrate that Starbank Panel Products Limited has achieved carbon neutrality in accordance with PAS 2060:2014 on the 9th November 2021 for the period commencing 1st September 2020 – 31st August 2021.

This has been achieved through:

- Heavy investment in decarbonising internal emission sources
- Offsetting emissions from the purchase of high-quality carbon credits that represent genuine, additional and permanent GHG emission reductions as recognised by the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS)

This Qualifying Explanatory Statement contains information pertaining to the subject's carbon neutrality. All information represented in this document is believed to be correct at the time of publishing. Should any information emerge that affects the integrity of this report, it will be updated to accurately reflect the current status of any carbon-neutral statement made by Starbank Panel Products Limited.

PAS 2060 Requirement	Response
Entity making PAS 2060 declaration:	Starbank Panel Products (03219930)
Subject of PAS 2060 declaration:	All offices and commercial premises for which Starbank Panel Products Limited has financial control of energy consumption, as well as all leased vehicles and associated grey fleet. This assessment only covers UK-based emissions.
Description of subject:	Starbank Panel products Ltd is a family owned and run business. They have been manufacturing bespoke decorative, architectural and commercial panel furniture products since 1976. They have built up a strong industry presence as fabricators of high quality, value driven decorative panel products across three distinct areas: Fit-out panel furniture components Fire doors, frames & panels Lightweight composite panels.
Rationale for selection of the subject:	The scope and subject of this PAS 2060 includes all emissions based on the operational control principle defined in the 2014 WRI GHG Protocol - Corporate Accounting Standard.

Type of conformity assessment:	Other-party validation
Baseline date for PAS 2060 programme:	1 st September 2020 – 31 st August 2021
Individuals responsible for the evaluation and provision of data necessary for declaration:	Reiss Hilton (<i>Low-Carbon Consultant</i>) Phil Darbyshire (<i>Managing Director</i>)

2. Declaration of Achievement of Carbon Neutrality

PAS 2060 Requirement	Response
Declaration of achievement:	Carbon neutrality of all UK operations achieved by Starbank Panel Products Limited in accordance with PAS 2060 on 9 th November 2021 for the period commencing 1 st September 2020 – 31 st August 2021, validated by Energy Gain UK Ltd
Location-based (gross) carbon footprint of the subject for the period stated above:	447.5 tCO₂e
Which PAS 2060 recognised methodology has been followed to achieve carbon neutrality?	WRI Greenhouse Gas Protocol: Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (revised edition 2015)
How have the reductions in GHG emissions during the period been achieved?	Internal reductions in conjunction with carbon offsetting through verified VCS projects
Location of the GHG emissions report supporting this claim:	Section 4
Locations of the details describing internal reductions achieved:	Section 5
Location of the details describing the carbon offsets:	Section 5

Name of senior representative	Signature of senior representative
Name: Phil Darbyshire (Starbank Panel Products Ltd)	
Date: 18/03/22	

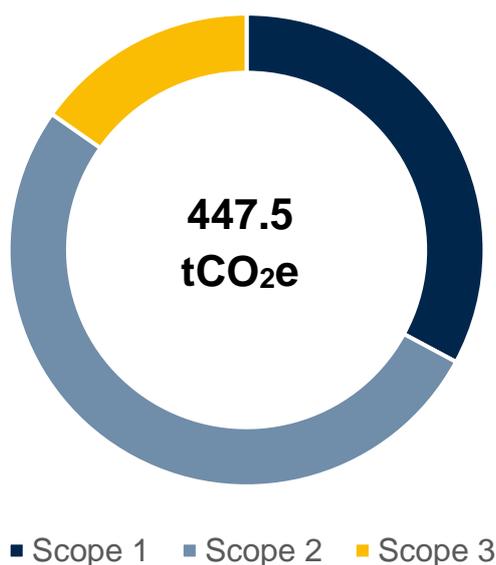
3. Declaration of Commitment to Carbon Neutrality

PAS 2060 Requirement	Response
Declaration of on-going commitment:	Starbank Panel Products commits to maintain carbon neutrality for all UK operations in accordance with PAS 2060 for the period commencing 1 st September 2021.
Period during which the entity commits to maintaining carbon neutrality of the subject:	1 st September 2021 – 31 st August 2022
Which method, as recognised by PAS 2060, will be followed to achieve carbon neutrality?	WBCSD/WRI Greenhouse Gas Protocol: Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (revised edition, 2015)
Prior commitment to carbon neutrality made by the subject:	None
Location of the Carbon Footprint Management plan:	Section 5

Name of senior representative	Signature of senior representative
Name: Phil Darbyshire (Starbank Panel Products)	
Date: 18/03/22	

4. Quantification of Carbon Footprint

PAS 2060 requires that every individual/organisation provides an appropriate emissions breakdown (by scope) in their Qualifying Explanatory Statement (QES) in accordance with Greenhouse Gas Protocol Guidelines. Organisational footprints should cover at least 95% of the organisation's carbon scope 1 and 2 emissions. Scope 3 emissions should also be included, if feasible. If excluded, a justification should be provided (see Appendix C).



GHG Emissions Scope	Description	Total Emissions for baseline period (tCO ₂ e)
Scope 1	<i>Direct emissions from the combustion of diesel, biomass and natural gas</i>	147.1
Scope 2	<i>Indirect emissions from the consumption of electricity</i>	232.2
Scope 3	<i>Other indirect emissions the methods of employee commuting</i>	68.2
Location-based (gross) Total		447.5

Standard and Methodology Used

Starbank Panel Products Limited categorises its GHG emissions as Scope 1, 2 and 3 as described in the WBCSD/WRI Greenhouse Gas Protocol Reporting standard (revised edition, 2015). Emissions have been calculated as tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) for scope 1, 2 and selected scope 3 sources using conversion factors listed in the relevant Defra/DECC Greenhouse Gas Conversion Factors for Company Reporting for the relevant year. All scope 2 emissions are calculated using the location-based methodology.

Data Quality

Only primary data, for GHG emissions sources contributing over 90% of the total footprint, was used. This was derived from invoices and fuel consumption figures covering the reporting period. The emissions factors were sourced from the appropriate national databases. This allows for very high confidence in the data. Wherever uncertainty exists, efforts have been made not to underestimate the actual carbon footprint of the given activity. In total, over 95% of carbon emissions are accounted for within the defined scopes and boundary as required by PAS 2060.

Key Assumptions

Vehicle Mileage

Where the litres of fuel used by vehicles owned/operated by the company could not be determined directly, the appropriate calculations were made to establish a total. This was achieved by dividing the price paid at pump by the price charged per litre. All data was calculated using appropriate emission factors corresponding to the correct fuel.

Commuting Mileage

Private vehicle usage for commuting purposes is accounted for in the Scope 3 emission data. Where miles could not be determined directly, the appropriate online map or distance-based calculators were used as found appropriate under the Greenhouse Gas Protocol: Technical Guidance for Calculating Scope 3 Emissions. The number of commuting days were determined through internal data logging and attendance systems.

Exclusions

Certain Scope 3 emissions sources have been excluded on the grounds of technical and/or financial feasibility. See Appendix C.

5. Carbon Footprint Management Plan

PAS 2060 Requirement	Response
Timescale for achieving carbon neutrality:	Through the use of offsets, carbon neutrality will be achieved on the 9 th November 2021 for the baseline period 1 st September 2020 – 31 st August 2021.
Targets for GHG reduction for the defined subject appropriate to the timescale for achieving carbon neutrality:	For the baseline period, all GHG emissions shall be mitigated through the use of carbon offsets. Until the first recertification period of PAS 2060, Starbank Panel Products Limited shall demonstrate a reduction in its GHG emissions.
Planned means of achieving and maintaining GHG reductions including assumptions made and any justification of the techniques and measures to be employed to reduce GHG emissions:	<p data-bbox="810 831 1094 864"><u>Previous action taken</u></p> <ul data-bbox="858 902 1390 1384" style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.95 MWp biomass boiler that utilises production waste/off-cuttings • 249.6 kWp solar photovoltaic system • Low voltage substation with voltage optimisation, increasing energy efficiency • Power factor correction to reduce reactive power loss • Intelligent LED system • Ecogate VSD technology for efficiency optimisation in extraction processes • Energy probing to find and target areas of high consumption <p data-bbox="810 1417 1374 1480"><u>Emissions Reduction Plan for Commitment Period</u></p> <ul data-bbox="858 1518 1390 1957" style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider supplementary solar PV generation using free roof space and a possible building extension • Invest in systems across the site to enable more accurate monitoring of energy consumption (including sub-metering) • Invest in a phased roll out of EV charging infrastructure and consider use of the Salary Sacrifice Scheme to promote the use of a cleaner fleet and support staff in the transition to greener commuting methods

<p>If the entity has made offsets to achieve carbon neutrality, a description of these should be provided here. Information should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which GHG emissions have been offset • The type of offset and projects involved • The scheme through which the offsets were made • The number and type of carbon credits alongside the time period over which the credits were generated and the date(s) of their retirement 	<p>The cumulative total of 447.5 tCO₂e from scope 1, 2 & 3 activities was offset by the purchase and retirement of 448 carbon credits.</p> <p>Type of offset: 448 VCUs</p> <p>Name of project: Maharashtra Wind Project (VCS 1447)</p> <p>Location: India</p> <p>Vintage: 2021</p> <p>Description: See Appendix A</p> <p>Retirement date: 18/02/2022</p>
<p>The offset strategy to be adopted to meet the achievement of carbon neutrality element of PAS 2060. This should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An estimate of the quantity of GHG emissions to be offset • The nature of the offsets • The likely number and type of credits 	<p>Starbank Panel Products Limited has a strategy in place that prioritises energy efficiency and procurement of low carbon energy over the acquisition of carbon credits. There is an interim need for offset credits, however, as more emission reduction plans are put in place this dependency will decrease.</p> <p>Any offsets purchased in the future will be from specified and audited sources that are recognised under the PAS 2060:2014 standard.</p>
<p>What type of conformity assessment has been undertaken?</p>	<p>Energy Gain UK Ltd certifies that it has correctly calculated Starbank Panel Product Limited's carbon footprint for the period between 1st September 2020 – 31st August 2021 and has satisfactorily offset all residual emissions to achieve carbon neutrality, in accordance with PAS 2060:2014.</p>

Appendix A - Carbon Offsetting Strategy

The following information covers the confirmed offset strategy for the period of carbon neutrality. Investment has been made in high-quality, third-party assessed **Verified Carbon Standard (VCS)** carbon offsets that are aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These standards ensure that the generated carbon credits are from projects that are both additional and permanent. All VCS projects are subject to desk and field audits by both qualified independent third parties and VCS staff to ensure that standards are met, and methodologies are properly applied. The issued credits are then stored in the Verra registry that tracks the generation, retirement, and transferal of all carbon credits. **448 credits** relating to the baseline period emissions were purchased and retired. The details of the project can be found below:

119.70 MWp Wind Project in Maharashtra , India

The registry report can be found at the following link:

<https://registry.verra.org/app/projectDetail/VCS/1447>

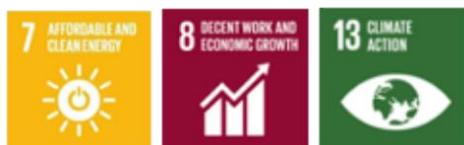
Description

The Project has 40 Wind Turbines of individual capacity 2MW each and 57 Wind Turbines of individual capacity 2.1 MW each in Maharashtra state of India. The utilises wind energy to generate electricity and supply it to distribution licences which is a part of the NEWNE (Northern, Eastern, Western and North-Eastern) grid of India. In the absence of Project activity, quantity of the electricity that would be delivered by the Project activity to the NEWNE grid would be sourced from the existing grid-connected power plants and future capacity additions to meet the growing electricity requirements. Thus, the project activity reduces the dependency on fossils fuels which are predominantly used for electricity generation in India and helps reduction of climate change impacts.

The Project activity is expected to supply 372.791 GWh of energy to the NEWNE Grid of India each year. This is expected to result in emission reductions of 364,217 tCO₂e per year of operation.

Certified SDG Impacts

This project contributes to the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's):



Appendix B - Summary of Carbon Credit Retirement

The following information details the retirement of the carbon credits used to offset emissions for the baseline period. A total of 448 credits were retired on the 18th February 2022, within the 12-month timeframe allowable under PAS 2060. Credit retirements are done by a third-party and the credit block details can be found below:

Project ID	Standard	Vintage	Quantity	Serial Number
VCS 1447	VCS	2021	448	12007-374276406-374276853-VCS-VCU-1423-VER-IN-1-1447-01012021-30092021-0





Verified Carbon Standard

Certificate of Verified Carbon Unit (VCU) Retirement

Verra, in its capacity as administrator of the Verra Registry, does hereby certify that on 18 Feb 2022, 448 Verified Carbon Units (VCUs) were retired on behalf of:

Starbank Panel Products Ltd (03219930)

Project Name
199.70 MW Wind Project in Maharashtra by BWDPL

VCU Serial Number
12007-374276406-374276853-VCS-VCU-1423-VER-IN-1-1447-01012021-30092021-0

Additional Certifications

Powered by  APX

A certificate of achievement of carbon neutrality can be found below:

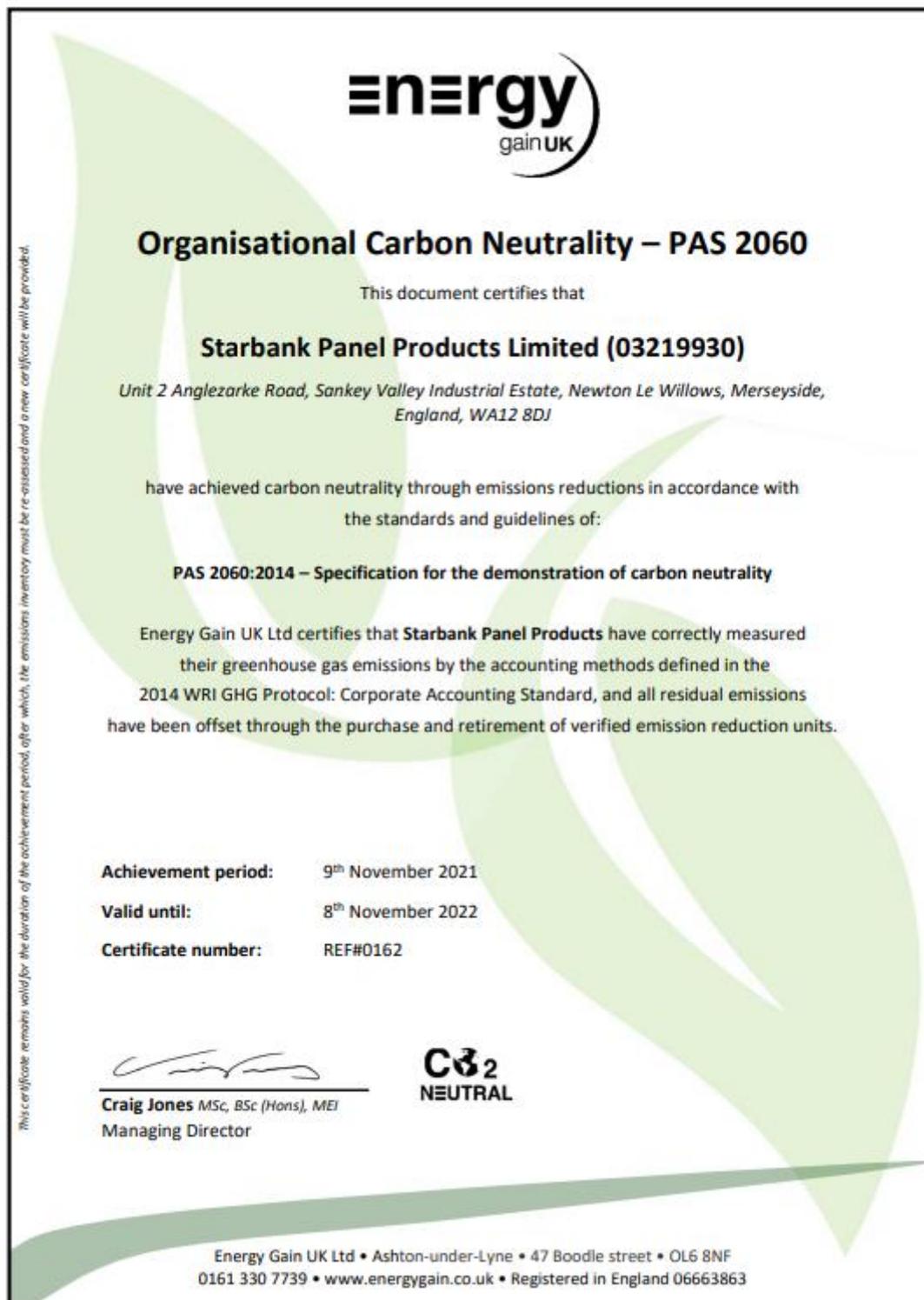


Figure 1: Achievement of Operational Carbon Neutrality in accordance with PAS 2060;2014 (CERT – REF#0162) issued by Energy Gain UK Limited

Appendix C - Scope 3 Emissions

All scope 3 emissions that are relevant to the operations of Starbank Panel Products Limited are identified below, along with the justification of exclusion. The scope 3 emission sources that have been included are those that Starbank Panel Products Limited has the most amount of control over and is able to report to the greatest level of accuracy.

Emission Source	Description	Reported
<i>Employee Commuting</i>	Transportation of employees between their homes and their worksites during the reporting year in vehicles not owned or operated by the reporting company	<u><i>Included</i></u> Commuting of all employees employed for the full period of measurement have been accounted for
<i>Business Travel</i>	Transportation of employees for business related activities during the reporting year in vehicles not owned or operated by the company.	<u><i>Included</i></u> Emissions associated to business travel on land by Field Sales Associates have been accounted for
<i>Upstream/Downstream Transportation and Distribution</i>	Transportation and distribution of products purchased/sold by the reporting company in the reporting year between the company's tier 1 suppliers/consumers.	<u><i>Excluded</i></u> Transport emissions from products and services purchased is not financially viable to measure and report
<i>Waste Generated in Operations</i>	These are the emissions related to the different disposal methods of all waste generated from the reporting company's operations where the disposal/treatment has occurred in premises not owned or controlled by the reporting company.	<u><i>Excluded</i></u> Due to data quality, it was determined that it is not currently technically viable to report on emissions associated with waste generated by operations. However, this element is expected to be minimal as a majority of internal waste streams act as a feedstock for the biomass system. N.B. Biomass emissions are accounted for in Scope 1