

# CALIFORNIA AB 1305 DISCLOSURE



Sidley Austin LLP is committed to continuously improving our business operations to lessen our impact on both the local and global environment. We are also dedicated to doing our part to ensure a sustainable future, conducting business in a responsible and mindful way that creates long-term value for our people, clients, and communities. We aim to minimize our impact on the environment by setting ambitious climate commitments to reduce our carbon emissions, as well as by creating a more sustainable workplace and culture across our global firm.

While it takes many factors to successfully achieve these commitments, Sidley recognizes transparency is an essential element. The California Health and Safety Code (AB 1305) requires businesses marketing or selling voluntary carbon offsets (VCOs) or making certain claims within the state to disclose key information to support its investments in achieving its climate goals.

Sidley purchases and uses VCOs to assist in achieving its commitment to climate goals, including making a meaningful reduction to our greenhouse gas emissions.

Vintage Year	Retired Year	Entity Selling Offset	Offset Registry/ Program	ID	Name	Country	Project Type	Additional Certification
Jan. 18– Dec. 2023	2023	Wildlife Works Carbon LLC	Verra	934	The Mai Ndombe REDD+ Project	The Democratic Republic of Congo	REDD+ Project; Agriculture Forestry and Other Land Use	CCB-Biodiversity Gold; CCB-Climate Gold
2020	2022	Asociación para la Investigación y Desarrollo Integra	Verra	1067	Tambopata Project	Peru	REDD+ Project; Climate, Social Development, and Biodiversity Conservation	AIDER; CCB

## CLIMATE GOALS

Sidley has made several commitments to climate goals to improve and create a sustainable future. In alignment with science-based targets, our ambition is to reach net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across our operations and services by 2050, with a short-term goal to reduce Scope 1, 2, and 3 GHG emissions by 55% or more by 2030. In 2022, we achieved carbon neutrality in our direct operations by using 100% renewable electricity to power our data centers and, increasingly, our offices; leveraging renewable energy credits for energy usage in our other leased spaces; and by purchasing high-quality, REDD+ carbon credits equivalent to our Scope 1 emissions. As a result of these commitments, California requires us to disclose certain information that substantiate these claims.

### (I) CARBON NEUTRALITY

In 2019, Sidley committed to achieving carbon neutrality in our direct business operations. In 2022, we successfully achieved our target—meeting the first of our climate commitments based in part on reliance on VCOs.

These ambitions were achieved through the changes to business sources and energy practices as described in further detail in [this report](#).

To achieve carbon neutrality, Sidley purchased and incorporated high-quality, jurisdictional REDD+ carbon offsets equivalent to our Scope 1 emissions for the 2022 reporting cycle. Sidley invested in renewable energy credits and has supported the development of many renewable energy projects. Our renewable energy credits include wind, biomass, and hydro-electric projects and are located in China, Germany, Malaysia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. These steps make Sidley's direct operations carbon neutral. Sidley does not know if the vendors of the REDD+ carbon offsets use third-party verification/validation of project attributes.

## **(II) REDUCTION TO ITS GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

Sidley has undertaken several measures to achieve our goal of reducing GHG emissions by 55% against a 2019 baseline year. Between 2019 and 2022, Sidley has made significant progress toward this goal by reducing over 12,747 tCO<sub>2</sub>e as described in further detail in [this report](#). Our progress, resulting in a 25.4% reduction in our carbon footprint, has been achieved by transitioning to 100% renewable electricity for our buildings, improving office energy efficiencies, and reducing air travel and commuting. Sidley's strategy on a reduction of GHG emissions is broken down as follows: (i) a plan to reduce Scope 1 and 2 emissions (e.g., reducing energy demand, implementing energy efficiency measures or investments), and (ii) a plan to reduce Scope 3 emissions (e.g., engaging supply chain partners to increase energy efficiency and reduce business travel).

### **100% Renewable Electricity**

Sidley has committed to transitioning to 100% renewable energy across our real estate portfolio, including our offices and data center. Currently, Sidley's global data center and London office are 100% powered by renewable energy. Our global data center has purchased, redeemed, and/or is using 100% renewable electricity through one of the following methods:

- Direct-supplier utility grid data (invoice or public-based)
- Guarantee of Origin
- Renewable energy credits

Our London office energy provider generates approximately 12% of the overall energy usage through its wind and solar installations; the remainder is certified green energy it buys from other green generators or via the wholesale market.

### **Energy Efficiency**

Of the twenty-one Sidley office locations, 81% have undertaken initiatives to reduce energy consumption and implement green building practices. Thirteen of the Sidley locations are in LEED and BREEAM Certified Green Buildings (with one additional office pending approval). In 2021, we undertook a firmwide sustainability assessment, through which we established existing practices.

One of Sidley's major sustainability practice has been to integrate energy-saving practices, such as utilizing ENERGY STAR and EPEAT-certified computers and kitchen appliances, upgraded LED lighting, occupancy sensors, and zoned lighting areas throughout the building, automated building systems that regulate heating and cooling ventilation based on occupancy, as well as EV charging stations at selected locations.

### **Air Travel**

While in-person meetings remain necessary at times, we are committed to promoting virtual options when suitable, reducing greenhouse gas emissions linked to travel. We engage with our clients regarding their sustainability initiatives and consider their policies and guidance on business travel. Additionally, we encourage

our lawyers and professional staff to evaluate each travel opportunity, taking into account video and virtual alternatives before booking their flights or low-carbon transportation options. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we moved quickly to a remote environment. As a result of these external forces, we saw our air travel reduce by 84% in 2020, and a further 26% in 2021. As lockdowns have eased and travel resumes, we continue to monitor the firm's emissions in this area to develop appropriate reduction targets.

### **Hybrid Work**

The COVID-19 global pandemic in 2020 resulted in a shift away from 100% in-office work to allow more flexibility for employees to work from home. Sidley's calculations indicate that commuting-related emissions have decreased 24% from 2019 to 2022, even when accounting for the incremental emissions associated with employees' energy use when working from home.

### **General**

We have calculated our carbon footprint annually beginning with our 2019 data and report the results to CDP, one of the most commonly used platforms for measuring and understanding corporate environmental impacts. Our carbon footprint scope and boundaries are based on the GHG Protocol's definition of "operational control," and Sidley conducts an annual emissions identification process to ensure that all relevant emissions are captured and that any exclusions are documented appropriately. All calculations were adjusted for AR5 Global Warming Potentials, where relevant.

### **Scope 1 and 2 Emissions Data**

Because Sidley leases its space, we relied on property managers and landlords to provide data on utility and refrigerant use. Where only data for the entire building was available, Sidley estimated its allocated use based on percentage of square foot occupancy. Where energy data was completely unavailable for a specific site, Sidley extrapolated for that site based on square footage intensity factors for Sidley's "average" office or data center. We used location-based Scope 2 figures, with the following market-based exceptions: One of Sidley's data centers has certified renewable energy supported by a letter of attestation. In addition, our London office (through our property manager) is sourcing 100% renewable electricity. Emissions for natural gas, refrigerants, steam, and U.S. electricity were calculated using the EPA GHG Hub emissions factors, and emissions for electricity consumption at non-U.S. locations were calculated using IEA emissions factors.

### **Scope 3 Emissions Data**

In 2022, we widened our data collection for Scope 3 emissions, which make up the majority of our carbon footprint. We also recalculated our 2019 carbon footprint baseline to provide a more accurate comparison of progress over the last four years.

#### **Category 1: Purchased Goods and Services**

- All spend recorded in the organization's internal system for the purchase of goods and services is included in the calculation boundary for this source. The 'spend-based' method as described in the GHG Protocol's Scope 3 Guidance is used to calculate these GHG emissions, with industry-average emission factors applied based on the economic value of the goods and services. Spend data is broken down according to Sidley's internal taxonomy codes and allocated to the most appropriate industry group category available within the U.S. EPA's Environmentally-Extended Input-Output Models (USEEIO).
- Instead of spend-based data, Sidley used volume to calculate the emissions associated with the purchase of office paper, using the Environmental Paper Network Paper Calculator Version 4.0. For more information visit [www.papercalculator.org](http://www.papercalculator.org).

## **Category 2: Capital Goods**

All spend recorded in the organization's internal system for the purchase and acquisition of depreciable capital assets that were placed in service during the reporting year is included in the calculation boundary for this source. The 'spend-based' method as described in the GHG Protocol's Scope 3 Guidance is used to calculate these GHG emissions, with industry-average emission factors applied based on the economic value of the goods and services. Spend data is broken down according to Sidley's internal taxonomy codes and allocated to the most appropriate industry group category available within the U.S. EPA's USEEIO.

## **Category 4 & 9: Upstream/Downstream Transportation**

Because it is extremely difficult to distinguish between upstream (category 4) and downstream (category 9) transportation, all transportation impacts (postage, messenger, and courier services) are reported together here. The 'spend-based' method as described in the Scope 3 Guidance is used to calculate these GHG emissions, with industry-average emission factors applied based on the economic value of the goods and services. Spend data is broken down according to Sidley's internal taxonomy codes and allocated to the most appropriate industry group category available within the U.S. EPA's USEEIO. The corresponding emission factors are then applied to calculate an overall GHG emissions estimate for this category.

## **Category 5: Waste Generated in Operations**

The scope of this calculation includes disposal and treatment of waste generated in the reporting company's operations in the reporting year (in facilities not owned or controlled by the reporting company): MSW (landfill), mixed recycling, organics/composting, e-waste, and shredded paper. This data was calculated for Sidley offices only – co-located data centers were excluded. Data collection was dependent on landlord/property manager cooperation, and some locations required estimations and unit conversions. Some Sidley locations were unable to obtain data, and these offices were excluded from waste calculations because of the overall minimal contribution of waste to Sidley's overall carbon footprint. Emissions were calculated using the EPA GHG Emissions Hub data sets.

## **Category 6: Business Travel**

The scope of this category includes transportation of employees for business-related activities during the reporting year (in vehicles not owned or operated by the reporting company) and overnight hotel and lodging stays. Sidley's calculations included a mix of emissions calculations provided by a third-party travel agency (air miles, using DEFRA emissions factors), and internally calculated emissions determined by activity data: rail miles and car rental days (using the EPA GHG Hub emissions factors) and spend on lodging/accommodations (using the U.S. EPA's Environmentally-Extended Input-Output Models (USEEIO)).

## **Category 7: Employee Commuting**

This category included transportation of employees between their homes and their worksites during the reporting year (in vehicles not owned or operated by the reporting company) as well as employee remote working. Sidley made these calculations using distance-based activity metrics (home zip code to office zip code), adjusted for estimates of in-office vs. remote workdays, and split between car-commuting and commuting by public transportation. Commuting emissions were calculated using the EPA GHG Hub emissions factors, and incremental energy emissions from remote work were calculated using a guide published by the *Anthesis Group, Estimating Energy Consumption & GHG Emissions for Remote Workers* (2021) (no survey option).

## **General Targets**

Although we have reached a 25.4% total reduction of tCO<sub>2</sub>e since 2019, there is still progress that must be made towards our goal of a 55% reduction by 2030. Sidley also has committed to transitioning to 100% renewable

energy across our real estate portfolio. To reduce our carbon footprint and reach our net-zero GHG emissions by 2050, Sidley will use 100% renewable electricity to power all of our offices and data centers.

### **Scientific Targets**

Sidley has partnered with a sustainability consultancy to set out climate targets aligned with the methodology of the Science Based Target Initiatives (SBTi). These include near-term targets (55% reduction of GHGs across Scopes 1, 2, and 3 by 2030 against a 2019 baseline) and long-term targets (net-zero GHG emissions by 2050).

### **General**

Thirteen of our Sidley locations are in LEED (ranging from Silver to Platinum) and BREEAM Certified Green Buildings. Sidley's Miami location and its building is currently pending LEED certification. Additionally, the Sidley London office took part in the CUBE competition, a UK-wide initiative. By encouraging cooperation between all stakeholders involved in building management and occupation, CUBE seeks to drive sustainable practices and reduce carbon emissions.

Sidley has calculated its carbon footprint annually starting with our 2019 data and reports results to CDP, one of the most commonly used platforms for measuring and understanding corporate environmental impacts. Additionally, Sidley has partnered with a sustainability consultancy, Strategic Sustainability Consulting, to look comprehensively at our GHG Protocol and Science Based Target Initiative net-zero standard. We are engaging a vendor to perform verification of our 2023 data, so a statement about that will be included in our next report.

## **(III) NET-ZERO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

### **General**

To reduce our carbon footprint and reach our net-zero GHG emissions by 2050, Sidley will use 100% renewable electricity to power all of our offices and data centers. Sidley has committed to transitioning to 100% renewable energy across our real estate portfolio. In alignment with our commitment to science-based targets, Sidley recognizes that the vast majority of emissions reductions must come from changes to business practices. As such, Sidley agrees to use carbon credits sparingly and only for hard-to-abate emissions.