Understanding Scope 1, 2 & 3 Emissions

A QUICK GUIDE TO CARBON REPORTING

With sustainability targets high on the FM agenda and the UK's journey to net zero well underway, understanding and managing your organisation's carbon emissions has never been more important. Scopes 1, 2 and 3 offer a powerful way to classify and report on your organisation's emissions – then identify the best to target.

Scope 1 covering direct emissions and Scope 2 emissions from energy production are already widely reported on, but the newer Scope 3 is likely to have a bigger impact. That's because Scope 3 involves quantifying indirect emissions across your supply chain, and could account for up to 90% of your entire carbon footprint.

Kickstart your sustainability conversations

JLA's recent white paper revealed that only 12% of FM professionals speak to their suppliers about sustainability. With Scope 3 rising in importance, now is the best time to get ahead.

SCOPE 1

Often the simplest to calculate, Scope 1 emissions are those from processes owned or directly controlled by your organisation. This covers emissions from:

- Heating and lighting your buildings
- Fuelling your company fleet
- Manufacturing or processing products in-house

SCOPE 2

Scope 2 quantifies emissions that result from energy you use but don't generate yourself. These include indirect emissions from:

- Power generation (e.g., electricity, steam, gas)
- Manufacturing or assembling your products
- IT suppliers / data centres
- Supplier transportation

SCOPE 3

Harder to track but critically important, Scope 3 covers emissions created by your entire value chain, including those from:

- Your suppliers' operations and services
- Employee commuting and business travel
- Waste recycling and disposal

Why do these measures matter?

Tracking emissions helps you stay ahead of reporting requirements, set sustainability goals, and find quick wins across your organisation. More importantly, it helps you start proactive conversations with your suppliers.

