



OUR STORY SO FAR

Measuring our progress towards
net zero for 2022 and 2023



A person wearing a green jacket and cap is operating a small, blue and silver machine in a field of low-growing green plants. The machine appears to be a specialized agricultural tool, possibly for weeding or transplanting. In the background, there is a dense line of trees and a cloudy sky. The overall scene is bright and green, suggesting a healthy agricultural environment.

WELCOME

This is the story of our **Second Nature** Environmental Programme as we work towards net zero carbon by 2040. This report evidences strong progress towards this core objective across our operations. Read more...

CONTENTS

A quick word	3
What is Second Nature?	4
Our achievements so far	5
Our six priorities	7
Reduce emissions	8
Sustainable water	9
Sustainable growing	10
More biodiversity	11
Reduce plastic	12
Reduce waste	13
We want the future to look bright	14
Further information	15

A QUICK WORD

As growers, we are passionate about the environment.

In the face of global climate change, Vitacress is committed to becoming net zero carbon by 2040, and our aptly named **Second Nature** framework focuses on six priority areas to ensure we achieve this objective.

Over the years, Vitacress has worked hard to build a vertically integrated value chain that gives us greater control over sustainability from farm to fork. We also consistently incorporate environmental considerations into our strategic and operational decisions, and this has made us more resilient, competitive and prepared for change.

Our purpose is to be a trusted partner in every aspect of our business, and we are proud that our environmental commitments are Second Nature to us.



CHRIS JINKS - CEO, VITACRESS



WHAT IS SECOND NATURE?

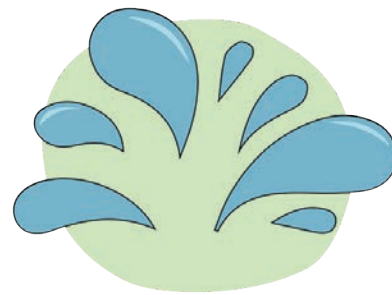
ONE OBJECTIVE - NET ZERO CARBON BY 2040

OUR SIX OBJECTIVES



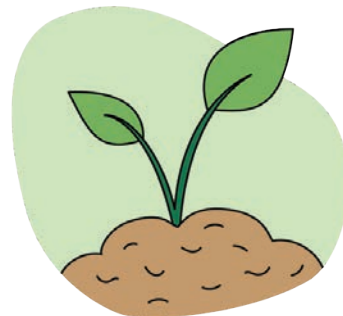
REDUCE EMISSIONS

Decarbonising our operations to achieve our core objective of becoming net zero carbon by 2040



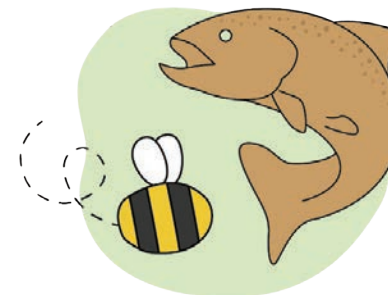
SUSTAINABLE WATER

Measuring water resources and quality, and implementing a plan to manage our water



SUSTAINABLE GROWING

Improving soil health to increase carbon capture, water retention and nutrient cycling. Moving to peat-free operations



MORE BIODIVERSITY

Creating more space for varied ecosystems that promote greater environmental and community health



REDUCE PLASTIC

Significantly reducing the amount of plastic in our food packaging and across our full value chain



REDUCE WASTE

Optimising operations to minimise waste, and increase our use of recycling and repurposing

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR



REDUCE EMISSIONS

8.9% emissions reduction since 2021

100% renewable electricity for our UK sites

12 electric vehicle charging points installed at our UK sites



SUSTAINABLE WATER

New water meters at Lower Link Farm Salads HQ

New reservoir at our Boavista site in Portugal

Major investment in **water-efficient machinery**

Water quality management using chemistry and aquatic biology monitoring

New borehole metering



REDUCE PLASIC

112 Tonnes of plastic removed from packaging

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR



SUSTAINABLE GROWING

27.5% UK soil emissions reduction since 2021

100% peat-free horticultural herbs

Measuring soil health



MORE BIODIVERSITY

Collecting **baseline** biodiversity data

Biodiversity management **plans** for our farms

Planting of 800 trees and 150 metres of new hedgerow in the UK



REDUCE WASTE

13% increase in recycling at Vitacress Herbs



OUR 6 PRIORITIES

Measuring our achievements
in 2022 and 2023, and looking
forward to what's next



REDUCE EMISSIONS



OUR TARGET

Reduce our carbon emissions by

90%
by 2040



IN 2022...

Our carbon footprint was 49,900 tonnes CO₂e

That's the equivalent of driving almost 300 million kilometres in a diesel car, taking you around the Earth almost 7,500 times



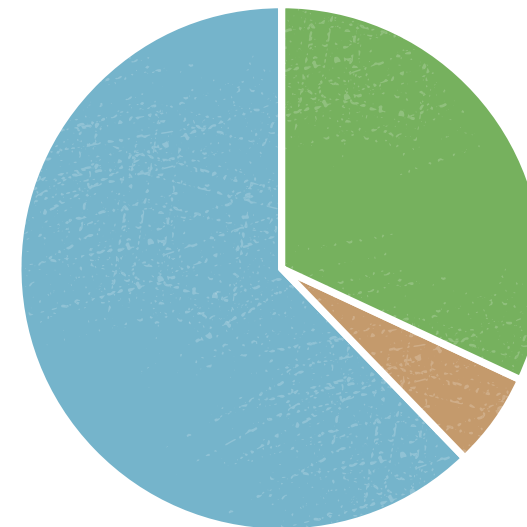
EMISSIONS CREATED FROM...

32% of our emissions come from our own business, including combined heat and power (CHP) and lorry freight

6% of our emissions come from energy use

62% of our emissions come from our value chain

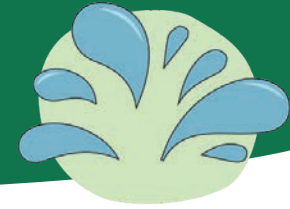
■ Scope 1 ■ Scope 2 ■ Scope 3



WHAT NEXT?

- 2024**
Set Science Based Targets for our forest, land and agriculture (FLAG) and non-FLAG emissions
- 2025**
Achieve validation by the Science Based Targets Initiative
- 2025**
Evolve our decarbonisation plan
- Generate renewable energy on site
- Decarbonise our CHP

SUSTAINABLE WATER



OUR TARGETS

Minimise our water use per kilogram of produce, while maintaining food safety standards

Ensure there are no instances of exceeding environmental permits

Maintain an aquatic biological ASPT score of 5 or above in the UK



IN 2022...

Our water use was the equivalent of filling **160,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools**

Growing our watercress

Watering our crops

Washing our salads

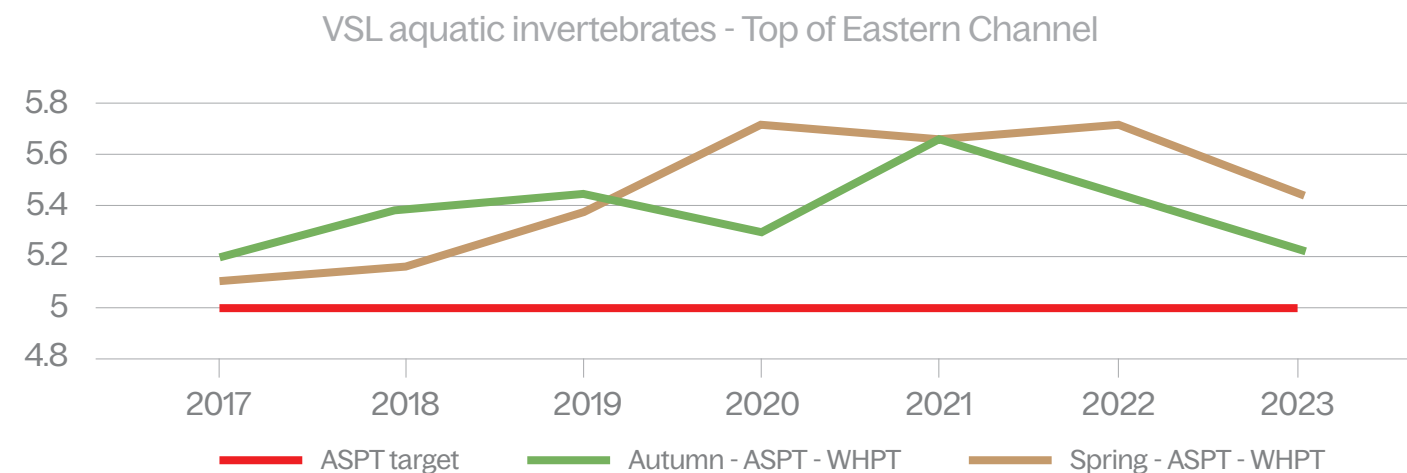
IN 2023...

Introduced a new Phytobac water treatment system in Portugal

Undertook a new water treatment trial in the UK

OVER THE LAST 20 YEARS...

Our aquatic biology ASPT score for UK Salads indicates good water quality



WHAT NEXT?

- 2025 Create a new winter storage facility in the UK
- 2025 Increase water reuse in Portugal
- 2025 Reduce water use in salad washing
- 2027 Build a water treatment plant at Lower Link Farm Salads HQ

SUSTAINABLE GROWING



OUR TARGETS

Increase our UK soil assessment score to over 65 by 2030

Achieve an average of 2.5% organic soil matter in the UK and 0.75% in Portugal

Move to peat-free growing



IN 2022...

Our soil emitted 822 tonnes CO₂e

That's the weight of 86 John Deere JD6195 tractors



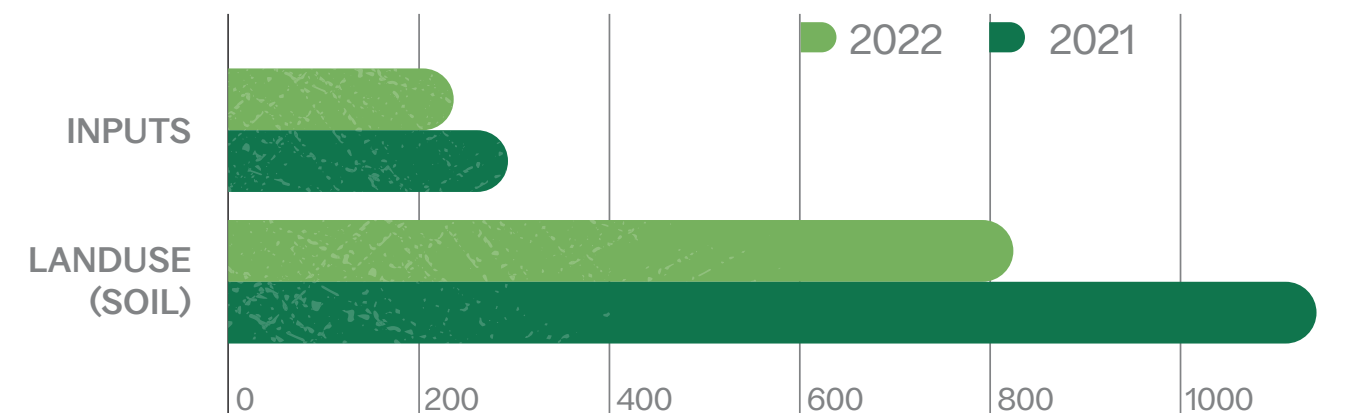
IN 2023...

UK soil assessment score
▲ 43.6 to 51.8

Average UK organic matter
▲ 2.2 to 2.4%

Average Portugal organic matter
▲ 0.3 to 0.7%

UK SOIL EMISSIONS



WHAT NEXT?

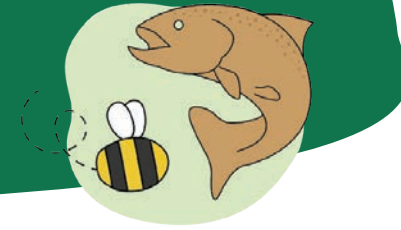
Ongoing
Optimise our use of cover crops, and apply more organic matter to soil

Ongoing
Minimise our soil cultivation and challenge our current fertiliser regimes

2025
Seek additional land

2025
Achieve 100% peat-free culinary pots

MORE BIODIVERSITY



OUR TARGET

10% of our LEAF Marque farms will be managed for biodiversity, including monitoring key species

This equates to:

31 ha grassland
9 ha wildflower areas
5 ha fen and wet woodland
4.2 km rivers and streams
4 km hedgerows
3 ha beetle banks
2 ha woodland
2 ha wild bird food areas
1 km ditches



IN 2022...

Our UK hedges and fields currently removed 130 tonnes CO₂e from the atmosphere

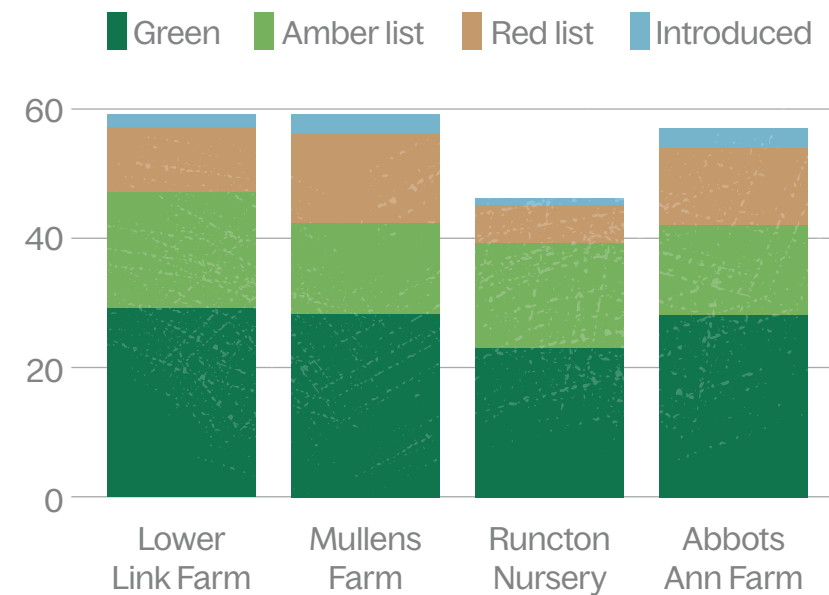
That's the weight of 72 rhinos



VITACRESS FARM EXCELLENCE

Our Vitacress Farm Excellence is a partnership with LEAF that has led to the creation of a strong biodiversity action programme. It includes ecological appraisals of all farms, monitoring biodiversity and creating new spaces for nature.

Bird species richness and conservation status per survey site



2023 Bioacoustic results: UK Birds

WHAT NEXT?

- Calculate carbon removal for all our habitats
- Continue to establish new habitats and enhance existing habitats
- Add more bird and bat boxes, and insect hotels
- Expand bioacoustics monitoring to all farms
- Engage with more volunteer groups to improve biodiversity

REDUCE PLASTIC



OUR TARGET

Reduce plastic in packaging per kilogram sold each year

Reduce single-use plastic across our farm operations every year

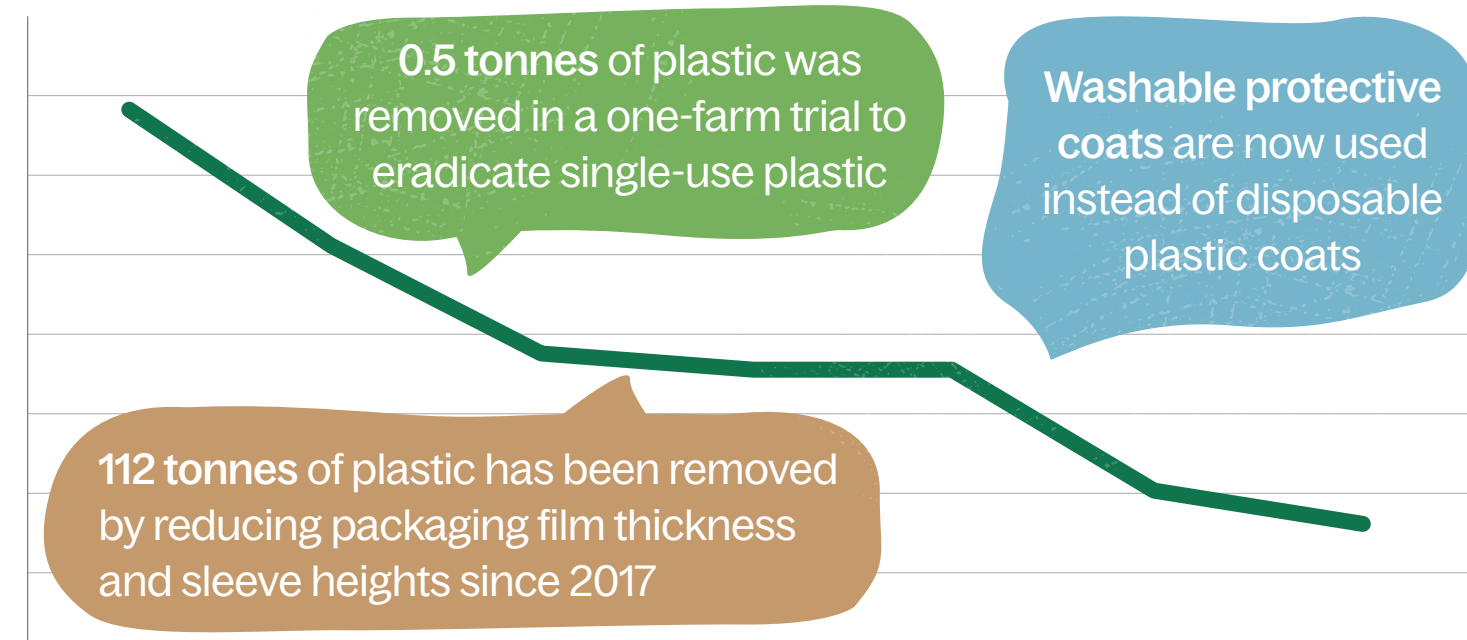


IN 2022...

Our use of plastic created 6,320 tonnes CO₂e
That's the weight of 2,100 African elephants



OUR PLASTIC IN PACKAGING REDUCTION



WHAT NEXT?

- Work with suppliers to further reduce our plastic use, including innovative new solutions
- Increase the recycled content in our packaging
- Roll out reusable harvest crate straps on our leaf farms

REDUCE WASTE

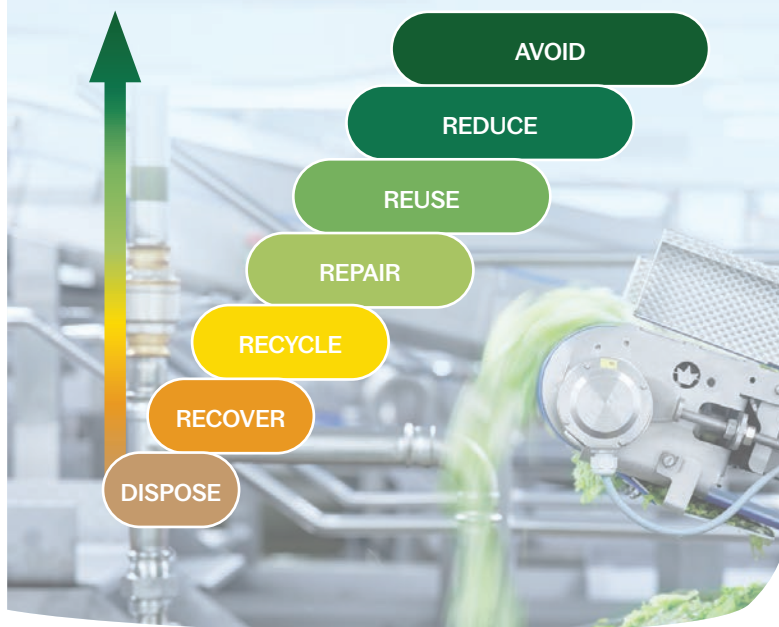


OUR TARGETS

50% reduction in food waste by 2030

Move plastic up the waste hierarchy to recycle

Move all waste above recover



IN 2022...

Our waste generation created **56 tonnes CO₂e**

That's the weight of 38 hippos

IN 2023...

Our waste:
7 to 12% of food waste
1,000 tonnes of green waste
1,000 tonnes recovered
200 tonnes recycled

IN 2024...

13% increase in recycling for UK Herbs so far

WHAT NEXT?

- Build partnerships with more food waste organisations
- Seek out other uses for our food waste
- Introduce projects to move waste up the hierarchy

GETTING TOUGH ON SOFT PLASTICS



We are working with a pyrolysis start-up to see if we can recycle our soft plastics



Employees are encouraged to bring their soft plastics from home for recycling



Ultimately, we aim to recycle all soft plastics

WE WANT THE FUTURE TO LOOK BRIGHT

At Vitacress, we are keenly aware of the many impacts of climate change, from the changes in our weather to the loss of biodiversity.

We will continue to expand and evolve our ambitious **Second Nature** programme to ensure we reach our goal of becoming net zero carbon by 2040.

We also recognise that we are not alone on our journey, and are building strong relationships with partner organisations and volunteer groups to help us.



OUR SECOND NATURE PLEDGES

Keep learning

Continually evolve our environmental programme

Generate better and more granular data

Always look for new ways to reduce our impacts

Engage our people

Build and maintain strong partnerships



GET IN TOUCH

Visit our website www.vitacress.com to learn more about Second Nature and how we are optimising our environmental impact.

