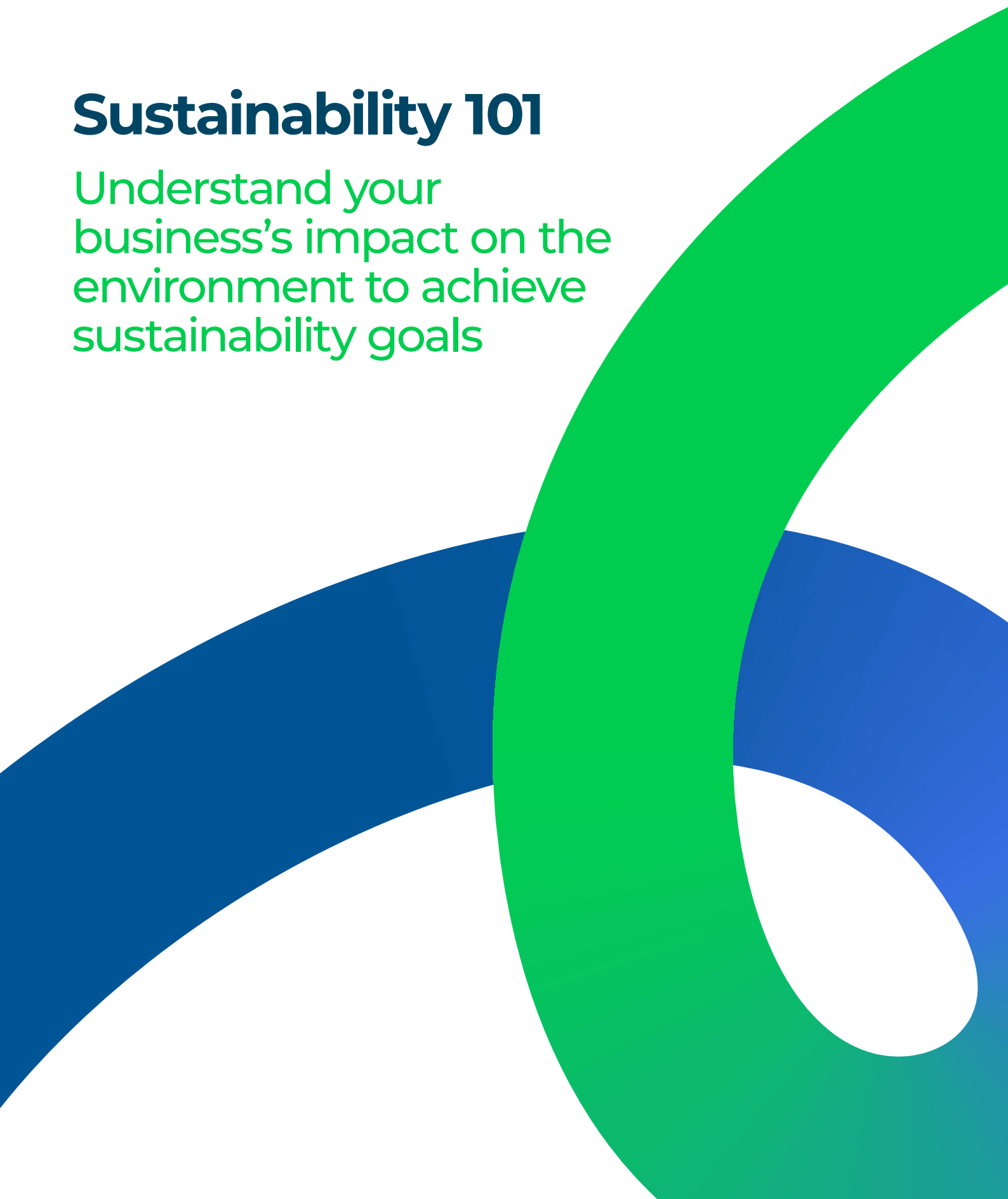


# Sustainability 101

Understand your  
business's impact on the  
environment to achieve  
sustainability goals



# An introduction.

**Sustainability refers to the practice of minimising impact on the environment and society — planet, people, and profits. In the business context, this involves conducting ethical and socially responsible practices while ensuring the preservation of resources for future generations and avoiding environmental degradation.**

## Urgent action is needed

The planet is in a climate emergency, posing a threat to all species, including humanity. To address this crisis, immediate and decisive actions are required to transition to sustainable practices. Our services are designed to assist your business in implementing the necessary

changes to minimise its environmental footprint, promote sustainability and ensure compliance with environmental legislation across the globe. We suggest reviewing the following areas and prioritising those that align with your organisation's current sustainability goals:



*Starting small is better than no start at all.*

## UN Sustainability Goals

– a global effort is required

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was collectively adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 to transform our world.

This global initiative provides a comprehensive framework for achieving peace and prosperity for both people and the planet alike, both in the present and in the future.

Central to this agenda are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which serve as a vital requirement for all nations — whether developed or developing — to take urgent action in a collaborative manner.

These goals emphasise the intrinsic link between eradicating poverty and addressing various forms of deprivation, such as promoting better healthcare and education, reducing inequality, and fostering economic growth. Furthermore, the SDGs recognise the need to effectively address climate change and preserve our precious oceans and forests.

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Keep an eye out for relevant SDG icons displayed next to the Valpak solutions that align with these goals.

### Business requirements — our solutions

It is essential for your business to evaluate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), identify those that are most pertinent, devise strategies to enhance performance, and execute these measures throughout the organisation as well as the supply chain. We offer several solutions to help your business achieve the SDGs that relate to **reduced inequalities (10)**, **responsible consumption and production (12)** and **climate action (13)**, which we introduce throughout this paper.

## Climate target strategies

### — an EU expectation

Alongside SDGs, the European Commission is proposing an increased target for greenhouse gas emission reduction by at least 55% below 1990 levels by 2030. This represents a significant increase from the previous target of at least 40%.

The European Union's (EU's) overarching goal is to become climate-neutral by 2050, achieving a net-zero greenhouse gas emissions economy. This commitment is aligned with the European Green Deal and the EU's obligations under the Paris Agreement for global climate action.

### UK climate targets

In 2019, the UK became the **first major economy to establish and pass a legally binding target of net zero emissions by 2050**. A key step towards achieving net zero by 2050 is for the UK to reduce its emissions by 68% by 2030 compared with 1990 levels and at the COP27 climate talks in November 2022 Prime Minister Rishi Sunak vowed to uphold this.

## Business requirements — our solution

To achieve these objectives, all businesses are expected to contribute by assessing the environmental impacts of their products and services and implementing appropriate measures to mitigate these impacts. We offer services and solutions to help your business meet its goals, of which are outlined in the diagram on page 5. [\(See Valpak solutions pages 14 to 17 for service details\)](#)

## The three pillars of corporate sustainability

It is expected that every company will play a role in fostering economic growth, social progress, and environmental sustainability.

Sustainability is commonly categorised into three interconnected categories, which are ranked in the following order of importance:

1. **Environmental conservation**
2. **Economic development**
3. **Social sustainability**

These groups are collectively referred to as the “three pillars of sustainability.” Embracing these pillars enables the application of a problem-solving approach to complex sustainability challenges. We can help you achieve your business's specific sustainability goals!



# The pillars and our solutions



## 1. Environmental conservation

**‘The practice of preserving the Earth’s natural environment from deterioration caused by human activities such as unsustainable farming methods, deforestation, and the burning of fossil fuels.’**

Our services include customised Carbon Management solutions to assist businesses in meeting UK energy legislation requirements such as the **Energy Saving Opportunities Scheme (ESOS)** and **Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (SECR)**. We also offer:

- **Life Cycle Assessments (LCAs)**
- **Recyclability Assessments**
- **Carbon Footprinting Assessments**
- **Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs)**
- **Packaging Technology Consultancy**
- **Environmental Compliance Support**
- **Waste Audits**
- **Zero Waste to Landfill Certification Service**
- **Horizon Scanning**

## 2. Economic development

**‘Initiatives, measures, or activities that aim to enhance the economic welfare and standard of living within a given community.’**

We specialise in mitigating the inevitable increase in costs related to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation by offering tailored services aimed at helping businesses identify areas for positive changes and reducing costs associated with legislation reforms, such as the UK Packaging Waste Regulations. To help businesses meet targets under this pillar. We also offer:

- **ESOS Compliance Services**
- **SECR Compliance Services**
- **Zero Waste to Landfill Certification**
- **Packaging Technology Consultancy**
- **Energy Audits**

## 3. Social sustainability

**‘Integrating the physical realm with the social world, this approach encompasses the design of infrastructures that facilitate social and cultural activities, social amenities, mechanisms for citizen participation, as well as spaces that allow for the growth and development of individuals and communities.’**

We offer:

- **Modern Slavery Act Section 54 Compliance**
- **Supply Chain Resilience Services**

Many of our solutions cross the different pillars, demonstrating how acting on one pillar can achieve results under others.

For example, packaging optimisation via our in-house Packaging Technology Consultancy Service can identify design changes that reduce costs (economic) as well as reduce environmental impacts.

Our LCA, EPD, Carbon Footprinting, ESOS and SECR services that sit under the environmental pillar can help businesses identify where the most impactful reductions can be made, which can also result in cost reductions (economic).

Keep an eye out for the relevant sustainability icons displayed next to the Valpak solutions that align with these pillars.

## Reduce carbon emissions

The operations of businesses have a considerable impact on the natural environment. By implementing measures to minimise carbon emissions, businesses can effectively address the detrimental consequences of climate change, such as escalating sea levels and the increasing occurrence of severe weather events.

It is therefore imperative that businesses and organisations implement carbon management strategies, focusing on the evaluation, control, and reduction of the **six greenhouse gases** included in the **Kyoto Protocol**.

### Legislative drivers

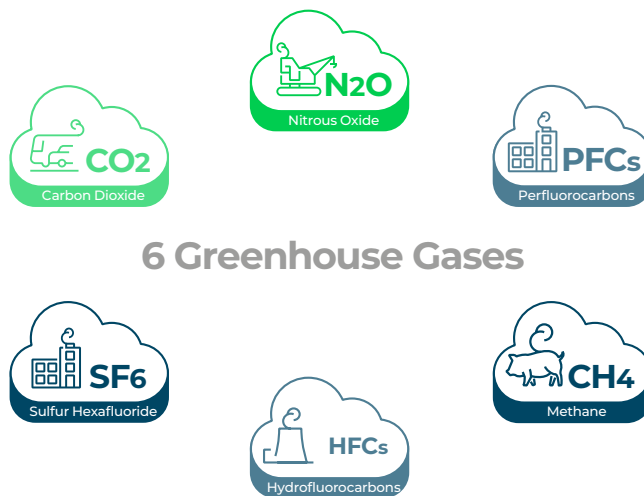
In the UK, the **Energy Saving Opportunities Scheme** (ESOS) — a mandatory energy assessment and energy saving identification scheme for large organisations and **Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting** (SECR) Regulations – a compulsory requirement for all large organisations to share energy use and carbon emissions information in their annual reports — have been implemented.

As part of our Horizon Scanning Service, our team of experts will conduct thorough research and analysis to identify applicable environmental legislation in the territories where a business operates overseas. We will diligently determine if the business has any obligations to comply with and strive to provide comprehensive support through our International Compliance Team — to ensure the company fulfils all its international environmental commitments.

### What our customers say:

*"Valpak assisted us in identifying and targeting initiatives to support our sustainability objectives. Throughout the project the Valpak team was professional, flexible, and easy to work with, producing high-quality outputs that were explained in detail as the project progressed. The outputs from the project fully met the initial objectives, and their value has been such that we will be replicating and expanding this in other areas, with Valpak's help."*

Stelrad Group plc



### 6 Greenhouse Gases

### Our solutions

We offer a comprehensive range of services to assist your business in implementing and integrating carbon management strategies and to ensure compliance with energy legislation. These services include:

- **ESOS Compliance Services**
- **SECR Compliance Services**
- **Horizon Scanning**
- **International Compliance Support**
- **Conducting Life Cycle Assessments**
- **Performing Carbon Footprinting Assessments**
- **Generating Environmental Product Declarations**
- **Conducting Energy Audits**

By taking our services, your business can effectively minimise carbon emissions and decrease energy and other economic costs. (See Valpak solutions pages 14 to 17 for service details)

### Voluntary compliance

We also collaborate with companies that are not obligated to comply with ESOS and SECR but however willingly seek to measure, monitor, and reduce their carbon footprint or their overall environmental impact.

## Helping you to achieve:

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

13 CLIMATE ACTION

Environmental

Economic

# Monitor carbon footprint

Businesses and organisations face increasing pressure to enhance their environmental sustainability due to factors such as corporate social responsibility (CSR), supply chain considerations, and consumer expectations. Plus, large businesses may be required to review carbon emissions annually as part of **Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (SECR)** requirements.

Consequently, many businesses are actively taking voluntary action, while others aspire to achieve sustainability goals that surpass the minimum legal obligations.

## Our solutions

We can help your business to measure carbon footprints, ensuring compliance with both regulatory and voluntary obligations. This process typically involves conducting **Carbon Footprinting** or **Life Cycle Assessments** at regular intervals, often on an annual basis. To accurately measure your company's organisational carbon footprint, a range of factors must be considered, including:

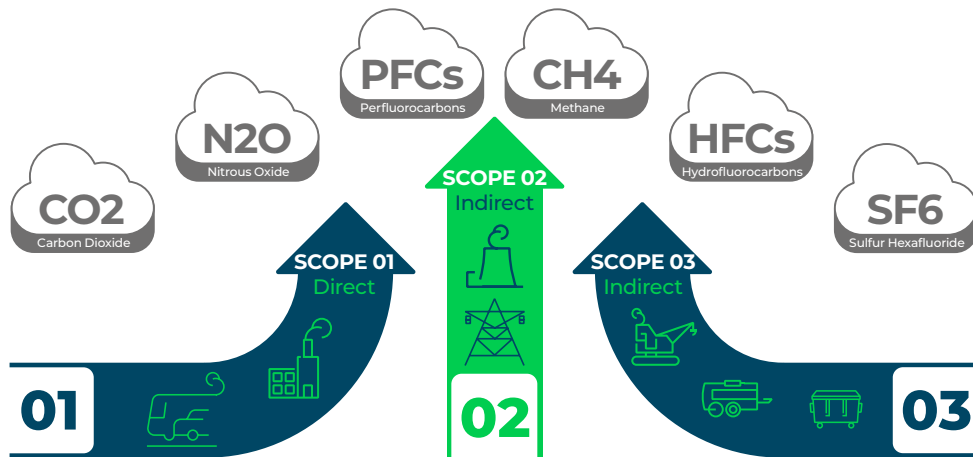
- **Scope 1 emissions** — direct consumption of fuels like gas or petrol
- **Scope 2 emissions** — consumption of electricity
- **Scope 3 emissions** — consumption of core products and services delivered by third parties to meet corporate demand

In addition, our **LCA, EPD** and **Packaging Optimisation** services can help your business to identify changes to products and packaging that can increase recyclability and efficiency, reduce use of materials and waste, and deliver carbon savings. Plus, our **ESOS** and **SECR** Compliance Services help obligated businesses to understand their total energy consumption. To help your business meet the legislation requirements and ensure compliance, we can also carry out audits to identify and help you to implement cost-effective energy efficiency measures. (See Valpak solutions pages 14 to 17 for service details)

## What our customers say:

*"Valpak provided a high level LCA to compare the environmental impacts of the new and the old packaging for Football Manager 2020 on PC for SEGA. They were a very professional and personable company to deal with, on hand to support the brief and wider project. The report has since been shared with other various industry bodies and had really positive feedback."*

SEGA Europe



*Helping you to achieve:*

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	13 CLIMATE ACTION
Environmental	Economic

*Our Carbon Footprinting process helps businesses understand the climate impact caused by their organisation and enables them to strategically direct efforts towards reducing emissions.*

# Steps to achieve net zero

To address the increasing levels of greenhouse gas emissions, businesses and organisations should consider implementing sustainable measures and lowering their carbon emissions.

Achieving net zero objectives entails incorporating a variety of sustainable practices and procedures throughout various aspects of business operations, including the development of products and services produced from sustainable materials, to reduce their environmental impact.

Businesses should seek to improve carbon and resource efficiencies — reducing consumption of energy, fuels and materials per unit of goods and services.

## Our solutions

We specialise in helping businesses to implement and integrate carbon management strategies. We offer services such as:

- **LCAs**
- **Carbon Footprinting**
- **EPDs**
- **Packaging Technology Consultancy**
- **Energy Reporting (including SECR)**
- **Energy Auditing (including ESOS)**

These services enable your business to effectively reduce carbon emissions, improve environmental performance of packaging and lower energy expenses, environmental compliance costs, and other economic costs. (See [Valpak solutions pages 14 to 17 for service details](#))

*Helping you to achieve:*



*An Environmental Product Declaration is an independently verified document of a product's environmental performance throughout its lifecycle and is primarily used to communicate environmental information between businesses.*





## Supply chain resilience

Stakeholders are increasingly expecting businesses to be transparent about their operations when it comes to ethical and environmental issues.

Businesses therefore need to assess and reduce the environmental and social implications associated with the entire journey of their products through the supply chain, to minimise damaging environmental effects from energy consumption, water usage, and waste generation while simultaneously ensuring business operations have a positive impact on people and local communities.

## Legislative drivers

Existing and emerging legislation is in place to support supply chain sustainability and resilience, including voluntary reporting such as **Conflict Minerals**, The Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances in EEE (**RoHS**), The Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemical Substances (**REACH**) Regulations and the **SDGs**, plus non-financial reporting, and **Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act**.



Helping you to achieve:

<p><b>10</b> REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p>	<p><b>12</b> RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p>	<p><b>13</b> CLIMATE ACTION</p>
<p>Social</p>	<p>Environmental</p>	<p>Economic</p>

## Our solutions

Using our online Sustainable Supply Chains Platform, we can provide consultancy support to help your business understand its corporate and legal data reporting requirements. Our Platform serves to build an overview of your suppliers' compliance with legislation and corporate social responsibility priorities, allowing you to focus action on priority areas for improvement or key suppliers. (See [Valpak solutions pages 14 to 17 for service details](#))

# Reduce business waste

Every business produces waste, which incurs costs that can amount to approximately 4% of a company's revenue. By implementing strategies to minimise waste, businesses can enhance their profitability whilst simultaneously reducing impact on the natural environment. Therefore, it is beneficial for companies of all sizes to prioritise efficient waste management practices, including waste prevention and reduction.

## Our solutions

We can help your business to achieve this objective by conducting **waste audits**. We also offer a certification service for achieving **Zero Waste to Landfill** status, which includes a thorough waste audit and is supported by our Rio sustainability platform, an innovative waste tracking software that can also track utilities including electricity, gas, water, transport, fuel etc. Zero Waste to Landfill certification is a continuous process which can lead to waste prevention and more recycling and reuse.



## Certification audit process



Furthermore, our Packaging Technology Consultancy Service can help your business to make positive, cost-effective changes to packaging to improve environmental performance by identifying modifications that can be made to reduce waste, standardise, and improve recyclability. (See Valpak solutions pages 14 to 17 for service details)



Helping you to achieve:

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

13 CLIMATE ACTION

Environmental

Economic

# Packaging optimisation to improve sustainability

Many brands are looking to adopt sustainable packaging for various reasons, such as:

- Upholding corporate social responsibility
- Business reputation
- Minimising carbon emissions
- Decreasing waste generation
- Boosting sales
- Mitigating costs under EPR for Packaging legislation
- Meeting retailer demands

It is beneficial for companies of all sizes to prioritise efficient waste management practices, including waste prevention and reduction.

## Our solutions

We can help your business to make positive, cost-effective change to packaging to improve environmental performance and recyclability.

Our **Packaging Technology Consultancy** service, which is underpinned by packaging experts with over 25 years of experience and the UK's largest packaging and product weights database, is our ultimate service in our suite of Packaging Analysis Solutions. (See [Valpak solutions glossary pages 14 to 17](#) for service details.)

## Legislative drivers

With the replacement of the UK Packaging Waste Regulations with Extended producer responsibility (EPR) for Packaging, obligated businesses will be required to collect and record an unprecedented level of data. EPR is a global trend and, while it places greater demands on businesses, it also offers an opportunity to gain in-depth insights from data, which can be used to make positive changes to packaging.

If action is taken to review packaging formats and ensure packaging is as sustainable as possible, producers can mitigate the increased costs EPR for Packaging will bring.

Under eco-modulation — a key aspect of EPR which will see harder to recycle packaging items charged at a higher rate than those which are easily recyclable — those producers that have already taken steps to adapt problematic packaging will benefit financially.



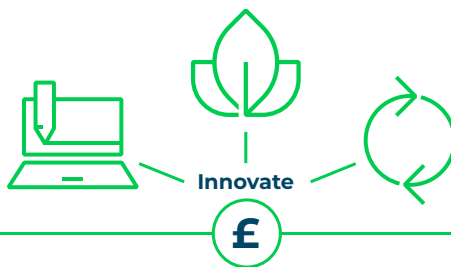
Read our [Packaging Analysis white paper](#) to find out more about our supplementary [Packaging Data Management and Insight Services](#).

## Source sustainably

Maximise recycled and sustainably sourced renewable content  
Enhance material health

### Optimise design

Protect the product  
Reduce materials



### Support recycling

Design for recycling  
Communicate recyclability

**Deliver every day low cost and performance**

Meet business requirements

## What our customers say:

*"It has been a pleasure to work with Valpak's Consultancy Team to establish how Specsavers can make improvements to packaging performance and waste management. The process was extremely thorough, and we learned a lot."*

Specsavers Optical Superstores Limited

*Helping you to achieve:*



# Environmental reporting

Environmental reporting brings all your business's steps to sustainability together. Themes typically covered include reporting on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG). An environmental report is a record of how well a business is performing and whether performance is improving, taking into consideration **the three pillars of sustainability** mentioned earlier.

These reports are essential to translate scientific data into easily understandable information for non-technical audiences. They aim to facilitate informed decision making, enabling individuals, agencies, and policymakers to take proactive measures and enable businesses to communicate progress to stakeholders, generating positive PR.



## Our solution

We can help your business develop its sustainability policy and link it to CSR, ESG and SGD objectives. We run support sessions and can help your business scope out actions and interventions that will help it to achieve excellence in environmental reporting. (See [Valpak solutions pages 14 to 17 for service details](#))

## What our customers say:

*"Working with Valpak helped us develop a Sustainability Policy that will ensure we continue to reduce our impact on the environment whilst meeting the needs of our customers."*  
Highland Spring

Helping you to achieve:

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	13 CLIMATE ACTION
Environmental	Economic



## Valpak services

**We offer expert guidance and assistance to businesses, helping them to understand their environmental footprints and achieve sustainability objectives.**

**Leveraging extensive and reliable data, expertise, and sharp analytical skills, we are well-equipped to deliver tailored solutions to address your business's environmental requirements.**

**We are committed to helping businesses formulate innovative strategies driven by data, enabling the achievement of sustainability goals, and facilitating informed business decision-making.**

**Get in touch** now to discuss your business's sustainability requirements.

# Valpak solutions

## Carbon Footprinting

Our services are tailored specifically to your requirements and where you are at on your sustainability journey, including:

- Organisational and product carbon footprint
- Organisational / product life cycle assessments (LCAs)
- Carbon footprint audits
- Achieving net zero carbon status to align with SBTi or other initiatives
- Guidance on carbon reduction strategies and plans
- Support with Climate Change Agreements
- Support with Mandatory GHG reporting
- Certification to carbon standards such as ISO 14064, PAS2050, PAS2060 and WRI/WBCSD GHG protocols
- Training courses and staff awareness programmes

## Environmental Product Declarations

An Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) is an independently verified document of a product's environmental performance throughout its lifecycle and is primarily used to communicate environmental information between businesses.

We will:

- Engage with EPD programme operators on your behalf
- Help you promote your commitment to sustainability with an EPD that provides a competitive advantage, so your customers can make informed decisions when choosing your products instead of alternative suppliers
- Ensure the information in your EPD is transparent, credible, verified, and understood by your business so that it can be used to measure and report your progress toward sustainability goals and enhanced environmental performance
- Develop your EPD to ensure opportunities for improving environmental performance both in your business and its supplier networks are highlighted, to maximise environmental benefits and cost savings

## Energy Saving Opportunities Scheme (ESOS)

We have developed a service to fulfil all your ESOS compliance requirements and can offer a detailed ESOS Assessment Service including:

- Preparation of the total energy consumption over a period of 12 months
- Completion of compliant energy audits
- Completion of sign off process from Lead Assessor and company director(s)
- Completion of Environment Agency notification process
- Attendance at Environment Agency audits
- **Energy rebates and free ESOS compliance** via our partner ENERGYbubble

## Horizon Scanning

Researching international environmental legislation can deliver lots of benefits, but it can also be technically challenging and time consuming. Our team of expert researchers and consultants can identify future opportunities within new international markets and help your business to prepare for and mitigate risks within an evolving legislative landscape.

This service is supported by our International Compliance Team, which helps organisations to comply with their international environmental commitments in terms of packaging, waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), batteries, textiles, and furniture.



# Valpak solutions

## Life Cycle Assessments (LCAs)

Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) measures the environmental impacts of your products (including packaging) over their entire life cycle, often termed cradle-to-grave.

We can carry out streamlined and comprehensive LCA studies for you, all of which can be tailored to suit your specific needs/objectives. Our service is transparent. We provide clear explanations of the process and outcomes, assist in interpreting the results, and adhere to ISO14040/14044 standards.

We can also develop LCAs to Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs).

## Modern Slavery Act Compliance

We can help your business to meet requirements under section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act by:

- Producing modern slavery statements on your behalf
- Identifying necessary improvements to business and supply chain performance through:
  - Data collection
  - Monitoring suppliers' compliance with the business's ethical policies
  - Analysing and risk rating available data
- Developing corrective action plans

## Packaging Technology Consultancy

Our Packaging Technology Consultancy service is underpinned by packaging experts and robust data, and forms part of our wider Packaging Analysis service.

We will:

- Process map the journey of your products – cradle-to-grave approach
- Document current packaging specifications (board grades, microns, polymer types, etc.)
- Re-engineer packaging to mitigate packaging, operational, and EPR costs
- Identify quick wins – opportunities to reduce, reuse, standardise
- Help you to plan for the future (responsible sourcing, EPR, and ESG reporting, etc)

Read our [Packaging Analysis White Paper](#) to find out more about our suite of solutions that can help you to reduce packaging compliance costs and improve packaging sustainability.

## Recyclability Assessments

Through our joint working with On Pack Recycling Labels (OPRL), we use their matrices and additional Valpak data to identify packaging recyclability based on the material type and packaging format. You can then either assess packaging recyclability yourself using our online Data Insights Platform, or we can do this for you.

## Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (SECR)

Our SECR Compliance Service will help bring together all information required for your business's Energy and Carbon Report.

We can:

- Define your reporting requirements
- Gather your energy data across the relevant sources
- Calculate your GHG emissions using recognised standards
- Present your energy and carbon report
- Provide an independent review for completed Energy and Carbon Reports



# Valpak solutions

## Supply Chain Resilience

Our Sustainable Supply Chains Platform, combined with our extensive experience in gathering supplier data, provides our customers with supply chain clarity. Our support options include:

- Consultancy support to understand corporate and legal data reporting requirements
- Development of online questionnaire to capture and build an evidence base of supplier policies, procedures, and standards against requirements
- Administration support to manage data collection from suppliers
- Development of a secure online Sustainable Supply Chains Platform to track supplier responses, present responses and review associated risk ratings across suppliers
- Consultancy support to help interpret the data, identify areas for improvement and help to implement processes to address any gaps or issues

## The Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances in EEE (RoHS) Compliance

Whether you are starting from scratch or seeking guidance to improve your business's current RoHS processes, we offer a range of services that can be customised to fit your specific needs, including:

- Product testing: We can test your products to assess if they are RoHS compliant.
- RoHS compliance reviews: We will assess your current RoHS obligations and compliance procedures and summarise any gaps and make recommendations to improve your processes.
- RoHS audits: We will undertake a detailed assessment of your obligations on a product-by-product basis, review all compliance documentation on file and make specific recommendations for improvement.
- Full RoHS compliance system:
  - **Option 1:**  
We will provide templates for collection of RoHS compliance information from suppliers.
  - **Option 2:**  
Using Valpak's Sustainable Supply Chains Platform, we can look to provide a cloud-based solution to collect, analyse and provide online storage for your RoHS compliance documentation.





# Valpak solutions

## The Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemical Substances (REACH) Compliance

Whether you are new to REACH compliance or in need of guidance on current processes, we offer a variety of services that can be tailored to suit your business's specific requirements, including:

- REACH compliance review: We will assess your current REACH obligations and compliance procedures and summarise any gaps and make recommendations to improve your processes.
- REACH audits: We will undertake a detailed assessment of your obligations on a product-by-product basis, review all compliance documentation on file and make specific recommendations for improvement.
- Full REACH compliance system: We will provide document templates for collection of REACH compliance information, contact suppliers to collect any missing information and set up systems to record compliance information on an on-going basis.

## Waste Audits

We offer a range of waste prevention services, including:

- Waste prevention and diversion reviews
- Zero waste audits
- Zero waste certification
- Assessing available markets and routes for materials
- Production of waste prevention strategies
- Cost benefit analysis of increasing waste diversion levels

## Zero Waste to Landfill Certification

Our team can:

- Support your journey to Zero Waste to Landfill and Zero Avoidable Waste to Landfill Certification, from finding alternative treatments for your waste to setting up systems to track your progress
- Provide Zero Waste to Landfill Certification
- Carry out waste management audits to ensure that contractors meet Zero Waste to Landfill Certification requirements



For more  
information  
please  
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