Sustainability Report 2022

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Introduction

Sialtech is specialized in fieldwork required for environmental, geotechnical and archaeological site investigation. We have expertise, qualified staff and tools to carry out all field activities in the investigation of soils, channel beds and building materials.

Sialtech is founded in 1992 as a company specialized in environmental and geotechnical fieldwork and grew over the years to be the market leader in the Netherlands. We play an important role in the Dutch regulation as member of the Dutch association for quality of environmental soil survey (VKB). Sialtech participates in the section measurements within SIKB, a network set up to continuously and structurally enhance the standards of soil management in the Netherlands.

Organization

Corporate Social Responsibility

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) means that companies take the effects of their activities on people and the environment into account. People, Planet and Profit, the three P's, are leading in this concept. By making informed choices, the company ensures a good balance between People, Planet and Profit.
Because Corporate Social Responsibility is of great importance for Sialtech, our company has formulated CSR objectives for:

- Welfare of employees
- Reducing CO2 emissions
- Contribution to society

1. People

1.1 Welfare of employees

Sialtech has a relatively young team, which derives its motivation from producing excellent work. The nature of the work, in a continuously changing market with changing needs in terms of policy, rules and regulations, places a high demand on the knowledge and skills of employees. Therefor Sialtech pays a great deal of attention to the personal development of the individual employee. The development of the individual employee and how this development can be steered further through training and courses is an important point of attention during the periodical performance and evaluation talks.

For the development of knowledge, different methods are used, with '**on-the-job training'** and exchange of information through internal support and consultation being considered the most efficient. Much attention is paid to the support of new employees and during project and consultations between different branches, ample attention is given to both the technical aspects and to occupational health, safety and environmental management. The basis for the internal instruction in the field of safety and health is Occupational health information sheet 22 "Working with polluted Soil" from the Health and Safety Inspectorate and publication 400 of the CROW "Working with polluted soil and polluted (ground) water

In addition to structured departmental consultations, regular so-called **OHSE management meetings** also are being organized. Based on course material, one OHSE management subject may be discussed in greater depth than another. One fixed item on the agenda in these consultations is discussing possible accidents and incidents, which have occurred in the previous period. A registration list is used to keep track of who has attended which meetings. Each employee must have attended at least 10 OHSE management meetings and project-related safety meetings each year.

1.2 Absenteeism

Of course we cannot overcome absenteeism. By means of a good health care police, we try to limit the absenteeism. Our goal is 2,5% absenteeism in total (short, middle and long period). As you can see in our absenteeism table, our absenteeism is fluctuating. In 2021 our absenteeism was well below our goal.

In our health and safety policy, we are supported by an occupational health service. With them, we can discuss possible prevention possibilities that are within our control, so we can stay at or below the set absenteeism percentage.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Top 1 interventions						
Business social support		2	2	1	0	0
Amount and percentage						
Personnel average	26	27	28	31	29	30
Absenteeism percentage	3,79	7,27	0,9	2,15	1,5	2,67
Total						
Reports						
Absenteeism reports	35	42	16	45	36	62
Reporting frequency	1,34	1,5	8,25	2,5	1,2	2,06
Absentees 1 time	11	7	4	9	11	8
Absentees 2 times	4	3	4	3	9	5
Absentees 3 times	2	7	4	5	2	5
Absentees 4 times	0	2	4	1	1	1
Absentees > 4 times	2	0	0	2	0	5
Absenteeism causes						
All absenteeism cases	35	42	16	45	23	62
Absenteeism cases ongoing	1	2	1	1	0	0
Absenteeism cases closed	34	40	15	45	23	62
Safety net cases in total						
Duration						
Average duration days	6,57	9,10	179	3,7	41,9	3.62

Duration in total hrs	230,4	382	2860	170	964	1769.5
Influx						
Influx second year	0	1	1	1	0	0
Influx third year	0	0	0	0	0	0

1.3 Health and safety

For companies involved in environmental problems in which man and the environment take centre stage, it goes without saying that occupational health, safety and environmental management plays a great role in business operations. Sialtech believes that OHSE management cannot be a separate responsibility, but must be integrated in all business processes and be an inextricable part of every employee's task performance on every level.

It is the task of the **management team** to create the organisational conditions, in which OHSE management comes natural. The **management team** organises the execution of the work such that this work can be performed safely, without any risk to the health of the employees and others involved and with minimal burden on the environment.
Finally it is the task of the **field-workers** to ensure safe and responsible execution of the daily work by being aware of the risks, by working in compliance with the prescribed guidelines and procedures, and by notifying their supervisor of non-standard or potentially hazardous situations.

To make OHSE management an inextricable part of all aspects of business operations, it is integrated into the management system and included in Sialtech's Management Handbook. This handbook sets out the **company policy** in the field of OHSE management. This company policy is translated into the way in which **management and control** is executed, which is also laid down in the Management Handbook through procedures and work agreements. The Management Handbook contains protocols, guidelines and work instructions, which must guarantee safe **execution** of the work in the field.

At least twice a year, all business operations are screened by internal auditors and yearly by external auditors and inspected for compliance with regulations and instructions from ISO 9001:2015, the Contractors Safety Checklist for OHSE management 2004 (Veiligheids Checklist Aannemers, VCA), ISO45001 and the CO2 performance ladder (CO2 prestatieladder). This has resulted in a formal certification of Sialtech based on these standards (the CO2 prestatieladder on step 3).

1.4 Registration of accidents and incidents

All accidents in which personal injury and/or material damage have arisen are recorded on a specially developed form. The same applies to incidents with a reasonably high risk of occurrence involving personal injury or substantial material damage. The cause and consequence of the accident are entered on this form, as well as the actions necessary to prevent repetition and is the person responsible for this action. The actions are entered in the “action follow-up system”, which is accessible for everyone through the Intranet.

A summary is drawn up annually of all accidents and incidents, which is discussed during the management evaluation and in the regular consultations with the Works Council, and submitted to the certifying institution.

1.5 Planning and execution of field work

For the planning and execution of field-work, Sialtech has drawn up an instruction leaflet, containing detailed descriptions on which information must be known beforehand, how the field team is compiled, which safety measures must be taken, how the field-work and observations must be recorded and how they are reported. In short, OHSE management in the preparation and execution of fieldwork is organised as follows.

A project leader verifies whether the client has supplied all relevant information, which is necessary to evaluate what the specific safety risks are. Subsequently a **Job Safety Analysis** is performed. For that purpose, Sialtech has created a fieldwork form with an **automated associated safety card**, which shows the risks specific to each task.

Based on the job safety analysis, it is subsequently determined whether the nature of the risks makes a separate **OHSE management project plan** necessary. If this is the case, such a plan is drawn up by or in consultation with the client. This project plan must meet the requirements from the Occupational health information sheet 22 of the Health and Safety Inspectorate. If Sialtech is responsible for drawing up the OHSE management project plan, it is submitted for approval to the internal qualified safety person. The project leader finally determines if it is necessary to carry out a field audit. This is the case, among other things, with especially risk-filled or prolonged projects.

Based on the completed fieldwork form, the job safety analysis and the possible OHSE management project plan, the fieldwork planner selects the field employees, who have the qualifications and examinations necessary for the execution of the work. If an OHSE management project plan has been drawn up, an *OHSE* project officer is designated. In addition, the fieldwork planner collects information about the presence of underground cables and pipes. The fieldwork planner enters all available information in a **field file** with the completed fieldwork form.

The fieldwork planner passes the field file on to the field team. Except for short projects without special risks, a **kick-off meeting** is always held between the fieldwork planner or the project leader

and the field team, paying attention to issues such as specific risks and the safety measures. If sub-contractors are used, a kick-off meeting with them is also held regarding special safety projects. When an OHSE management project plan has been drawn up, a meeting is organised, with all parties involved, including the Client and the Sub-contractors.

After the preliminary discussion, any additional PPE required is issued. The field project leader is responsible for checking the fieldwork equipment, the material and the PPE for completeness and functioning, before actual work commences.

In the field, field-workers are responsible primarily for their own care and safety and that of others. In the event of unsafe or unexpected situations with an unknown safety risk, work is interrupted and the planner is notified immediately.

When a project plan for OHSE management is drawn up, the *OHSE* project officer is responsible for monitoring compliance with the OHSE management plan. Deviations from the OHSE management plan are discussed with the project leader. If the *OHSE* project officer suspects an unsafe situation, he can suspend the work.

If, during the fieldwork, **asbestos is found unexpectedly** or in much larger quantities than was assumed, the work is suspended and the project leader or planner is contacted. He determines in consultation with the internal asbestos expert and the client, whether the work should be continued and which safety measures will then have to be met. A comparable procedure is followed if during the course of the fieldwork **a pollution level** is encountered that deviates significantly form expected levels.

Accidents and incidents are instantly reported to the planner. For every accident and incident an accident form is filled out, which, after completion, is submitted to the planner along with the field file.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of Fatalities	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Major Accidents	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Over 3 days Accidents	0	0	0	2	0
Number of all Injuries	2	1	2	2	2
Number of OSHA Recordable Incidents	2	0	1	2	0

Number of DAFW Cases	0	0	2	2	0
Number of all incidents	8	3	3	4	5
Average Number of Employees	27	28	32	29	30
Total Hours Worked	41824	43887	63141	63871	64420
Accident Incident Rate	0,25	0	0.33	0.5	0
OSHA Recordable Incident Rate	9,5	0	3,17	6.26	0
VCA IF score	0	0	1,5	31.3	0
DAFW Rate	0	0	9,5	75.15	0

As can be seen in the accidents/incidents table, in 2021 Sialtech had two reportable incidents. Our goal for 2022 was to perform better than 2021 and achieve a OHSA recordable incident score and a VCA IF score of 0. As can be seen from the above data, we succeeded in that goal. Now hopefully we can keep these numbers for 2023 as well.

2. Planet

2.1 Introduction

Sialtech aims for a CO2-reduction

On 19 april 2016, Sialtech received a CO_2 performance ladder certificate on level 3.

Organizational boundary

The organizational boundary is determined according to the GHG-method (method 1 in the CO_2 Performance Ladder Manual). And consists of all our buildings and the entire fleet, with the exeption of the use of AdBlue.

Responsibilities

The responsibility regarding the energy management system is split into final responsibility and operational responsibility for the data and the management. The director of Sialtech has the final responsibility at holding level.

The QSHE Coordinator is responsible for the collecting of the data, tracking changes within the organization that may affect emissions and thereby keeping the CO_2 emission inventory up to date. Responsibility to continue to meet the energy management lies with the QSHE Coordinator for the energy management and includes:

- Periodically, but at least twice a year to monitor the CO_2-footprint and monitor the objectives;
- Coordinate with the management on the export of reduction measures;
- Preparation of internal and external communication about the CO_2-performance.

Energy Management Program

Sialtech commits itself to continuous improvement of its services, products and processes. Twice annually all CO_2-emissions (with respect to the above mentioned organizational boundary) will be included in the CO_2-footprint. This is achieved by processing all energy bills, fleet data and if applicable air travel. The results are compared with previous results and CO_2 reduction targets. These audit results are reported to the management. During the annual management review evaluation will take place, and if necessary, revised targets or new measures or targets will be set. The board and management team are committed to these goals.

CO2-emissions inventory

The registration of CO_2-data of Sialtech is done by means of annually analysing the fleet information

supplied by the lease company, analysing the data supplied by the gas and electricity suppliers. In lieu with our goal to reach at least level 4 on the CO_2-emissions ladder, emission data from our suppliers and waste disposal companies will also be taken into consideration in the future.

Structure

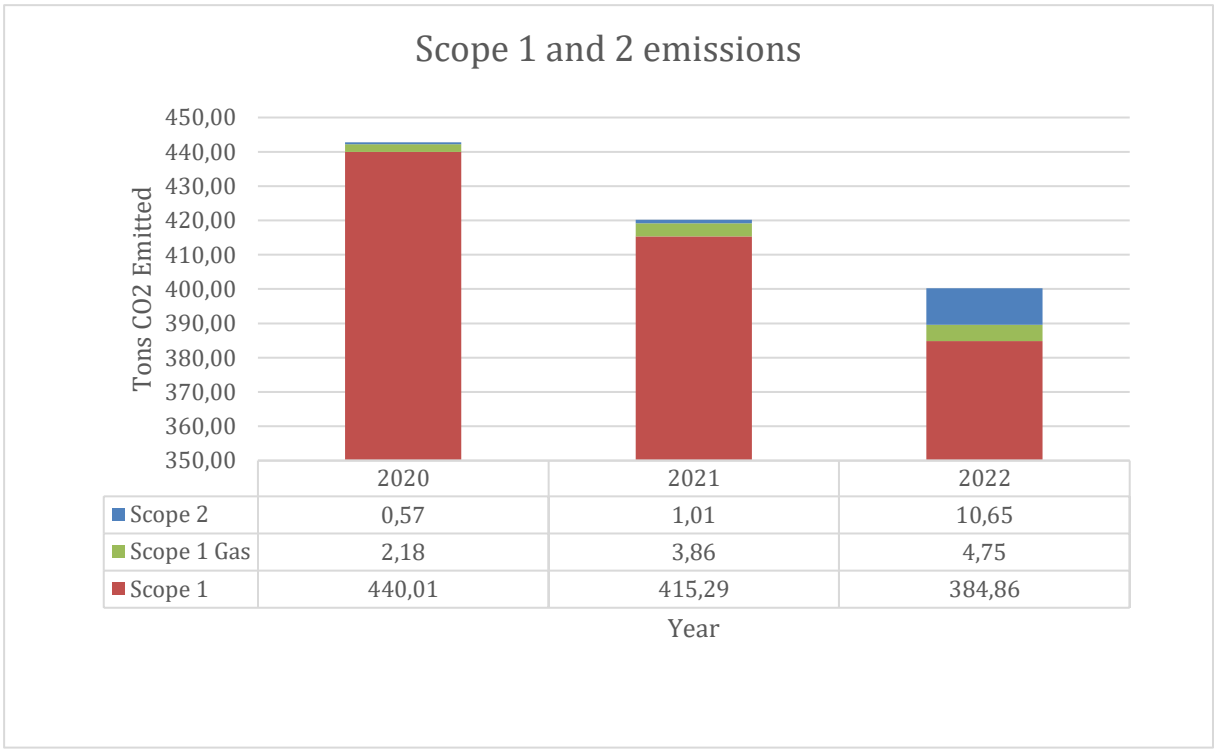
Paragraph 2.2 provides information on CO_2-emissions for scope 1 and 2 of 2016 through 2021. Paragraph 2.3 shows the CO_2-reduction objectives of Sialtech for scope 1 and 2, after which Paragraph 2.4 is indicating the measures with Sialtech wants to achieve these objectives. Paragraph 2.5 then provides insight into the scope 3 emissions, in which the method of sector-oriented explanation is followed. In Paragraph 2.6, the communication with all stakeholders on CO_2 is stated.

2.2 scope 1 and 2 CO2 emissions 2020 to 2022

Overview

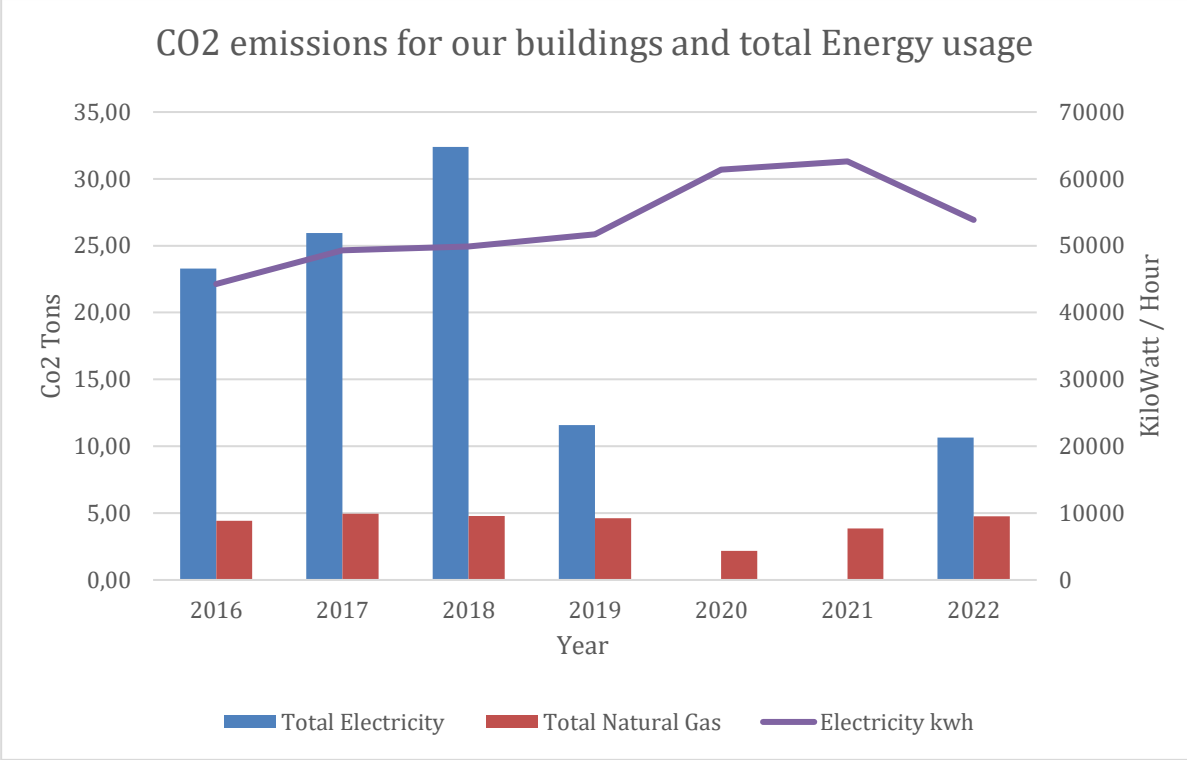
The CO_2-emissions of scope 1 and 2 for Sialtech from 2020 thru 2022 are shown below. In 2021 our 5 year reduction program came to a close and we concluded that we had made gains in the reduction for our buildings, but that our fleet emissions were not so easily controlled. Therefore for the next 5 years we have set ourselves a much more moderate goal

The emission figures are calculated using emission data from www.co2emissiefactoren.nl and are based upon fuel use (diesel, natural gas) or KWh used (electricity). Thereby creating a more level playing field, not polluted by tests conducted by factories (eg VW's Dieselgate), but defined by actual consumed fuel.



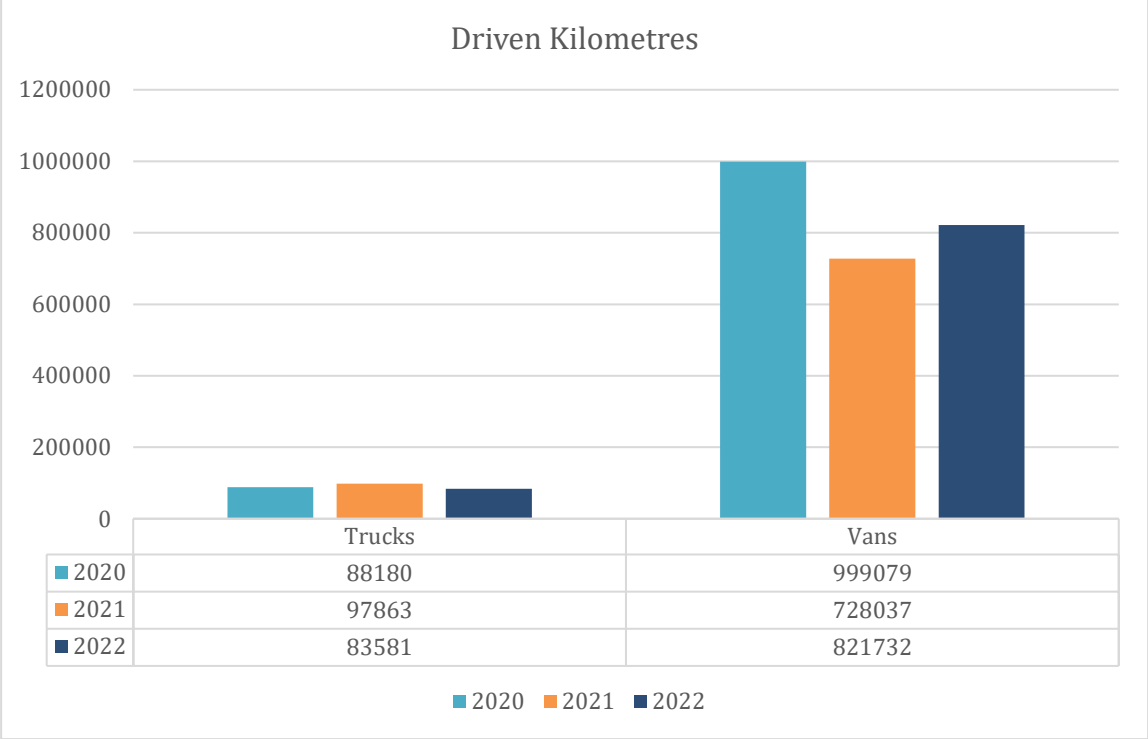
Office locations

In April 2022 Sialtech was forced to change the 100% green energy contract to a 65/35% green/grey contract due to the European energy crisis. The 65% renewable energy generated domestically also had a small component of Bio gassing which is also not 100% emission free. Therefore our scope 2 energy emissions have risen in 2022. We did manage to use less energy in 2022, which is probably caused by installing Led lighting in the warehouse.

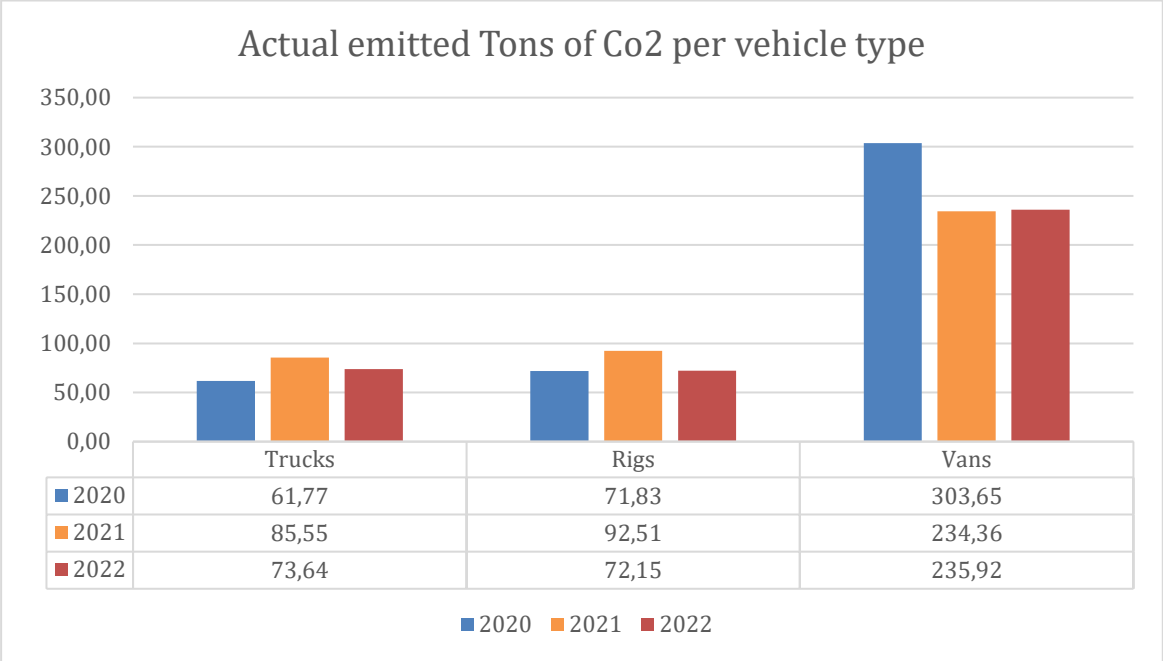


Fleet data

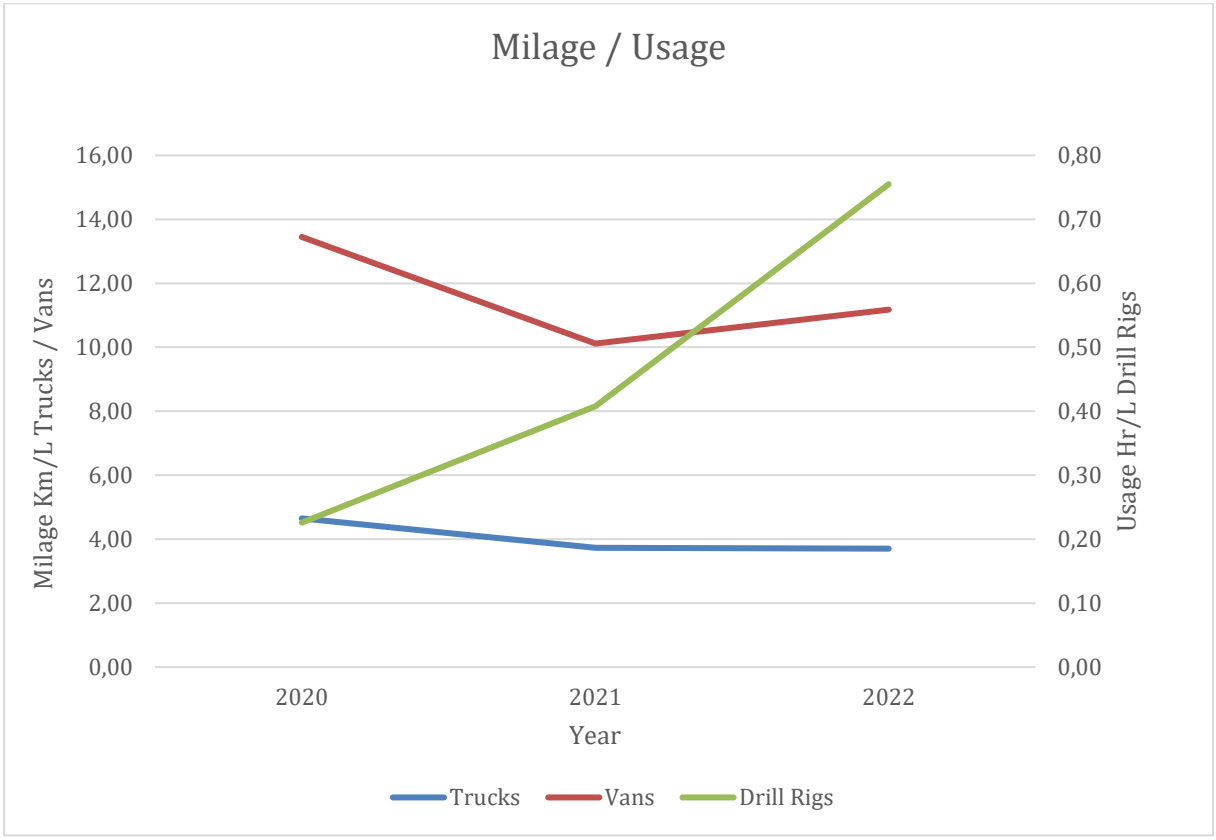
Due to the fact that our fleet emissions are the mainstay of our emissions they are separated below into four vehicle types, Trucks, Vans, Rigs and Other, based upon the information supplied by our lease corporation and track&trace systems.

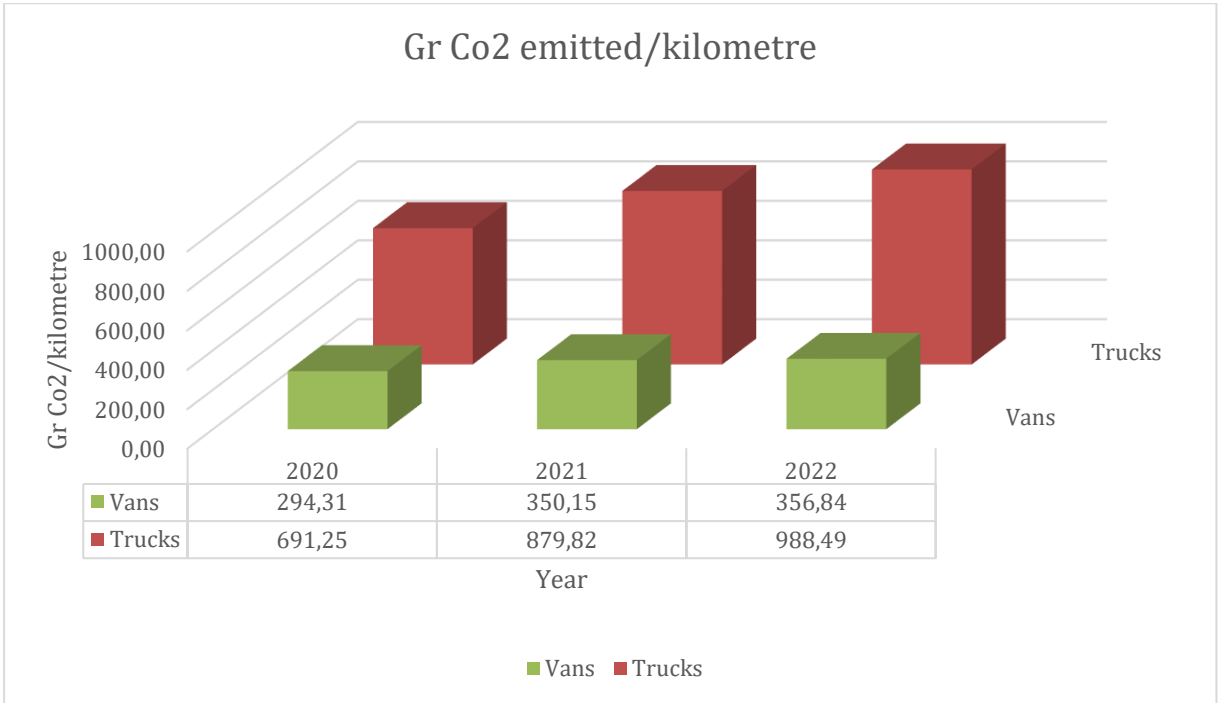


The Co2 emission from the vans has stayed the same in 2022 which is positively correlated with the rise in driven kilometres. This could be the result of the fleet renewal program



Below is an overview of the various emission and fuel efficiency values we have calculated over 2020 to 2022.





The milage for the trucks has roughly stabilised with minor fluctuations dependent on registration

errors. The milage of the vans and hourly usage for the rigs is probably influenced by bad bookkeeping on the diesel usage

2.3 scope 1 and 2 CO2 reduction objectives

Our reduction goals for 2021-2026 are:
Scope 1 Fleet: Relative reduction of 5% per driven kilometre
Scope 1 Buildings: 5% reduction absolute in natural gas used
Scope 2 Buildings: 5% reduction absolute

The results for every goal will be discussed below:

2.4 scope 1 and 2 CO_2-reduction plan

The table below displays per scope the proposed measures, by which Sialtech wants to achieve the objective.

Scope 1		Status:
Natural Gas savings	Make sure outer (overhead) doors are not unnecessary open	Monitored
	Install and program the heater in the most economical way	New more enery efficient heater installed in 2023
Fuel savings / CO2 Reduction	Start an internal competition who drives most economic with monthly prize	Not yet done
	New cars should be fuel efficient	Finished
	New cars should be low emission variants	Finished
	Pay attention to environmental friendly driving in toolbox meeting	Monitored, done
Scope 2		
Electricity	Investigate the possibilities to switch to green power. Due to the energy crisis, Sialtech had to switch to a 65/35% green/grey power contract. In the future this will be evaluated and when possible the contract will be switched to a 100% green contract.	From 1 april 2022 Sialtech had to switch to a 65/35% Green/grey power contract
	Investigate the possibilities to install solar panels	From 1 jan 2023 Sialtech uses green power in Houten supplied by Solar panels on our roof

	All new light bulbs should be low power usage	Done in the offices, in 2022 the workshop in Houten was fitted with led
	New office hardware should be energy efficient	Not yet done
	Pay attention to unnecessary charging of equipment and educate people on the matter	Monitored
	New coffee machine should have timeout function for the night	Not yet done
Water	Install water efficient appliances	Done
	Educate people on low water usage	Not yet done
	Try and minimize the water used in drilling rigs, prevent overflow when topping off tanks	Done
	Investigate the possibility for grey water usage	Not yet done

2022 Results

For a better overview only the actual executed/applied measures are given below.

Scope 1:	
Make sure outer (overhead) doors are not unnecessary open (natural gas savings)	Is being monitored
New cars should be fuel efficient and low emission variants	In 2013 the average factory emission was 236 grams/kilometre. In 2022 this was 176 grams/kilometre
Pay attention to environmental friendly driving in toolbox meeting	In 2022 a toolbox concerning environmental friendly driving was given to the entire field team.
Scope 2:	
Investigate the possibilities to switch to green power	In April 2022 Sialtech switched to a contract with 65/35% green/grey power usage due to the energy crisis.
All new light bulbs should be low power usage	When needed low power bulbs are used
New office hardware should be energy efficient	New computers are of energy star power saving type
Pay attention to unnecessary charging of equipment and educate people on the matter	Is covered in toolbox and a check proved less is being unnecessary charged.

Conclusion scope 1 and scope 2 2022

In 2022 the scope 2 emissions have in creased due to the need to switch to a less green energy contract.
The scope 1 diesel emissions for Vans and Rigs should be more closer monitored, due to the rise in efficiency of both groups and no decrease in the truck group to see if there is unregistered diesel being used.

2.5 Industry-oriented elaboration scope 3

Based on the industry-specific elaboration for engineering companies Sialtech has examined its scope 3 emissions in 2016-2019. In this paragraph we try to determine which 'downstream' emissions are the most decisive and the extent of Sialtech 's ability to reduce these emissions.

Prioritizing most material emissions

Based on the turnover data, the potential reduction of CO_2-emissions and the possible influence of Sialtech in such emissions, the potential most promising material emissions of Sialtech are prioritized.

From this prioritization a chain analysis on the following processes and/or materials can have the best results in containing our scope 3 emissions:

1. Waste processing
2. Disposable field material
3. The monitoring well materials
4. The clay used to seal monitoring wells
5. The gravel used in the monitoring wells
6. Commuter traffic

Objectives Scope 3

Based on the chain analysis waste disposal, the next objective is pursued:
In cooperation with its partners in the chain Sialtech is working to reduce CO_2 emissions further in the whole chain of waste disposal.

Based on the chain analysis commuter traffic, the next objective is pursued:
Sialtech encourages its employees to purchase environmental friendlier cars.

Sialtech will talk with her clients about the opportunities and possibilities for reduction. The client has the final decision on the approach and the interpretation. Given the limited impact of Sialtech in both the chains there are no quantitative objectives for these services set.

Insight into CO2 emissions projects

Increase understanding of the CO_2 emissions in the project are being pursued in different ways. Firstly the quotations for standard work will contain a request to the client to provide insight in scope 1 and 2 emissions of the work.
Secondly our requests for quotations from our suppliers will contain requests concerning insight in their scope 1 and 2 emissions.

2.6 Chain analysis waste disposal

Sialtech uses Beelen as its main waste disposal company. They dispose the waste generated by the Houten head office and the majority of the waste produced by our field work activities. This includes normal domestic waste as well as possible polluted soil (special container).

Types of waste:
At the Houten office Sialtech uses 4 different containers to separate different waste products.

1. Paper and cardboard;
2. Glass;
3. General domestic waste;
4. Possible polluted and general surplus soil;

1. Paper and cardboard: The paper and cardboard container is used to dispose office generated paper prints, boxes, etc., that is collected in the various paper waste containers found in the office. Also deposited in this container are cardboard boxes that contained sample vessels, either emptied at the office or in the field and other boxes that field contained field materials.
2. Glass: This container is mainly used to dispose of broken, or over the date sample vessels and a small amount of domestic glass.
3. General domestic waste: This container is used to dispose of the general office waste, including plastics, fruit and vegetables and the general waste produced by the fieldwork activities like plastic, general garbage, fruit, used fieldwork material (filters, monitoring well material) and over the date or broken plastic sample containers.
4. Possible polluted and general surplus soil: Sialtech is by law obliged to take care of the safe removal of organoleptic polluted soil that is brought to the surface during its fieldwork activities. Also, whenever required Sialtech can take care of the removal of unpolluted surplus soil, generated by our fieldwork. Both types are deposited in a container at the Houten office, that is emptied when needed, after the contents is sampled and analysed, to determine the environmental condition of the soil in the container.

Amount of waste collected at the Houten office in 2021.

For the above mentioned types of waste Beelen supplied the following numbers:

Paper and Cardboard:	4,24 Tons
Glass:	0.94 Tons
General Waste:	19.5 Tons

Overview of the CO2 emissions of Beelen in respect to the generated waste by Sialtech.

Renewi (our previous waste collector) supplied an overview of the averaged CO2 emissions that relate to the different kind of waste streams. After switching to Beelen, Sialtech has decided to keep the CO2 coefficients as used by Renewi. The report concerning these emissions was universally suited and not focussed on Renewi, and therefore the coefficient should be the same.
Sialtech uses the following CO2 coefficients for calculating the CO2 emissions from our office waste streams:

paper and cardboard	817 Kg CO2/Ton
glass	217 Kg CO2/Ton
general waste	9 Kg CO2/Ton

Calculated by Royal Haskoning (Haskoning, 2010).

The graph below shows the 3 different waste groups that have CO2 coefficients and their respective CO2 emission.

This graph clearly shows that the majority of our waste CO2 emissions stems from the processing of cardboard and paper. And that our waste has been a stable emission until 2019. The rise in 2020/2021 might be attributed to switching to a digital archive, that resulted in a change in paper/cardboard usage, with more paper being thrown away after filing it in the digital archive. In the future project preparation will be as paperless as possible, but the transition is visible as an increase in paper waste.

Chain analysis Waste processing summary

The results of the chain analysis waste deposal shows that for the 3 waste groups that the CO2 effect could be calculated for, the waste group paper and cardboard attributes significant more CO2 than

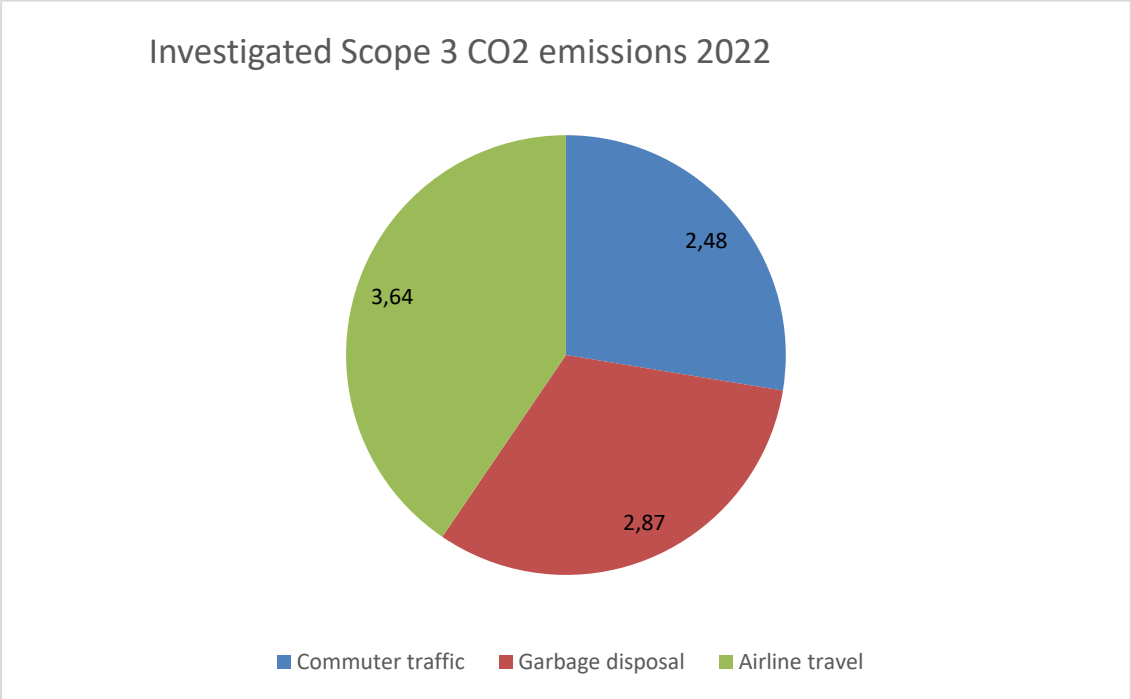
the other 2 groups. Therefore the most gain in reduction can probably be attained by reducing the amount of paper used in the office processes and see if sample materials can be supplied in plastic reusable crates instead of cardboard boxes.

2.7 Chain analysis Commuter traffic

At the Houten office, in 2021, 3 employees commuted by private car to the office, resulting in a 2022 CO2 emission of 2,48 tons. The cars used are small relative low emission variants and the possibilities to reach the Houten office by public transportation are mediocre at best. Therefore it is concluded that this group of scope 3 emissions is not within our sphere of influence.

2.8 Scope 3 reduction plan

The chain analysis of these two processes resulted in the below graph that indicates that commuter traffic contributes roughly 2/3 of our scope 3 emissions and garbage disposal roughly 1/3 of our scope 3 emissions.



The results of the chain analysis regarding waste disposal showed that the majority of our emissions stem from the disposal of paper and cardboard. The results of the chain analysis commuter traffic showed that due to the lack of good public transportation around the Houten office this process is beyond our sphere of influence.

The below table is a summary of the proposed measures Sialtech wants to implement to reduce its scope 3 emissions.

Waste disposal:	Proposed measures	Result
Paper and Cardboard	Investigate if it is possible receive all sample materials in plastic	It was not possible for the laboratories to change the method of supplying the

	crates instead of cardboard boxes.	sampling materials.
Paper and Cardboard	Further reduce the use of paper in the office environment. Lean and Green policy implementation.	Implemented, only the bare necessities are printed such as maps.
General waste	See if it is possible to start with separate plastic collection to further reduce the general waste.	The community of Houten uses an after collection waste segregation process, therefore we cannot separate plastic waste at the office.

2.9 Communication

Communication is an essential part of the CO_2 Performance Ladder. The main objectives of communication with relation to the CO_2 Performance Ladder are:

1 Informing internal and external stakeholders on the CO2 footprint and objectives of Sialtech .
2 At least informing annually of internal and external stakeholders on energy, reduction targets and achievements of Sialtech .
3 External stakeholders are at least considered as clients, authorities, industry associations and chain partners.
4 Creating awareness among our employees and encourage individual contributions.

Communication plan

The tables below give an overview of the communication and the communication objectives and message each identified target groups for the CO_2 reduction policies.

Objective	Method of communicating
1	By our website and social media
2	By our website and social media
3	On project basis and when needed
4	By toolbox meetings

Participation chain initiatives and programs

Sialtech has not taken part in supply chain initiatives and programs related to CO_2 reduction. In the future we will investigate the possibilities to participate in possible supply chain initiatives. The initial goal for these participations will be to increase the awareness and share our knowledge about reduction possibilities.

3. Profit

3.1 Social Responsibility

Sialtech recognizes her social responsibility. At this moment we have started to identify our stakeholders and we have drawn up a code of conduct for our company and employees. We are planning to draw up a ISO26000 self-declaration to emphasize the importance of social responsibility to Sialtech.

3.2 Contribution to society

Sialtech was founded in 1992 as a company specialized in environmental and geotechnical fieldwork and grew over the years to become the market leader in the Netherlands. We play an important role in the Dutch regulation as member of the Dutch association for quality of environmental soil survey (VKB) and we are chairman of the section Measurements within SIKB, a network set up to continuously and structurally enhance the standards of soil management in the Netherlands. Furthermore, Sialtech is a member of the committee for field research of the Dutch national institute for standards and standardization (NEN).

3.2.1 Member of VKB

Sialtech is a member of VKB and belongs to one of the founders of VKB (vereniging voor kwaliteitsborging bodemonderzoek).

History

The enormous growth of the market in soil survey and the number of soil testing consultancy that has been active on this market, led to concern about the quality of the soil survey by companies and governments in the Netherlands.

Matters such as reproducibility, reliability and comparability of the results of the soil survey came up for discussion.

The Working Group Bodem (Soil) of the ONRI has therefore taken the initiative for the establishment of an association of engineering firms with the aim of bringing more quality into soil survey. In November 1996 this led to the foundation of the Association of Soil Quality (VKB) by fifteen renowned consultancies. VKB is at the time, fully focused on the provision of the environmentally hygienic soil survey.

Over time the scope of the association has become bigger to include all research and consultancy of soil management. The letters also changed in meaning since a couple of years: Quality Assurance of Soil Association (Vereniging Kwaliteitsborging Bodembeheer).

Aim

When VKB was founded, it set a goal: quality-insurance of environmental soil advice by the affiliated soil consulting and research firms. Ten years after VKB was founded, this aim was largely achieved.

In ten years' time, a complete system of research protocols and assessment guidelines were developed, SIKB carries the responsibility for the mutual alignment between the different actors in the chain of soil management. And since a couple of years its quality requirements were set out in the legislation and regulations.

At the moment, the VKB as the following aims:

- Towards the clients of our members: further development/optimization of the quality required by the customer. Here are things like professionalism, integrity, flexibility, unburdening, trust and guarantees of interest.
- Towards the soil management chain in the Netherlands / International: active most hours and being a point of contact for other actors in the chain of the soil management.
- Towards our members: information, coordination, acts as a sounding board and provides improvement to the quality development unburdening.

Sialtech and the VKB

Sialtech participates on behalf of the VKB in various advisory committees as an expert of soil borings and field measurements. On behalf of the VKB Sialtech is the chairman of the section measuring of the SIKB. This section is actively involved in all the regulations of soil borings and field measurements in the Netherlands.

3.2.2 member of section measuring of SIKB

Sialtech is a member of the section measuring SIKB.

SIKB is a network, encompassing both the private and the public sector, set up to continuously and structurally enhance the standards of activities relating to soil management in The Netherlands. This includes decision-making, rendering of services, as well as soil remediation and soil handling. The work of SIKB breaks up into five main objectives:

1. Further harmonization of applied procedures and technology
2. Application of improved technology and procedures
3. Economic and cost aware execution of work
4. Well defined definition of quality and making quality assurance identifiable by

certification

5. Getting and keeping support from all parties concerned

SIKB's motto: to provide instruments for simpler and better soil management.

Some background:

Consciously incorporating aspects of quality on the job is definitely on the rise, not just in corporate business, but also more and more in public institutions. Among employees as well as employers the awareness is growing that forms of quality assurance play a vital part in delivering products and services that really answer to the customer's demands. Site investigation and soil remediation: Several organizations working on the protection and cleaning of the Dutch soil are forerunners in this general trend. Some years ago it was also established that site investigation in The Netherlands was suffering from a falling quality level. Several initiatives were started independently in response. A confusing situation then threatened to arise, due to a lack of co-ordination. The Association of Quality Assurance in Site investigation (VKB) and the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment (VROM) then started a project to bring the existing initiatives together in a new Foundation Infrastructure for Quality Assurance of Soil Management, which in Dutch abbreviates to SIKB.

Sialtech and SIKB

Sialtech participates on behalf of the SIKB to various advisory committees as an expert of soil borings and field measurements.

3.2.3 Partner VEB

Sialtech is a partner member of the Association of Certified Soil Remediation Experts in Belgium. VEB is an independent union that represents some of the accredited soil remediation experts. The main objective of the association is to pursue an increase in the quality of the studies of soil experts. For more information: see www.vebvzw.be.

Literature:

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