



# Environmental Sustainability

**VitalSource set, and hit, the bold goal in 2023 to become carbon neutral. We are committed to reducing our impact on the environment, creating a more sustainable future, and providing carbon neutral products and services.**

VitalSource has long been known for being an innovative force in the course materials industry. The transition to digitally delivered course materials has brought with it obvious savings in the form of raw materials production, manufacturing, storage, and distribution of physical materials. The VitalSource environmental sustainability program has been developed to quantify these savings and to further reduce the impact of the remaining emissions from operating our global business and from students using digital materials.

As of 2023, VitalSource is home to the first carbon neutral course materials program and offers student buyers carbon neutral course materials through the VitalSource.com store. We will be a certified carbon neutral organization for 2023 and are committed to carbon neutrality.

## OUR PLEDGE

- The emissions from our own company's operations and the downstream use of our products are, and will be, measured using scientific measurement methods (GHG Protocol)
- We will invest in efforts to reduce, remove and offset our emissions with vetted high-quality impact projects and carbon offsets.
- We will report these measurements and actions publicly.
- Carbon Neutral means that if VitalSource emits X tCO<sub>2</sub>e, then we will fund actions that will keep that same amount of carbon from being emitted through projects across clean power generation, reforestation and similar projects with proven impact.
- We work with climate consultants at Watershed, the leading climate program partner, to ensure our measurements are accurate, auditable and that we are investing in high quality projects.
- Through our Planet Smart initiative, course materials delivered through the VerbaOne Equitable Access program and the VitalSource store will be carbon neutral.

We recognize that the climate emergency is happening now, and action is needed by companies worldwide. Our pledge of net carbon neutrality and future sustainability is a serious commitment and investment. VitalSource launched its carbon neutral initiative in 2023 through a three-step process; measure, act, and report.

### **STEP ONE, MEASURE.**

The first step in any climate program is to measure the current impact and emissions by that enterprise. The emissions measurement will underly all future actions and reporting. This step involved a thorough review with the climate experts at Watershed Technologies, to calculate VitalSource's emissions. All business activities - such as energy use, flights, cloud computing, offices, work-from-home and more – were measured and aligned with science-based emissions factors to calculate our overall emissions report. These emissions are grouped by their Greenhouse Gas Protocol emission categories (ie Scope 1, 2 & 3 and sub-categories).

Based on data for the full year 2022, activities including everything from our suppliers, buildings, anonymized employee locations, work travel, anonymized use of Bookshelf, and more were measured. VitalSource's operational controllable emissions were 1,920 tonnes CO2e and this measure formed the basis for VitalSource's carbon neutral program.

### **STEP TWO, ACT.**

We now have a clearer understanding of how much we contribute to climate change. We will reduce this footprint by adjusting our business practices and investing in carbon reduction projects. A carbon neutral company balances its greenhouse gas emissions with an equal amount of investment to reduce or offset the same amount of greenhouse gas emissions. To do this, VitalSource is investing in a portfolio of carbon avoidance projects that includes clean power generation and reforestation around the world.

### **STEP THREE, REPORT.**

We value transparency and believe that everyone should have access to the information they need to make informed decisions about the products and services they choose to purchase and adopt.

Ongoing climate science and collective climate action depends on companies sharing their measurements and actions with the community at large. The sharing of emissions and other sustainability data spurs engagement across industries and allows customers, investors, and the market to make informed decisions about the market.

We respect our customers and employees' privacy and personal choices and will not monitor their behavior, nor require them to make choices that might violate their personal beliefs.

### **CONCLUSION**

VitalSource has always valued the environmental benefits of its products. We believe our customers deserve partners who hold sustainability at the core of their company's mission. We expanded our commitment to sustainability by accounting for our carbon footprint and investing in actions that minimize the overall climate impact of our enterprise. We believe operational carbon neutrality, starting in 2023, is the right first step toward future sustainability goals. VitalSource environmental sustainability program demonstrates its leadership across the larger aims for student equity, affordability, and their chance at the brightest future imaginable.