

# Atlantic Packaging Sustainability Report

2021 – 2022



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# introduction

## 1. Sustainability Mission Statement

*We, Atlantic Packaging, are committed to creating, supporting, and managing sustainable systems in packaging and commerce. We acknowledge our unique position in the supply chain and our moral obligation to do our part in creating a world free of pollution.*

*We commit ourselves to carbon footprint reductions for our organization and our network of suppliers and customers. As a key market leader in packaging, Atlantic is further committed to supporting the development and implementation of robust sustainability strategies for ourselves and our key partners.*

*Sustainable practices in packaging and logistics guide our market strategies and philosophy. By utilizing a diversified approach incorporating energy reduction, efficiency, and renewables, Atlantic is also committed to meeting goals to help us reach a net-zero carbon footprint for our operations and entire value chain by 2046. This will be a fitting accomplishment for us in 2046 as we celebrate the 100th anniversary since Horace Carter founded Atlantic.*

*Our efforts are guided by a regenerative vision for the future of our planet and our children. We steward cooperation, collaboration, education, and transition throughout the marketplace. We remain always curious and adaptable to emerging technologies and systems that seek to solve the environmental challenges that harm or destroy our living Earth.*



**– Wes Carter**

*President | Atlantic Packaging  
Founder | A New Earth Project*

## 2. Sustainability Leadership Council

In 2019, Atlantic established a Sustainability Leadership Council comprised of the company President and several key Senior Management level individuals. In 2022, our new Sustainability Director was added to the Council.

This council is charged with establishing Atlantic's operational environmental impact; implementing aggressive, science-based carbon reduction strategies; and continuing to develop and promote more sustainable programs in packaging for our key customers.

The Council presents quarterly to the entire Atlantic management team to update progress and active initiatives.



Wes Carter



Stewart Whitmire



Caroline James



Eric Farmer

## 3. Our First Sustainability Director: Caroline James

In 2022, Atlantic Packaging officially hired our first full-time Sustainability Director, Caroline James. Caroline graduated with an MBA from the Yale School of Management with a focus on environmental sustainability. Having always had a focus on waste and climate issues, she found that she was excited about the challenges and opportunities in sustainable packaging and circular economy while she was in school. She focused her attention on sustainable packaging and connected with Atlantic, who she identified as a company dedicated to the same issues.

Caroline completed her MBA internship with Atlantic Packaging in the summer of 2021 where she created a framework for categorizing and managing Atlantic's sustainability initiatives. These categories include Operational Sustainability, Impacts of Traditional Materials, Sustainable Product Innovation, and Partnerships & Advocacy. With this framework in place, Caroline was able to identify the areas where additional resources were needed to make measurable progress in sustainable packaging.

As a business-oriented sustainability professional with a background in industrial ecology and life cycle assessment (LCA), Caroline is an incredible asset to Atlantic's entire organization, from our internal processes to our sales, marketing, and leadership. Atlantic is thrilled to welcome Caroline as our first Sustainability Director.



# internal operations: climate

## 1. Science-Based Targets

In 2022, Atlantic submitted for approval our Science-Based Targets (SBTs). SBTs provide companies with a clearly defined path to reduce emissions in line with the Paris Agreement goals, which aim to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. The Science-Based Targets Initiative (SBTi) is a partnership between CDP, the United Nations Global Compact, World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). We expect these targets to be approved in August 2022.

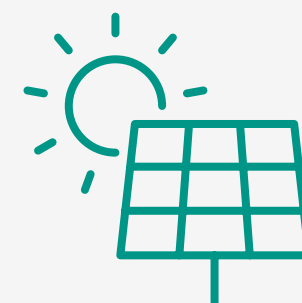


### In the Near Term:

- 1 Atlantic Corporation of Wilmington, Inc. also commits to reduce all other absolute Scope 3 GHG emissions from purchased goods and services 25% by 2030 from a 2021 base year.
- 2 Atlantic Corporation of Wilmington, Inc. commits that 55% of our suppliers by spend covering purchased goods and services will have science-based targets by 2026. Atlantic Corporation of Wilmington, Inc. also commits to reduce absolute scope 3 GHG emissions 25% covering the remaining purchased goods and services by 2030 from a 2021 base year.

### Our Net Zero Goal:

- 1 Atlantic Corporation of Wilmington, Inc. commits to reduce absolute Scope 1-3 GHG emissions 90% by 2046 from a 2021 base year. Atlantic further commits that any residual emissions within our value chain will be neutralized with an equivalent amount of carbon credits.



## 2. Emissions Reduction Progress

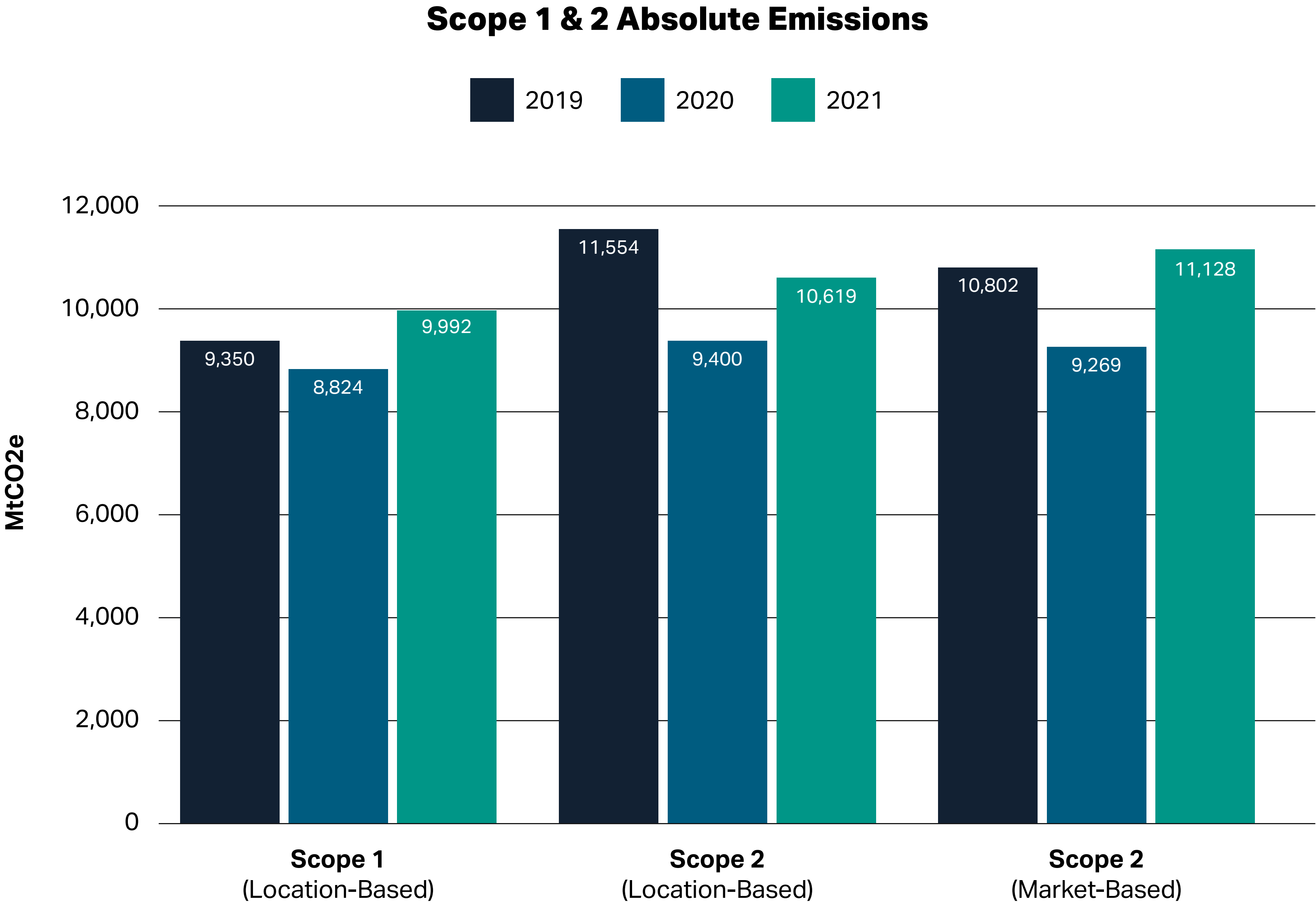
### Baseline Measurements

As we began the process of setting Science-Based Targets, a baseline year had to be chosen. Atlantic chose to use 2021 as our baseline year as it more accurately reflected normal business conditions than 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. In future years, Atlantic will publish progress toward our goals using our 2021 emissions as our baseline year.

### Scope 1 & 2 Emissions

In 2021, Atlantic experienced record growth in terms of sales and new business added. Additionally, 2020 was an anomalous year for Atlantic and for businesses worldwide, and may have resulted in lower-than-normal emissions levels. As a result, our Scope 1 and 2 emissions increased from 2020 and 2021. Our Scope 1 emissions were 9,992 metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalents (MtCO<sub>2</sub>e) in 2021. Our Scope 2 location-based emissions were 10,619 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e, and our Scope 2 market-based emissions were 11,128 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e.

However, the renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives we undertook in 2021 did lower the emissions intensity of our sales, measured in MtCO<sub>2</sub>e per \$1,000 in sales. Our Scope 1 emissions intensity fell by 5.8% from 2020 to 2021, and our Scope 2 emissions intensity decreased by 6%. We take the decrease in emissions intensity as a sign that our climate initiatives are impactful, although our goals are measure in absolute reductions. The plans we have laid out will show these absolute reductions in future years.

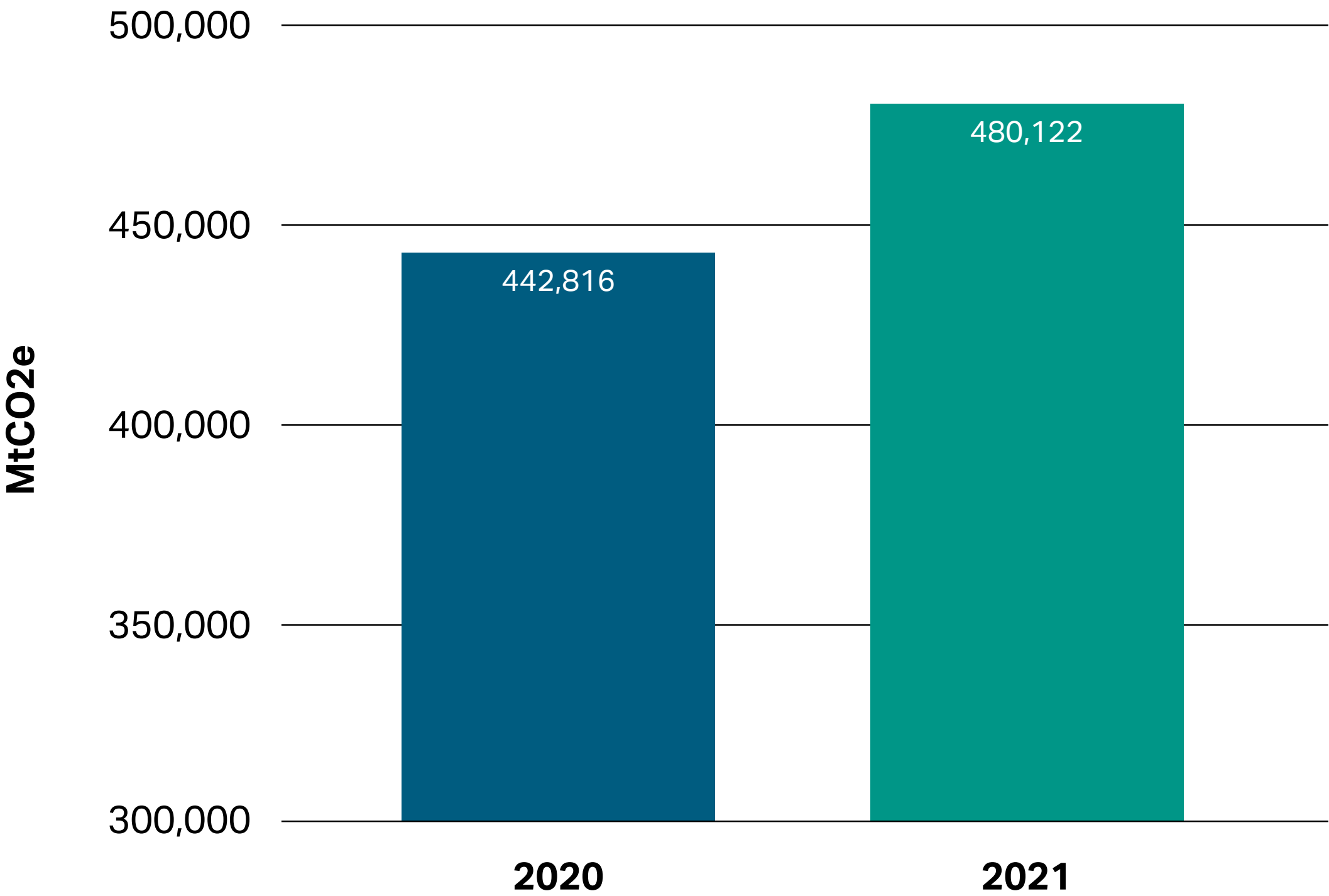


## Scope 3 Emissions

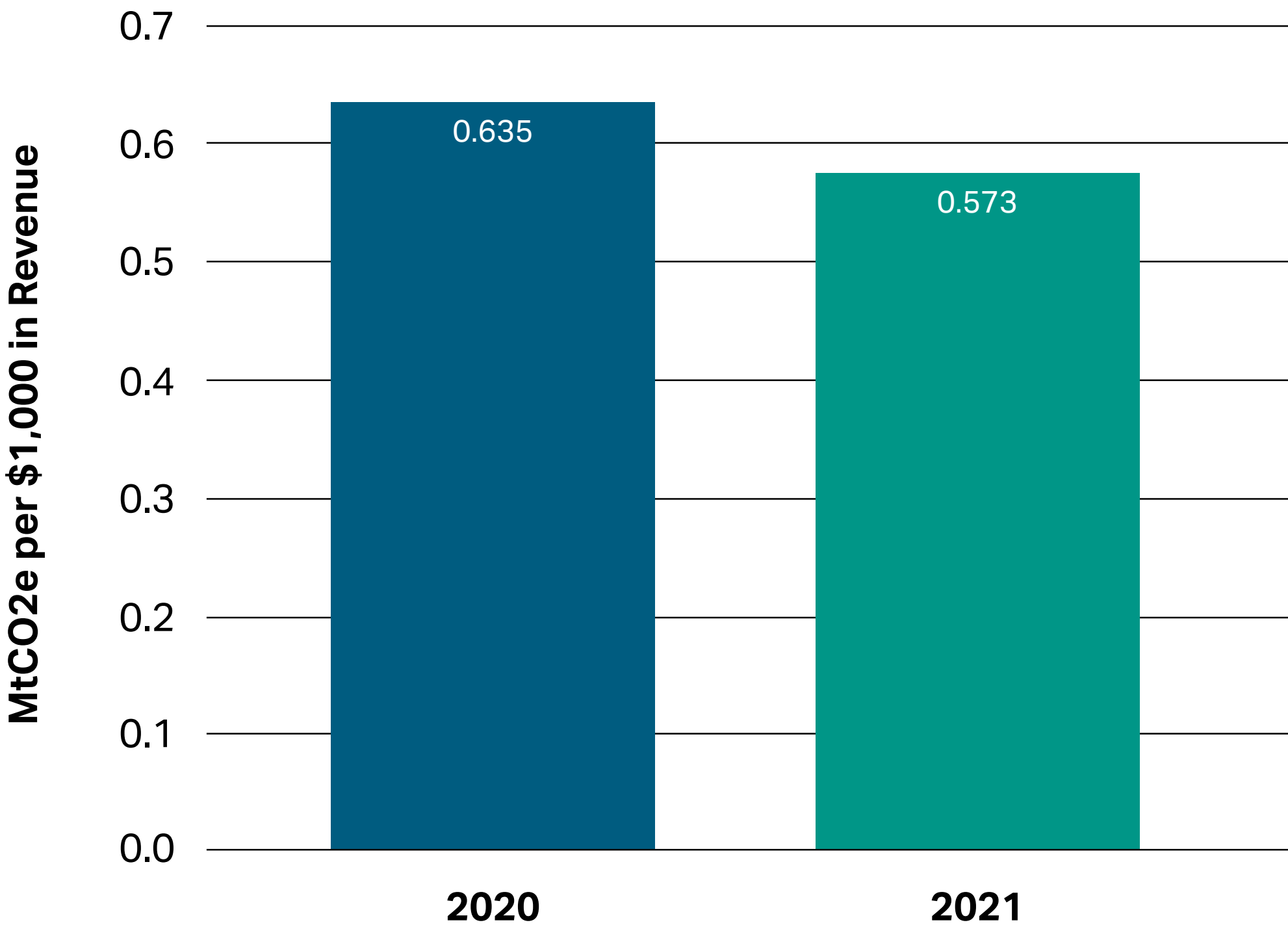
2020 was the first year that Atlantic quantified Scope 3 emissions. In 2021, our Scope 3 GHG emissions were 480,112 metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e. This represents an 8% increase from the 2020 baseline. As mentioned above, 2020 may not be representative of “business-as-usual,” and we attribute this increase to the low baseline 2020 set for Scope 3 emissions. Additionally, Atlantic grew significantly in 2021, resulting in greater emissions. Despite that growth, however, our Scope 3 intensity fell by 9.8% between 2020 and 2021: in other words, the Scope 3 emissions required to generate each dollar of sales fell by 10%.



Scope 3 Absolute Emissions



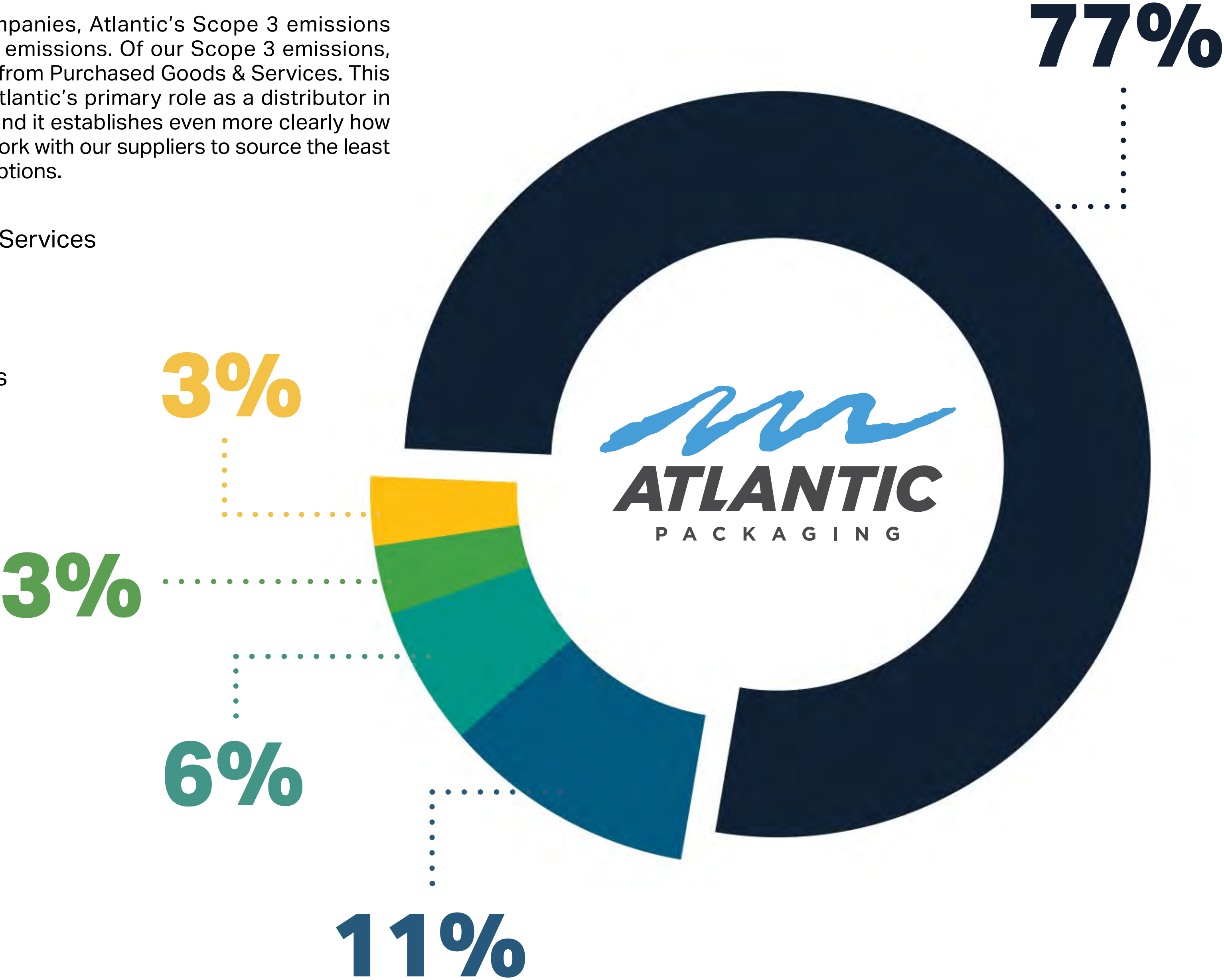
Scope 3 Emissions Intensity



# Total Scope 3 Emissions

As is common for many companies, Atlantic’s Scope 3 emissions outweigh our Scope 1 and 2 emissions. Of our Scope 3 emissions, the vast majority (77%) stem from Purchased Goods & Services. This finding makes sense given Atlantic’s primary role as a distributor in the packaging supply chain, and it establishes even more clearly how important it is for Atlantic to work with our suppliers to source the least carbon-intensive packaging options.

- Purchased Goods & Services
- End-of-Life
- Use of Sold Products
- Capital Goods
- Other



### 3. Renewables in Logistics & Material Handling

#### Electric Vehicles

Beginning in 2020, our Leadership Council began evaluating the feasibility of renewables in logistics. We are currently assessing the viability of electric and hydrogen fuel as options for powering our fleet of delivery trucks. We have made deposits on ten Tesla Semi trucks which are tentatively slated to arrive in 2023. We will continue to assess this technology and our ability to expand vehicle electrification throughout our fleet.

In 2020, Atlantic began a full transition away from natural gas-powered forklifts to a fully electric fleet. In 2021, 35 LP forklifts were replaced resulting in a forklift fleet that is 75% electric. We are aiming to have 80% electric forklifts by 2023.

We are also transitioning to electric vehicles for company-owned passenger cars. In 2021, we purchased several electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, as well as installed charging stations in several facilities to support these vehicles. Atlantic recognizes the need to transition our fleet of vehicles away from fossil fuels.

As this technology is still emerging, it is difficult to lay out goals for five to 10 years in the future. Atlantic will be among the first companies to invest in these emerging technologies as they become available.



### 4. Renewables in Operations

#### VPPA

In January 2022, Atlantic approached a group of our key suppliers to discuss using our collective buying power to enter a Virtual Power Purchase Agreement (VPPA). We see VPPAs as a valuable tool in meeting our climate goals and a unique way for partner organizations to produce products with 100% renewable energy.

As companies are rapidly trying to reduce their carbon footprints to keep up with changing expectations about corporate social responsibility, VPPAs are an achievable way to accomplish this goal. Companies in VPPAs receive Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) for the energy from the purchase, and those RECs are “applied” to lower the company’s total carbon footprint. This is a great alternative to directly installing renewable energy at a company’s facilities when direct installations are not feasible. VPPAs are a credible, low-cost, reliable financial mechanism for partner companies to buy RECs. In 2022 and 2023, we hope to finalize a plan to launch a VPPA with our key suppliers.

#### Onsite Solar

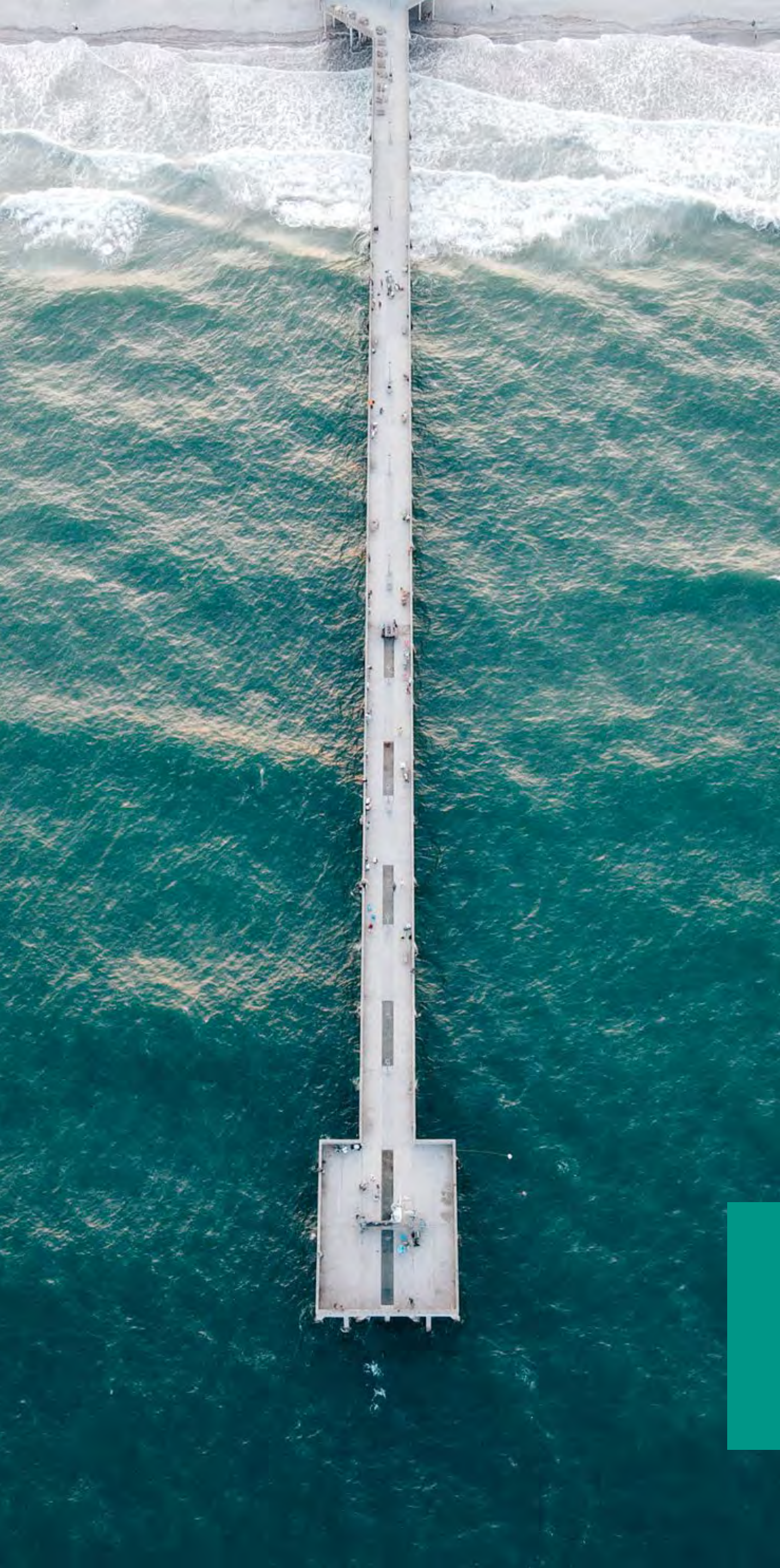
Atlantic launched a major initiative and investment in renewable solar energy by partnering with Renewvia Energy across our entire network of operations with the goal to dramatically reduce our Scope 2 emissions.

One way Atlantic is achieving our Science-Based Target is by replacing traditional sources of power at our facilities with solar power. Atlantic launched a major investment in on-site solar energy by partnering with Renewvia Energy across our network of operations. The goal is to dramatically reduce our Scope 2 emissions. In 2021, we completed solar installations at our facilities in both Charlotte, NC and in Charleston, SC. The Charleston facility has already generated enough energy to decrease energy required by the electric utility by about 50%. Additionally, we began the installation on our facility in the Dominican Republic, which we expect to complete in mid-2022.

### 5. Energy Efficiency

In 2019, Atlantic began a transition to energy-efficient halogen lighting in all facilities (25 unique operations). This initiative was complete in Q1 2021, and current estimates show an annual reduction of 290 metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e.





# internal operations: waste

## 1. Zero-Waste Facilities

Atlantic has committed to sustainable packaging as one of the core values of our organization. It drives everything we do.

Through our Zero-Waste Program, we are working diligently to keep all the products that flow through our operations out of landfills. This means that we're reducing the amount of material we're using, re-using materials, and recycling to eliminate waste and to generate renewable resources.

Atlantic's goal is to be certified as a zero-waste company. This means we'll have diverted more than 90% of our resources from landfills and back into valuable resources. As of November 2021, our Atlantic Printing & Graphics operation in Tabor City, NC achieved TRUE Certification, and we are aiming to certify two Atlantic facilities a year until all are complete.

Atlantic has adopted the TRUE Zero-Waste Certification as verified by Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI) model because it uses a "whole systems approach aimed at changing how materials flow through society, resulting in no waste." This process follows the circular economy model that Atlantic believes is the path to our best use of resources. During our certification, Atlantic has discovered several opportunities to eliminate material waste from our processes as well as additional opportunities to send materials that were previously bound for the landfill to other outlets for recycling.



## 2. Water Stewardship

Global water supply is a resource that's being increasingly threatened. One-third of the global population lives in areas with water scarcity, and that percentage is expected to increase as populations grow. Climate change is also reducing water availability in some regions.

Sustaining and enhancing the quality of our water supply is critical to our planetary health.

Atlantic does not use process water in our manufacturing or distribution facilities, so our overall usage is relatively low. We understand that every gallon matters, and we have engaged with our individual facilities to implement process improvements. In 2021, Atlantic used approximately 17,000 cubic meters of water.

# internal operations: workforce

Atlantic Packaging is dedicated to cultivating a strong internal culture within our workforce. We believe that supporting our employee culture is central to a healthy, sustainable, and productive work environment. We promote several company-wide programs for sustained growth as well as on-demand initiatives in response to emergencies and current events.

## 1. Equitable Wages

Atlantic implemented a program in 2020 to offer \$15 per hour minimum wage company-wide in order to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth. After creating a detailed and performance-based accelerated advancement for existing employees who were below \$15 to reach this wage level, Atlantic now offers \$15 minimum wage across the board.



## 2. Wellness Program

Atlantic Packaging launched a Wellness Program in 2013 that started with a voluntary, fun, incentivized step challenge to encourage healthy and regular movement for employees throughout the company. The Wellness Program has grown and evolved into a robust offering that includes discounted health insurance premiums for participation in initiatives such as health coaching, step challenges, weight loss competitions, and mindfulness workshops. Additionally, the program focuses on education and connection through a wellness podcast and monthly newsletter. There is also a thread of community and giving woven into the program that encourages each branch to get involved locally by hosting blood drives and an annual charity event.

Learn more at [wellness.atlanticpkg.com](https://wellness.atlanticpkg.com).





### **3. Community Outreach**

#### **Red Cross Blood Drive**

Several Atlantic branches came together for a blood drive at their individual locations in July 2021. In the U.S., people need blood every two seconds, and one donation can save up to three lives. Blood drives were hosted by the American Red Cross and more than 50 units were collected for medical and emergency support.

#### **Relief Fund for Haiti Earthquake**

Atlantic pledged to contribute \$25,000 to Doctors Without Borders for Haiti Earthquake Relief after a magnitude 7.2 earthquake struck on August 14th, 2021. We invited employees, friends, and family to contribute via GoFundMe, and we raised an additional \$12,505 for a total of \$37,505. This support went directly to the lifesaving work of Doctors Without Borders, whose teams were on the ground helping people in Haiti in need of urgent medical help.

#### **Fundraiser for Atlantic Families in Need of Support**

Atlantic experienced the tragic loss of two employees from our Dominican Republic and Honduras operations, Juan Dominguez and Marco Borjas, in late 2021. Both losses were due to COVID-19. Atlantic employees came together to support the families of these men in countries where the social safety net programs are less impactful than the programs we have in the U.S. Donations amounted to \$18,846 with an Atlantic company match for a total of \$37,692 to directly support these families.

#### **CFCC Scholarship Fund**

The Rusty Carter Scholarship at Cape Fear Community College was established by Atlantic employees and senior managers in Rusty's name and continues to be funded by employees as a group. This fund supports hard-working students pursuing higher education to create better opportunities for themselves, their families, and our community. In December 2021, Atlantic employees and managers raised \$8,510 to contribute to this fund.

#### **Relief Fund for Children & Families in Eastern Ukraine**

Atlantic launched a fundraiser in March 2022 to benefit children and families in eastern Ukraine as Russian troops invaded their country. Children are the least responsible for armed conflict in Ukraine, but they suffer most from its consequences. Donations were delivered directly to UNICEF via GoFundMe to support their campaign to ensure that Ukraine's children have access to safe water, nutrition, health care, education and protection. Atlantic employees raised \$18,050 with a company match for a total of \$36,100 for UNICEF.

#### **Texas Elementary School Shooting Victim's Fund**

Atlantic collaborated with Victims First, a network of survivors and relatives affected by previous mass shootings, to raise money for those impacted by the Robb Elementary shooting in May 2022. 100% of donations from this fundraiser went directly to the victims and survivors of the shooting via Victims First. Atlantic employees raised \$10,707 with a company match for a total of \$21,414 to support the survivors of the tragic mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas.

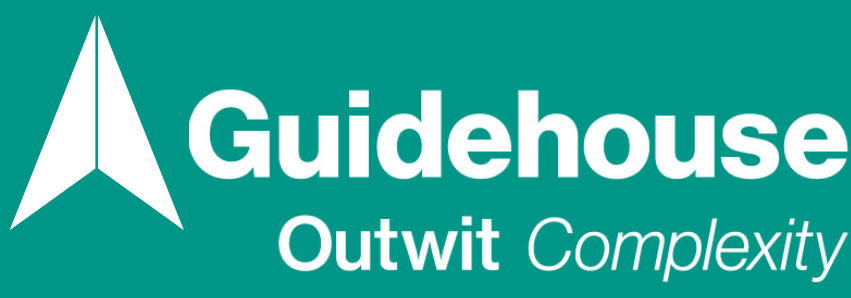
# influencing our value chain: climate

## 1. Encouraging Supplier Emissions Reductions

The vast majority of Atlantic’s emissions stem from Scope 3 emissions in our value chain, especially from Purchased Goods and Services. The biggest impact we can have as a company is to engage our suppliers to ensure that they are reducing their own emissions as well.

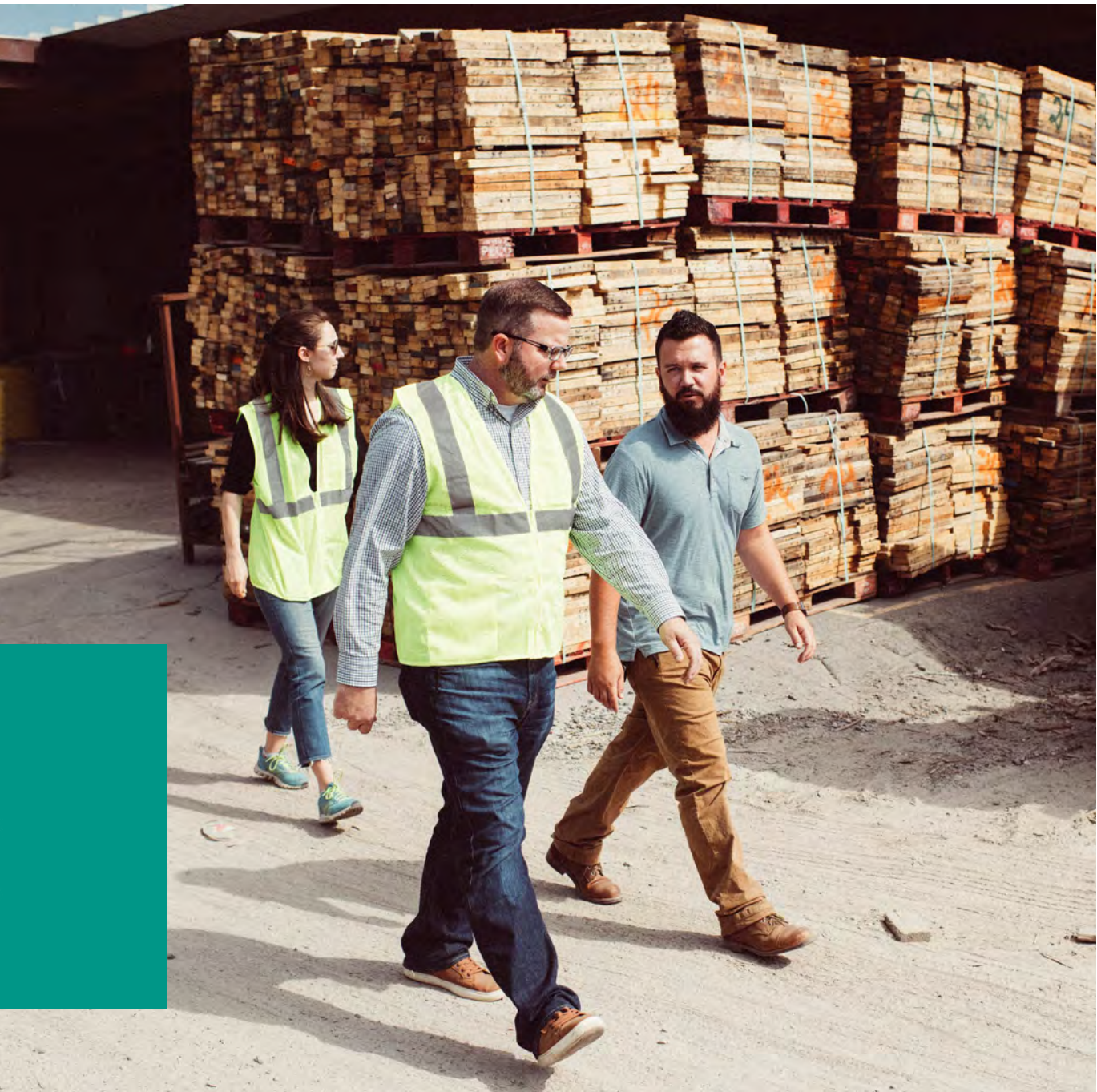
### Supplier LoCT Program

The Supplier Leadership on Climate Transitions (S-LoCT) program is a knowledge platform and brand collaborative to collectively reach net-zero emission by 2050. Atlantic is one of 12 brands enrolling key suppliers in S-LoCT, along with Guidehouse, Pepsico, Mars, McCormick, and others. In 2021 and 2022, Atlantic helped four of our largest suppliers join S-LoCT. This collaboration helps Atlantic meet our SBT to have 55% of our suppliers set SBTs by 2026. The suppliers joined regular knowledge seminars to begin measuring their own emissions and setting SBTs themselves. The suppliers will go on to learn how to identify emissions reductions projects and disclose their progress. We are thrilled to be facilitating the carbon reduction journey for our suppliers and welcome the opportunity to enroll more suppliers in S-LoCT.



## Publishing Product-Level Emissions

Our customers increasingly want to understand the embodied emissions associated with packaging products they purchase from Atlantic. We are engaging our suppliers to begin to estimate and publish product-level emissions where possible. This process begins with engagement of our suppliers to understand the upstream emissions. Atlantic has partnered with our largest suppliers and will begin publishing product-level emissions for approximately 15% of our products (by spend) in 2023. This will allow our customers to make better decisions about the products they purchase in addition to better quantifying their own Scope 3 emissions.



## 2. Responsibly Sourced Fiber & Biodiversity

As a major purchaser and distributor of paper products, Atlantic has a key role in maintaining biodiversity in forest ecosystems and in preserving forests as a critical carbon sink. We are committed to distributing material coming from responsibly managed forests. In many cases, this means promoting Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)- and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)-certified paper and encouraging our suppliers to use certified paper if they are not already. Atlantic sees using these certifications as the most direct and impactful way we can protect biodiversity in our supply chain. However, we also acknowledge that acquiring the certifications can be time- and resource-intensive for many smaller, family-owned forests in the U.S. We are currently in the process of developing a series of criteria we will ask of our suppliers in order to ensure we obtain responsibly sourced fiber and protect biodiversity while not disadvantaging family-owned forests.

# influencing our value chain: waste

40% of what Americans throw away each year is packaging. As a packaging company, Atlantic has a responsibility to help our customers dramatically reduce the amount of packaging they use, as well as to help them use more sustainable materials.

We focus on the following five main areas to create packaging efficiency and circularity:

1

## Packaging Effectiveness

Protecting the product and ensuring that it reaches its destination without damage. This prevents damaged product from ending up in landfills, causing the release of harmful GHGs such as methane.

2

## Sustainable Materials

Finding creative solutions to replace landfill- or ocean-bound packaging with more circular materials. We prefer that this means using curbside-recyclable materials, though sometimes, certified-compostable is a great option too.

3

## Packaging Efficiency

Using technology to test, verify, and monitor packaging equipment and materials ensures that the least amount of packaging is applied to ship products without damage.

4

## Monitoring & Standardization

Creating data-based packaging standards with scientific testing and monitoring those standards to properly report and effectively measure carbon reductions as optimization strategies are realized.

5

## Closed-Loop Systems

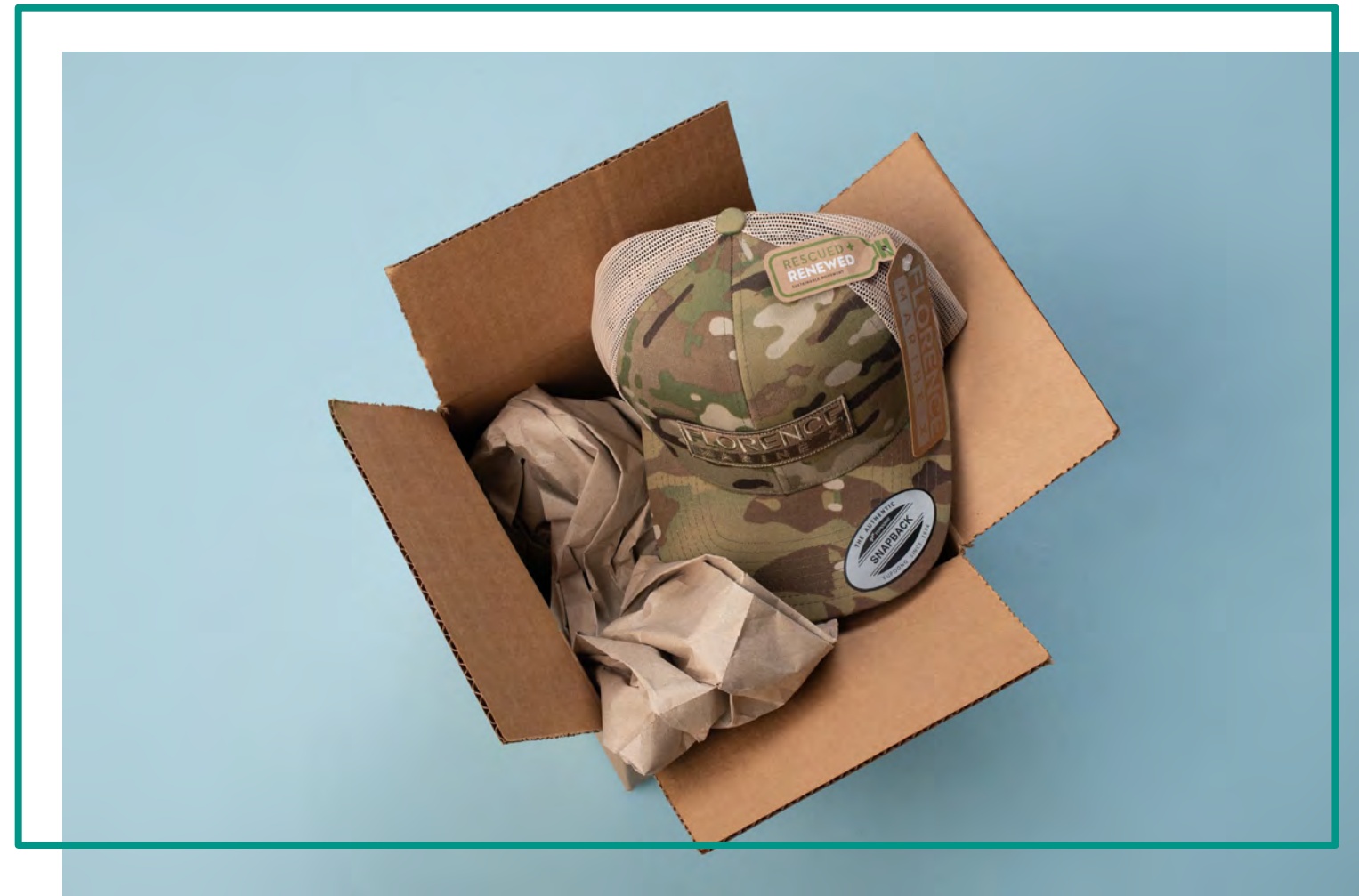
Establishing closed-loop systems by collaborating across the supply chain to capture packaging waste and efficiently deliver clean, quality waste to recyclers for reprocessing.



# 1. Customer Engagement

As a leader in sustainable packaging solutions, Atlantic is determined to let sustainability permeate every customer relationship we have. In meetings with both new and existing customers, every Atlantic representative is prompting our customers to think about how they might transition to more sustainable packaging options.

Atlantic's Solution Center in Charlotte, North Carolina serves as a hub for designing and testing the most innovative sustainable packaging solutions. Every year, the Solution Center welcomes dozens of customers to innovate their packaging by using state-of-the-art equipment. For example, the Solution Center features a TruMotion Transportation Simulator and Acceleration Sled designed to simulate real-world transit conditions for pallets of goods. This machinery helps test packaging's effectiveness to prevent the most wasteful outcome: damaged product sent to landfills. Our team also designs custom sustainable packaging solutions such as die-cut, curbside-recyclable cartons to replace difficult-to-recycle plastic packaging.



## 2. Waste Prevention Programs

One of the most effective ways to be more sustainable in packaging is to use the least amount of material necessary to properly protect products. Packaging optimization for material reduction has become a core tenet of how we go to market.

### MUST System

U.S. food, beverage, and consumer products companies experience \$7.2 billion annually in losses from break, damage, and loss in transit. This is often caused by improper stretch wrapping, which leads to pallet load failure. Damaged loads cause packaging waste as well as carbon and methane emissions from the wasted product.

The MUST Management System is Atlantic's patented optimization program for stretch wrapping systems to prevent this waste. The hardware and software data recording system monitors every load wrapped on a given stretch wrapper, records the amount of film that's applied, and graphs these data in real time. Atlantic's customers who use MUST reduce their annual usage of stretch film by 35-45%. MUST reduced stretch film usage by 30 million pounds in 2021 and is projected to reduce usage by 37 million pounds in 2022.

## Package Right-Sizing

As consumers have increased their e-commerce purchases dramatically, largely due to COVID, they have become more familiar with the large amount of packaging required. One particular pain point for consumers is unnecessarily large packaging filled with air pillows or other dunnage, when a smaller box would have performed just as well. "Right-sizing" packaging can achieve major gains in sustainability and is our primary strategy for efficient packaging. Atlantic helps customers evaluate the least amount of packaging needed to secure the product being shipped.

### Guardian Taping System

At a large scale, tape on boxes amounts to a huge amount of plastic usage. Atlantic works to optimize tape usage using our Guardian Taping System. A partnership with Shurtape Technologies, the Guardian Taping System helps customers determine the right amount of tape to secure a box without overusing tape. Guardian helps customers save money on tape while also reducing plastics usage and contamination from tape in the paper cardboard recycling stream after the consumer is done with the box.



### 3. Sustainable Material Innovation

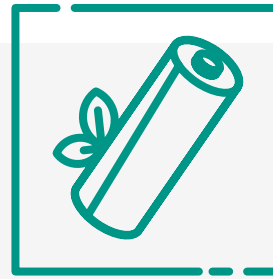
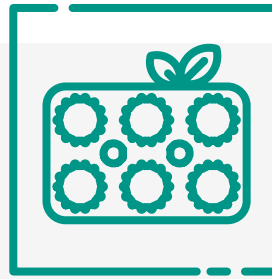
#### Sustainable Materials

The most “sustainable” packaging material depends largely on the application—what works for packaging poultry sustainably is completely different from what works for e-commerce. Atlantic promotes a wide range of paper-based, curbside recyclable, and compostable materials to improve the sustainability of any product’s packaging. We carefully vet each packaging product for necessary certifications and assurances to ensure sustainability claims are legitimate. Our full line of recyclable packaging materials is available on the sustainability page of our website.

#### PCR Content

We are committed to supporting the use of postconsumer recycled (PCR) resin in flexible packaging products where there is a strong case for this technology. Today, based on the quality of PCR, we believe PCR content makes the most sense in lower-value products where all the packaging efficiency has already been achieved and where it does not make sense to switch to a more sustainable packaging material such as fiber. In other words, incorporating PCR is not a substitute for reducing the amount of material used or using more sustainable materials where possible.

It is critical that when adding PCR content into packaging products, we do not sacrifice packaging efficiency (i.e., having to design thicker products to achieve needed performance). We currently support PCR integration in shrink bundling films, air pillows for dunnage, and other bags and films in lower performance applications including garment bags and top sheet material.



#### Sustainable Packaging Products

Atlantic aims to offer sustainable packaging products across all industries we serve. Some examples of our signature sustainable options include:

##### Fishbone Recyclable Can Carriers

We have the exclusive license to offer the first 100% curbside recyclable beverage carrier. Learn more at [fishbone.com](https://fishbone.com).

##### Curbside Recyclable Mailers

We offer options of 100% fully curbside recyclable mailers in both padded and paper envelope options ideal for e-commerce shipping. Learn more at [atlanticpkg.com/curbside-recyclable-mailers](https://atlanticpkg.com/curbside-recyclable-mailers).

##### Guardian Taping System

We partnered with ShurTape to offer an efficient taping system to reduce material waste. Learn more at [atlanticpkg.com/guardian](https://atlanticpkg.com/guardian).

##### LayerShield Sheet Program

We offer paperboard sheets made from 100% recycled fibers ideal for replacing corrugated or polysheets. Learn more at [atlanticpkg.com/layershield](https://atlanticpkg.com/layershield).

##### Clysar EVO and EVOX Recyclable Shrink Films

High-performance recyclable packaging films. Learn more at [clysar.com/shrink-films/evo-recyclable-films](https://clysar.com/shrink-films/evo-recyclable-films).

##### Greenline Ranpak Void Fill Paper

This is 100% recycled packaging paper. Learn more at [ranpak.com](https://ranpak.com).

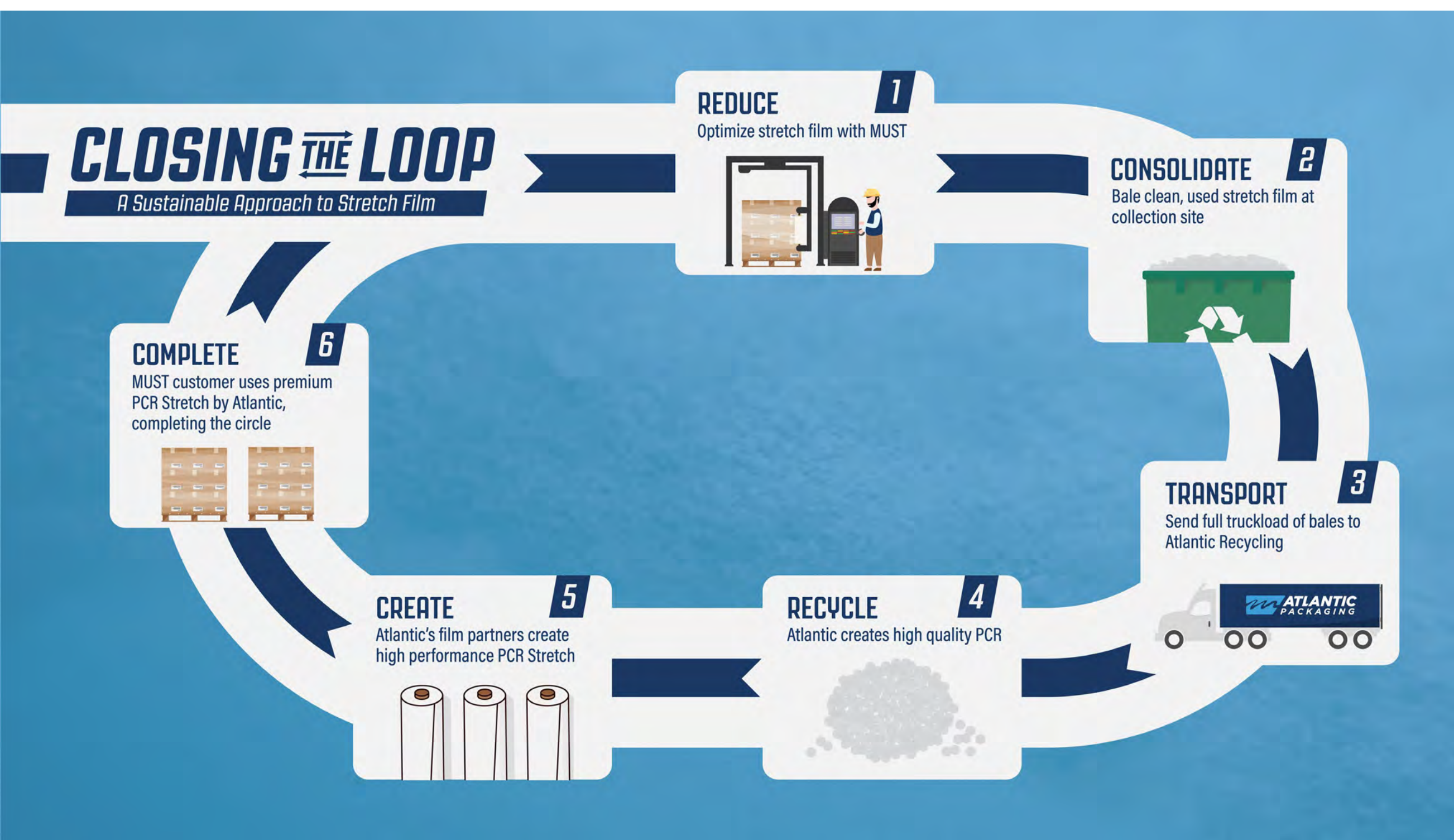


## 4. Closed-Loop Systems for Stretch Film

Business-to-business (B2B) packaging presents a prime opportunity to recover clean material and create closed-loop recycling systems. Atlantic is investing in creating new systems to capture plastic packaging at the distribution level. Taking advantage of our unique position in the packaging supply chain, Atlantic can facilitate reverse logistics with our largest stretch wrap customers. Starting in early 2023, we will be collecting used stretch wrap from select customers and repelletizing the polyethylene (PE) to be reextruded. The result will be a closed loop for stretch wrap. Our new recycling machinery can help us recover and re-pelletize 10 million pounds of stretch wrap into high-quality resin each year, which can become stretch wrap again.

The key to collection is cleanliness. In order for PE, especially clear shrink and stretch film, to be recycled effectively and create the best post-consumer resins, the waste needs to be at least 95% PE, with an eventual target of 98%. Because our stretch wrap programs utilize only high-performance films in combination with our recovery training program, we can ensure quality waste every time.

Once waste is baled at the business distribution level, it is backhauled to the original packaging use destination where it is collected for recycling. Atlantic already facilitates this system and supports the return of full truckloads of baled, clean PE to our recycling partners. In 2023, Atlantic will be launching fuller reverse logistics programs to recover stretch wrap from our largest customers. We are excited to be joining the recycling step of the supply chain as we invest in our own repelletizing equipment.



**Starting in early 2023, we will be collecting used stretch wrap from select customers and repelletizing the polyethylene (PE) to be reextruded.**

# external engagement: climate

## 1. Disclosures & Reporting

Atlantic is committed to a sustainability and climate action plan that includes disclosure, transparency, and a willingness to be evaluated from any interested party. Since 2018, we have participated in the annual survey from the Carbon Disclosure Project, now CDP.

We were awarded a B- score in 2020, and after implementing several practical upgrades, we earned a B score in 2021. This represents a significant improvement and is a higher score compared to our peer group: the average performance of plastic product manufacturing companies is a B-, and the average company in North America earns a C score. Our goal is to be included in CDP’s list of A-rated companies.



## 2. Responsible Forestry & Biodiversity

In an effort to promote forest health and biodiversity, Atlantic strives to present the origins of our fiber-based products as clearly as possible. In addition to distributing more products from suppliers who use responsible forestry methods (see page 13), Atlantic ensures that fiber in our own custody meets high chain of custody standards.

### Sustainable Forestry Initiative

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) is an independent, non-profit organization that promotes sustainable forestry practices through forest-level certification requirements that include measures to protect water quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, species at risk, and forests with exceptional conservation value. They then use Chain of Custody Certification to track forest fiber content (certified forest content, certified sourcing, and recycled content) through production and manufacturing to the end product. Atlantic Packaging is SFI Chain of Custody-certified. This certification is part of the SFI accounting system that tracks certified forest content, certified sourcing, and recycled content. Atlantic also meets PEFC™ ST 2002:2013 International Standard requirements for Chain of Custody Forest-Based Products. The certification is available in the Appendix of this report.

### Forestry Stewardship Council

The Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC) is a sustainable forest management solution that promotes the responsible management of the world’s forests. FSC defines what can and can’t be described as a sustainable forest. They provide principles for managing the forest well and help forest owners, communities, and businesses agree on decisions and consider the impact of today’s decisions on tomorrow’s generations. By becoming FSC-certified, forest owners and managers demonstrate that they are managing their forests responsibly.



The mark of  
responsible forestry  
FSC® C016743

The FSC chain of custody standard provides credible assurance that forest products sold as FSC-certified originate from well-managed forests, controlled sources, reclaimed materials, or a mixture of these. FSC chain of custody certification facilitates the transparent flow of goods from the forest, through all the processing and trading stages, to the final consumer. Atlantic Packaging has been assessed and certified as meeting the requirements of FSCSTD-40-004 V3-0. This certification verifies that FSC-certified material has been identified and separated from non-certified and non-controlled material as it makes its way along the supply chain from the forest to the market. The certification is available in the Appendix of this report.

# external engagement: waste

## 1. Disclosures & Reporting

As Atlantic completes its zero-waste certifications through TRUE (see page 9), we have been quantifying and disclosing our facilities’ waste impacts. Each facility’s TRUE certification requires that 90% of the facility’s waste be diverted from landfills.

## 2. Memberships

### Sustainable Packaging Coalition (SPC) & How2Recycle

The Sustainable Packaging Coalition (SPC) is the leading voice on sustainable packaging whose mission is to bring packaging sustainability stakeholders together to catalyze actionable improvements to packaging.

Atlantic is dedicated to using the tools from the SPC to research, develop, and offer more sustainable packaging products to our customers. Additionally, Atlantic is a member of SPC’s initiative How2Recycle, the leading US-based on-package recycling label, to promote clear instructions to consumers about what materials to place in their recycling bins.

### Alliance to End Plastic Waste

The Alliance to End Plastic Waste is a non-profit organization committed to ending plastic waste in the environment. Their mission is to develop, accelerate, and deploy innovative and impactful solutions, engage communities around the world, and to catalyze investments in modern waste management.

The Alliance’s members, including Atlantic, represent the full range of the plastic value chain and are united in their drive and vision to end plastic waste in the environment.

### Ocean Plastics Leadership Network

The OPLN is pro-urgency and pro-engagement for all stakeholders, from local to global. Together, voices across industry activism, government, civil society, and more drive engagement on effective treaties and interventions concerning the global plastic pollution crisis. Through neutral and inclusive convenings, expeditions, development tracks, treaty dialogues, and stakeholder education the OPLN bridges divides, measures sentiment, and accelerates collaboration.

### The Conservation Alliance

The Conservation Alliance harnesses the collective power of business and outdoor communities to advocate for the protection of North America’s wild places. Atlantic Packaging is the first packaging company to join the more than 270 member companies whose collective annual membership dues are dispersed to grassroots environmental organizations that contribute to the long-term health of outdoor recreation and help ensure access for future generations.



OCEAN  
PLASTICS  
LEADERSHIP  
NETWORK

ALLIANCE  
TO END  
PLASTIC  
WASTE 



The Conservation  
Alliance

### 3. Advocacy & Education

#### A New Earth Project

A New Earth Project was launched in April 2022 as an initiative within Atlantic Packaging. Its mission is to rid the world's oceans, lakes, and rivers, of plastic pollution.

As a distributor and manufacturer, Atlantic is in the unique position of influencing change up and down the packaging supply chain. Atlantic is committed to using this influence to drive that change in the direction of improved sustainability. A New Earth Project is the engine, the motivator, and the solution that can help eliminate consumer-destined single-use plastic packaging.

The vision for A New Earth Project is to inspire the global supply chain to embrace sustainability, to make the necessary investments, and to put a healthy planet at the core of our values as companies, brands, and people. This initiative is meant to be a catalyst for awareness, education, and action. A New Earth Project is about bringing together the voices of ocean and water advocacy and the organizations in the supply chain that can solve these problems.



#### We Do This Together. We Do This Now.

Through this initiative, we are building awareness by developing story-driven programming chronicling the challenges that global waters face, and the people, brands and organizations who are collaborating to find solutions. We are increasing education by providing a knowledge hub for news in all areas of sustainability, including the basics of sustainable packaging and current challenges with our infrastructure, as well as the big wins through innovation. We are also inspiring action for consumers to demand sustainable packaging for a healthy planet.

In 2021, A New Earth Project launched its website as a hub for articulating its mission, vision, and action. It released an eight-part television series called *Journey to A New Earth* that aired on Outside TV, FUELTV, and on A New Earth Project's own YouTube channel.

It also introduced its New Earth Approved catalog of products and capabilities to provide effective and efficient solutions that are 100% curbside recyclable or compostable and do not include any single-use plastic. The catalog is available to brands of all sizes who wish to enable more circular and sustainable shipping and packaging for their customers.

A New Earth Project is active on its own website with its Field Notes blog for news and commentary. The initiative is also active on a variety of social media platforms to promote awareness, education, and action for a more sustainable future.

This initiative brings a strong voice, an active marketing campaign, and a source for sustainable packaging solutions to an audience outside of Atlantic's traditional customer base. It activates all that Atlantic can do to reach a broader audience, connect more strongly with their current customers, and drive change towards a more sustainable packaging supply chain.

Learn more at [anewearthproject.com](https://anewearthproject.com).



## Policy Advocacy

Atlantic knows that, as a major packaging supplier in the middle of the supply chain, we can use our influence to advocate for public policy that improves sustainability. In particular, recent progress in the U.S. towards implementing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) laws for packaging have provided momentum to address unsustainable packaging. Atlantic's leaders have sought out opportunities to meet with policymakers, environmental advocates, and industry groups to voice our support for EPR laws and other policies to fight plastic pollution. We are also meeting with our customers to explain how EPR will impact them and why they should use more sustainable packaging to comply with these new laws. We are committed to advocating for public policy that aligns with limiting global average temperature increase to 1.5°C as stated in the Paris Agreement.

## Stances on Key Issues

The landscape of sustainable packaging is rapidly changing, and packaging companies, environmental advocates, and customers do not always have consensus about key issues about how to achieve sustainability. Atlantic always strives to take a science-based stance on these topics while acknowledging the challenges businesses face in choosing truly sustainable options. In 2021 and the first half of 2022, we have developed stances on issues such as the role of bioplastics, integration of PCR, and "oxo-degradable" plastics. When we determine our position on key issues, we develop a stance with accompanying documentation to share with our employees, suppliers, and customers, and we communicate that stance to them.





# appendix

## 1. Climate Transition Plan

In conjunction with setting a Science-Based Target (SBT) in 2022, Atlantic Packaging is establishing a Climate Transition Plan to detail our goals and how we plan to achieve them. The plan includes both our carbon-related goals, specifically our SBTs, as well as our waste goals. This is because the Ellen MacArthur Foundation estimates that 45% of global emissions stem from how we make, consume, and dispose of products, including packaging. It's undeniable that waste and climate issues are inextricably linked, and as a packaging company, addressing unsustainable packaging practices both in our own operations and in our value chain is critical to achieving our climate goals and protecting biodiversity. As such, Atlantic has chosen to include our waste initiatives in our Climate Transition Plan.

This plan is currently an overview of our goals and initiatives. Over the coming years, we will be building out this plan further to include more implementation details to show how we plan to achieve our goals.

## Climate Transition Plan



## OPERATIONS

*How we operate our own facilities*

## VALUE CHAIN

*The products we sell and engagement with our suppliers*

## GOVERNANCE & ADVOCACY

*How we engage with stakeholders, disclose our progress, and partner with others*

## **SCIENCE-BASED TARGETS:**

- Reduce absolute scope 1&2 GHG emissions 70% by 2030 from a 2021 base year
- Net Zero by 2046

## **HOW WE GET THERE:**

- 100% renewable electricity by 2030
- On-site solar, efficiency programs, electric vehicles

- ## **SCIENCE-BASED TARGETS:**
- Reduce absolute scope 1&2 GHG emissions 70% by 2030 from a 2021 base year
  - Net Zero by 2046
- ## **HOW WE GET THERE:**
- 100% renewable electricity by 2030
  - On-site solar, efficiency programs, electric vehicles

## SCIENCE-BASED TARGETS:

- 55% of its suppliers by spend covering purchased goods and services will have science-based targets by 2026
- Reduce absolute scope 3 GHG emissions 25% covering the remaining purchased goods by 2030 from a 2021 base year

## HOW WE GET THERE:

- Supplier LoCT program
- Develop standard and goals for sourcing paper responsibly
- Product damage prevention assessments at Solution Center
- Stretch wrap PCR closed loop initiative

- ## SCIENCE-BASED TARGETS:
- 55% of its suppliers by spend covering purchased goods and services will have science-based targets by 2026
  - Reduce absolute scope 3 GHG emissions 25% covering the remaining purchased goods by 2030 from a 2021 base year
- ## HOW WE GET THERE:
- Supplier LoCT program
  - Develop standard and goals for sourcing paper responsibly
  - Product damage prevention assessments at Solution Center
  - Stretch wrap PCR closed loop initiative

- Disclosure of climate and biodiversity progress through CDP
- Third-party verification of data and progress
- Annual sustainability report
- Publish top 10 product-level emissions by 2024
- Advocating for public policy that aligns with limiting global average temperature increase to 1.5°C as stated in the Paris Agreement

- Certify two facilities annually as TRUE zero-waste facilities

## **HOW WE GET THERE:**

- Internal training for recycling
- Zero-waste team develop outlets for hard to recycle stream

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- Certify two facilities annually as TRUE zero-waste facilities
- ## **HOW WE GET THERE:**
- Internal training for recycling
  - Zero-waste team develop outlets for hard to recycle stream

- Lightweighting programs such as MUST
- Product damage prevention assessments at Solution Center
- Stretch wrap PCR closed loop initiative – process 10M lbs of waste annually
- Engagement with all top suppliers annually about sustainable product innovations
- Engagement with all customers about switching to more recyclable or compostable packaging options
- Development and co-development of recyclable packaging options such as Fishbone

- Advocacy with supply chain through A New Earth Project
- Engagement through associations such as Sustainable Packaging Coalition
- Annual sustainability report

2. Certificates of Verification from APEX



VERIFICATION OPINION DECLARATION  
GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

To: The Stakeholders of Atlantic Packaging

Apex Companies, LLC (Apex) was engaged to conduct an independent verification of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reported by Atlantic Packaging for the period stated below. This verification opinion applies to the related information included within the scope of work described below.

The determination of the GHG emissions is the sole responsibility of Atlantic Packaging. Atlantic Packaging is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the GHG statement in accordance with the criteria. Apex's sole responsibility was to provide independent verification on the accuracy of the GHG emissions reported, and on the underlying systems and processes used to collect, analyze and review the information. Apex is responsible for expressing an opinion on the GHG statement based on the verification. Verification activities applied in a limited level of assurance verification are less extensive in nature, timing and extent than in a reasonable level of assurance verification.

**Boundaries of the reporting company GHG emissions covered by the verification:**

- Financial Control
- Worldwide

**Types of GHGs:** CO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, CH<sub>4</sub>

**GHG Emissions Statement:**

- Scope 1:** 9,992 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent
- Scope 2 (Location-Based):** 10,619 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent
- Scope 2 (Market-Based):** 11,128 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent
- Scope 3:** 480,200 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent

Purchased Goods & Services: 367,700 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent

Capital Goods: 15,600 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent

Fuel- and Energy-Related Activities: 6,100 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent

Upstream Transportation and Distribution: 800 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent

Waste Generated in Operations: 3,700 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent

Business Travel: 300 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent

Employee Commuting: 2,100 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent

Upstream Leased Assets: 200 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent

Downstream Transportation and Distribution: 2,700 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent

Use of Sold Products: 28,900 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent

End-of-Life Treatment of Sold Products: 52,100 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent

Data and information supporting the Scope 1 and Scope 2 GHG emissions statement were historical in nature.

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Data and information supporting the Scope 3 GHG emissions statement were in some cases estimated rather than historical in nature.

**Period covered by GHG emissions verification:**

- January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021

**Criteria against which verification conducted:**

- World Resources Institute (WRI)/World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (Scope 1 and 2)
- WRI/WBCSD Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Accounting and Reporting Standard (Scope 3)

**Reference Standard:**

- ISO 14064-3 Second Edition 2019-04: Greenhouse gases -- Part 3: Specification with guidance for the verification and validation of greenhouse gas statements

**Level of Assurance and Qualifications:**

- Limited
- This verification used a materiality threshold of ±5% for aggregate errors in sampled data for each of the above indicators

**GHG Verification Methodology:**

Evidence-gathering procedures included but were not limited to:

- Interviews with relevant personnel of Atlantic Packaging;
- Review of documentary evidence produced by Atlantic Packaging;
- Review of Atlantic Packaging data and information systems and methodology for collection, aggregation, analysis and review of information used to determine GHG emissions; and
- Audit of sample of data used by Atlantic Packaging to determine GHG emissions.

**Verification Opinion:**

Based on the process and procedures conducted, there is no evidence that the GHG emissions statement shown above:

- is not materially correct and is not a fair representation of the GHG emissions data and information; and
- has not been prepared in accordance with the WRI/WBCSD GHG Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (**Scope 1 and 2**), and WRI/WBCSD Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Value Chain Accounting and Reporting Standard (**Scope 3**).

It is our opinion that Atlantic Packaging has established appropriate systems for the collection, aggregation and analysis of quantitative data for determination of these GHG emissions for the stated period and boundaries.

**Statement of independence, impartiality and competence**

Apex is an independent professional services company that specializes in Health, Safety, Social and Environmental management services including assurance with over 30 years history in providing these services.

No member of the verification team has a business relationship with Atlantic Packaging, its Directors or Managers beyond that required of this assignment. We conducted this verification independently and to our knowledge there has been no conflict of interest.

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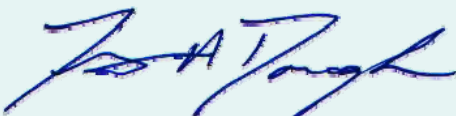
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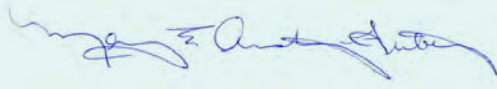
Apex has implemented a Code of Ethics across the business to maintain high ethical standards among staff in their day-to-day business activities.

The verification team has extensive experience in conducting assurance over environmental, social, ethical and health and safety information, systems and processes, has over 20 years combined experience in this field and an excellent understanding of Apex's standard methodology for the verification of greenhouse gas emissions data.

**Attestation:**



Trevor A. Donaghu, Lead Verifier  
Program Manager  
Apex Companies, LLC  
Pleasant Hill, CA



Mary E. Armstrong-Friberg, Technical Reviewer  
Senior Project Manager  
Apex Companies, LLC  
Cleveland, Ohio

July 22, 2022

*This verification declaration including the opinion expressed herein, is provided to Atlantic Packaging and is solely for the benefit of Atlantic Packaging in accordance with the terms of our agreement. We consent to the release of this statement by you to the public or other organizations for reporting and/or disclosure purposes but without accepting or assuming any responsibility or liability on our part to any other party who may have access to this declaration.*

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3. Certificates of SFI Chain of Certification

Chain of Custody

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP has assessed whether the Chain of Custody process at

Atlantic Corporation of  
Wilmington, Inc.

3900 Spring Garden St, Greensboro, NC 27407

is suitably designed to provide reasonable assurance that the requirements of the standards noted below (the Requirements) have been met, as of February 27, 2020.

Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) 2015-2019 Chain of Custody Standard

PEFC™ International Standard – Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products – Requirements (PEFC ST 2002:2013)

Management is responsible for ensuring the Chain of Custody process meets the Requirements. Our responsibility is limited to expressing an opinion as to whether the Requirements were met, based on our assessment. The SFI standard can be found at [www.sfiprogram.org](http://www.sfiprogram.org). The PEFC standard can be found at [www.pefc.org](http://www.pefc.org).

Our assessment was conducted in accordance with the ISO 17021 and ISO 17065 conformity standards, and accordingly, included examining, on a sample basis, evidence supporting management’s assertion that the Requirements were met and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We planned and performed our work in order to obtain limited, rather than absolute, assurance with respect to the information examined. We believe our work provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the Chain of Custody process was suitably designed to provide reasonable assurance that the Requirements were met, in all material respects, as of February 27, 2020.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP  
Vancouver, Canada

Certificate No.

PwC-SFICoC-275

Date of Original Certification

PwC-PEFC-275

Date of Current Certification

March 18, 2008

Date Certification Expires

June 3, 2022

February 22, 2023

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SCOPE OF  
CERTIFICATION:

The multi-site chain of custody processes and practices at the central office in Greensboro, NC, and three paperboard converting plants/warehouses in Summerville, SC, Greensboro, NC and Sturgis, MI.



#### 4. Certificates of FSC Chain of Custody

NEPCon  
Preferred by Nature™

FSC®  
FSC

NEPCon OÜ hereby confirms that the Chain of Custody system of  
**Atlantic Corporation of  
Wilmington, Inc.**  
3900 Spring Garden Street  
Greensboro, North Carolina 27417  
United States  
  
has been assessed and certified as meeting the requirements of  
**FSC-STD-40-004 V3-0**  
  
The certificate is valid from March 31, 2019 to March 30, 2024

Scope of certificate  
Certificate type: Single Chain of Custody  
  
Certificate registration code  
NC-COC-003977  
RA-COC-003977  
  
FSC License Code  
FSC® C016743

Laura Terrall Kohler  
Director, NEPCon Assurance  
Filosoofi 31, Tartu  
Estonia

Specific information regarding products and sites is listed in the appendix(es) of this certificate.  
The validity and exact scope covered by this certificate shall always be verified at [www.info.fsc.org](http://www.info.fsc.org).

FSC® A000535 | The mark of responsible forestry | [www.ic.fsc.org](http://www.ic.fsc.org)

This certificate itself does not constitute evidence that particular product supplied by the certificate holder is FSC® certified [or FSC Controlled Wood]. Products offered, shipped or sold by the certificate holder can only be considered covered by the scope of this certificate when the required FSC claim is clearly stated on invoices and shipping documents. The physical printed certificate remains the property of NEPCon OÜ and shall be returned upon request.

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**Annex A: Scope of Atlantic Corporation of Wilmington, Inc.**

**FSC® Chain of Custody Certificate**

**NC-COC-003977**

**RA-COC-003977**

| Product Type | Trade Name                                                         | Output FSC Claims            |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| P2.1         | FSC Mix and FSC Recycled paper and paperboard, in rolls and sheets | FSC Mix Credit; FSC Recycled |
| P3           | FSC Mix and FSC Recycled paper and paperboard, in rolls and sheets | FSC Mix Credit; FSC Recycled |

This certificate itself does not constitute evidence that particular product supplied by the certificate holder is FSC® certified [or FSC Controlled Wood]. Products offered, shipped or sold by the certificate holder can only be considered covered by the scope of this certificate when the required FSC claim is clearly stated on invoices and shipping documents. The physical printed certificate remains the property of NEPCon OU and shall be returned upon request.

Certificate version date: 29-03-2019
Page 2 of 3

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**Annex B: Scope of Atlantic Corporation of Wilmington, Inc.**

**FSC® Chain of Custody Certificate**

**NC-COC-003977**

**RA-COC-003977**

| No | Site Name                                    | Address                                                                        | Sub-code |
|----|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 1  | Atlantic Corporation of<br>Wilmington - site | 3900 Spring Garden Street<br>Greensboro, North Carolina 27417<br>United States | N/A      |

This certificate itself does not constitute evidence that particular product supplied by the certificate holder is FSC® certified [or FSC Controlled Wood]. Products offered, shipped or sold by the certificate holder can only be considered covered by the scope of this certificate when the required FSC claim is clearly stated on invoices and shipping documents. The physical printed certificate remains the property of NEPCon OU and shall be returned upon request.

Certificate version date: 29-03-2019

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