

SUSTAINABLE ANNUAL REPORT 2024 AKARTON BV



February 3rd 2025



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Introduction

Before you is Akarton's 2024 sustainability report. This document provides an insight into the steps taken to achieve our environmental, social responsibility and economic progress goals.

Foreword

At Akarton, we are committed to a sustainable future and take responsibility for conservation. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is an important part of our policy. This is confirmed by our ISO 26000 CSR self-declaration and the implementation of CO2 reduction programmes and responsible use of raw materials, such as FSC-certified materials.

Since 1 January 2024, Akarton has been carbon neutral for scope 1 and 2. We have achieved this result by switching to green energy, installing LED lighting, deploying EUR6-certified trucks and using solar panels. The Circular Mission Statement, established in 2023, guides our policies and actions.

Policy

Akarton strives to balance quality, innovation and collaboration with respect for Profit, People and Planet. By strictly complying with environmental legislation and reducing waste, energy consumption and scrap, we try to minimise our impact on the environment and society. We consciously avoid greenwashing; our focus is on true sustainability.

KAM system

Akarton's KAM system is based on relevant standards, such as NEN-EN-ISO 14001:2015, FSC certification and a scope 3 CO2 reduction action plan. The system provides structure for complying with environmental legislation and achieving our sustainability goals.

Environmen

We realise our contribution to environmental protection through innovative and cost-effective measures. Employees play a key role in this by handling auxiliary materials carefully and following instructions. Since 2020, Akarton has processed only FSC-mix certified board, which contributes to sustainable forestry.

The year 2024



Akarton CO2 neutral from 01-01-2024

Since 1 January 2024, Akarton has been carbon neutral for scope 1 and 2. This result has been achieved by:

- Reduction of energy consumption
- Renewable energy generation with solar panels
- Procurement of green electricity and gas

A multi-year plan focuses on minimising scope 3 emissions by 2030, in line with the organisation's growth and strategic plans.

Operational sustainable steps in

- Commissioning of treatment plant to purify our own ink and glue rinse water.
- Reuse of purified rinse water in the treatment process, tap water consumption is reduced by 80% (90 m³ per year).
- Two new loading and unloading docks reduce waiting times and improve transport efficiency.

Further steps in knowledge, assurance and documentation

Akarton fully complies with the Kartoflex timeline for sustainability legislation and regulations. Our legal information and energy-saving obligations have been met by 2024.

Circular Mission Statement

Since 2022, our Circular Mission Statement has been at the heart of our policy.

The ten pillars

1. Deploying renewable energy
2. Energy consumption reduced
3. Sustainable employability and risk assessment
4. Corporate Social Responsibility and certificates
5. Waste prevention/waste reduction
6. Business activities close to materials and partners
7. Transport and logistics sustainable
8. Industrial symbiosis: working together
9. Circular design
10. Circular procurement

Each of these 10 points is explained in this Circular Mission Statement and we name what our policy looks like in each specific area. We have put it all together in an infographic, which also shows per item how far we are in our objective have progressed. We propagate this Circular Mission Statement to our stakeholders and share it on our social media.





Associated steps taken in 2024

Explanations of each of the 10 points of the Akarton Circular Mission Statement and the steps we made in this again in 2024 are described below.

All the points of our Circular Mission Statement are also linked back to opportunities and plans for 2025 and also the years 2026 to 2030.

1. Deploying renewable energy

We deploy renewable energy. Akarton has installed solar panels and we drive electric or hybrid cars. All other energy needed is purchased green

2. Energy consumption reduced

We take energy-saving measures in our premises. We regularly replace motors and other machinery and equipment that consume energy with more energy-efficient versions.

3. Sustainable employability and risk assessment

In our 'Profit, People, Planet' philosophy, our employees occupy an important place. They ensure optimum implementation of our processes and their circularity. To this end, we use a training plan which takes into account the wishes of the company and its employees. With increasing market demand, we work smarter and not necessarily physically harder. To this end, we use robots in our production process. Our sustainably employable employees achieve circular goals such as waste reduction, autonomous maintenance and reduction of set-up times. For this, besides sustainable employability, safe working is also very important. 2024: Training plan 2024 implemented and continued for 2025.

RI&E action plan implemented.

4. Corporate Social Responsibility and certificates

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is in Akarton's DNA. Our performance in this area is demonstrable by holding and maintaining certificates in the areas of quality, environment, CSR and FSC. We work on a process of continuous improvement, also in the field of circularity and sustainability.

2024: Akarton has a prominent place in the group of sustainability frontrunners within the industry association Kartoflex.

5. Waste prevention and waste reduction

We continuously map our residual streams and make them available for high-quality reuse. The cardboard, wood, metal and plastic streams are separated throughout the company. The cardboard waste is our largest residual flow in this respect, which is fully returned to a certified waste collector, this waste is then reused in the production of new paper and cardboard.



We optimise our production processes and continuously train our operators, trying to minimise material wastage during our production process. We infiltrate our rainwater on our own property.

2024: Water treatment plant: capture and dispose of ink residue. Reuse rinse water in this plant instead of tap water.

6. Business activities close to materials and partners

People with a distance to the labour market work under the guidance of a job coach in protected conditions at Akarton. Furthermore, we source 90% of our raw materials within a radius of 200 km.

2024: Continuation of years of existing policies.

7. Transport and logistics sustainable

Akarton handles external transport in-house. This involves the use of means of transport with lower CO2 emissions. The trucks comply with the EUR6 standard. We plan optimally, because the most sustainable kilometre is the kilometre that is not driven. In internal transport, we use electric means of transport. By using automatic conveyors in our production halls, we reduce internal logistics movements as much as possible. Our external storage locations are within walking distance.

2024: No change in policy or details.

8. Industrial symbiosis: working together

We involve our employees in our circular ambitions and use the practical ideas of our staff on the shop floor. We use their practical experience and set up employee challenges for this purpose. We use circular company clothing and where it is possible within our chain, we always seek circular cooperation.

2024: No change in policy or details.

9. Circular design

When developing packaging products, we aim to optimise material use through an ideal plate layout and develop products cleverly, reducing material use. In the design phase, we consider all stages of the life cycle. In the design phase, the choice of materials is important; and we minimise the use of scarce raw materials.

October 2024: Akarton has secured the licence of the Hexpand patent. With this unique concept, we offer our customers the opportunity to move away from using foam or other plastics to fix their product in the packaging.



10. Circular procurement

All Akarton products carry the FSC label for responsible forest management. Our products are 100% renewable, recyclable and biodegradable. We use water-based printing inks and adhesives.

2024: No change in policy or details.

Figures 2024: energy consumption, waste streams, solar panels, water consumption and CO2 emissions.

We record all relevant sustainability parameters, such as energy consumption and the volume of our waste streams. We mainly look at CO2 emissions resulting from our own activities, so-called scope 1, and indirect emissions from purchased energy, scope 2. Emissions that fall under scope 3 (all other emissions in the chain) we will map and reduce as much as possible.

	Scope	Emissie factor	2022	2023	2024	CO2-emissie [KG] 2022 scope 1 en 2	CO2-emissie [KG] 2023 scope 1 en 2	CO2-emissie [KG] 2024 scope 1 en 2
Verwarmen [m3]								
Aardgasverbruik Groen	1	0	60.301	51.037	55.140	0	0	0
bedrijfsvoertuigen [liter]								
Benzineverbruik	1	2,821	0	254	249	0	717	702
Elektriciteit [kWh]								
Elektriciteitsverbruik grijs	2	0,475	57.942	18.746	38.561	27.522	8.904	18.316
Elektriciteitsverbruik Groen Wind	2	0	317.000	317.000	317.000	0	0	0
Electriciteitsverbruik eigen zonnepanelen	2	0	33.521	86.417	92.193	0	0	0
Totaal elektriciteitsverbruik	2	-	408.463	422.163	447.754	-	-	-
Opgewekte stroom zelf opgewekt*	2	0	0	192.603	177.331	-	-	-
Elektriciteit zelf opgewekt terug geleverd	2	0	0	106.187	84.375	-	-	-
CO2 compensatie [KG]						0	-20.000	-19.100
Afval [kg]								
Afval papier en karton	3	32,22	798.902	783.570	973.520	25.741	25.247	31.367
Houtafval	3	14,13	17.920	12.900	7.660	577	416	247
Kunststofafval	3	1.061	3.080	2.800	2.780	99	90	90
Bedrijfsafval	3	362	15.841	9.721	14.693	510	313	473
Water [m3]								
Waterverbruik	3	298	409	307	425	122	91	127
Totale CO2-emissie scope 1 en 2						27.522	0	0
Totale CO2-emissie scope 1,2 en 3						54.572	15.778	32.222



Solar panels

In mid-2022, Akarton had 480 solar panels installed on its logistics buildings. The installation capacity of these solar panels is 235.200 kWp and the expected annual output is about 181,000 kWh (770 kWh/kWp), implying a CO2 reduction of 126 tonnes per year.

Targets and KPIs 2024

The achievement of our sustainability targets is monitored monthly within the management team:

- **Continuation ISO14001:2015:** Certificate retained without comments
- **CO2 reduction:** Achieved, as reported
- **Water consumption:** <400 m³ (target not met due to higher process demand)

Review of milestones and efforts

2020 is our zero point reference for our CO2 emissions.

- We installed LED lighting in our production, logistics and office areas. DALI (daylight switching) was also fitted in combination with motion sensors.
- We have switched completely to green electricity and gas. The Green Certificate with 'Guarantee of Origin' in favour of 100% European Wind has been extended for 2025. In addition, the greening of gas is supported through CO2 offsets based on the Gold Standard.
- The newly purchased machines ensure that the entire machinery is more sustainable in its power consumption.
- Our leased vehicle fleet is fully electric or hybrid.
- We have commissioned a small transport truck to reduce the CO2 emissions from transporting small loads with large trucks.
- We have deployed revamped residual waste bins with the aim of encouraging 5S.
- The training plan is being intensified to make the production environment more sustainable.
- We conducted an energy scan, which gave us further insight into measures to be taken or investigated for energy savings.
- We have purchased a rinse water treatment plant to treat our rinse water ourselves. This completely eliminates the transport of IBCs with rinse water. Also, we now reuse the purified rinse water when purifying the rinse water, so this costs much less tap water.

The years 2025-2030

We have made great strides on sustainability, CO2 reduction, Corporate Social Responsibility and leaving a healthier earth for generations to come. We did so in recent years and will continue to do so in the years to come:

- Making sustainability the guiding principle for investments in new machinery, buildings, utilities, internal transport, distribution, travel and commuting
- Researching and upgrading utilities.
- Inventory and assessment of best CO2 offsetting measures. We produce waste, we use energy, we transport goods and we will therefore continue to emit CO2. Little, but not quite zero. We therefore cannot do without CO2 offsetting options in addition to the major investments we have already made and will make.
- Storage of solar panel output in order to use all generated solar energy itself.
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) further and apply them in our business operations. Akarton is already well advanced with several of these goals

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



- Move to more sustainable transport of our products to our customers. Further explore possibilities of electric transport, hydrogen driving or HVO diesel for sustainable transport and introduce them where possible.
- Explore opportunities for reduced heat loss when loading and unloading trucks.

- Heating our buildings without using natural gas. Measures to further reduce natural gas consumption remains a target for Akarton, even if purchasing green gas means zero emissions.

With these steps, we continue to contribute to a sustainable packaging industry and a better, greener, future.

Venlo, 03 February 2025

Mike Noldus
Managing Director Akarton BV

