

ABTA

CASE STUDY



BUSINESS PROFILE

 **Travel agent association**

 **Not-for-profit**

 **Borough & Bankside**

CHALLENGES

- **Paper usage**
- **Catering and food waste**
- **Limited access to facilities teams**

RESULTS

- **Reduction in food waste** at events
- **80% digital** rather than paper-based
- Using a **local catering supplier**
- **Improved tracking,** reporting and spend data

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OVERVIEW & GOALS

ABTA, a leading travel association, has long championed sustainability within the industry. Recognising the importance of leading by example, ABTA joined the Southwark Climate Collective (SCC) to refine its internal sustainability practices. Specialists used a spend-based approach to conduct an audit of ABTA's supply chain emissions, producing an estimate for scope 3 purchased goods and services emissions in 2023.

ACTIONS

Through the SCC programme, ABTA underwent an expert-led audit to assess its environmental impact, leading to key actions like installing LED and sensor lights, reducing paper use by producing digital brochures and choosing eco-friendly kitchen supplies, where possible. ABTA implemented measures such as adjusting catering orders based on accurate attendance estimates, proper portion control and choosing to provide fruit to reduce single use packaging.

LEARNINGS

Participation in SCC workshops provided valuable insights and networking opportunities with other businesses facing similar challenges. The lo-gen platform proved instrumental in visualising reports and tracking sustainability metrics. The audit also identified its office provider as the highest-emitting supplier, sparking discussions on sustainability policies.

RESULTS

Following the SCC report, ABTA introduced food waste reduction training for its regular events, implementing portion control guidelines and switching to a local caterer to cut packaging and transport emissions. ABTA has significantly reduced printed materials by digitalising their brochures which means they are now 75-80% digital. Additionally they are strengthening their sustainability reporting, particularly on business travel.

“The SCC project has been invaluable for us. As a not-for-profit, we don't always have the resources for in-depth internal audits, but this initiative has helped us fulfil our sustainability ambitions and push ourselves further. Being able to measure, report and make data-driven decisions has been a major highlight of the project.

Carol Rose, ABTA