



plank

HARDWARE

Carbon Footprint

2020 & 2021

 BeZero
Patch

In partnership with

Introduction

About our Journey:

We'll be honest with you, we didn't set out to be an impact business when we founded Plank Hardware in 2019. We wanted to fill a gap in the market for design-led, well-priced hardware — as well as to inspire a generation of kick-ass homeowners and DIYers. But we've always wanted to be a best in class business. For us, that means offering the best designs, customer care, environmental stewardship and societal impact along the way. So, in 2021 we set out to formalise our impact goals and strategy. We know this will be an iterative process, and we'll never wholly exist 'sustainably', but we will hold ourselves to account by revisiting our goals and accomplishments annually. Fancy joining us on this exciting journey?

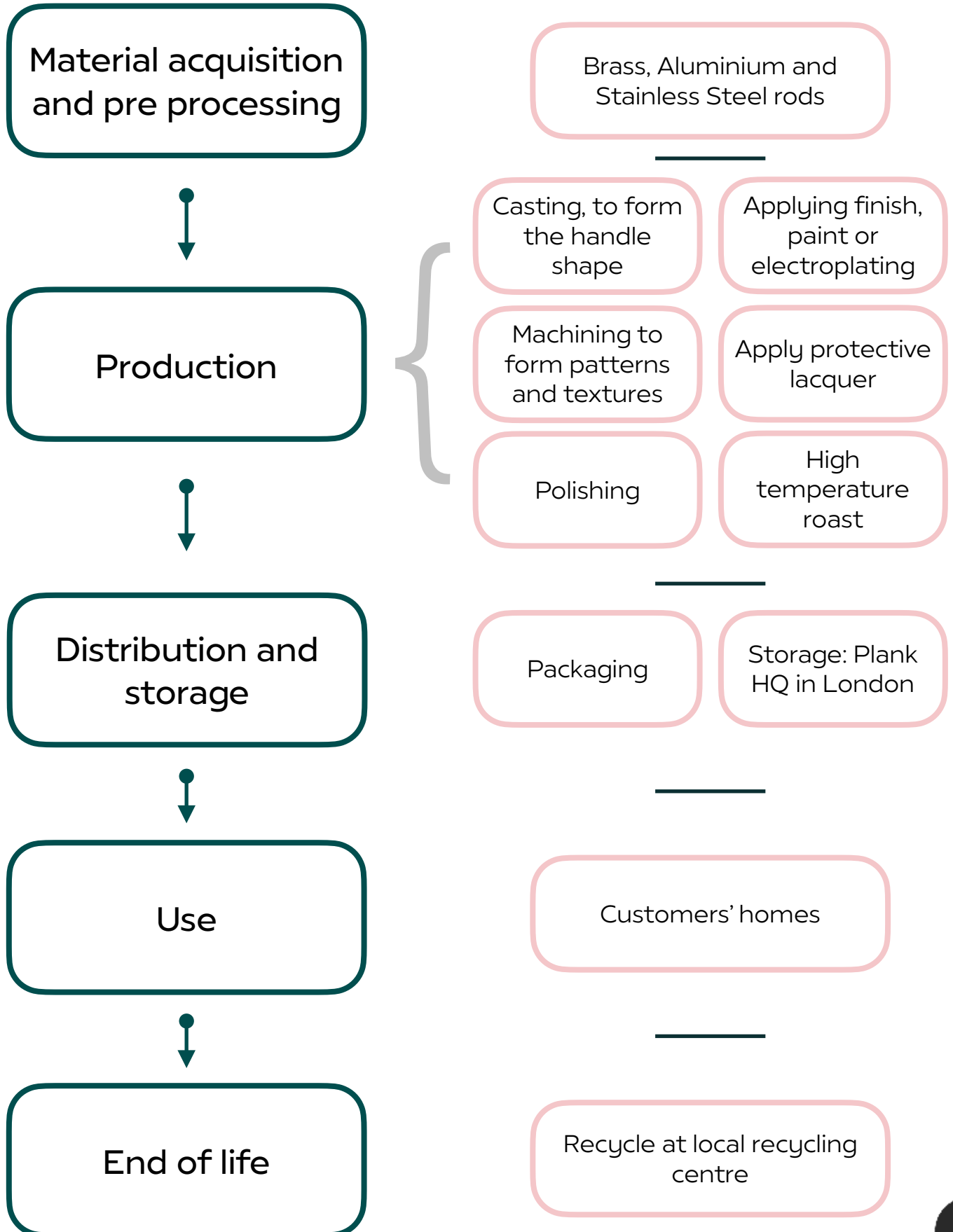
The Life Cycle Assessment and Carbon Audit:

As a business that sells a physical product, we knew our first priority was to fully understand our product life cycle. That meant learning about our environmental impact at each stage of production, distribution, and end use — and the effect each has on the planet. We wanted to understand our carbon emissions in detail, so we set about researching companies to help us measure this. We chose BeZero Carbon, as we were particularly impressed with their focus on using our primary data as much as possible to produce a cradle-to-grave calculation and their use of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol Product Life Cycle Accounting and Reporting Standard. We calculated our 2020 and 2021 footprint, and will measure ongoing into 2022.



Product Life Cycle Assessment

Ever wondered how your handles went from solid metal rods to premium home finishes? BeZero Carbon started by detailing out each stage that our products go through in their life cycle.

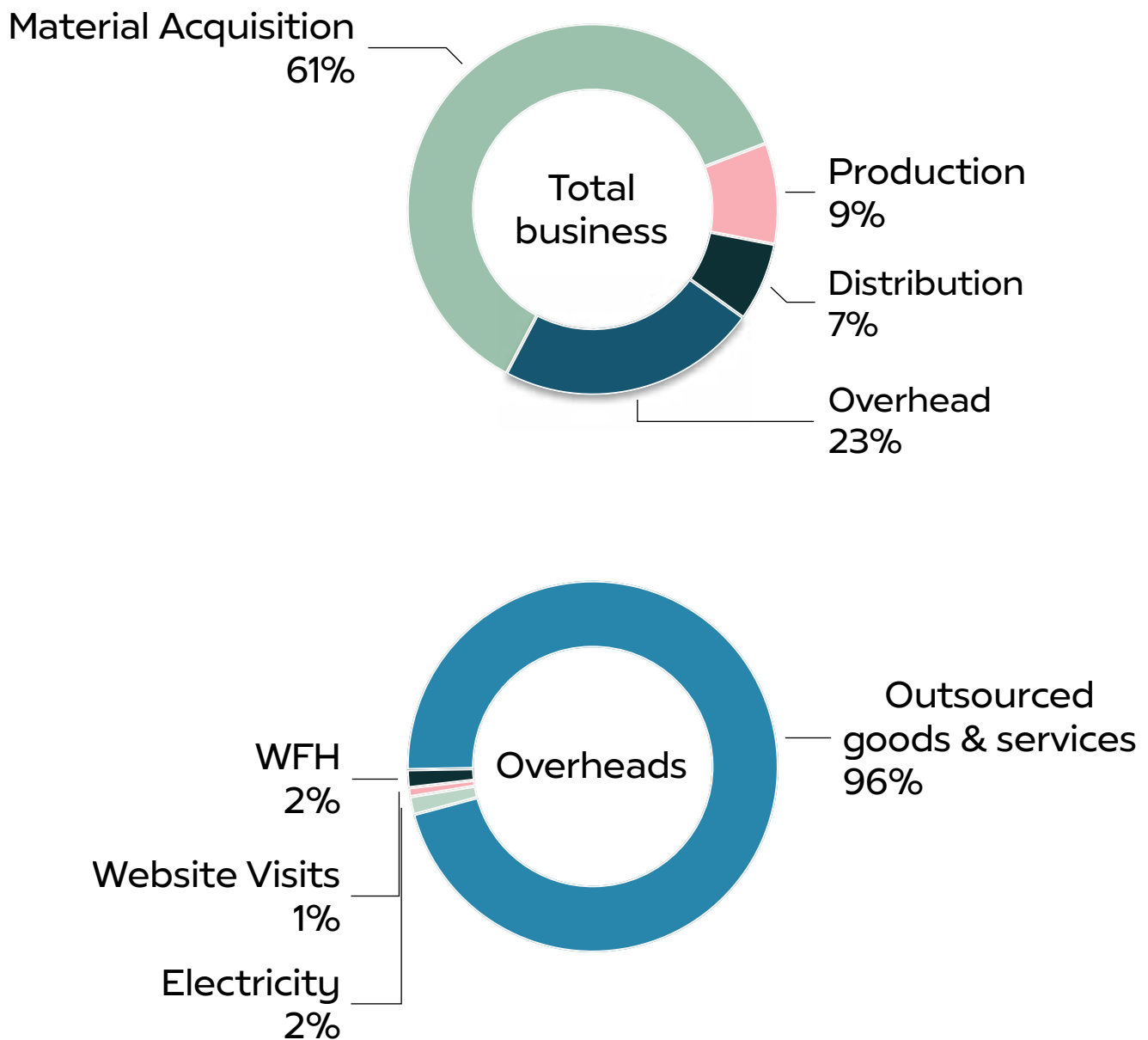


Total Company and Overhead Emissions Breakdown

Our business has grown rapidly, yet our efficiency has stayed the same

2020 all in footprint = 224 tCO₂e* (4 employees)

2021 all in footprint = 566 tCO₂e* (10 employees)



*tCO₂e means metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent

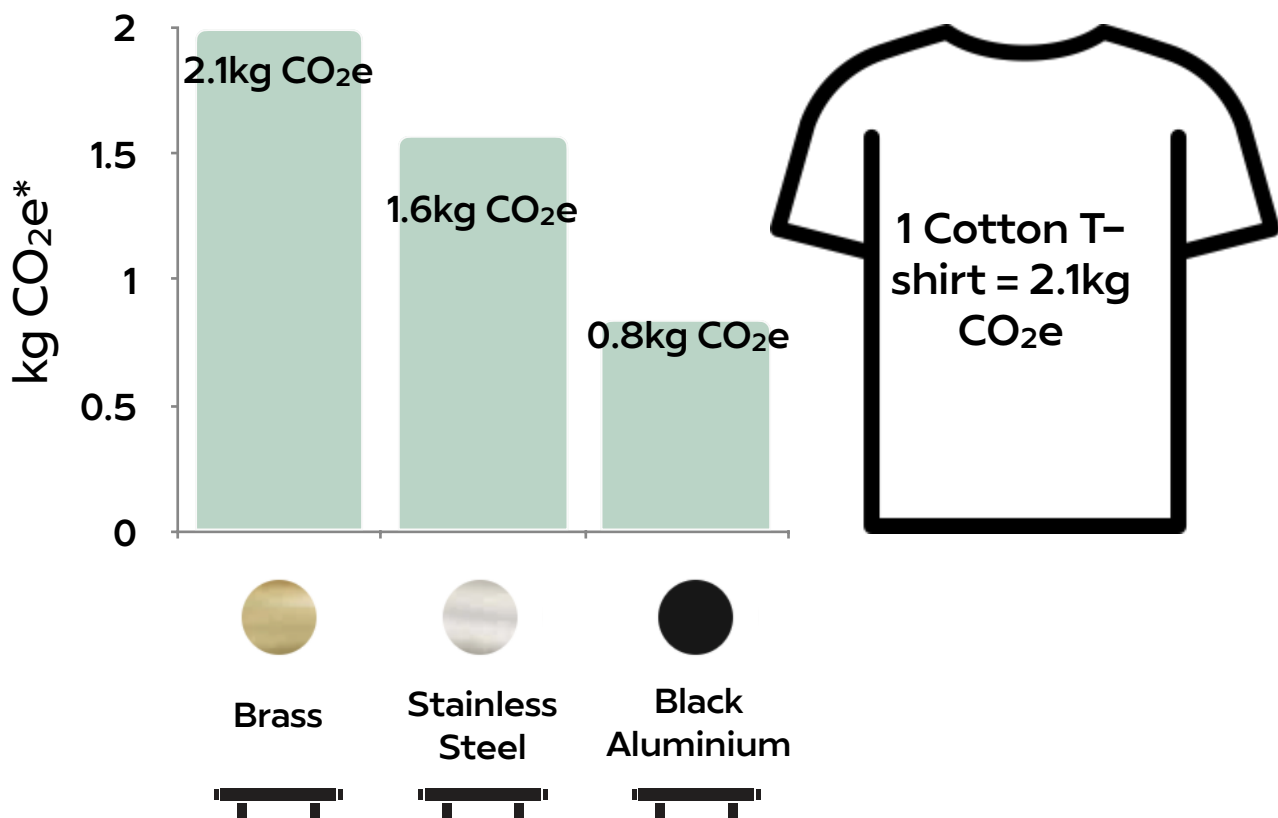
**We used primary data from our own business and our suppliers, as well as secondary research into life cycle assessment across the broader industry, Ecoinvent database & UK government carbon conversion factors.

Breakdown by Material

During 2020 and 2021, our entire product offering was tooled from solid brass, with additional processes used to achieve coloured finishes such as Black and Satin Nickel. We wanted to investigate the impact of other materials, to see whether it made sense to change the metals of our coloured handles to ones with less environmental impact. A key consideration was to not compromise on the great look and high quality that our customers know and love. The result? Stainless Steel and Aluminium are highly performative alternatives, with less planetary impact. Win.

Carbon Emissions Data

A cabinet handle in 3 alternative materials



*kg CO₂e means kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent

Reduction Strategy

Based on these findings, we've built a reduction strategy centred on the following pillars. We will revisit these goals annually and continue to share our progress with you, our community of stakeholders.

1. Start with the best data

- a) Facilitate an annual third party audit of our suppliers, starting in 2022;
- b) Enhance onboarding criteria for all new suppliers, starting in 2022;
- c) Determine the best sustainability metrics to track with help from industry experts;
- d) Set targets for 2023 and beyond that are achievable for a rapidly scaling business.

2. Design out unnecessary waste

- a) Based on base metals analysis, switch to Stainless Steel and Aluminium wherever possible;
- b) Remove plastic from product packaging from suppliers to HQ and beyond, by the end of 2022;
- c) Launch a used hardware recycling programme in 2022.

3. Implement from HQ

- a) Switch to renewable energy tariff in 2023;
- b) Implement Preferable Purchasing Policy in 2022.



Offset Strategy

Whilst the ultimate goal of measuring our impact was to quantify our starting point and develop a reduction strategy, we can't ignore the fact that we will always produce emissions. Therefore, it was crucial for us to start offsetting our emissions as soon as possible.

We commit to having a carbon neutral value chain from today, with the goal of becoming Net Zero by 2030.

We partnered with Patch Technologies to build a bespoke portfolio of Carbon Offset projects that includes both removal initiatives, which actively sequester carbon from the atmosphere and avoidance projects, which will reduce future carbon emissions. The projects we have chosen are all third party verified for Additionality, Leakage, Over-Crediting and Permanence.

Additionality refers to the idea that the credit purchased will lead to a tonne of CO₂e being avoided or sequestered that would not have otherwise happened had the credit not been purchased ^[1]. Because this principle takes a counterfactual scenario into account, it can be difficult to determine and does rely on some element of subjectivity, but higher additionality is deemed a better choice for a carbon offset ^[2].

Leakage refers to the risk that emissions offset by a project would happen somewhere else where it wouldn't have happened had the offset not been purchased ^[1]. Methodologies have been built by carbon credit ratings agencies to safeguard against this ^[1].

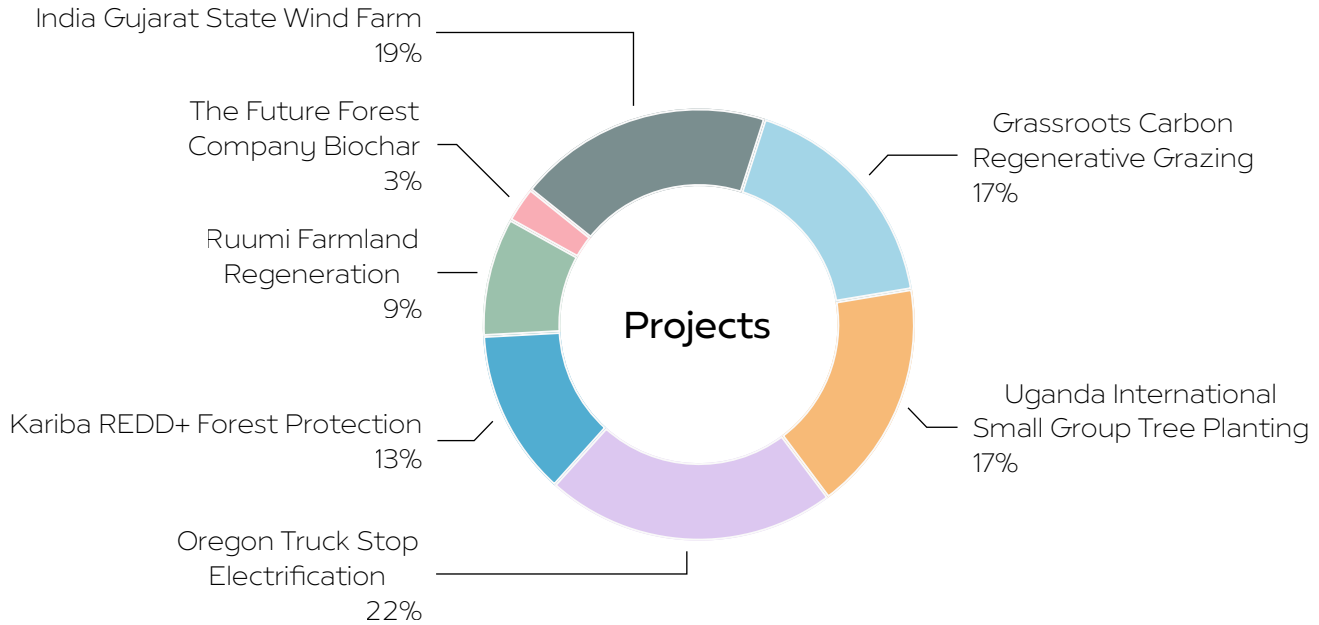
Over-Crediting refers to the risk that too many credits are issued for a given project due to factors such as unrealistic baseline assumptions ^[1]. Relying on third party verification standards to account for this helps to determine the likelihood of this occurring ^[1].

Permanence refers to how long the greenhouse gas would stay out of the atmosphere ^[2]. It is important to choose projects that provide for longer storage and account for the risk of reversal scenarios where the carbon would be reemitted into the atmosphere ^[2].

^[1] [BeZero Carbon](#), ^[2] [Oxford Principles for Net Zero Aligned Carbon Offsetting](#)

The Projects

We researched a wide range of projects and selected a diverse mix of activities. We'll watch the projects as they progress, and amend our portfolio as we go along in line with evolving best practice.



Project	Location	Description	Verified by
Ruumi Farmland Regeneration	UK	Helping farmers transition to zero-input, high-output farms with happy cows and thriving ecosystems.	Verified Carbon Standard
The Future Forest Company Biochar	UK	Scaling biochar operations using a variety of unstable feedstocks in line with the latest Puro verification methodology, with the biochar produced applied to the ground as a soil amendment.	Puro.Earth
India Gujarat State Wind Farm	India	Generating wind energy in a country whose grid is dominated by fossil fuels.	Verified Carbon Standard
Grassroots Carbon Regenerative Grazing	USA	Incentivising ranchers to adopt regenerative practices that create healthier soil, a process that offers the capacity to store 25% of all US CO ₂ emissions each year.	BCarbon
Uganda International Small Group Tree Planting	Uganda	Harnessing the power of smallholder Ugandan farmers to plant millions of trees, while generating long-term carbon-credit income.	Verified Carbon Standard
Oregon Truck Stop Electrification	USA	Installing equipment at truck stops to provide heating, air conditioning, and other amenities to truck drivers, avoiding the burning of diesel fuel during engine idling.	American Carbon Registry
Kariba REDD+ Forest Protection	Zimbabwe	Installing equipment at truck stops to provide heating, air conditioning, and other amenities to truck drivers, avoiding the burning of diesel fuel during engine idling.	Verified Carbon Standard

If you have any questions or
feedback, please email us:
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