

SUSSEX

# Sustainability Report

2023



# Inside

03

1.0 Our Journey



05

1.2 Australian Made



06

1.3 Our Founder



04

1.1 Our Story



07

1.4 Sustainability Journey



09

1.5 Our Process



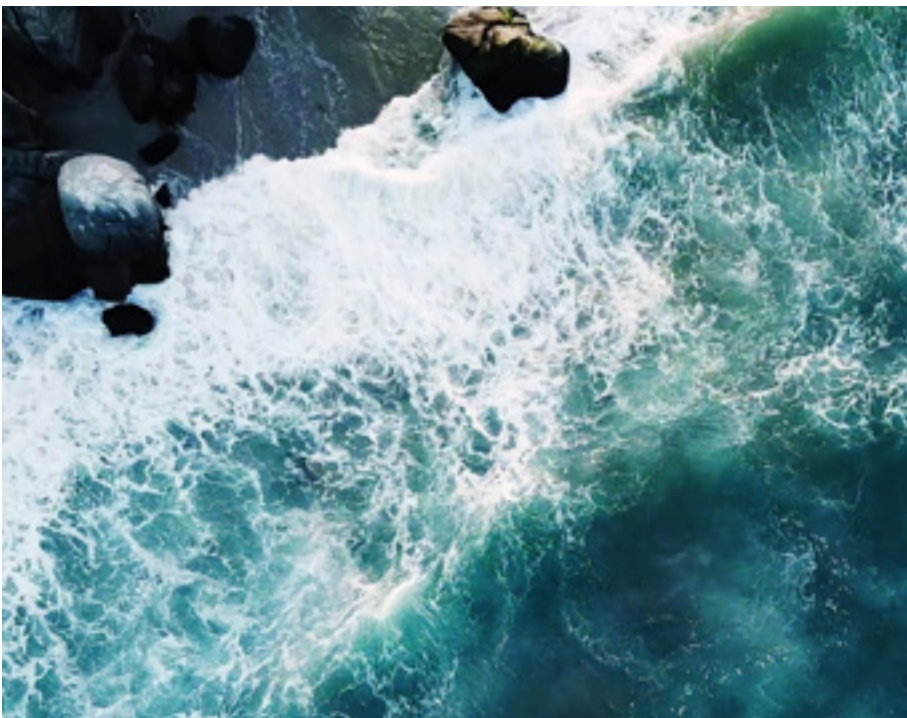
10

1.6 Awards & Recognition



11

2.0 Our Commitment



12

2.1 Our Team



15

2.4 Responsibility

13

2.2 Our Approach

14

2.3 Recycling

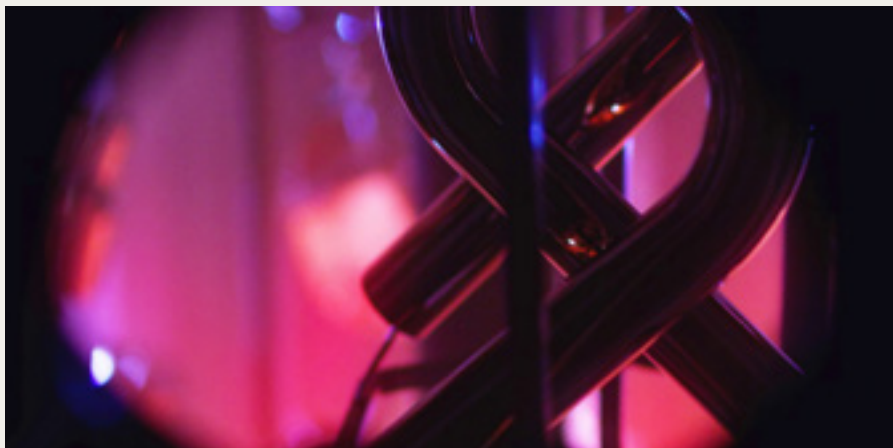


17

2.5 Energy Usage

18

3.0 Our Vision



19

3.1 Protecting What We Love

20

3.2 Climate Active Products & Organisation

21

3.3 Making it ZERO film



22

3.4 Goals & Targets

23

3.5 Investing in Tomorrow

# 1.0 OUR JOURNEY



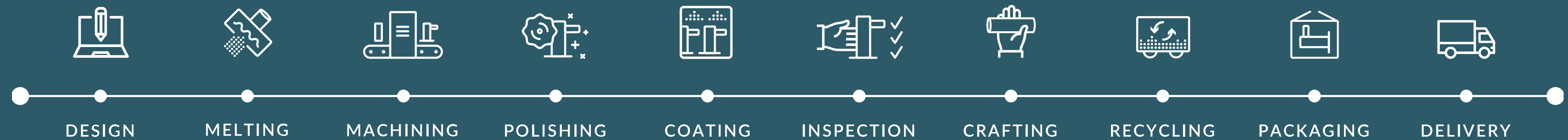
# Welcome to the most *sustainable* tapware company in Australia



Sustainability has been part of our DNA since 1960. So much so, we've built our purpose, vision, and values around sustainability. Our ambitious goal of transforming our manufacturing operation and all of our products to reach net zero emissions hasn't been easy, but it was necessary.

We've done it BIG in 2021 – not only are we Australia's first carbon neutral tapware company, we are also proudly an official member of the Climate Active network; one of the strictest carbon neutral certification bodies in the world.

# Australian made from start to finish



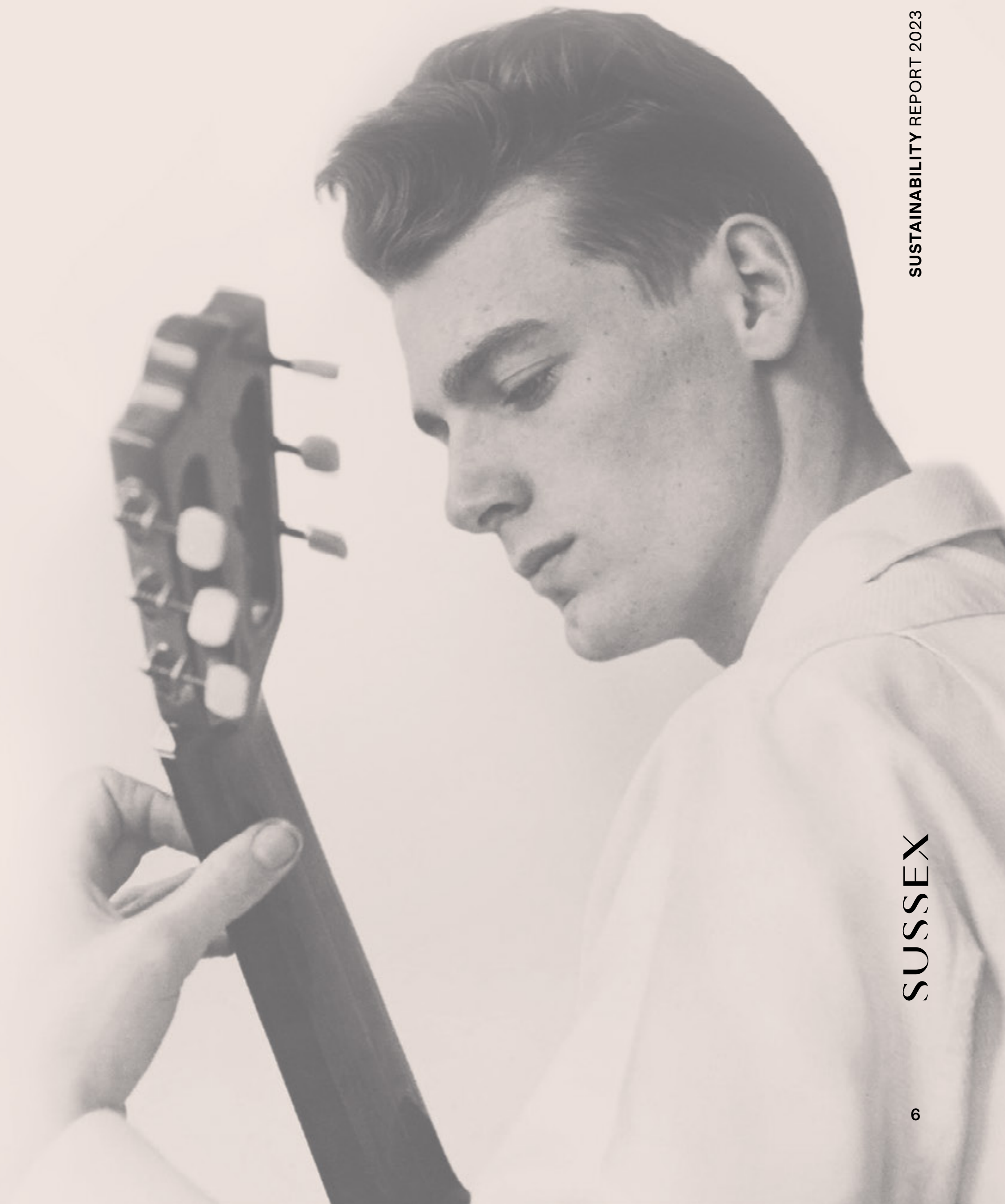
Sussex is a unique tap maker in Australia who makes all our tapware here in our own Melbourne foundry and workshop. We don't believe in sourcing product components from overseas. We prefer to create our own original designs and employ our own dedicated artisans. And take full responsibility for the social and environmental impact of everything we make.





# Doing what's right is a *principle* we live and breathe, every single day

The Sussex journey began in 1960 with the arrival of our founder Nicolaas Johannes van Putten in Australia. He brought with him a talent for watchmaking and fine jewellery which later evolved into exemplary tap making. In the caring hands of his family, Nick's legacy of precision and innovation finds new expression in a generation that puts sustainability first.





# Crafting sustainable, ethical, net ZERO products

From the outset, Sussex Taps was formed with the objective of being as vertically integrated as possible. This allows us to have maximum control over our process: to continually refine quality, to pinpoint and correct faults at any stage in production, to reduce rejects and minimise wastage. To us, vertical integration and environmental integrity go hand in hand.

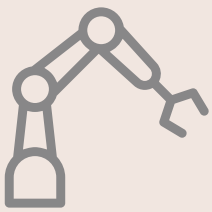


# Vertical integration

At Sussex we believe in doing things the right way, that's why we have a vertically integrated process that allows us to have total control of our processes. From that initial sketch to machining, assembly and polishing all our products are crafted under the watchful eye of our expert artisans.



DESIGN  
TEAM



CNC &  
ROBOTICS



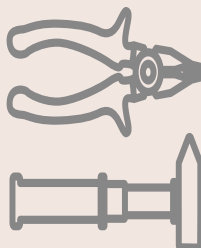
ADMINISTRATION



RESEARCH &  
DEVELOPMENT



SALES &  
MARKETING



TOOL  
MAKING



ASSEMBLY &  
QUALITY CONTROL



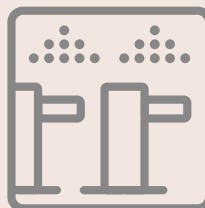
FOUNDRY



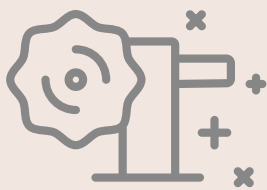
AFTERSALES



WAREHOUSE  
& DISPATCH



LUXPVD®  
FINISHES



POLISHING



# Recycling is at the heart of our *cycle*

Central to the Sussex point of difference is that we are a unique Australian tap maker with our own foundry. This allows us to operate a fully cyclic process from raw materials to delivery, minimising waste and maximising recycling along the way. Every stage of the process is governed by hand and eye: from original design to final inspection.





# Sustainability recognition

2015

- Sustainability and Environmental Award winner
- Northern Business Achievement award for Excellence

2017

- City of Hume business award - sustainability category (Gold)
- Driven x design award- Scala collection
- Take2 member Victorian government climate change pledge program

2018

- Houses awards - sustainability sponsor
- Houses awards - ongoing (2019, 2020 and beyond)

2019

- City of Hume business award - sustainability category (finalist)

2020

- Approved supplier to Victorian government "Buy recycled directory"
- Approved "Australian made and owned" trademark
- Design files x Laminex - sustainability award finalist

2021

- Climate Active certification

2022

- Sussex Taps has achieved Climate Active Certification for 2021-22 financial year and has offset all its carbon emissions for the organisation and its Sussex Collections tapware





# 2.0 OUR COMMITMENT



# Driven by respect for Australian manufacturing, people and our planet

Our management team is inspiring and energetic with a passion for contemporary design and culture. At the same time, we have the highest regard for traditional trade skills. Our foundry and workshops are home to 65 artisans and serve to keep a timeless craft alive.

- **Equal opportunity employment**
- **Maintaining skilled trades and artisanship**
- **Non-gender specific**
- **Fair workplace practices**
- **Open communication**
- **Passion for design excellence**





# Inspiring others to take bold action

Our commitment to environmental sustainability extends beyond our production process to encompass the entire life cycle of our tapware.

We're implementing a take-back program for used tapware to reduce landfill and maximise recycling.

Thanks to owning our own foundry, all recovered brass is melted down to be used again.

- **Carbon neutral - Climate Active certified**
- **Lean manufacturing**
- **Continuous improvement of process and systems**
- **Initiatives to reduce our carbon footprint**
- **Track and monitor our rejects to reduce reject rate**
- **Take-back program for old tapware**
- **Educational sessions for students and architect/design industry**
- **Partner with private and government sustainability advisors**



# Before we make our taps we recycle them

Year after year Sussex Taps is unconditionally committed to exploring and initiating ways to improve our sustainability and reduce our environmental impact year after year. Sustainability is paramount from the very start of our production process with every Sussex tap beginning life as a solid block of recycled brass.





# Environmental actions

2013

Energy Audit and Lean Manufacturing Audit

Waste Audit: identified 89.5m<sup>3</sup>/year waste to landfill

From here we started to work on how we can improve every year as follows

2014

Factory LED lighting upgrade led to 40% in greenhouse gas emissions or 30.7 tonnes/year greenhouse gas savings

2015

3kW Frigel air cooler installed at foundry site. 90% energy saving costs, improved metal melting rates by 7%. This upgrade has led 33.2 tonnes/year greenhouse gas savings

Upgraded to energy efficient variable speed drive Nitrogen Generator

2016

Foundry and polishing plant LED lighting upgrade has led 30 tonnes/year greenhouse gas savings

A member of the Victorian Government Climate Change TAKE 2 Pledge Program to take action on climate change

2017

Power Factor Correction Equipment installed

2018

Installed 100kW of solar panels to reduce factory greenhouse emissions by 332 tonnes or 30% reduction in the sites greenhouse gas emissions



# Environmental actions

2019

Installation of an energy efficient office heating and cooling system

Reduced energy use and greenhouse gas emissions by at least 15%

2020

Installation of LED energy efficient lighting to fourth facility

Reduced lighting energy use and greenhouse gas emissions by at least 30%

Climate Active certification approved

2020

The purchase of 1702 tonnes of carbon offsets has led to zero net carbon emissions for Sussex Taps Pty Ltd which is equivalent to taking 512 cars off the road

Installed 173kW of solar panels

Reduced factory greenhouse emissions by 200 tonnes carbon emission, which equivalent to taking 60 cars off the road

2021

Climate Active Recertification



2022

Sussex Taps has achieved Climate Active Certification for 2021-22 financial year and has offset all its carbon emissions for the organisation and its Sussex Collections tapware

2023/2024

Introducing our buyback program for recycling used tapware



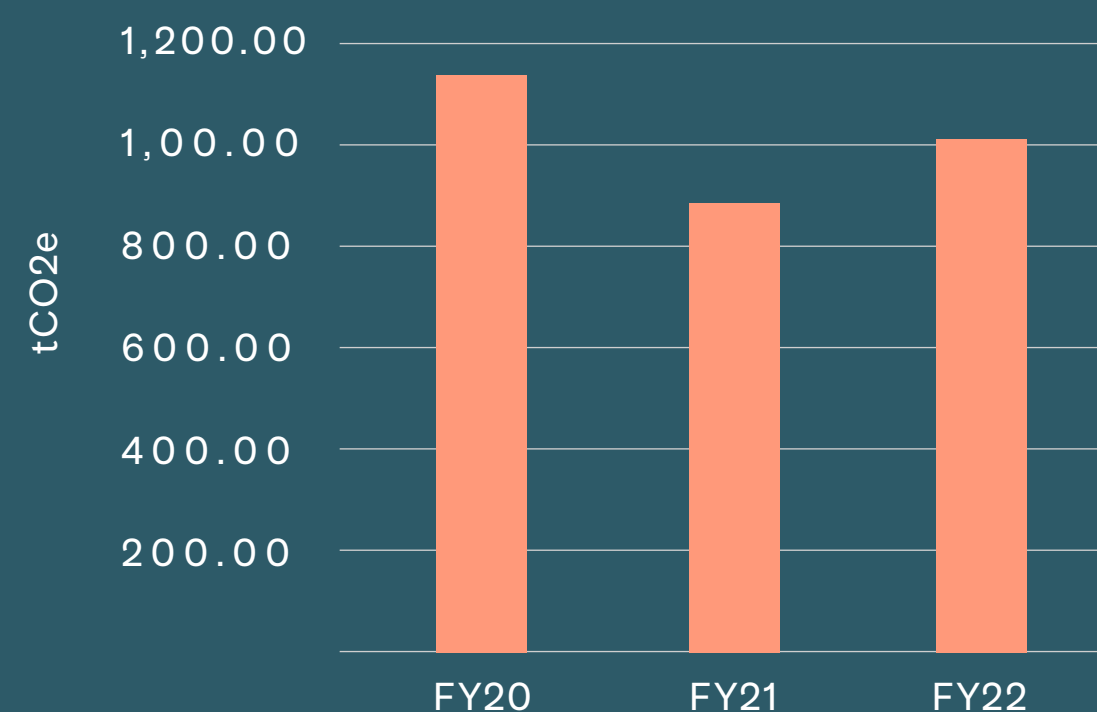
# Making it ZERO

At Sussex we are committed to our journey of making it right and making it sustainable. In 2022 our emissions boundary was established in line with the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol (corporate) and Australian Government Climate Active Organisational Standard.

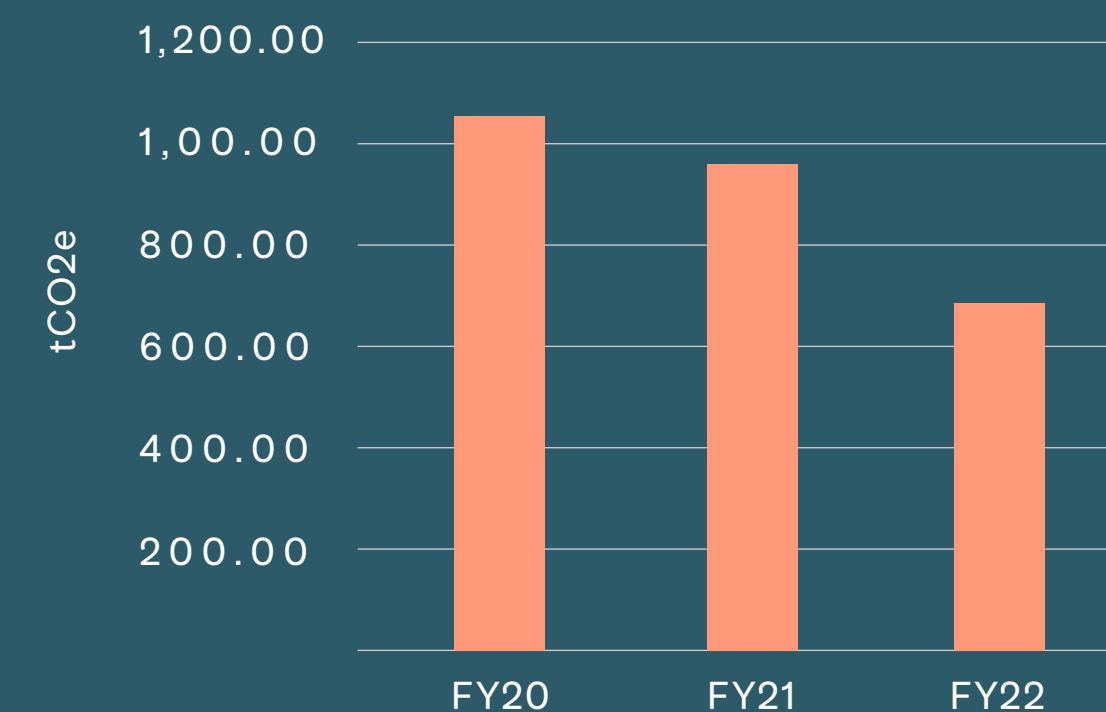
In 2022 our emission inventory was calculated using the below

- All stationary energy and fuels used in buildings, or vehicles in the organisation's control (e.g. natural gas, LPG, fuels used in company vehicles).
- All electricity consumed by facilities in the organisation's control.
- All other emissions identified as a direct result of the organisation's operating. Goods and services in the general ledger were assessed for relevance.

In 2022 we achieved our lowest emissions for our collection products dropping to 685 from the 964 in 2021 and 1025 in 2020.



ORGANISATION TOTAL EMISSIONS BY YEAR



SUSSEX TAPS COLLECTION TOTAL EMISSIONS BY YEAR

Total emissions	FY20	FY21	FY22
Organisation (tCO2)	1,170	884	1,021
Sussex Taps Collection Products (tCO2)	1,025	964	685

# 3.0 OUR VISION



We protect what  
we love and  
are continually  
*investing* to make  
this impact a reality

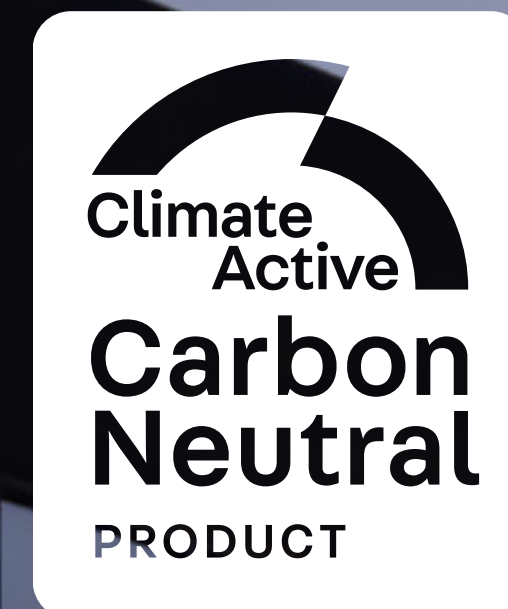
Sussex Taps is unconditionally committed to exploring and initiating ways to improve our sustainability and reduce our environmental impact year after year.

Sustainability is paramount from the very start of our production process with every Sussex tap beginning life as a solid block of recycled brass.



# We're committed to making things right. Which means putting our *future* first

Australians all have a role to play in preserving our unique and fragile environment. As a Climate Active Certified Organisation we are actively working together to protect our climate today, for future generations. Our ongoing sustainability targets ensure that Sussex always chooses approaches that are least likely to impact the environment. Because it is our belief that no act is too small or insignificant, if it reduces our footprint further.



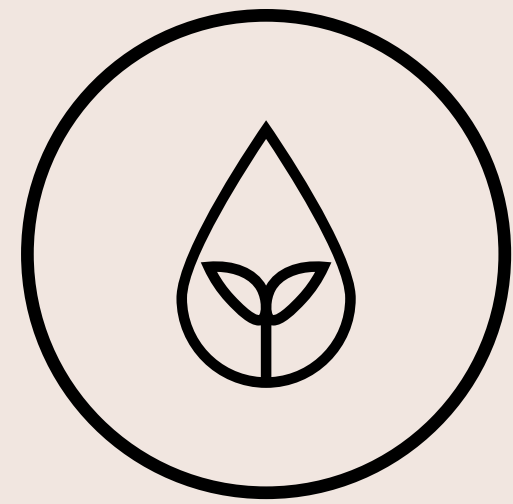


3.3  
MAKING IT ZERO FILM





# Our goals and annual *targets*



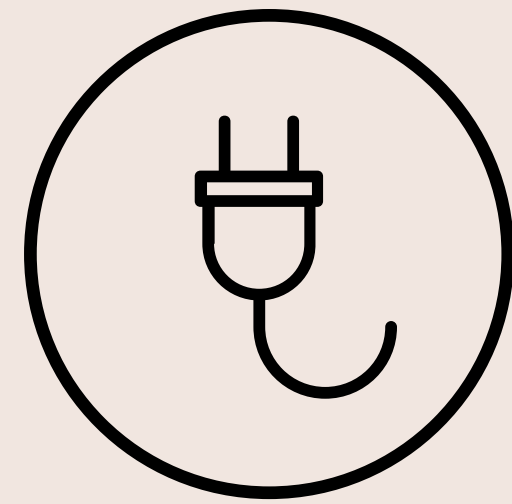
5%

Less water usage per annum



5%

Less packaging per annum



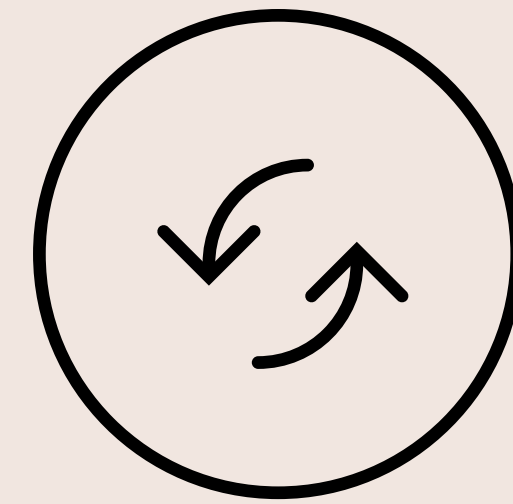
10%

Less electricity usage per annum



10%

Less landfill per annum



+85%

Materials recycled



We hope our  
accomplishments  
inspire others as  
much as they have  
inspired greatness  
in us

While we are proud of our achievements so far, we believe that the real work is just beginning. We are guided by a strong purpose and values to always push us forward – driven by respect for Australian manufacturing, people and our planet.

So, when you choose beautifully functional Sussex tapware, you're not just buying for today, you're investing in a better tomorrow for Australia.





SX

Visit [sussex taps.com.au](https://sussex taps.com.au) to discover more about our commitment to sustainability