

H.L. HUTCHINSON LIMITED

Sustainability Statement

NATIONAL REACH WITH A LOCAL SERVICE

As an industry leading business, Hutchinsons strives to be the best in its sector in everything it does and is committed to a sustainable future for our customers and colleagues.

Hutchinsons is a leading provider of agronomic advice and crop inputs, and one of the foremost agronomic employers in the UK. Founded in 1938, Hutchinsons remains a family business with over 440 staff nationwide. Our advisors are involved in the management of more than one 1 million hectares of agricultural and horticultural crops – a figure that continues to grow.

Our industry is very fast moving technically. Our sustainability commitment helps us to provide customers and colleagues with the support and development required to keep ahead of the game in all areas of sustainable crop husbandry and farm management.

Hutchinsons is a long-term supporter of sustainable farming practices and is working with like-minded companies on a number of cross industry initiatives.

COMMITMENT TO OUR SERVICES

Hutchinsons strives to deliver sustainability through all services and products provided to our customers.

Agronomy Advice

As one of the country's leading providers in agronomy and farm management advice, we put Integrated Crop Management at the heart of our decisions and recommendations. Protecting the environment and producing crops in a safe and sustainable way, utilising holistic methods and management practices, rotations and soil and water protection are vital for environmental welfare as well as a sustainable and profitable farming business. Safeguarding natural resources, health and welfare are part of the Hutchinsons ethos and are key to the future of the business and our customers' success.

Farm sustainability and technology

Hutchinsons invest in robust farm and field-based R&D projects, the results of which underpin all our services and products. A range of regional and crop-specific trials across the UK allow for local climate and soil conditions and underpin the detail required by our agronomists to make timely, accurate and science-lead recommendations.

The Helix initiative – blueprint for the future of farming

In 2019 Hutchinsons launched Helix, a unique initiative across an expanding network of farms. The project trials and adapts new technology tools at whole-farm scale, alongside agronomic knowledge and experience, to determine benefits and best practices. Helix Farms operate on an 'improve or remove' basis – the technologies must provide a benefit in sustainability, productivity or profitability for a given farm situation. All advice and actions delivered are integrated, evidenced and justified.

Omnia – translating data into knowledge

The Omnia Precision farming system has been developed to support the grower and agronomist partnership in ensuring future farm sustainability, improved productivity and increased profits.

Omnia is a central hub used to record, analyse and evaluate information that informs decision making and management of the overall farm and business, by using data layers to visualise field performance.

Variable rate seed, nutrition or crop protection plans can be quickly and easily created in Omnia.

Omnia is central to an integrated approach to deliver long-term rotation, soils and environmental management.

TerraMap – setting the standard for accuracy in precision agriculture

TerraMap is the world's highest definition soil mapping service, with 27 map layers available in nutrients, organic matter, carbon and soil texture profile.

Results from TerraMap enable growers and agronomists to make better informed decisions for crop management and soil stewardship. By integrating results in Omnia with yield maps, it is possible to understand in-field differences and manage bespoke precision nutrient application. Building soil biology, to recycle and release its own nutrients more fully, will lead to more efficient nutrient and input use.

TerraMap Carbon – the UK's only carbon mapping system

TerraMap is the UK's only soil mapping system capable of measuring both active and organic carbon in the soil.

Carbon footprinting is beneficial, as a proxy measurement for efficiency and profitability of a farm, as well as simply a measure of soil carbon activity.

Having a baseline carbon measurement puts growers in a position to monitor changes to carbon levels, as a result of different management approaches, to understand what makes a difference. A reduced carbon footprint can only be achieved through more efficient use of fertilisers, better soil carbon management and considering the energy used in storage.

Integrated Crop Management (ICM) – justified and transparent decision support

ICM is intrinsic to sustainable agriculture. It is delivered in four pillars: agronomic strategy, risk assessment, cultural methods and crop protection.

Hutchinsons have launched tools for risk assessment and scenario planning, through Omnia, so that growers can keep a record of what has been done and the thresholds and reasoning behind that.

The Helix Farms take an ICM approach and ultimately see an improvement to both their profitability and sustainability.



> Environmental services – agri-environment schemes that benefit

With the transition of Government agri-environmental schemes, Hutchinsons' team of specialists are equipped to design tailor-made environmental agreements for growers, that align with both farm objectives and environmental priorities.

We provide practical advice and support on a range of agri-environment areas including Countryside Stewardship, the Sustainable Farming Incentive, and Environmental Land Management Scheme.

Omnia also enables growers to focus on option locations in detail and ensure every decision is suitable.

Agroecology services – applying ecological principles to agriculture

Agroecological farming is more resilient and enhances natural resources. Hutchinsons' team of specialists are highly skilled at applying ecological principles to agriculture. Maximising soil and plant health puts farmers in a position to produce profitable crops with minimal, targeted inputs while delivering an uplift in biodiversity.

Soil Health

Soils are key to long term sustainability. It is well documented that improving soil biology and structure will deliver many tangible benefits, the ultimate being long-term resilience and output. Hutchinsons has some of the leading, most experienced soil specialists in the industry to help guide growers in implementing changes.

Produce Packaging

Produce Packaging is the UK's leading supplier of packaging materials specifically designed for the fresh produce, fresh food and horticultural industries. Packaging plays a vital role in the produce supply chain and we strive to evolve for the benefit of the supply chain and environment.

Specialising in recyclable and compostable packaging materials, many of which are manufactured from recycled source materials, over 90% of our products are recyclable after use and a large proportion are compostable either at home or industrially. We support and encourage the proper handling of our products through the appropriate recycling chain.

Through offering our customers items from stock we are able to help them to reduce their wastage encouraging them to only take what they need in smaller quantities, rather than having to order large minimum quantities.

Commitment to our people

Hutchinsons has an enviable reputation as one of the foremost agronomic employers in the UK.

We continuously invest in our people. Professional development and regular training allow our team to always provide the most comprehensive, up-to-date services and advice possible, while also staying abreast of the latest legislation. We pride ourselves in making sure that all our agronomists are fully aware of the very latest thinking in sustainable farming practices.

The Hutchinsons Foundation

The Hutchinsons Foundation is the most professional and comprehensive training programme for new agronomists within the UK. They receive training of the highest standards to equip them with the technical knowledge, expertise and customer-focus essential for sustainable crop production advice. The course consists of two years of research, assessments and qualifications, followed by a further year of continued mentoring and has successfully established more than 80 agronomists over the past ten years.

Hutchinsons Academy & Advanced Agronomy Training (AAT)

Training and skills development are extremely important to ensure all Hutchinsons staff can deliver the best possible service to our customers. The Hutchinsons Academy – a series of 15 business modules – has been created to cover a wide range of subjects where staff can focus on enhancing their skills and keep up-to-date with the latest technologies and knowledge. The AAT contains 10 crop modules - each providing an advanced approach to a specific crop and its production and aims to lift yield and quality to Yield Enhancement Network standards. Agronomists focus on the physiological aspects of crop husbandry and apply advanced, practical approaches with their customers to elevate yield and output quality.

Sustainable business operations

Hutchinsons implements sustainable business operations across our depots, including:

- Maintaining an up-to-date haulage fleet using a wide range of the most fuel-efficient light goods and heavy goods vehicles. Hutchinsons are also trialling electric light goods vehicles.
- Field-based staff are transitioning to hybrid/electric vehicles and electricity charging points are being installed across our sites.
- In our depots we are replacing diesel forklift trucks with more energy efficient electric reach trucks.
- Also, at our sites we have replaced halogen or metal halide lights with more low energy LED lighting and many of these sites are powered by solar energy with more to come.
- As far as possible we use recycled plastics, paper and cardboard and minimise or recycle as much waste as possible.
- We have a commitment to use the most modern route planning and optimisation software and telematics to reduce our road fuel use and reduce our carbon footprint.