

H.L. HUTCHINSON LIMITED

Sustainability Statement

Hutchinsons strives to be the best in its sector 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 500 staff nationwide. Our advisors are involved in the management of more than one 1 million hectares of agricultural and horticultural crops.

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

Agronomy Advice

We are one of the country's leading providers of 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 is vital for sustainable environmental welfare and a profitable farming business. All our advice is integrated, evidenced and justified, using the latest sustainable and welfare guidance.

Integrated Crop Management (ICM)

Justified and transparent decision support is intrinsic to sustainable agriculture. It is delivered in four pillars: agronomic strategy, risk assessment, cultural methods and crop protection. Hutchinsons has launched tools for risk assessment and scenario planning, through Omnia, so that growers can keep a record of what has been done and the related thresholds and reasoning.

Omnia – translating data into knowledge

The Omnia digital 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 data 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 plans, enabling growers to focus on option locations in detail and justify every decision.

Hutchinsons invests in robust **farm and field-based R&D projects**, 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 - 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 to determine benefits and best practices. Helix Farms operate on an 'improve or remove' basis – to be adopted, the technologies must provide a benefit in sustainability, productivity or profitability.

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 – TerraMap is the UK's only soil mapping system capable of measuring both active and organic carbon in the soil. Carbon foot printing 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 allows growers to monitor changes to carbon levels, from different management approaches. A reduced carbon footprint can only be achieved by understanding the impact of efficient use of fertilisers, better soil carbon management and the energy used in crop production and storage.

Environmental Services – 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.

Agroecology Services – Applying ecological principles to agriculture makes farming 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.

Healthy Soils are key to long term sustainability. Improving soil biology and structure will deliver long term resilience and better output. Hutchinsons has some of the most experienced soil specialists in the industry to help growers implement changes.

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. 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.

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 as technology becomes available.
- 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 trucks.
- We have replaced halogen or metal halide lights with more low energy LED lighting at our sites and many of these are powered by solar energy.
- 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 our carbon footprint.