

National Carbon Offset Standard Carbon Neutral Program Public Disclosure Summary



An Australian Government Initiative

COMPANY NAME

UnitingCare Wesley Adelaide Incorporated trading as Uniting Communities.

REPORTING PERIOD

1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

Declaration

To the best of my knowledge, the information provided in this Public Disclosure Summary is true and correct and meets the requirements of the National Carbon Offset Standard Carbon Neutral Program.

[Sign here]

7th December 2015

[Name of Signatory] Simon Schrapel

[Position of Signatory] Chief Executive, UnitingCommunities

Type of carbon neutral certification: Organisation

Verification

Date of most recent external verification/audit: 26 November 2015

Auditor: EY

Auditor assurance statement link:



Australian Government
Department of the Environment

Page 1/8

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1. Carbon neutral information

Introduction

Uniting Communities works with South Australians across metropolitan and regional South Australia through more than 90 community service programs. There is a team of more than 1,500 staff and volunteers who support and engage with more than 20,000 South Australians each year.

Uniting Communities recognises that people of all ages and backgrounds will come across challenges in their life. We offer professional and non-judgmental support for individuals and families offering programs for:

- Older people
- Younger people
- Families & children
- Housing & crisis support
- Mental health & well-being
- People with disabilities
- Carers
- Financial & legal services.

We also support community-led initiatives through small grants and community development.

Uniting Communities is committed to reducing its impact on the environment and has been working on emissions reduction since its goal of becoming a carbon neutral organisation by 2015 was set by the Uniting Communities Board in 2010. This program, named Towards Carbon Neutral (TCN), has been spearheaded by a steering committee that oversees the policy, strategy and progress of TCN. A working committee is also in place, consisting of members from across the organisation's departments. This committee is responsible for developing emissions reduction initiatives.

Uniting Communities greenhouse gas inventory has been prepared in accordance with the National Carbon Offset Standard Guidelines 2013 and other standards referred to within that document including the Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Standards and the National Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reporting Act 2007.

Uniting Communities has used the Operational Control method of consolidation and has considered the following greenhouse gases – carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O) and hydro fluorocarbons (HFCs).

Emission sources within certification boundary

Quantified sources

The greenhouse gas inventory has been prepared using the Operational Control approach. In 2014-15 Uniting Communities operated its services from approximately 84 sites, five of which were owned and the remainder leased. The carbon emissions from these facilities are calculated and aggregated via a

carbon management system for which Uniting Communities purchased a license in 2014. All data is recorded in this system.

Table 1: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Sources

Scope	Emissions source
Scope 1	Natural Gas
	Refrigerant
	Transport Fuel - Company Fleet
Scope 2	Electricity
Scope 3	Business Travel – Air
	Business Travel - Employee Commuting
	Business Travel - Grey Fleet
	Copy Paper
	Stationery
	Waste – Landfill

Non-quantified sources

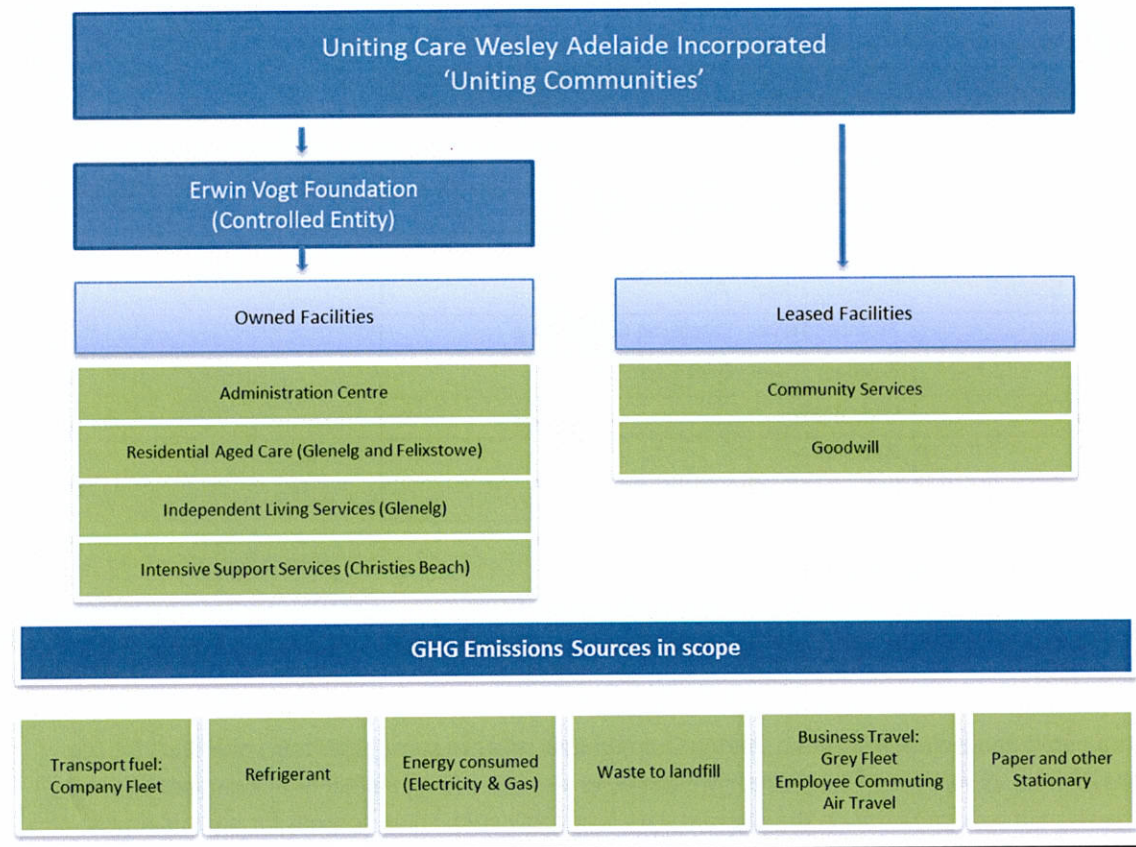
The impact of excluding the following sources is not expected to materially affect the overall total emissions.

As a public benevolent institution Uniting Communities relies to some extent on volunteers for the provision of its services. Whilst employee travel, as a source of fuel emissions is included, volunteer travel is not included because the relevant data is not collected. Some services for particular programs are brokered to external providers, for example independent living services. These services are paid for through a set fee that does not include the breakdown of fuel or other emissions sources.

Sometimes Uniting Communities finds it necessary to engage contractors and consultants however the expenses associated with these services are immaterial from an emissions perspective, as are the provision of food and beverage and medical supplies which are an integral part of offering residential aged care services.

Other immaterial or hard to measure activities include some purchased goods and services and capital goods.

Diagram of certification boundary



2. Emissions reduction measures

Part A. Emissions over time

As this is Uniting Communities base year, this section has been left blank.

Part B. Emissions reduction strategy

An emissions reduction plan has been developed each year for the five years that Uniting Communities has been operating its *Towards Carbon Neutral* Program. In planning for the 2015-16 year, Uniting Communities has gathered ideas from its committee members, site representatives and other employees to develop both a high level strategy and focussed initiatives. The strategy falls under four key headings:

- Building upgrades. Each year the Uniting Communities Board has allocated a sum of money to upgrade its owned buildings to make them more energy efficient. This is ongoing and will involve more energy efficiency audits this year with the help of a volunteer auditor. Leased sites will be included where paybacks are lower than the lease term and therefore make sense from a financial perspective.
- Policies, procedures and procurement. Emissions reductions have been facilitated, in some instances, by developing new policies that encourage a low carbon approach, especially in the area of procurement. Examples include; transport fuel - through converting the company fleet to diesel electric – this will be ongoing and will include the preference for hybrid petrol/electric vehicles in the pool car program. A strategic approach has been adopted for waste management through the consolidation of supplier contracts and the maximisation of recycling and organic waste. Uniting Communities also purchases products and services that are, where possible, carbon offset.
- Behaviour change has been a major contributor to emissions reduction and will continue to be a feature of our program. Various initiatives including *Switch Off*, *Y-Print*, *Drive Green* and *Y-Waste* have engaged employees. This year, further training and communication will be rolled out to assist in the buy-in and uptake of emissions reduction initiatives with a focus in the near future on the reduction of waste to landfill especially in the residential aged care facilities. This year, SA Government Smarter Travel@Work initiatives are being explored including a work bike initiative, Adelaide carpool, and the provision of Metrocards for work travel.
- Governance - Uniting Communities is always looking to improve through good governance, and this year will see the continued rollout of emissions reduction responsibility in all job descriptions. Site Representatives have been in place for a number of years and we will seek to use their role to deliver further emissions reductions and operating cost savings. To facilitate engagement and accountability this year will see the start of quarterly reporting for each Executive and Manager on their carbon emissions which will assist them in working on further emissions reductions at their sites and with their teams. The reporting will utilise the functionality of *Envizi-Insight*, a comprehensive data management system that was implemented last year.

Part C. Emissions reduction actions

The activities shown in the table below summarise Uniting Communities' emissions reduction activities since its TCN program began in 2010. Overall these activities have resulted in a significant reduction since measurement began informally in 2010-11. With the exception of transport fuel used in company fleet, actual reduction amounts are not quantifiable due to the fact that data collection in the earlier days of this program was not sufficiently complete and a carbon management system with full data collection and measurement was not in place until 2014.

Overview of emissions reduction measures implemented in since 2010				
Emission source	Year	Reduction measure	Scope	Status
Transport Fuel – Company Fleet	Ongoing	Conversion of fleet to hybrid petrol/electric vehicles over time.	Scope 1 & 3	Ongoing
Transport Fuel – Company Fleet	2014/15	Changed process for pooled car bookings so that hybrids are taken first. Not measured.	Scope 1 & 3	Ongoing
Transport Fuel – Company Fleet & Grey Fleet	2011/12	“Drive Green” behaviour change campaign. Tips issued with all vehicles.	Scope 1 & 3	Ongoing
Transport Fuel	2011/12	Roll-out of video conferencing facilities	Scope 1 & 3	Ongoing
Electricity	Ongoing	“Switch off” campaign. Specific measurement not possible.	Scope 2 & 3	Ongoing
Electricity	2010/11 & 2014/15	Upgrade of lighting at two large facilities. Unable to measure directly as not separately metered from other energy consuming fixtures.	Scope 2 & 3	Completed
Electricity	2010/11	Upgrade ceiling insulation and control thermostats and timers on air-conditioning at Aldersgate residential aged care.	Scope 2 & 3	Completed
Electricity	Ongoing	Upgrading of multi-function devices to more energy efficient models.	Scope 2 & 3	Ongoing
Electricity & Gas	Ongoing	Energy audits of small leased sites and subsequent upgrades and behaviour change. Unable to attach reductions to specific initiatives.	Scope 1, 2 & 3	Ongoing
Electricity & Gas	2013/14 – 2014/15	Participation in Conservation Council SA's Government funded 'Green Hubs' program.	Scope 2 & 3	Completed
Waste to landfill	2012/13	Consolidation of waste contractors and bin audit.	Scope 3	Completed
Copy paper – fully carbon offset	2013/14	Switched to a supplier of carbon neutral paper	Scope 3	Ongoing

Our footprint has also been reduced this year by 28 t CO₂-e through the purchase of Fuji Zerox' Performer 100% Carbon Neutral paper – an NCOS certified product. Fuel used in our company fleet and stationery purchases were also offset through carbon offsets in biodiverse native vegetation in South Australia. During 2014-15 the company fleet and stationery purchases offsets were not NCOS certified and so the value has not been subtracted from the total footprint. This will change in 2015-16.

3. Emissions summary

Table 3: Emissions Summary

Scope	Emission source	t CO ₂ -e
1	Natural Gas	72
1	Refrigerant	58
1	Transport Fuel – Company Fleet	331
2	Purchased Electricity	1,198
3	Business Travel – Air Travel	29
3	Business Travel – Employee Vehicles	208
3	Business Travel – Employee Commuting	100
3	Stationery Purchases	11
3	Waste to Landfill	185
3	Natural Gas (indirect emissions)	15
3	Purchased Electricity (indirect emissions)	215
3	Transport Fuel – Company Fleet (indirect emissions)	26
3	NCOS Certified Copy Paper	0
Total Gross Emissions		2,448
GreenPower or retired LGCs		0
Total Net Emissions		2,448

4. Carbon offsets

Part A. Offsets summary

Uniting Communities has purchased 2,448 Gold Standard Voluntary Emissions Reductions (VERs) in the Yarra Yarra Australian Biodiversity Project, an amount equal to the greenhouse gas inventory for 2014-15. This total purchase consisted of two vintages – one of 2,152 and one of 296 – both of which have been assigned on the Gold Standard Registry via Markit Environmental Registry.

Part B. Offsets purchasing and retirement strategy

The Uniting Communities Board has set a policy of purchasing a minimum of 50% of its offsets from Australia with the remainder to come from overseas offsets that fit with its social mission. The eventual future allocations will depend on price as well as environmental and social outcomes and may change from year to year.

Offsets will be purchased on an annual basis in accordance with the Carbon Neutral Program Guidelines. At the end of 2015-16 the offsets amount will be trued up based on the actual greenhouse gas emissions for that year. This will also take into account the carbon value of carbon neutral products that have been

purchased during the year as well as offsets purchased with Uniting Communities' fleet vehicle acquisitions during the year.

All offsets purchased will be retired by the supplying organisation on Uniting Communities' behalf.

Part C. Offset projects (Co-benefits)

The Yarra Yarra Australian Biodiversity Project is located in a biodiversity hotspot in a corridor of unique Australian fauna and flora. The project removes carbon from the atmosphere by creating a healthy and functioning landscape, whereby degraded semi-arable land is returned to native vegetation through the planting of 40 native tree and shrub species which are indigenous to the environment. Current and future plantings form part of the Corridor which provides essential connectivity for birds and animals to transition through the landscape. It provides the habitat for food, nests and protection from predators. It also encourages native animals and plants that have vanished from the area or been pushed to the brink of extinction to return and breed. The significance and importance of welcoming back iconic threatened species such as Malleefowl, Bush Stone-curlew, Carnaby's Cockatoo, Western Spiny-tailed Skink and the Woylie (Brush-tailed Bettong), as well as over 30 species of conservation-significant native plants, is immeasurable.

The project employs 10 local indigenous people and works with the traditional owners of the land at every stage of the development. Also archaeological surveys have been conducted across the project and five aboriginal heritage sites have been registered with the Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

The project has invested over \$16 million into the local economy by supporting around 80 local businesses.

5. Have you done more?

Uniting Communities is considered to be a leader in emissions reduction and has reduced its carbon footprint considerably since its Towards Carbon Neutral Program began in 2010. Uniting Communities has also been sharing its approach with others in the sector.

Always seeking to do things properly we have gone above and beyond the minimum requirements of NCOS by purchasing a license to a carbon management system in which our emissions data is captured. The system is also used for monitoring and reporting on emissions to leaders across the organisation.

As well as having a policy in place, we have shown our commitment to emissions reduction by allocating internal resources to committees and other activities as well as setting an annual capital and operating budget. We have also had a carbon management consultant working with us since 2010.