COMPANY NAME : Sustainable Living Fabrics Pty Ltd

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 July 2014 – 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.

	1/05/2016
Alistair Fulton	
Marketing Director	

Type of carbon neutral certification: Product

Verification

Date of most recent external verification/audit: 23/06/2015

Auditor: RSM Bird Cameron

Auditor assurance statement link: N/A

1. Carbon neutral information

Introduction

Sustainable Living Fabrics (SLF) is a wholesaler of fabrics for the commercial interiors market. Fabrics are used for upholstery and screening in commercial applications. SLF sells to other businesses (manufacturers) and not to the end-user/consumer.

Since 2005, by reviewing its supply chain, working with suppliers and actively implementing environmental strategies to minimise its environmental footprint, SLF has significantly reduced the carbon emissions, water usage, use of toxic chemicals and toxic emissions attributed to production of its eco fabrics and its management and distribution activities.

In September 2010 Low Carbon Australia Limited certified Sustainable Living Fabrics and all products sold as carbon neutral under the Carbon Neutral Program which is underpinned by the Australian Government National Carbon Offset Standard (NCOS). Sustainable Living Fabrics was one of the first companies to achieve this certification and its assurance that all the fabrics Sustainable Living Fabrics sells are genuinely carbon neutral.

SLF's head office and warehouse is located in Oakleigh in Victoria. All fabrics are sourced from Geelong Textiles Australia. Fabrics are cut to length at the warehouse and are sent by road freight or courier to customers across Australia. SLF also operates a small sales office in Camperdown (Sydney) and a small storage room in Perth on a customer site.

The SLF Green Living® Collection consists of over 400 eco fabrics that are used for commercial eco upholstery and screening fabrics. These environmental fabrics carry the GECA Ecolabel for Textile Products and are the first commercial textiles to have been independently assessed and audited by Good Environmental Choice Australia and licensed to carry the GECA Ecolabel for Textile Products.

SLF GECA certified eco fabrics are the only eco fabrics manufactured from low pesticide leanwool®, a rapidly renewable resource certified as environmentally preferable with strict chain of custody from the farm to fabric. GECA certification warrants the polyester used in these fabrics is either certified recycled PET or low antimony ecopolyester™

The Green Living Collection is rated heavy duty commercial or commercial screen and is warranted for up to 12 years or the life of the furniture whichever is the lesser. SLF eco fabrics are available in a large range of colours to meet customer requirements.

Considering the large number of product variations on offer it was not practical or cost effective to carry out separate LCAs for each type or category of product. Our approach was therefore to define a generic eco fabric product containing 100% ecowool to represent the entire product range.

A hybrid LCA methodology is used. This uses a combination of direct LCA data (material consumption data) and data from an input-output analysis (based on $ value of expenditure). Input-output analysis provides a complete assessment of all inputs to the procurement and delivery of fabrics. To summarise the hybrid approach:

The depth of the input-output analysis approach covers the entire upstream supply chain. The input output analysis applies an infinite supply chain to all upstream emissions. This means that no boundary

needs to be set of up. The breadth of this approach covers all supply chain inputs including materials and services required to operate SLF's business

The Scope 3 emissions of imported goods are also included in the analysis, calculated as if they were produced under Australian production conditions.

Input output analysis data (based on $ value of expenditure) is replaced by primary usage data for petrol, gas, electricity, air travel and waste. When primary consumption data is available, the input output emission factors were replaced by emission factors from other sources such as the NGER (Measurement) Technical Guidelines, NGA factors and other LCA databases.

Input output analysis data (based on $ value of expenditure) is replaced by primary usage data for fabric (kg of fabric purchased from the mill). In this case, the emission factor for fabrics from the Ecoinvent database was used

The hybrid LCA provides a bottom up analysis of life cycle impacts where primary usage data and appropriate emission factors are available and a top down analysis of supply chain impacts from input output analysis where Scope 3 emission factors are not readily available.

The functional unit for the LCA is 1 kg of eco fabric purchased from the mill and sold to customers. For the purposes of this analysis it was assumed at all product contained 100% Ecowool. The approach taken to assume 100% ecowool content is expected to overestimate emissions attributed to fabric purchase.

SLF aims to offset all purchased fabrics because any off cuts not sold to customers are used to produce sample swatches for customers and promotional purposes.

Emission sources within certification boundary

The scope of this Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) relates to all products sold by SLF and does not provide details for separate product lines. The complexity and cost of a full LCA on woollen and synthetic fabric production ruled out a detailed analysis. Therefore, a single emission factor from published LCA data in the Ecoinvent database was used. This is a more accurate estimate of life cycle impacts than the industry average value from the input output analysis.

The system boundary of this analysis is from *Cradle to Grave* and includes all activities involved in wool growing, production of synthetic fibres, fibre processing, dying, fibre processing, warehousing, cutting fabric to length and distribution of fabric to customers for manufacture of products for the commercial furnishing market. The LCA also includes corporate emissions that arise from running the SLF business (Scope 1, 2 and 3). The boundary includes production activities at customer facilities and downstream distribution and installation of commercial furnishings as well as end-of-life disposal and recycling of commercial furnishings (Shown in red in Figure 1). However, emissions from downstream production activities and end of life were not included in the total footprint calculation.

Quantified sources

The following emission sources have been included:

- Fabrics purchased from the mill

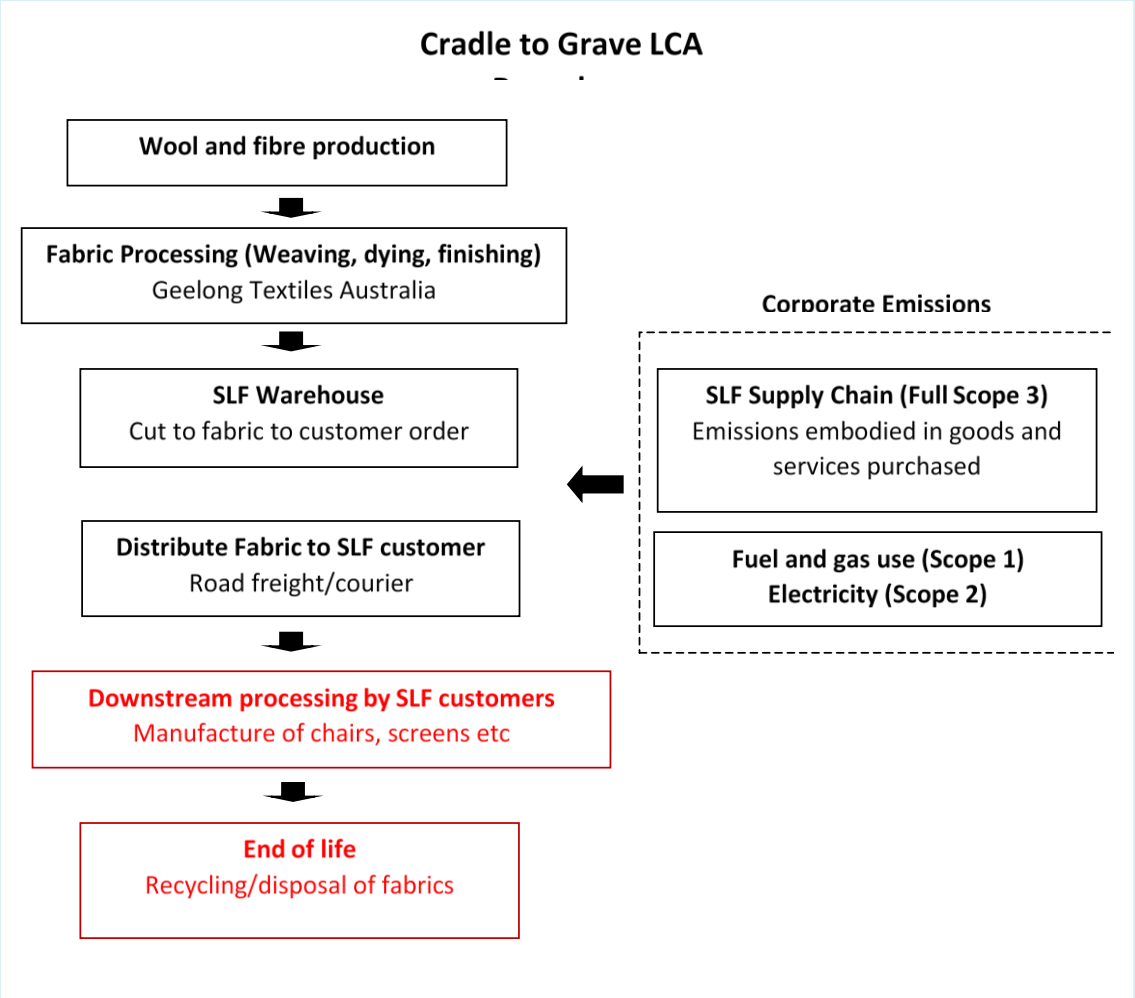
- Electricity purchased from the grid
- Petrol used in company cars and sales reps vehicles
- Air travel
- Employee commuting
- Waste to landfill
- Goods and services purchased by SLF in operating the business and supplying customers

Non-quantified sources

The following emission sources have been excluded:

- Fugitive emissions from air conditioning – based on the main air conditioning unit these emissions are difficult to determine and are not considered to be material.
- Fabric recycling - All fabric off-cuts are reused as sample swatches.
- Capital goods (machinery and computer) – none purchased in the reporting period
- Emissions from lubricants and grease - small amounts of lubricants and grease are used in fabric cutting equipment. The emissions are likely to be negligible (relative to other Scope 3 emissions) for SLF. Determining these emissions will be costly relative to their likely significance.
- Use phase emissions such as manufacture into other furnishing and refurbishment are considered to be nil, as the fabric is used in the manufacture of another product. There are no direct emissions associated with the fabric at this stage of its lifecycle and guarantee period of 12 years.
- End of life emissions - fabric is high quality, long lasting and has a warranty period of 12 years. SLF has contact with manufacturers but only limited awareness of where the fabric as a finished product is sold. That and due to the long life of its products it is impossible for SLF to keep track of what happens to each piece of fabric sold.

Figure 1 - Diagram of certification boundary



2. Emissions reduction measures

Part A. Emissions over time

Table 1. Emissions since base year		
	Base Year	Current Year (2014 -2015)
Total Emissions (*t CO2-e)*	1,982	995.2

The reduction in emissions since the base year reflects a reduction in the amount of fabric purchased by the business. This is the result of a strategy to reduce stocks of fabric in the warehouse rather than a reduction of sales to customers.

Part B. Emissions reduction strategy

As a small business Sustainable Living Fabrics has relatively limited options to reduce emissions as the majority of its emissions are embodied in the fabric purchased from the mill. However Sustainable Living Fabrics' on-going strategy is to implement further energy efficient systems in the warehouse, reduce fuel consumption and material usage. Overall the strategy is aimed at continuing reductions in electricity consumption fuel use and material use.

Part C. Emissions reduction actions

Sustainable Living Fabrics moved into company owned premises in December 2012. A range of energy saving features have been implemented in the new building. These include:

- Energy saving LED lights in the boardroom and hallways.
- Energy efficient appliances such as fridge, paper towel dispenser
- Sensor based security lights located on the outside of the front of the building, so they do not stay on all night.
- Energy efficient hot water service.

Some of the future emission reduction plans include and incentive offer for sales reps to purchase hybrid cars when the time comes to replace their vehicles and an on-going focus of recycling in the warehouse and office.

3. Emissions summary

Table 2. Emissions Summary

Scope	Emission source	t CO_2-e
1	Company cars fuel	1.5
2	Electricity	32.6
3	Company cars fuel	0.1
3	Electricity	3.8
3	Business Flights	32.3
3	Private car use for business purposes	12.6
3	Employee Commute	16.2
3	Waste	1.0
3	Fabric purchases	797.47
3	Road Freight	20.2
3	Accommodation	6.13
3	Paper Products	38.6
3	Subscriptions & periodicals	3.46
3	Printing and stationery	1.56

Table 2. Emissions Summary

Scope	Emission source	t CO_2-e
3	Real Estate Services	5.33
3	Environmental Accreditation	4.32
3	Telephone	2.38
3	Food	2.47
3	Insurance	0.58
3	Parking & Tolls	0.57
3	Advertising & Promotion	5.10
3	Entertainment	0.14
3	Plastic packaging	1.06
3	Banking	3.35
3	Rates & Taxes	0.03
3	Training	0.02
3	Vehicle R&M	0.37
3	Security	0.28
3	Postal services	0.71
3	Accounting Services	0.06
3	Website	0.49
3	Repairs and Maintenance	0.39
Total Gross Emissions		**995.2**

4. Carbon offsets

Part A. Offsets summary

Table 3. Offsets Summary			
Offset type and registry	Year retired	Quantity	Serial numbers
• VCU • VCS Registry (https://vcsregistry2.apx.com/myModule/rpt/myrpt.asp?r=206&h=13041	2016	996	1241-54367979-54368974-VCU-001-APX-CN-1-574-29122009-24092010-0
Total offsets retired			996
Net emissions			0
Total offsets held in surplus for future years:]			0

Part B. Offsets purchasing and retirement strategy

Offsets are historically purchased in arrears at the end of the assessment period however they will be forward purchased in the future to align with revised NCOS guidelines.