

National Carbon Offset Standard Carbon Neutral Program Public Disclosure Summary



An Australian Government Initiative

Charles Sturt University

Base Year: 2014 Calendar Year

First Carbon Neutral Period: 2015 Calendar Year

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Vann'.

Date: 22/7/16

Professor Andrew Vann

Vice-Chancellor and President

Charles Sturt University

Type of carbon neutral certification: Organisation

Verification

Date of most recent external verification/audit: 24/03/16

Auditor: Gillian Hand-Smith



Australian Government
Department of the Environment

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1. Carbon neutral information

Introduction

Charles Sturt University (CSU) was established in 1989 as a multi-campus institution and, over the past 25 years, has grown into a dynamic and progressive university well-known for its innovative approach to education and applied research.

Our capacity for flexible delivery and international reputation for online learning provide access to educational opportunity throughout Australia and the world. As a national University, Charles Sturt attracts more than 9,600 on campus and 24,000 distance education students. To address our commitment to making a positive contribution to the wider Australian community and to participating in the internationalisation of higher education, Charles Sturt University delivers educational opportunities to more than 6,000 students around the globe, with more than 2,300 students at CSU Study Centres in Sydney and Melbourne.

Through our network of campuses, and in close association with industry, professions and government, we are committed to maintaining a course and research profile to meet the needs and supports the aspirations of our communities, and contribute to the enrichment of inland Australia.

We consider our regional, national and international roles to be integrally linked and mutually reinforcing. We believe that the University's success in attracting national and international students strengthens the programs it is able to offer its inland communities. The University's regional locations enable it to make a distinctive national and international contribution in such fields as health sciences, food and water security, environmental sustainability and economic prosperity.

The University's four faculties (Arts, Business, Education and Science) comprise a number of schools and centres. Faculties operate across campuses and are responsible for developing and delivering courses, while schools are generally based on a single campus and carry responsibility for teaching subjects. Administrative and academic support services are provided by the divisions, centres and offices, which operate across the University's campuses.

Research is conducted through institutes and centres located across the University's campuses. The University hosts the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics (CAPPE) which is an Australian Research Council (ARC) Special Research Centre and is a partner in the ARC Centre of Excellence for Policing and Security (CEPS).

The University has four Centres of Research Excellence (CAPPE; the Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation; the Institute for Land, Water and Society [ILWS] and the Research Institute for Professional Practice Learning and Education [RIPPLE]); five Strategic Research Centres (the National Wine and Grape Industry Centre [NWGIC]; the Centre for Research in Complex Systems [CRiCS]; the Centre for Public and Contextual Theology [PACT]. The University is also a partner in Cooperative Research Centres including Cotton Catchment Communities, Future Farm Industries and High Integrity Australian Pork.

Emission sources within certification boundary

Quantified sources

Table 1: Reported Emissions Sources for CSU Initial Application

Emissions Source	Emissions Reported		
	Scope 1	Scope 2	Scope 3
Natural Gas	✓		✓

Emissions Source	Emissions Reported		
	Scope 1	Scope 2	Scope 3
LPG	✓		✓
Diesel	✓		✓
Gasoline	✓		✓
E10	✓		✓
SF ₆	✓		
Acetylene	✓		✓
Petroleum based oils and greases	✓		✓
Domestic wastewater treatment	✓		
Purchased electricity		✓	✓
Emissions associated with construction			✓
Co-mingled Recycling Waste			✓
Paper and Cardboard Waste			✓
Municipal Waste			✓
Travel-Taxi			✓
Reimbursed private vehicle usage			✓
Travel- Air short haul			✓
Travel- Air medium haul			✓
Travel- Air long haul			✓
Paper			✓

Non-quantified sources

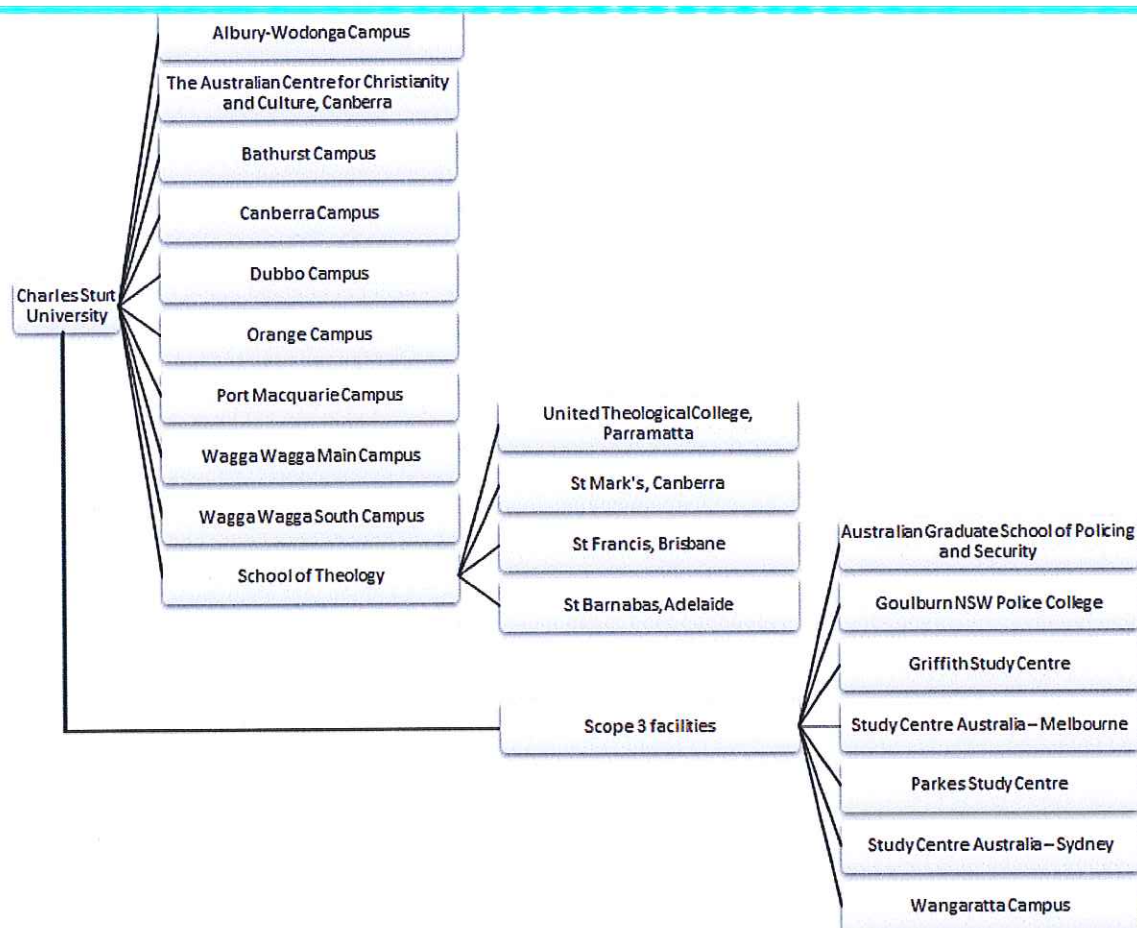
The following emission sources have not been quantified in line with the provisions in the NCOS. The impact of excluding these sources is not expected to materially affect the overall total emissions:

- Capital Goods
 - The largest capital items for CSU relate to the facilities and thus this emissions source was not further considered.
- Employee Commuting
 - With greater than 2,000 employees geographically dispersed across Australia, quantifying the emissions associated with employee commuting is likely to be onerous (even with a sample selection of staff). A survey of staff habits at Albury noted 62% drive to campus. Using conservative assumptions and projecting these survey results across all staff, the employee commuting emissions were estimated at 356 tCO₂-e which are immaterial for CSU.
- Downstream transportation and distribution, processing, use and end-of-life of sold products.
 - Generally, CSU does not manufacture goods and thus these emissions source are not relevant for the organisation. In 2014, a small volume of wine was produced for sale from the commercial winery at the Wagga Wagga campus. This operation has since ceased and all Scope 1 and 2 emissions associated with this are included within the emissions reported for the Wagga Wagga Campus. All other emissions sources associated with this product will be onerous to calculate and will be immaterial for the totals reported by CSU.
- Downstream leased assets
 - CSU offer a small number of courses through partner institutions over which CSU does not have operational control. These are a small component of the overall higher education service offered by CSU and have been assessed as not likely to significantly impact the reported emissions.
- Franchises

- Not relevant to CSU operations.
- Investments
 - Through both the Charles Sturt Investment Portfolio and the Charles Sturt Foundation Investment Portfolio, CSU directly hold investments in a number of investment fund products and also direct shares in ASX listed companies. CSU does not have operational control over either the managed fund products nor does it have operational control of any company in which it has invested through its shareholdings.
 - CSU has adopted the internal “Responsible Investment Guideline” for both investment funds

Diagram of certification boundary

Figure 1: Charles Sturt Organisation Boundary for the purposes of Carbon Neutral Certification



2. Emissions reduction measures

Part A. Emissions over time

N/A

Part B. Emissions reduction strategy

CSU's 2015-2016 Sub-Plan (Infrastructure Physical and Virtual), which is part of the broader University Strategy sets out the specific emissions reductions activities for Charles Sturt in the near term. A summary of the emissions reduction strategy and opportunities is available online at : <https://www.csu.edu.au/csugreen/our-commitments>

Part C. Emissions reduction actions

Charles Sturt University is proactively reducing the emissions associated with its operations through discrete and targeted programs. In addition to the specific measures below, CSU also runs an annual Sustainability Grant Program across its campuses with a total funding pool of \$135,000. This represents a significant investment by CSU in engaging our students and staff to assist with our organisational goal of carbon neutrality and improved environmental outcomes.

Table 1. Emissions reduction measures historically implemented by CSU

Year completed	Emission source	Reduction measure	Scope	Status	Reduction t CO ₂ -e
2014	Electricity and Gas	Installation of Co-generation facility at Bathurst: Installation of a gas fired co-generation plant. Emissions Savings were calculated by the project consultant.	1 and 2	On-going	2,870 tCO ₂ -e /annum

3. Emissions summary

Table 2. Emissions Summary

Scope	Emission source	t CO ₂ -e
1	Natural Gas	5,050
1	LPG	20
1	Diesel	515
1	Gasoline	320
1	LPG	23
1	Ethanol	0
1	Petroleum Based Oils	2
1	Domestic Wastewater Treatment	6
1	Acetylene (Gaseous fossil fuels other than those mentioned in items 17 to 26)	0
1	SF ₆	0
2	Electricity	26,915
3	Natural Gas	1,338
3	LPG	1
3	Diesel	27
3	Gasoline	17
3	LPG	1
3	Ethanol	0

Table 2. Emissions Summary

Scope	Emission source	t CO ₂ -e
3	Petroleum Based Oils	0
3	Acetylene (Gaseous fossil fuels other than those mentioned in items 17 to 26)	0
3	Purchased electricity - NSW	3,443
3	Purchased electricity - VIC	232
3	Construction	1,884
3	Co-mingled Recycling Waste	0
3	Paper and Cardboard Waste	0
3	Municipal Waste	1,077
3	Travel-Taxi	55
3	Reimbursed private vehicle usage	34
3	Travel- Air short haul	221
3	Travel- Air medium haul	222
3	Travel- Air long haul	2,165
3	A3-Recycled	0
3	A3-Virgin	2
3	A4-Recycled	6
3	A4-Virgin	48
3	A5-Virgin	0
Total Gross Emissions		43,623*
GreenPower or retired LGCs		0
Total Net Emissions		43,623*

*values do not add exactly due the effects of rounding

4. Carbon offsets

Part A. Offsets summary

As an initial application the carbon offsets have not been purchased.

Part B. Offsets purchasing and retirement strategy

Offset Purchase

CSU has established a series of four principles to help guide decisions associated with the procurement of carbon offsets. These principles are as follows:

1. Support for locally-based projects to the extent that is deemed financially viable
2. A preference for projects that align with CSU's values and offer high engagement value
3. Consideration of projects that offer regional connectivity with CSU's international partners, a number of which are listed here: <http://www.csu.edu.au/international/options/international-partners>
4. The per unit cost of the offset option

Retirement Strategy

CSU retires carbon offsets in advance of the reporting year for which carbon neutrality is being reported. The carbon offsets are calculated by taking the prior reporting year's carbon offsets and purchasing an additional 5% of purchases. Where it is known that significant variations in campus operations are planned in the coming year, the carbon offsets purchased may also be adjusted for these.

CSU will then "true up" the emissions for the reporting year in the first quarter of the following year following calculation of the actual emissions for the reporting period.

To ensure that CSU can always meet our commitment to Carbon Neutrality, we will purchase an additional 5% of carbon offsets to our calculated inventory in 2014 and hold these as a, "buffer" in the event that any retrospective adjustments to the 2014 baseline are made in future period reporting.

Part C. Offset projects (Co-benefits)

Not applicable

5. Have you done more?

Not applicable for this initial application