

National Carbon Offset Standard Carbon Neutral Program Public Disclosure Summary



An Australian Government Initiative

COMPANY NAME


Australian Consumers Association

REPORTING PERIOD

From 1/07/2016 to 30/06/2017

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.

Signature 	Date
Name of Signatory Matthew Steen	
Position of Signatory Director, Product Content and Testing	

Carbon neutral certification category	Organisation
Date of most recent external verification/audit	2017
Auditor	Pangolin Associates
Auditor assurance statement link	https://www.choice.com.au/~media/3b076544cd3640bb8a278eb67ed5ba41.ashx

1. Carbon neutral information

1A. Introduction

The Australian Consumers Association (“CHOICE”) is a not for profit organisation located in Marrickville, NSW. CHOICE are the leading consumer advocacy group in Australia. Independent and member-funded, CHOICE ensures that Australian consumers get a fair go.

CHOICE owns its facilities at 57 Carrington Road, Marrickville. In this building, a childcare centre is co-located, but not separately metered. The carbon inventory for CHOICE thus encompasses emissions relating to the childcare centre for refrigerants, electricity, waste, and water consumption. CHOICE can influence electricity-consuming equipment like lights and air conditioning for the childcare centre.

The operational control approach is used for the boundary consolidation.

This inventory has been prepared based on the NCOS and was developed in accordance with the general principles of:

- The Greenhouse Gas Protocol, A Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard developed by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (GHG Protocol);
- GHG Protocol: Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Accounting and Reporting Standard.

This inventory has measured greenhouse gases in carbon dioxide equivalence (CO₂-e) and includes all seven greenhouse gases covered by the Kyoto Protocol – carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆), nitrogen trifluoride (NF₃), as well as hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) covered by the Montreal Protocol (where applicable).

Based on the operational consolidation approach the entity included in the carbon neutral certification is the Australian Consumers Association.

1B. Emission sources within certification boundary

Quantified sources

The following emission sources have been included:

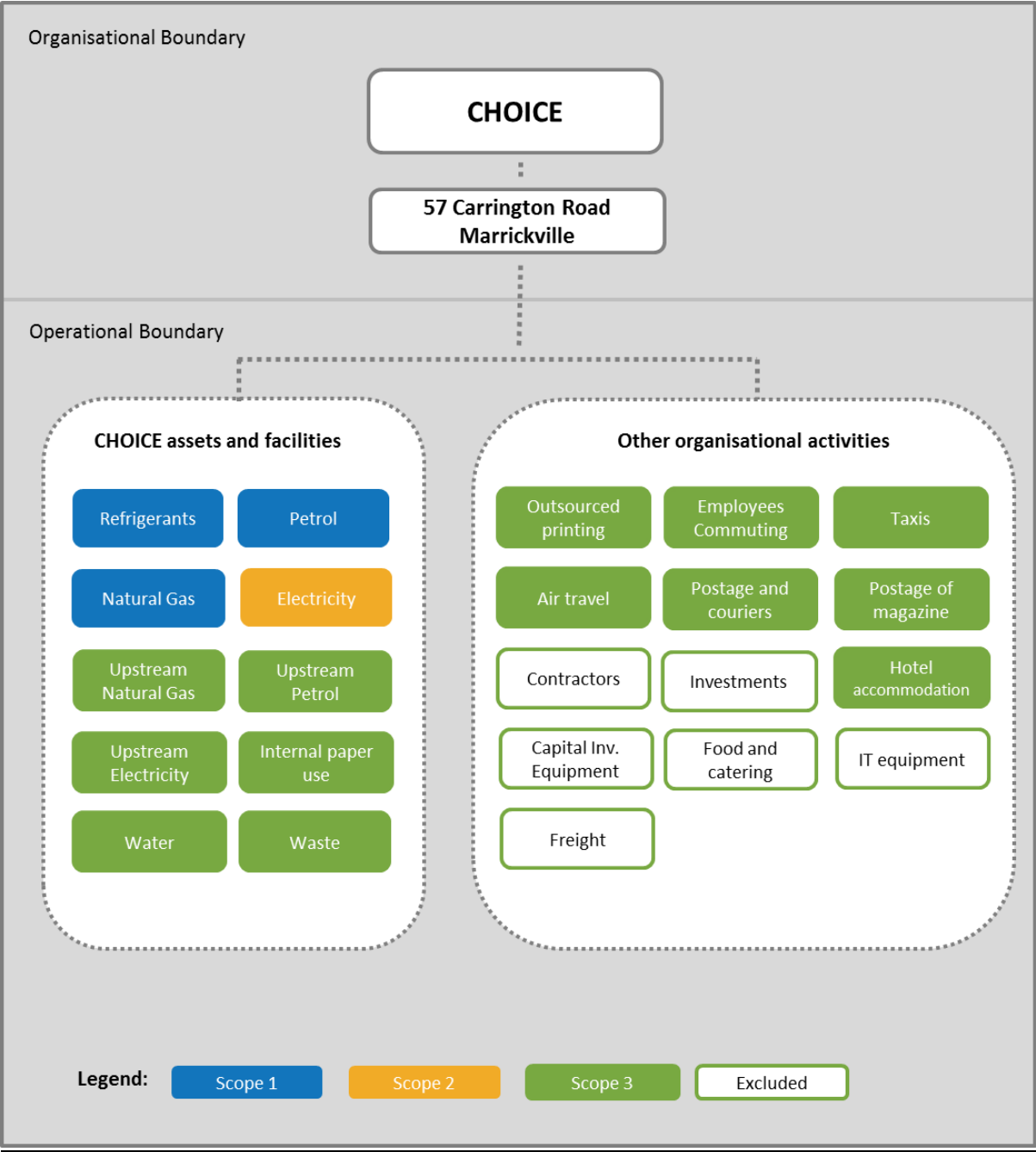
- Natural Gas
- ULP
- Refrigerants
- Electricity
- Upstream ULP
- Upstream natural gas
- Upstream electricity
- Air travel
- Internal paper use
- Outsourced printing - paper for magazine printing
- Waste to landfill
- Taxi travel
- Water consumption and waste water
- Postage of magazine
- General postage and couriers
- Employees commuting
- Business accommodation

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 investment equipment is not included because the embedded carbon emissions are difficult to quantify and when amortised over the life of the asset are likely to be insignificant compared to scope 1 and 2 emissions.
- Contractors, including external labs, are not included because they do not fall under the operational control and because determining the associated emissions would be costly relative to their likely significance.
- Investments are not included because they are outside of the operational boundary and there are limited opportunities to reduce the emissions from these sources. Determining the associated emissions would be costly relative to their likely significance.
- Food and catering was excluded, because the effort required to gather the data needed for the calculation of food and catering related emissions is disproportionate to their contribution to overall emissions.
- IT equipment is not included because the embedded carbon emissions are difficult to quantify and when amortised over the life of the asset are likely to be insignificant compared to scope 1 and 2 emissions.
- Freight is not included in the inventory as there is little freighting activity, data is difficult to quantify, and the related emissions are likely to be insignificant compared to overall emissions.

1C. Diagram of certification boundary



2. Emissions reduction measures

2A. Emissions over time

The following table shows the absolute emissions since the base year.

Table 1. Emissions since base year				
	Base Year	FY16/17	FY17/18	FY18/19
Scope 1	46.63 t CO ₂ -e	44.73 t CO ₂ -e		
Scope 2	519.71 t CO ₂ -e	421.79 t CO ₂ -e		
Scope 3	538.75 t CO ₂ -e	625.45 t CO ₂ -e		
Total	1,105.09 t CO₂-e	1,091.96 t CO₂-e		

2B. Emissions reduction strategy

There is a constant focus at CHOICE to look for ways of reducing its emission sources and generally its impact on the environment. Emission reduction opportunities are identified via energy audits, engaging staff and keeping abreast of new market developments. CHOICE focuses on the following environmental impact categories

- Electricity
- Water
- Paper consumption
- Air travel
- Waste
- Staff commuting
- Communication about activities to staff and the public.

2C. Emissions reduction actions

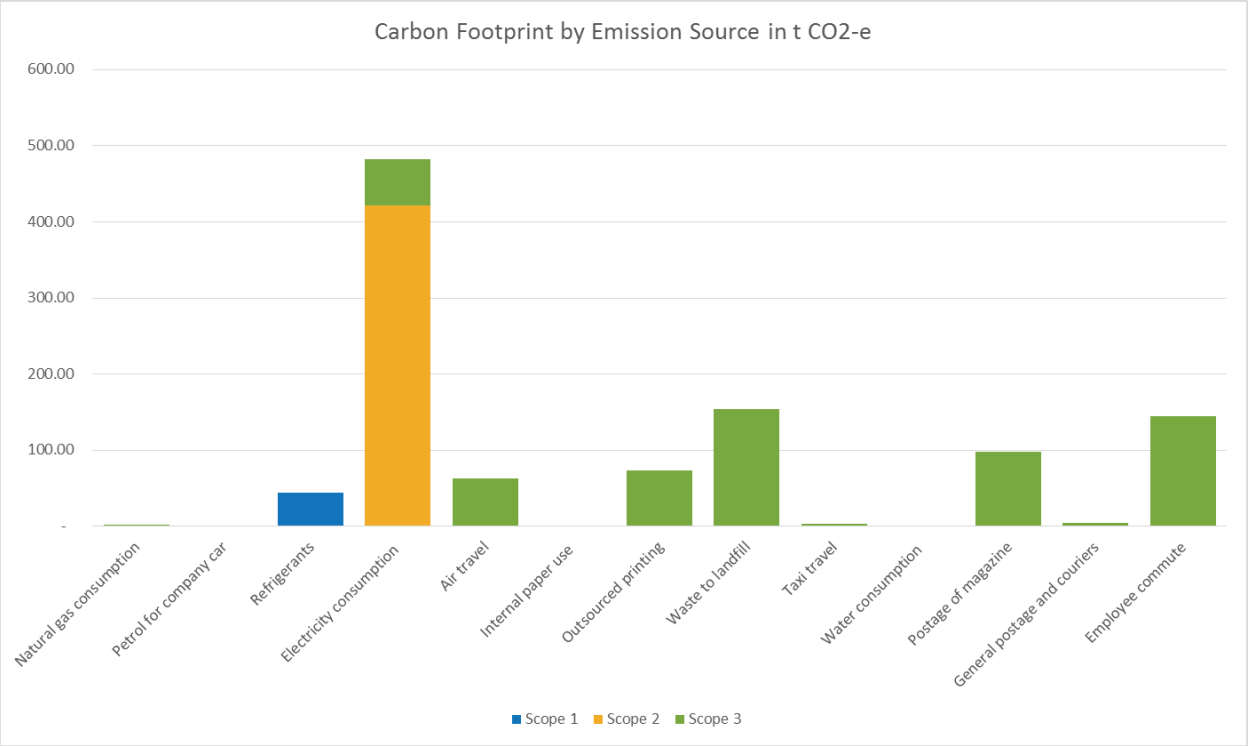
CHOICE wants to minimise its impact on the environment as much as possible. In FY16/17 year, air conditioning for the first floor was replaced/upgraded, reducing scope 2 emissions by 75t.

CHOICE tries to minimise its paper consumption by encouraging staff to print less and uses NCOS accredited carbon neutral paper in its office (Aspire Copy Carbon Neutral). Special, low-emissions paper is used for printing the magazine, which avoids the emission of 71.13 tonnes annually.

For FY17/18, a solar PV installation is planned. CHOICE intends to install more energy meters to be able to better track and analyse energy consumption and is also working on increasing its recycling rates.

3. Emissions summary

Table 2. Emissions Summary		
Scope	Emission source	t CO ₂ -e
1	Natural Gas	0.44
1	ULP	0.10
1	Refrigerants	44.19
2	Electricity	421.79
3	Upstream ULP	0.01
3	Upstream natural gas	0.11
3	Upstream electricity	60.98
3	Air travel	73.78
3	Internal paper use	0.00
3	Paper for magazine printing	72.93
3	Waste to landfill	153.75
3	Taxi travel	2.63
3	Water consumption and waste water	0.55
3	Postage of magazine	97.32
3	General postage and couriers	4.18
3	Employees commuting	144.96
3	Business accommodation	14.25
Total Gross Emissions		1,091.96
GreenPower or retired LGCs		N/A
Total Net Emissions		1,091.96



4. Carbon offsets

4A. Offsets summary

Table 3. Offsets Summary			
Offset type and registry	Year retired	Quantity	Serial numbers
VCUs, APX VCS Registry	2017	99 (from surplus of previous year)	4984-206574619-206574717-VCU-029-MER-IN-1-1671-02042016-31122016-0
VCUs, APX VCS Registry	2017	1000	2792-120660746-120661745-VCU-009-APX-IN-1-957-16012008-15012009-0
Total offsets retired			1,099
Net emissions			1,091.96
Total offsets held in surplus for future years:			7

4B. Offsets purchasing and retirement strategy

CHOICE is claiming carbon neutrality from FY15/16 and retired 1,106 carbon offsets for the baseline year. In FY 16/17 CHOICE retired 1,099 offsets of which 99 were used from the surplus of the previous year. CHOICE will hold 7 offsets in surplus for the next financial year.

CHOICE purchases offsets at the end of the reporting period. The necessary number of offsets is cancelled right after the purchase.

4C. Offset projects (Co-benefits)

Wind based power generation by Panama Wind Energy Private Limited in Maharashtra, India

<https://www.emaccount.com/app/public/dataroom/09BE80F5>

The purpose of the project activity is to generate power using renewable energy source (wind) and sell the power generated to the state grid. The project initially aimed to install 100.8 MW by March 2012, however, till now only 72 MW (45 WTGs in number) is implemented in different phases and are in operation.

Wind energy project by Hindustan Spinners in Tamilnadu, India

https://vcsregistry2.apx.com/mymodule/ProjectDoc/Project_ViewFile.asp?FileID=8810&IDKEY=l097809fdslkf09rndasfufd098asodfjlkduf09nm23mrn87012148990

The project activity involves the implementation of 8.5 MW capacity wind power project consisting of 13 Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs) at villages in Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli and Coimbatore districts in Tamil Nadu. The power generated by the 4 X 500 kW WTGs and 1 X 750 kW WTGs would be exported to the grid where as the power from 7 X 750 KW WTGs, 1 X 500 KW WTGs would be used for captive purposes.

5. Use of trade mark

Table 4. Trade mark register	
Where used	Logo type
In-house: Banners; internal TV advertising screens, email signatures, business cards	Certified organisation
External: Article in the CHOICE magazine, Annual Report, email signatures and other correspondence to members (EDMs). On CHOICE webpage. At the front of the building. On campaigns websites, Tablet Magazine, Online banner advertising, Consumer Pulse online (survey sent out), CHOICE Recommended scheme, CHOICE Test Research reports, Innovation apps from New Things department distributed to public.	Certified organisation

6. Have you done more?

- Currently, CHOICE has an environmental group that has introduced the *BinTrim* program to CHOICE, going forward, we plan on adding composting as well.
- Once our current waste contract expires, we plan on moving to a contractor for waste removal that can add more plastic types to their remit.
- CHOICE environmental group will develop a 'How to be a green CHOICE employee' on our Intranet.
- CHOICE environmental group plans to expand the bike shed to encourage commuting via bicycle, \$20K has been put aside for this development.
- CHOICE is taking part in *Clean Up Australia* volunteer days for the local area (CHOICE sponsors its workers to take a half day to clean up the nearby river system).
- CHOICE will attempt to source from NCOS-accredited suppliers and NCOS-accredited external labs, prompting current labs to think about entering the scheme.
- CHOICE will arrange for all air travel on behalf of CHOICE to be booked by a single contact who will always carbon offset the flights.
- CHOICE is always investigating how it can improve its sustainability performance, in particular its electricity-related emissions.
- Planned installation of 99.8kW PV solar system on roof in 17/18.