

Australian Government  
**Carbon Neutral Program**  
**Public Disclosure Summary**



THIS DOCUMENT WILL BE MADE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE

COMPANY NAME: Sustainable Living Fabrics Pty Ltd

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019

**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 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2019
Name of Signatory: Alistair Fulton		
Position of Signatory: Marketing Director		

Carbon neutral certification category	Organisation and Product
Date of most recent external verification/audit	28 November 2019 (2018 – 2019 Reporting Period)
Auditor	Stephen Clarke, Johnsons MME RGEA No: 29/2010
Auditor assurance statement link	



## 1. Carbon neutral information

### 1A. 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 Mulgrave 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.

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 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 purchases. 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.

### 1B. 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, dyeing, 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 product footprint calculation.

#### Quantified and non quantified sources:

##### Product Certification

The following emission sources have been included in the product carbon footprint.

- Fabrics purchased from the mill
- Road freight and couriers (transport of products to customers)
- Paper products (samples swatches)
- Plastic packaging

##### Non-quantified sources (product)

The following emission sources are non attributable to the product footprint (ie outside the boundary) :

- Fabric recycling - All fabric off-cuts are reused as sample swatches.
- 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.

### Organisational Certification

The following emission sources have been included in the organisational carbon footprint.

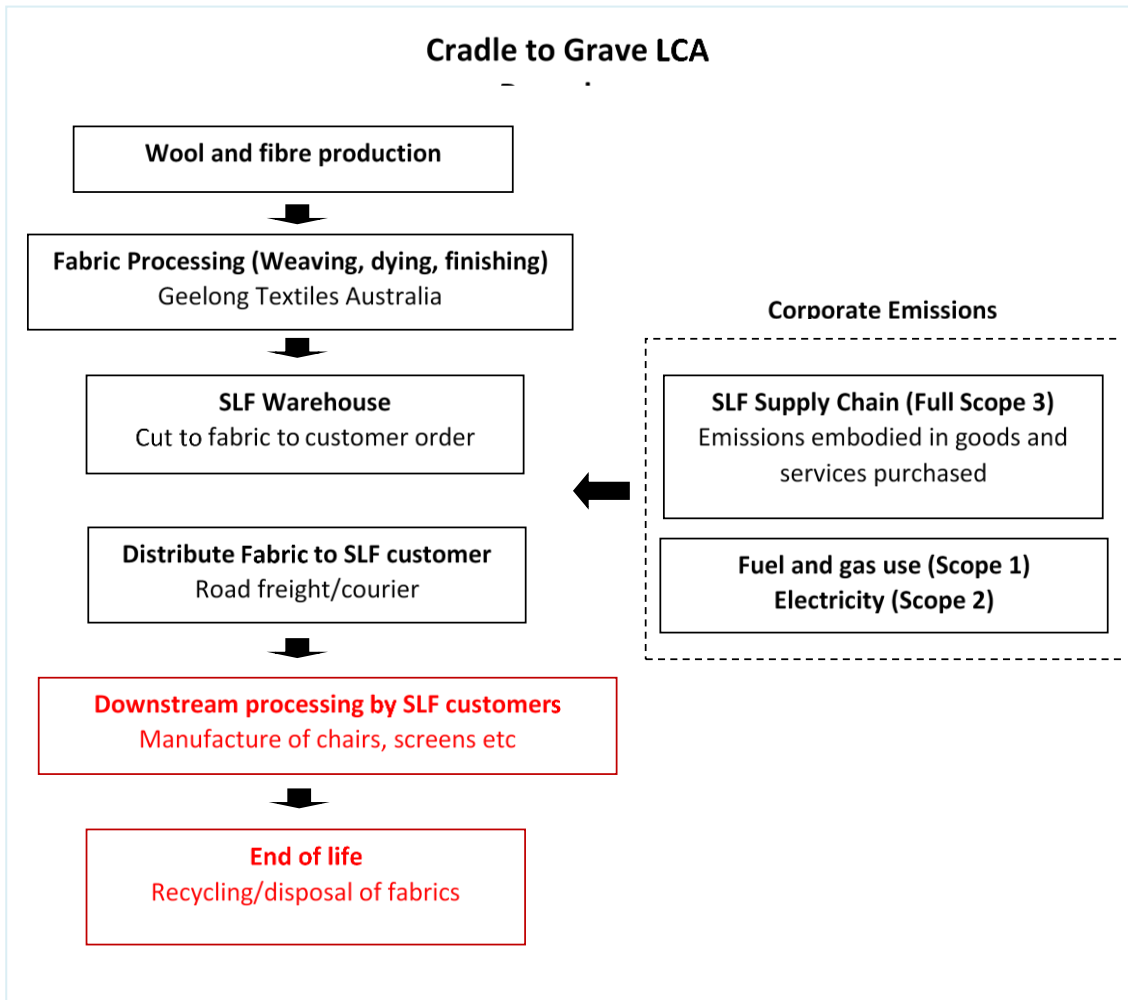
- Electricity purchased from the grid
- Petrol used in company cars and sales reps vehicles
- Air travel
- Employee commuting
- Waste to landfill
- Goods and services purchased by in operating the business (refer to table below)

### Non quantified and excluded sources (organisation)

The following emission sources have been excluded from to the organisational footprint (still inside the boundary) :

- Fugitive emissions from air conditioning – based on a small air conditioning unit in the board room these emissions are difficult to determine and are not considered to be material.
- 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.
- Emissions associated with water consumption – these emissions were excluded as Sustainable Living Fabrics does not have access to the water meter for the building. Emissions are expected to be minimal as only associated with a lunchroom services a small number of staff and the toilets.
- Base building emissions – are included in the electricity consumption for the entire building.
- Emissions from the process of cutting the fabrics. Emissions from these processes will be embodied in the electricity used by guillotines and repair and maintenance of this equipment

1C. Diagram of the certification boundary (includes both product and organisational impacts)



Note: Activities in red are non attributable (ie the boundary) of the product life cycle assessment

2. Emissions reduction measures

2A. Total Emissions over time

<b>Table 1. Emissions since base year</b>			
	Base Year: 2011 – 2012 (tCO <sub>2</sub> -e)	2017 – 2018 (tCO <sub>2</sub> -e)	Current year: 2018-2019 (tCO <sub>2</sub> -e)
Scope 1	11.5	2.37	1.54
Scope 2	11.5	23.36	20.18
Scope 3	1,962.4	1,048.2	1002.3

Total	1,985.4	1,073.9	1,024.0
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## 2B. 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.

## 2C. Emissions reduction actions

A range of energy saving features has been implemented in our 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.
- Use of energy efficient lab tops and turning off lights and equipment when not in use.

Some of the future emission reduction plans include an 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. Fabric offcuts are either donated or reused as samples given to potential customers. SLF uses minimal office paper and has persuaded the local council to provide a recycling bin. This is not normally provided to industrial customers in the local area.

SLF is also active in obtaining cardboard tubes from other suppliers. Normally these would be thrown away. SLF uses these to roll up the fabric supplied to its customers. SLF has not needed to purchase any of the tubes for a number of years

### 3. Total Emissions Summary (product and Organisation)

<b>Table 2. Emissions Summary</b>		
Scope	Emission source	t CO <sub>2</sub> -e
1	Company cars fuel	1.54
2	Electricity	20.18
3	Company cars fuel	0.01
3	Electricity	1.97
3	Business Flights	4.29
3	Private car use for business purposes	10.71
3	Employee Commute	7.40
3	Waste	0.90
3	Fabric purchases	830.4
3	Road freight	93.41
3	Paper products	22.77
3	Accommodation	5.87
3	Advertising & promotion	1.48
3	Real Estate Services	2.64
3	Environmental Accreditation & Services	4.77
3	Banking	0.99
3	Food products	0.61
3	Subscriptions & periodicals	0.06
3	Telephone & internet	1.64
3	Printing and stationery	1.59
3	Accounting services	0.50
3	Plastic packaging	0.36
3	Parking & tolls	0.49
3	Repairs and maintenance	0.40
3	Rates and taxes	0.74
3	Insurance	0.29
3	Computer equipment	0.81

<b>Table 2. Emissions Summary</b>		
Scope	Emission source	t CO <sub>2</sub> -e
3	Website	1.70
3	Postal services	4.12
3	Security	0.27
3	Vehicle repair & maintenance	0.26
3	Legal & filing services	0.14
3	Entertainment	0.04
<b>Total Gross Emissions</b>		<b>1,024</b>



## 4. Carbon offsets

### 3A. Offsets summary

Table 3. Offsets Summary			
Offset type and registry	Year cancelled	Quantity	Serial numbers
<a href="https://vcsregistry2.apx.com/myModule/rpt/myrpt.asp?r=206&amp;h=23084">https://vcsregistry2.apx.com/myModule/rpt/myrpt.asp?r=206&amp;h=23084</a> Wind Grouped project by Hero Future Energies Private Limited (EKIESL-VCS-Aug-16-03) Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan, India Project type: Energy industries (renewable/non-renewable sources)	10/12/18	412	VCU serial numbers: 6042-276562035-276562446-VCU-029-APX-IN-1-1582-29032016-31122016-0
<a href="https://vcsregistry2.apx.com/myModule/rpt/myrpt.asp?r=206&amp;h=27701">https://vcsregistry2.apx.com/myModule/rpt/myrpt.asp?r=206&amp;h=27701</a> Bundled Wind Power Project in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Kerala by D.J. Malpani, Madhya Pradesh, India Project type: Energy industries (renewable/non-renewable sources)	22/10/2019	612	VCU serial numbers: 7045-366185739-366186350-VCU-034-APX-IN-1-1679-28032016-31122016-0
Total offset units cancelled			1,024
Net emissions after offsetting			0

### 4B. Offsets purchasing and cancellation strategy

Offsets are purchased in arrears at the end of the assessment period and subsequently retired. Any surplus is held over for future years.

## 5. Use of trade mark

Table 4. Trade mark register	
Where used	Logo type
Website ( <a href="https://www.sustainablelivingfabrics.com.au/">https://www.sustainablelivingfabrics.com.au/</a> )	Certified Product and Organisation

