PUBLIC DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

SUSTAINABLE LIVING FABRICS

PRODUCT CERTIFICATION
FY 2019-20

Australian Government

Climate Active
Public Disclosure Statement

An Australian Government Initiative

NAME OF CERTIFIED ENTITY: Sustainable Living Fabrics

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020

Declaration

To the best of my knowledge, the information provided in this Public Disclosure Statement is true and correct and meets the requirements of the Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard.

Signature

Date

12/11/2020

Name of Signatory

Liz Miles

Position of Signatory

Managing Director

Australian Government

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources

1. CARBON NEUTRAL INFORMATION

Description of certification

The certification covers all fabrics purchased from the mill and sold to customers. The functional unit is 1 kg of fabric sold to customers. Emissions relating to Sustainable Living Fabrics business operations are covered in the separate Organisation Public Disclosure Statement.

Organisation description

Sustainable Living Fabrics (SLF) is a wholesaler of fabrics for the commercial, education, health and aged care, hospitality and residential interiors and furniture market. Fabrics are used for all types of upholstery and screening in commercial and residential applications. SLF sells to other businesses (manufacturers) and not to the end-user/consumer.

The SLF fabric range consists of over 400 environmentally certified fabrics that are used for commercial and residential upholstery and screening applications. 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 are licensed to carry the GECA Ecolabel for Textile standard TLv3.0-2014 Textiles and Leather.

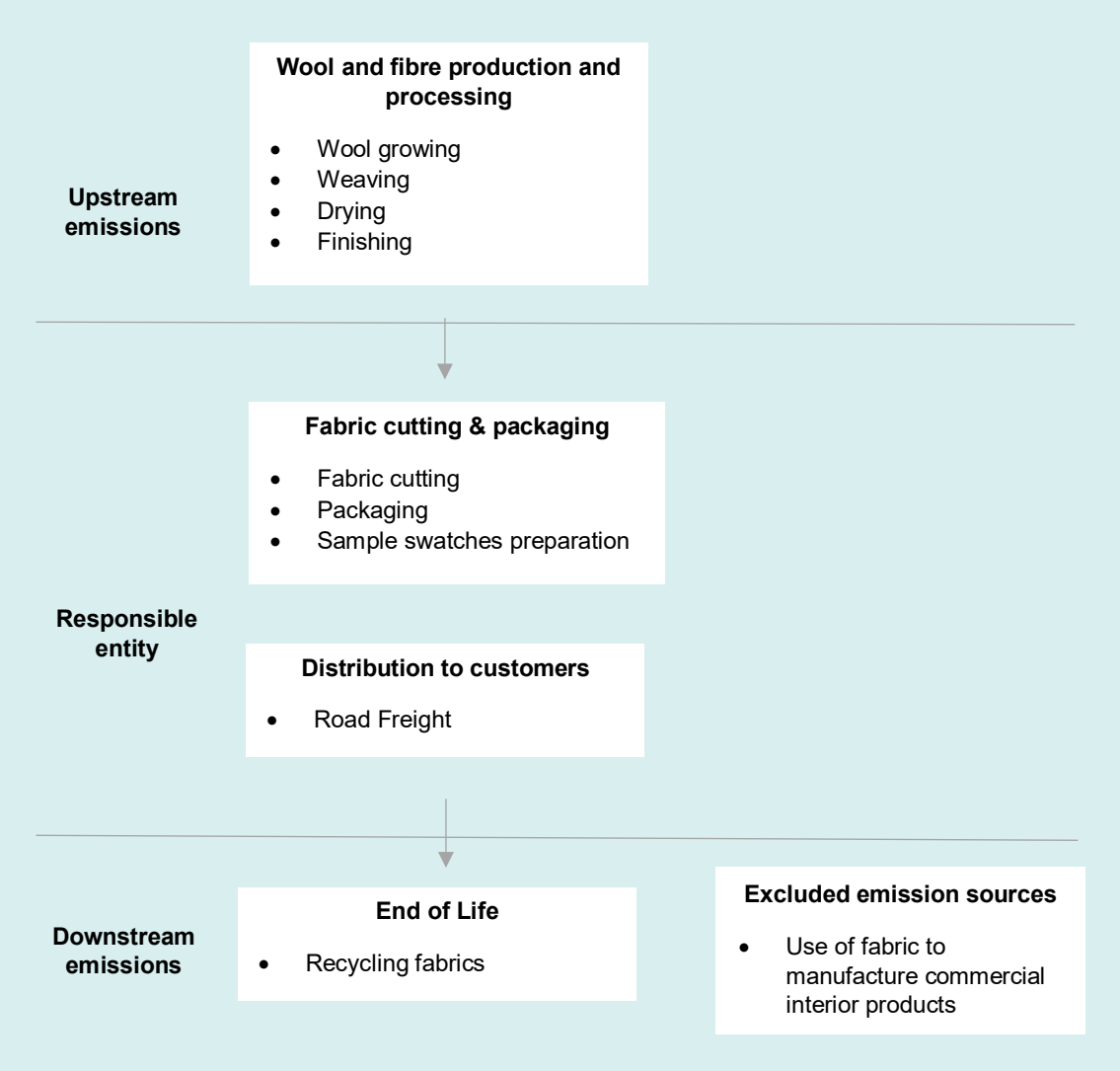
SLF GECA certified fabrics are the only fabrics manufactured from low pesticide ecowool and are rapidly renewable as environmentally preferable with a strict chain of custody from the farm to fabric. GECA certification warrants that the polyester used in these fabrics is either certified recycled PET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

All the fabrics in the SLF range are rated heavy duty commercial and are warranted for up to 12 years or the life of the furniture whichever is the lesser. All the SLF 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.

Product/service process diagram

Cradle to grave life cycle assessment



2. EMISSION BOUNDARY

Diagram of the certification boundary

Quantified

Paper products

Road Freight

Plastic packaging

Fabric purchased from the textile mill

Non-quantified

Lubricants and greases

Recycling of fabric at end of life of commercial interior products

Waste fabric going to landfill at end of life of commercial interior products

Excluded

Fabric off-cuts from cutting process

Non-attributable

Manufacture of commercial interior products

Attributable non-quantified sources

Small amounts of lubricants and grease are used in fabric cutting equipment (i.e. cutting rolls of fabric for customers). The emissions are likely to be negligible and immaterial and therefore have not been quantified.

The fabrics sold by Sustainable Living Fabrics (SLF) are high quality, long lasting and have a warranty period of 12 years. SLF has contact with manufacturers but only has limited awareness of where the fabric as a finished product is sold. That and due to the long life of its products, make it is impossible for SLF to keep track of what happens to each piece of fabric sold. At the time of an office re-fit, some items (like office chairs) may be sold on to be reused by another party, re-upholstered and reused. Some fabric may be recycled or sent to landfill.

Data for emissions from recycling of fabric or fabric that ends up in landfill is unavailable. Quantification is not cost effective relative to the size of the emissions, but a 5% uplift factor has been applied.

Data management plan

It is not practical or cost effective for SLF to develop a data management plan to account for end-of-life emissions of its fabrics (fabrics have a 12-year guarantee period). Quantification is not cost effective relative to the size of the emissions and therefore a 5% uplift factor has been applied to account for these emissions.

Excluded sources (within certification boundary)

All fabric off-cuts are reused as sample swatches. Conditions for excluding these emissions meet the requirements of the Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard for Products and Services namely:

- No actual data is available.
- No project data is available.
- An estimation has determined that these emissions are not material.

Non attributable sources (outside certification boundary)

SLF customers are typically furniture manufacturers, who then use the fabric in the furniture they manufacture. The 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 the product lifecycle.

3. EMISSIONS SUMMARY

Emissions reduction strategy

As a small business Sustainable Living Fabrics has relatively limited options to reduce emissions as most 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.

Emissions over time

Table 1

Emissions since base year		
	Base year: 2011-2012	Current year Year 7: 2019-2020
Total tCO2e	1,799	636

Emissions reduction actions

Some of the 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 pays an independent recycler to recycle paper and cardboard fortnightly. As an office we also individually collect glass, plastic, coffee pods, plastic lids, E-waste and printer cartridges that are recycled through the local council recycling scheme

SLF is also active in obtaining cardboard tubes from furniture manufactures. 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.

Functional units

Table 2

	Number of functional units
a) Number of functional units sold this period	Confidential
b) Number of functional units to be forward offset demonstrating commitment to carbon neutrality (true-up to be conducted at the end of the reporting period)	*0*

Emissions summary (inventory)

Table 3

Emission source category	tonnes CO_2-e
Office equipment & supplies (carbon neutral)	0
Postage Courier and Freight	78.88
Products	0.19
Fabric Purchases	526.53
1. *Total inventory emissions*	605.60
2. *Emissions per functional unit (based on the number of functional units represented by the inventory)*	-
3. *Carbon footprint*	605.60

Uplift factors

Table 4

Reason for uplift factor	tonnes CO_2-e
5% to account for fabric recycling and landfill end of life	30
Total to offset *(Carbon footprint + total uplift factors)*	636

Carbon neutral products

Carbon neutral paper in office and for sample swatches

4. CARBON OFFSETS

Offset purchasing strategy: forward purchasing this year.

Normally, offsets will be purchased and retired in arrears at the end of the reporting period. For this reporting period offsets were purchased and retired in February 2020 (one-off)

Table 5

Forward purchasing summary	
1. Total offsets previously forward purchased for this reporting period	638
2. Total offsets required for this reporting period	636
3. Net offset balance for this reporting period	2
4. Total offsets to be forward purchased for next reporting period	In the next reporting period, offsets will be purchased and retired in arrears

Offsets summary

Table 6

1. Total offsets required for this report	636
2. Offsets retired in previous reports and used in this report	0
3. Net offsets required for this report	636

Project description	Eligible offset units type	Registry unit retired in	Date retired	Serial number (including hyperlink to registry transaction record)	Vintage	Quantity (tonnes CO2-e)	Quantity used for previous report	Quantity banked for future years	Quantity used this report
15 MW grid-connected wind power project by MMTC in Kamataka, India	VCUs	APX	04 Feb 2020	6591-326737664-326738301-VCU-034-APX-IN-1-133-01012015-31122015-0	2015	636	0	2	1636
				Total offsets retired this report and used in this report			636		
				Total offsets retired this report and banked for future reports			2		

The offsets were forward purchased and a link to this registry no longer accessible.

5. USE OF TRADE MARK

Table 7

Description where trademark used	Logo type
Website (https://www.sustainablelivingfabrics.com.au/)	Certified Product Range

APPENDIX 1

Non-attributable emissions for products and services

To be deemed attributable an emission must meet two of the five relevance criteria. Non-attributable emissions are detailed below against each of the five criteria.

Table 8

Relevance test					
Non-attributable emission	*The emissions from a particular source are likely to be large relative to the organisation's electricity, stationary energy and fuel emissions*	*The emissions from a particular source contribute to the organisation's greenhouse gas risk exposure.*	*Key stakeholders deem the emissions from a particular source are relevant.*	*The responsible entity has the potential to influence the reduction of emissions from a particular source.*	*The emissions are from outsourced activities previously undertaken within the organisation's boundary, or from outsourced activities typically undertaken within the boundary for comparable organisations.*
Use of fabric in manufacture of interiors products	No	No	No	No	No

APPENDIX 2

Non-quantified emissions for products/services

Table 9

Non-quantification test				
Relevant-non-quantified emission sources	*Immaterial <1% for individual items and no more than 5% collectively*	*Quantification is not cost effective relative to the size of the emission but uplift applied.*	*Data unavailable but uplift applied. A data management plan must be put in place to provide data within 5 years.*	*Initial emissions non-quantified but repairs and replacements quantified*
Lubricants used in cutting machines	Yes	No	No	No
Recycling fabrics end of life	No	Yes	No	No
Fabrics in landfill end of life	No	Yes	No	No