



PUBLIC DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

SOUTH POLE

**ORGANISATION CERTIFICATION
CY2020**

Australian Government
Climate Active
Public Disclosure Statement



An Australian Government Initiative



NAME OF CERTIFIED ENTITY: South Pole

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 January 2020 – 31 December 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

22nd November 2021

Name of Signatory

Tom Schroder

Position of Signatory

Director



Australian Government

**Department of Industry, Science,
Energy and Resources**

Public Disclosure Statement documents are prepared by the submitting organisation. The material in Public Disclosure Statement documents represents the views of the organisation and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth does not guarantee the accuracy of the contents of the Public Disclosure Statement documents and disclaims liability for any loss arising from the use of the document for any purpose.

Version number February 2021

1. CARBON NEUTRAL INFORMATION

Description of certification

The emission inventory in this public disclosure summary covering the 1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020 reporting period has been developed in accordance with the Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard for Organisations.

The operational boundary has been defined based on an operational control approach. The boundary covers all entities where South Pole Australia has operational control, including its offices in Sydney and Melbourne.

Our emissions inventory incorporates the seven greenhouse gases listed under the Kyoto Protocol: carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆) and nitrogen trifluoride (NF₃). This inventory presents them as carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂e) and classifies scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions where applicable.

“In Australia, it makes sense for us to make our local operations carbon neutral as a way to lead by example and ‘walk the talk’.”

Organisation description

South Pole Australia is the Australian subsidiary of South Pole Asset Management (South Pole), headquartered in Switzerland. South Pole is a leading climate change solutions provider. Initially focused on the development of premium emissions reduction projects, the company now offers a wide spectrum of sustainability services, including climate policy and strategy advisory. Its expertise covers the areas of climate change, forests & land use, water, and sustainable cities and buildings, as well as renewable energy and energy efficiency. South Pole is determined to help its clients grow their business with ground-breaking climate and sustainability solutions, which positively impact the environment, economy and society.

South Pole's Australian presence covers all areas of expertise, from consulting and marketing, to sales and portfolio. The local Australian team is well connected to South Pole's global network of experts. South Pole Australia's offering includes consulting, marketing and product services across five key areas: carbon credits, renewable energy, sustainability consulting, data solutions, and funds and platforms.

This involves providing both the public and private sector with carbon offsets, renewable energy certificates and services including sustainable supply chains and Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) advisory.

In addition, South Pole provides advisory on carbon pricing, climate finance, smart cities and climate policy/Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for the public sector.

The table below presents general information about the company and its reporting period.

Table 1. Company information

Company information	
Website	www.southpole.com/sp-australia
Business area	Consultancy
Number of full-time employees (FTEs)	12

South Pole Australia's greenhouse gas (GHG) accounting and reporting procedure is based on the Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard for organisations and the 'Greenhouse Gas Protocol: A Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard Revised edition' (GHG Protocol).

South Pole Australia's GHG account covers the six GHGs covered by the Kyoto Protocol: carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆). All emissions are reported in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂-e).

2. EMISSION BOUNDARY

Diagram of the certification boundary



Non-quantified sources

South Pole was unable to obtain information about the technology used in the air conditioning (AC) systems and any natural gas consumption of the buildings where South Pole had its offices in 2020.

These emission sources are estimated to each be immaterial (<1% of the total emissions) and are thus non-quantified in the carbon inventory.

“In Australia, it makes sense for us to make our local operations carbon neutral as a way to lead by example and ‘walk the talk’.”

Data management plan

Not applicable.

Excluded sources (outside of certification boundary)

Emissions from the activities of international South Pole employees contributing to the operations of South Pole Australia do not come under the operational control of South Pole Australia. These have been excluded from South Pole Australia’s Organisation certification boundary in line with the provisions of the relevance test.

3. EMISSIONS SUMMARY

Emissions reduction strategy

South Pole is taking environmental responsibility for its operations through its Sustainability Policy and Action Plan. It continuously measures its climate impact and encourages the development and diffusion of environmentally-friendly technologies. In January 2018

, a number of sustainability targets and goals that have an impact on South Pole's greenhouse gas emissions in Australia were to each of set for the year 2025. While these targets are for South Pole's global operations, South Pole Australia is responsible for contributing these targets.

South Pole Australia's progress is positive for most targets, with the exception of % of total waste recycled and sheets of paper printer per employee.

Table 2. Sustainability targets and goals

2018-2025 Objectives	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	2025 Target	South Pole Australia Progress to 2020	Emissions savings from 2018-2020
Goal 1: Reduce, compensate, and report our carbon emissions				
Power operations with renewable electricity	% of renewable electricity sources per total electricity sources	100% of electricity purchased is procured from renewable sources, in offices where we have control	100.00% of office electricity made renewable through REC purchase	16.20 tCO ₂ e
Reduce South Pole office energy consumption through energy efficiency measures	MWh/employee	20% reduction in MWh/employee	78.42% reduction in MWh/employee due to extended office closures during COVID	
Reduce carbon emission from business travel	km/employee	10% reduction in km/employee from business travel by all transport modes	91.32% reduction in km/employee due to fewer business trips during COVID	52.42 tCO ₂ e
	km/employee	15% reduction in km/employee from business travel by air	91.71% reduction in km/employee due to fewer business trips during COVID	

Climate neutral and climate positive company	tCO2e	Achieve climate positive status	100.00% of emissions offset (climate neutral)	0.00 tCO2e (carbon neutrality achieved from 2018-2020)
Goal 2: Water consumption				
Reduce water consumption in South Pole operations	m3/employee	20% reduction in m3/employee in offices where we have control	-77.70% reduction in m3/employee due to extended office closures during COVID	0.15 tCO2e
Goal 3: waste and recycling				
Reduce waste generation within South Pole offices	kg waste/employee	15% reduction in kg waste/employee	-55.15% reduction in kg waste/employee due to extended office closures during COVID	-0.26 tCO2e (increase in emissions)
Recycle all possible materials produced within South Pole operations	% recycled waste per total waste	20% recycled waste	10.00% recycled waste	
Goal 5: zero deforestation				
Paperless office	paper sheets/employee	50% reduction in paper sheets/employee	275.61% increase in sheets/employee compared to 2018 due to increased printing requirements, ie. brochures, factsheets, and reports but 17.63% decrease in sheets/employee compared to 2019	-0.03 tCO2e (increase in emissions)
Purchase of only recycled and certified paper	% of certified or recycled paper	75% certified or recycled paper purchased	100.00% recycled paper purchased	
Goal 8: Employee engagement				
Promote sustainable commuting practices	% of employees commuting via public transport, bicycle, or walking	90% of South Pole employees commuting via public transport, bicycle, or walking	99.54% employees commuting via public transport, bicycle, or walking	1.15 tCO2e

Emissions over time

Compared to previous years, total emissions increased by 17.28% from 2018 to 2019 but decreased by 77.76% from 2019 to 2020.

Business travel accounted for 65.43% of total emissions in 2019, followed by electricity and food and drink which accounted for 16.47% and 12.08% of total emissions respectively. Emissions from the above sources decreased by 90.53%, 60.53%, and 71.96% respectively in 2020 compared to the previous year. Travel restrictions imposed as a result of COVID has significantly reduced the number of business trips taken by employees and subsequently spend on meals during trips. In addition, the Melbourne office was closed for a majority of the year due to social lockdowns in Victoria resulting in significantly decreased emissions from base building electricity, water, and waste due to a majority of employees working from home.

Table 3. Emissions since base year

Emissions since base year			
	Base year: 2018	Year 1: 2019	Year 2: 2020
<i>Total tCO₂e</i>	103.25	130.01	21.63

Emissions reduction actions

Table 4. Reasons for change

Emission source	% change from previous year activity data	Reason for change	Detailed reason for change
Electricity	-57.25% reduction in total tCO ₂ e	Natural disaster	Decreased electricity consumption in offices due to extended office closures during COVID.
Food and drink	-53.4% reduction in total spend	Natural disaster	Decreased number of employees travelling for business due to COVID and less spend on meals during trips.
Printing and stationary	-72.4% reduction in total spend	Natural disaster	Decreased number of meetings, conferences, and workshops due to COVID and less spend on printing marketing materials, ie. brochures, factsheets, and posters. Previous year's activity data includes one-off printing of new business cards for all staff.
Telecommunication	-89.8% reduction in total spend	Natural disaster	Decreased number of employees travelling for business due to COVID and less spend on local sim cards, roaming charges, and skype credits.
Flowers	N/A	N/A	Not assessed in the previous year. Flowers was allocated to office supplies.
Entertainment	N/A	N/A	Not assessed in the previous year. Office outings were allocated to meals and transport, ie. spend was assumed to be transport to venue and meals during outings.
Professional services	N/A	N/A	Not assessed in the previous year.
Furniture	N/A	N/A	Not assessed in the previous year. Increased number of employees working from home due to COVID purchasing furniture for home offices.
Postage and courier	-81.74% reduction in total spend	Natural disaster	Previous year's data includes one-off postage of marketing materials

			to clients and delivery of equipment, ie. laptops, kitchen appliances to offices. Less deliveries to the office due to COVID
IT	-33.33% reduction in number of laptops -92.31% reduction in number of monitors -24.07% reduction in total spend	Organic growth	Different methodology used to collect data and more IT aggregated into spend. Less growth in employees and increased reuse of existing laptops and monitors for new employees. Activity data in the previous year includes one-off purchase of equipment for new office.
Paper	9.81% increase in total weight.	Organic growth	Increased paper usage from early in the year for conferences and brochures for events in January and February 2020
Business travel	-91.32% reduction in total distance travelled and - 73.94% reduction in guest nights	Natural disaster	Decreased number of employees travelling for business due to COVID.
Staff commuting	-29.57% decrease in total distance travelled	Natural disaster	Increased number of employees working from home for extended periods due to COVID.
Working from home	N/A	Natural disaster	Not assessed in the previous year. Increased number of employees working from home due to COVID.
Water	-6.53% decrease in total volume	Natural disaster	Decreased water consumption in offices due to extended office closures during COVID.
Waste	25.74% increase in total weight	Organic growth	Increase proportional to growth of employees.

Emissions summary (inventory)

Table 5. Emissions summary (inventory)

Emission source category	tonnes CO ₂ -e
Accommodation and facilities	1.35
Air Transport (km)	6.35
Bespoke	1.29
Electricity	6.70
Food	4.41
Horticulture and Agriculture	0.03
ICT services and equipment	0.81
Land and Sea Transport (km)	1.21
Office equipment & supplies	0.83
Postage, courier and freight	0.02
Professional Services	0.46
Waste	0.53
Water	0.16
Working from home	-2.53
<i>Total Net Emissions</i>	21.63

Uplift factors

Table 6. Uplift factors

Reason for uplift factor	tonnes CO ₂ -e
N/A	N/A
<i>Total footprint to offset (uplift factors + net emissions)</i>	N/A

Carbon neutral products

None.

Electricity summary

Electricity was calculated using a location approach.

Table 7. Market-based approach summary

Market-based approach	Activity Data (kWh)	Emissions (kgCO ₂ e)	Renewable %
Behind the meter consumption of electricity generated	0	0	0
Total non-grid electricity	0	0	0
LGC Purchased and retired (kWh) (including PPAs)		0	0
GreenPower	0	0	0
Jurisdictional renewables	0	0	0
Residual Electricity	5854	6312	0
Large Scale Renewable Energy Target (applied to grid electricity only)	1401	0	0.1931
Total grid electricity	7255	6312	0.1931
Total Electricity Consumed (grid + non grid)	7255	6312	0.1931
Electricity renewables	1401	0	
Residual Electricity	5854	6312	
Exported on-site generated electricity	0	0	
Emission Footprint (kgCO ₂ e)		6312	
Emission Footprint (TCO₂e)	6		
LRET renewables	19.3%		
Voluntary Renewable Electricity	0.00%		
Total renewables	19.3%		

Table 8. Location-based approach summary

Location-based approach	Activity Data (kWh)	Emissions (kgCO ₂ e)
ACT	0	0
NSW	6365	5729
SA	0	0
Vic	890	970
Qld	0	0
NT	0	0
WA	0	0
Tas	0	0
Grid electricity (scope 2 and 3)	7255	6698
ACT	0	0
NSW	0	0
SA	0	0
Vic	0	0
Qld	0	0
NT	0	0
WA	0	0
Tas	0	0
Non-grid electricity (Behind the meter)	0	0
Total Electricity Consumed	7255	6698

Emission Footprint (TCO2e)	7
----------------------------	---

4. CARBON OFFSETS

Offsets summary

Table 9. Offset summary

Offset purchasing strategy: in arrears	
1. Total offsets previously forward purchased and banked for this report	0 tCO ₂ e
2. Total emissions liability to offset for this report	22 (parent) + 1 (child) tCO ₂ e
3. Net offset balance for this reporting period	22 (parent) + 1 (child) tCO ₂ e
4. Total offsets to be forward purchased to offset the next reporting period	0 tCO ₂ e
5. Total offsets required for this report	22 (parent) + 1 (child) tCO ₂ e

Co-benefits

The Kariba REDD+ Project protects almost 785,000 hectares of forests and wildlife on the southern shores of Lake Kariba, near the Zimbabwe-Zambia border. One of the largest registered REDD+ projects by area, it sits between the Chizarira, Matusadona and Mana Pools National Parks (also a World Heritage Site), and Zambia's Lower Zambezi National Park. The project connects these four national parks and eight safari reserves, forming a giant biodiversity corridor that protects an expansive forest and numerous vulnerable and endangered species – including the African elephant, lion, hippo, lappet-faced vulture and southern ground hornbill.

Kariba REDD+ is a community-based project, administered by the four local Rural District Councils (RDCs) of Binga, Nyaminyami, Hurungwe and Mbire in Zimbabwe. The project supports a range of activities beyond environmental protection, promoting the independence and wellbeing of these communities. Improved clinic amenities provide better healthcare, infrastructure including new roads and boreholes improve daily life, and school subsidies are offered to the poorest quartile of the population. Project activities in conservation agriculture, community gardens, beekeeping training, fire management, and ecotourism create jobs and facilitate sustainable incomes, benefiting the entire region.

Below is the contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals of the Kariba REDD++ Project:



**85,000
people**

benefiting from project activities,
enjoying better health and
greater economic opportunities



**19
health
clinics**

have been supported by the
project since 2011



**40
%**

of project participants are women,
partaking in areas including
agriculture, education and project
management



**20,000
people**

provided with safe, clean water
through borehole maintenance



**215
trainings**

set up for local people in
improved agriculture (143),
beekeeping (38), and tree
planting (34)



**3,000,000
tCO₂e**

mitigated on average annually,
from 2011 to 2016



**784,987
ha**

of land conserved or protected,
promoting biodiversity and
protecting local wildlife

View the Kariba REDD++ project factsheet:

<https://www.southpole.com/uploads/media/0990.pdf>

Offsets summary

Table 10. Proof of cancellation of offset units

Offsets cancelled for Climate Active Carbon Neutral Certification										
Project description	Type of offset units	Registry	Date retired	Serial number (and hyperlink to registry transaction record)	Vintage	Eligible Quantity (TCO2-e)	Quantity used for previous reporting periods	Quantity banked for future reporting periods	Quantity used for this reporting period claim	Percentage of total (%)
Kariba REDD+ Project, Zimbabwe	VCU	APX VCS Registry	22 June 2021	9089-67345141-67345170-VCS-VCU-352-VER-ZW-14-902-01012015-31122015-1	2015	30	0	7	22 (parent) + 1 (child)	100%
Total offsets retired this report and used in this report									22 (parent) + 1 (child)	
Total offsets retired this report and banked for future reports								7		

Type of offset units	Quantity (used for this reporting period claim)	Percentage of Total
Verified Carbon Units (VCUs)	30	100%

5. USE OF TRADE MARK

Table 11. use of trademark

Description where trademark used	Logo type
Company website	Certified organisation
Company marketing material	Certified organisation
Certification certificate displayed at Sydney office	Certified organisation

6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

South Pole is a registered B Corporation in Australia. This registration by B Lab endorses South Pole Australia as a company that meets rigorous social and environmental standards, and a commitment to goals beyond shareholder profit.

APPENDIX 1

Excluded emissions

Table 12. Relevance test

Relevance test					
Excluded emission sources	<i>The emissions from a particular source are likely to be large relative to the organisation's electricity, stationary energy and fuel emissions</i>	<i>The emissions from a particular source contribute to the organisation's greenhouse gas risk exposure.</i>	<i>Key stakeholders deem the emissions from a particular source are relevant.</i>	<i>The responsible entity has the potential to influence the reduction of emissions from a particular source.</i>	<i>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.</i>
International South Pole offices	Yes	No	No	No	No

APPENDIX 2

Non-quantified emissions for organisations

Table 10. Non-quantification test

Non-quantification test				
Relevant-non-quantified emission sources	<i>Immaterial <1% for individual items and no more than 5% collectively</i>	<i>Quantification is not cost effective relative to the size of the emission but uplift applied.</i>	<i>Data unavailable but uplift applied. A data management plan must be put in place to provide data within 5 years.</i>	<i>Initial emissions non-quantified but repairs and replacements quantified</i>
Refrigerants	Yes	No	No	No
Natural gas	Yes	No	No	No



An Australian Government Initiative

