PRODUCT & SERVICE CERTIFICATION FY2020–21 (TRUE-UP)

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY VICTORIA

# PUBLIC DISCLOSURE STATEMENT



Australian Government

# Climate Active Public Disclosure Statement







NAME OF CERTIFIED ENTITY	St Vincent De Paul Society Victoria (Vinnies Victoria)
REPORTING PERIOD	Financial year 1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021 True-up
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.
	Sue Cattermole Chief Executive Office 28 October 2021



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Version September 2021. To be used for FY20/21 reporting onwards.



# 1.CERTIFICATION SUMMARY

TOTAL EMISSIONS OFFSET	7,779 tCO2-e
THE OFFSETS BOUGHT	0.2% ACCUs, 99.8% VCUs
RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY	Total renewables 18.93%
TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT	8 July 2020 John McKenzie Deloitte Next technical assessment due: 31 October 2023
THIRD PARTY VALIDATION	Type 1 <sup>1</sup> 18 June 2020 Adina Cirtog Pangolin Associates

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This is a true-up report for the FY20-21 period. Pangolin Associates performed their validation on the projected FY20-21 period instead of the actual FY20-21 period which this this report is detailing.



# 2. CARBON NEUTRAL INFORMATION

#### **Description of certification**

As Vinnies Victoria (ABN: 28911702061) looks to provide practical assistance to those in need, we recognise the disproportionate impact climate change can have on people living in poverty, placing those who already live in disadvantaged circumstances at a greater risk of falling into poverty. To further demonstrate our commitment to create a positive impact on society, we have undertaken the process of quantifying the emissions associated with the Society's services to determine a baseline in which to begin our emissions reduction journey and become certified carbon neutral. Notably, this excludes emissions associated with VincentCare but includes all other Vinnies services such as;

- Operations
- Vinnies Shops
- Soup Vans
- Education & Tutoring
- Overseas support services (including asylum-seeker and refugee assistance)
- Temporary accommodation and holidays homes
- Community support services (i.e. conference visitations)

This public disclosure statement (PDS) details the certification of Vinnies Victoria (excluding VincentCare) going carbon neutral under the Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard for Products & Services ("the Standard"). This includes detailing the approach taken to quantify our Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions boundaries, our emissions reduction strategy, and documentation of our offsets surrendered to become certified carbon neutral.

#### **Operational Approach**

Vinnies Victoria has used an approach that accounts for 100% of GHG emissions in activities which we have operational control. This represents accounting for emissions where Vinnies Victoria has the greatest authority to introduce and control policies and thus emissions. We have included all Vinnies Victoria's scope 3 emissions that are quantifiable and applied the relevance test as appropriate.

#### Base year and reporting year

Climate

The impact of climate change will be significant on social, economic and health system infrastructures and we know that the most vulnerable members of society will be worst affected. The base year of 1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021 (FY21) has been used as the most recent full 12-month period of GHG emissions reporting. FY21 is a 'business as usual' period of operations and so represents an appropriate baseline for the purposes of the Standard. Our first reporting and carbon neutral period is also from 1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021.

#### Service description

#### **Definition of service**

Vinnies Victoria provides a service that supports vulnerable Victorians through price competitive retail, soup van meals, operational activities, multiple community programs and local conferences. The Vinnies Victoria service is a full coverage submission, and the life cycle assessment is cradle to grave.

#### Functional unit:

The functional unit for the Vinnies Victoria service is the emissions per \$m of supplier spend to support vulnerable Victorians (tCO2e/\$m of supplier spend to support vulnerable Victorians).



# **3.EMISSIONS BOUNDARY**

#### Inside the emissions boundary

All emission sources listed in the emissions boundary are part of the carbon neutral claim.

**Quantified** emissions have been assessed as 'attributable processes' that become the product, make the product and carry the product through its life cycle. These have been quantified in the carbon inventory.

**Non-quantified** emissions have been assessed as attributable and are captured within the emissions boundary, but are not measured (quantified) in the carbon inventory. All material emissions are accounted for through an uplift factor. Further detail is available at Appendix C.

#### Outside the emissions boundary

**Non-attributable** emissions have been assessed as not attributable to a product or service. They can be **optionally included** in the emissions boundary and therefore have been offset, or they can be listed as outside of the emissions boundary (and are therefore not part of the carbon neutral claim). Further detail is available at Appendix D.



#### Inside emissions boundary

#### **Quantified**

Fleet vehicles – diesel, petrol and ethanol

Electricity for owned & leased facilities

Embodied emissions within capital purchases (for example office equipment & furniture)

Third party professional products and services

Fuel and energy related emissions from transmission /distribution losses

Third party transportation and distribution

Waste generated by Vinnie's operations

**Business travel** 

Employee commuting (including WFH savings)

Electricity for rental facilities

End of life treatment of waste for purchased goods

#### Non-quantified

Stationary fuel – diesel & petrol

Refrigerants

# Outside emission boundary

#### Non-attributable

Volunteer commuting

Embodied emissions of donations received (upstream)

Embodied emissions of donated food (upstream)

Disposal of waste related to damaged/faulty retail donations

End of life treatment of donations sold/provided (downstream)

End of life treatment of food and furniture voucher purchases



### Service process diagram

	<ul> <li>Purchased goods (incl. capital) and services</li> <li>Embodied emissions within capital purchases and other asset purchases</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Excluded emission sources</li> <li>Volunteer commuting</li> <li>Embodied emissions of</li> </ul>
Upstream emissions	<ul> <li>Third party professional products and services</li> <li>Third party transportation and distribution</li> <li>Electricity for rental facilities</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>donations received</li> <li>Embodied emissions of donated food</li> </ul>
	Employee activities	
	<ul> <li>Waste generated by Vinnie's operations</li> <li>Business travel</li> <li>Employee commuting (including WFH savings)</li> </ul>	
	Extraction, processing, transport and transmission of electricity and fuels	
	Fuel and energy related emissions from transmission /distribution losses	
	Business operations	
Service delivery	<ul> <li>Fleet vehicles – diesel, petrol &amp; ethanol</li> <li>Electricity for owned &amp; leased facilities</li> <li>Stationary fuel – diesel &amp; petrol (non-quantified)</li> <li>Refrigerants (non-quantified)</li> </ul>	
	purchased goods (incl capital) and services	Excluded emission sources
Downstream	End of life treatment of waste for purchased goods	Disposal of waste related to damaged/faulty retail
emissions		<ul> <li>donations</li> <li>End of life treatment of donations sold/provided (downstream)</li> <li>End of life treatment of food and furniture voucher purchases</li> </ul>



#### Data management plan for non-quantified sources

There are no non-quantified sources in the emission boundary that require a data management plan.

# **4.EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS**

#### Emissions reduction strategy

We recognise the heart of the Climate Active certification is about continuing to reduce gross emissions each year, before any offsets are purchased. As the <u>first major Australian social welfare charity</u> to be certified carbon neutral, we have developed our emissions reduction strategy by understanding our key emission sources and are looking to make pragmatic and innovative emission reduction decisions in future periods.

As a charitable organisation that reaches out to tens of thousands of people, we believe Vinnies Victoria is well connected within society to be more climate-aware and take proactive climate action through our existing partnerships and conference bases.

Through new and existing strategic partnerships, ranging from suppliers, customers, employees, government agencies and other charity organisations we will explore innovative ways to reducing our collective environmental footprint. Vinnies Victoria's emissions reduction activities are primarily focused on two main areas:

1. Sourcing a greater proportion of total energy from renewable sources

In FY21 Vinnies Victoria developed a plan to further reduce our impact, commencing the investigation of our <u>Solar Shops Program</u>, installing solar panels on our warehouse, retail facilities and shops, and accommodation units. This initial proposal calls for the roll out of 95 roof solar systems of various sizes, totalling 1.5MW. The first phase of this proposal commenced in June 2021 and is expected to be completed by mid FY22.

2. Transitioning vehicles fleet to be more energy efficient

In FY21 work commenced on exploring options improve the energy efficiency of the Vinnies Victoria vehicle fleet. The objective is to transition the fleet from mainly diesel vehicles to hybrid petrol vehicles. This will accelerate our emissions reduction impact from FY22 onwards, while also having the potential to save Vinnies Victoria over \$100,000 per year in running costs.

The Solar Shops Program and the vehicle fleet transition has a combined savings in greenhouse gas emissions and costs, equivalent to **approximately 2,500 (tCO<sub>2</sub>-e) per annum and approximately \$2m in savings over 10 years.** These funds can be better utilised to assist Vinnies Victoria in further assistance to those who need it most.

In addition to the above, Vinnies Victoria is continually exploring opportunities to:

• Promote energy efficiency within our operations



- Reuse and/or recycle waste products generated by our operations
- Utilise existing (or promoting and assisting new) carbon neutral organisations and products

Refer to Appendix A: Additional Information section for further detail on activities where Vinnies Victoria contributes sustainably, but do not have a direct correlation to emission reductions.



# **5.EMISSIONS SUMMARY**

#### Use of Climate Active carbon neutral products and services

N/A - no Climate Active carbon neutral products and services used.

#### **Product/Service emissions summary**

#### True up information

True up of total net emissions

1)	Projected emissions for reporting period	10,573 t CO2-e
2)	Actual emissions for reporting period	7,779 t CO2-e
3)	Difference	(2,794) t CO2-e

#### **Emissions summary (inventory)**

Emission Source	Projected Emissions (tCO2-e)	Actual Emissions (tCO2-e)
Fleet vehicles – diesel, petrol and ethanol	760	579
Electricity for owned & leased facilities	2,484	1,948
Embodied emissions within capital purchases	375	425
Third party professional products and services	2,445	2,357
Fuel and energy related emissions from transmission /distribution losses	322	255
Third party transportation and distribution	621	171
Waste generated by Vinnie's operations	1,445	290
Business travel	104	15
Employee commuting (including WFH savings)	691	404
Electricity for rental facilities	96	40
End of life treatment of waste for purchased goods	1,230	1,295

Emissions intensity per functional unit (*tCO2-e/\$m of supplier spend to support vulnerable Victorians*)

275.64



Number of functional units to be offset (\$m of supplier spend to support vulnerable Victorians	\$28.22
Total emissions to be offset (tCO2-e)	7,779



# 6.CARBON OFFSETS

### **Offsets strategy**

Off	set purchasing strategy: In arr	ears
1.	Total offsets previously forward purchased and banked for this report	0
2.	Total emissions liability to offset for this report	7,779
3.	Net offset balance for this reporting period	7,779
4.	Total offsets to be forward purchased to offset the next reporting period	2,793
5.	Total offsets required for this report	7,779

#### **Co-benefits**

Offset Project	Co-benefits Description
300MW Hydropower project by JHPL	Generates electricity using renewable hydro energy and sell it to Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board (HPSEB), with a strong focus on sustainable implementation of the development project.
Jiangsu Dongtai Phase II Wind Power Project	Utilises wind resources to generate 406,200MWh of renewable electricity annually for sale into the East China Power Grid to reduce demand for electricity generated by coal fire plants and thereby mitigating carbon emissions
Negros Island Solar Power Inc.	Project activity involves the installation of 32MW La Carlota Solar Power PV Plant and 48MW Manapla Solar Power Plant. The total installed capacity of the project is 80MW. The project displaces approximately 119,312 MWh/year amount of electricity from the generation-mix of power plants connected to the Philippine electricity grid, which is mainly dominated by thermal/ fossil fuel-based power plant.
Savanna Burning Investment Ready Project – Cape York Pilot Aurukun	Involves strategic and planned burning of savanna areas in the high rainfall zone during the early dry season to reduce the risk of late dry season wild fires. This also supports Indigenous communities.



### Offsets summary

Proof of cancellation of offset units

Offsets cancelled for Climate Active Carbon Neutral Certification										
Project description	Type of offset units	Registr y	Date retired	Serial number (and hyperlink to registry transaction record)	Vintage	Eligible Quantity (tCO <sub>2</sub> -e)	Quantity used for previous reporting periods	Quantity banked for future reporting periods	Quantity used for this reporting period claim	Percentage of total (%)
300MW Hydropower project by JHPL <sup>1</sup>	VCUs	VERRA	6/03/2020	7919-440853852-440854864-VCU- 001-MER-IN-1-92-01012013- 30062013-0 https://registry.verra.org/myModule/rpt /myrpt.asp?r=206&h=31098	2013	1,012	0	0	1,012	13.0%
Jiangsu Dongtai Phase II Wind Power Project <sup>1</sup>	VCUs	VERRA	5/03/2020	7610-410809366-410818382-VCU- 034-APX-CN-1-1356-01062014- 31122014-0 https://registry.verra.org/myModule/rpt /myrpt.asp?r=206&h=29403	2014	9,016	0	2,793	6,223	80.0%
Negros Island Solar Power Inc. <sup>1</sup>	VCUs	VERRA	6/03/2020	5921-266979053-266979581-VCU- 029-APX-PH-1-1735-01012017- 25112017-0 https://registry.verra.org/myModule/rpt /myrpt.asp?r=206&h=27623	2017	528	0	0	528	6.8%
Savanna Burning Investment Ready Project –	ACCU	ANREU	16/12/2019	3786111714-3786111732 http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov. au/OSR/ANREU/Data-and- information	2020	18	0	0	18	0.2%



Cape York Pilot Aurukun <sup>1</sup>							
Total offsets retired this report and used in this report						7,779	
Total offsets retired this report and banked for future reports       2,793							
Type of offset units	Quantity (used for this reporting period	l claim)	Percentage	of total			
Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs)	18		0.2%				
Verified Carbon Units (VCUs)	7,763		99.8%				

1. These offsets are part of a larger pool. The total number of offsets in this retirement is split between multiple entities, and each business has been allocated separate serial numbers to avoid

any instances of double usage



# 7. RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTIFICATE (REC) SUMMARY

#### Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) Summary

The following RECs have been surrendered to reduce electricity emissions under the market-based reporting method.

1.	Large-scale Generation certificates (LGCs)*	0
2.	Other RECs	0

\* LGCs in this table only include those surrendered voluntarily (including through PPA arrangements), and does not include those surrendered in relation to the LRET, GreenPower, and jurisdictional renewables.

Project supported by LGC purchase	Eligible units	Registry	Surrender date	Accreditation code (LGCs)	Certificate serial number	Generation year	Quantity (MWh)	Fuel source	Location
Not applicable – Vinnies	do not surrei	ider RECs							
				Total LGCs surrendered th	his report and used	d in this report			



# APPENDIX A: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The below activities are evidence of additional activities where Vinnies Victoria contributes to acting sustainably. These are not direct emissions reduction activities associated to emissions sources within our Climate Active services boundary, but instead impact broader society.

#### Democratisation of Energy

For two decades our Research & Advocacy department has been involved in developing energy concessions and consumer protection frameworks for households. It has monitored the evolution of the energy market, financial impact on families & individuals through a tariff tracking project, our disconnection mapping projects and the relative price index. This helps vulnerable community members both understand and reduce energy usage.

Our work in communities across Victoria demonstrates that energy poverty remains a major issue affecting up to 28% of the population. Every week, SVDP members meet hundreds of individuals and families living in cold, damp and poorly insulated homes, struggling to meet the costs of their utility bills. On the other hand, they are least able to take up the advantages afforded to wealthier households in relation to solarpower subsidies. For these reasons, Vinnies Victoria is passionate about avoiding a consumer marketplace of "haves and have nots" and works tirelessly towards equitable and sustainable energy solutions for everyone.

#### **Clothing & Textiles**

In the prior year, Vinnies Victoria retail shops sold almost 11.5 million items and garments to nearly 4 million customers and through partnerships, diverted more than 3.5 million kilos of apparel and 10,000 mattresses away from landfill into reuse. In addition, we know that every 10 minutes 6,000kg of textiles goes to landfill and we are committed to encourage Australians to donate clothes and items to Vinnies so we can divert this waste. 96% of donations are re-used by charities (including Vinnies Victoria) through sales and recycling. We want to continue to promote sustainable shopping and the circular economy. Vinnies Victoria is acutely aware that society needs to decarbonize and leadership in this space is paramount. As Vinnies Victoria looks to provide practical assistance to people in need, the Society is motivated by the disproportionate impact climate change has on people living in poverty.

#### Wood For Good

In FY20, VICBRIX started working with Vinnies Victoria to manufacture and supply briquettes for the Vinnies <u>Eco Wood For Good</u> product. This product diverts sawdust waste from landfill by manufacturing briquettes to be sold in Vinnies retail stores.

#### Electrical Test and Tag expansion program (ETTP)

In July 2021, Vinnies Victoria were successful in obtaining a grant of \$250,000 from Sustainability Victoria for the ETTP. In this program Vinnies Victoria will be seeking to become the largest retailer of second hand electrical devices in Victoria (If not Australia) where you can donate any quality electrical devices to any store right across our network.



In a standard year we test and tag around 60,000 electrical items, saving them from landfill, and providing extra revenue for those in need in Victoria. Our target is 100,000 items saved. This program will be officially launched in March 2022. Included in the funding is a comprehensive marketing program that seeks to educate our customers and the public in responsible waste handling for e-waste should our stores not be able to take the items.



# APPENDIX B: ELECTRICITY SUMMARY

Electricity emissions are calculated using a market-based approach

#### Market-based method

The market-based method provides a picture of a business's electricity emissions in the context of its renewable energy investments. It reflects the emissions intensity of different electricity products, markets and investments. It uses a residual mix factor (RMF) to allow for unique claims on the zero emissions attribute of renewables without double-counting.

Market-based approach summary			
Market Based Approach	Activity Data (kWh)	Emissions (kgCO2e)	Renewable Percentage of total
Behind the meter consumption of electricity generated	0	0	0%
Total non-grid electricity	0	0	0%
LGC Purchased and retired (kWh) (including PPAs & Precinct LGCs)	0	0	0%
GreenPower	0	0	0%
Jurisdictional renewables (LGCs retired)	0	0	0%
Jurisdictional renewables (LRET) (applied to ACT grid electricity)	0	0	0%
Large Scale Renewable Energy Target (applied to grid electricity only)	472,728	0	19%
Residual Electricity	2,025,175	2,173,176	0%
Total grid electricity	2,497,903	2,173,176	19%
Total Electricity Consumed (grid + non grid)	2,497,903	2,173,176	19%
Electricity renewables	472,728	0	
Residual Electricity	2,025,175	2,173,176	
Exported on-site generated electricity	0	0	
Emission Footprint (kgCO2e)		2,173,176	

Total renewables (grid and non-grid)	18.93%
Mandatory	18.93%
Voluntary	0.00%
Behind the meter	0.00%
Residual Electricity Emission Footprint (TCO2e)	2,173
Einen Brenzen auf einer der Gemeinen Brenzen blei mennen Gemeinen	h h 4000/

Figures may not sum due to rounding. Renewable percentage can be above 100%

#### Location-based approach summary

Location Based Approach	Activity Data (kWh)	Emissions (kgCO2e)
ACT	0	0
NSW	0	0
SA	0	0
Vic	2,497,903	2,722,714
Qld	0	0



NT	0	0
WA	0	0
Tas Grid electricity (scope 2 and 3)	0 <b>2,497,903</b>	0 <b>2,722,714</b>
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 Emission footprint (tCO <sub>2</sub> -e)	2,497,903 2,723	2,722,714

#### Climate Active carbon neutral electricity summary

Carbon neutral electricity offset by Climate Active product	Activity data (kWh)	Emissions (kgCO <sub>2</sub> -e)
Not applicable	0	0
Climate Active carbon neutral electricity is not considered renewa have been offset by another Climate Active carbon neutral produc	ble electricity. The ct certification.	e emissions



# APPENDIX C: INSIDE EMISSIONS BOUNDARY

#### Non-quantified emission sources

The following sources emissions have been assessed as attributable, are captured within the emissions boundary, but are not measured (quantified) in the carbon inventory. These emissions are accounted for through an uplift factor. They have been non-quantified due to <u>one</u> of the following reasons:

- 1. Immaterial <1% for individual items and no more than 5% collectively
- 2. <u>Cost effective</u> Quantification is not cost effective relative to the size of the emission but uplift applied.
- 3. <u>Data unavailable</u> Data is unavailable but uplift applied. A data management plan must be put in place to provide data within 5 years.
- 4. Maintenance Initial emissions non-quantified but repairs and replacements quantified.

Relevant-non- quantified emission sources	(1) Immaterial	(2) Cost effective (but uplift applied)	(3) Data unavailable (but uplift applied & data plan in place)	(4) Maintenance
Stationary fuel – diesel & petrol	Yes	No	No	No
Refrigerants	Yes	No	No	No

#### **Excluded emission sources**

Attributable emissions sources can be excluded from the carbon inventory, but still considered as part of the emissions boundary if they meet **all three of the below criteria**. An uplift factor may not necessarily be applied.

- 1. A data gap exists because primary or secondary data cannot be collected (no actual data).
- 2. Extrapolated and proxy data cannot be determined to fill the data gap (no projected data).
- 3. An estimation determines the emissions from the process to be immaterial).

	No actual data	No projected data	Immaterial			
Not applicable – all excluded (i.e. non-attributable) emissions sources have been deemed outside the						
emissions boundary and hav	e been assessed in Appe	endix D.				



# APPENDIX D: OUTSIDE EMISSION BOUNDARY

Non-attributable emissions have been assessed as not attributable to a product or service (do not carry, make or become the product/service) and are therefore not part of the carbon neutral claim. To be deemed attributable, an emission must meet two of the five relevance criteria. Emissions which only meet one condition of the relevance test can be assessed as non-attributable and therefore are outside the carbon neutral claim. Non-attributable emissions are detailed below.

Relevance test					
Non-attributable emission	The emissions from a particular source are likely to be large relative to the organisatio n'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.
Volunteer commuting	Yes	No	No	No	No
Embodied emissions of donations received (upstream)	Yes	No	No	No	No
Embodied emissions of donated food voucher purchases (upstream)	Yes	No	No	No	No
Disposal of waste related to damaged/faulty retail donations	No	No	No	Yes	No
End of life treatment of donations sold/provided (downstream)	Yes	No	No	No	No
End of life treatment of food and furniture	Yes	No	No	No	No







An Australian Government Initiative