



# PUBLIC DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

UNITING COMMUNITIES INCORPORATED  
DRIVING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE  
11<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2021

POST-EVENT REPORT

Australian Government  
**Climate Active**  
**Post-event Public Disclosure Statement**  
Small event



NAME OF RESPONSIBLE ENTITY: Uniting Communities Incorporated

EVENT NAME: Driving a Sustainable Future

EVENT DATE: 11th August 2021

**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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Simon Schrapel'.

Date

16/6/21

Simon Schrapel, Chief Executive



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

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Version number May 2021

## 1. Carbon neutral information

Activity data collected directly from this event has informed the preparation of this carbon inventory.

### Event introduction

This event was a one-off event and has not therefore been certified previously.

The purpose of the event was to celebrate Uniting Communities' 10-year commitment to carbon neutrality, the aim of drawing attention to the climate crisis and leading others to a net zero future and to provide an opportunity for networking and collaboration. This event also showcased Uniting Communities Adelaide City-based Function Centre at 'U City' – a 6 Star Green Star state of the art facility in the heart of Adelaide – and within the scope of Uniting Communities carbon neutral organisation certification.

Driving a Sustainable Future attracted attendees from State Government, the City of Adelaide, local companies and not for profit organisations, as well as individuals and a number of Uniting Communities' own employees, executives and position holders from our Carbon Neutral Program. The pre-event estimate was 165 attendees however due to COVID-19 the actual number of attendees was 144.

Guest speakers were:

- Keynote Tim Jarvis, explorer, climate advocate and of the Forktree Project
- The Honorable Dan van Holst Pellekaan, Department of Energy and Mining, SA
- The Honorable Lord Mayor Sandy Vershoer, City of Adelaide
- Elaine Chia, CEO, Adelaide Festival (a carbon neutral event)
- Peter Fuller, MD, Fuller Brand Communication (a carbon neutral organisation)
- Malcolm Leask, MD, Hither & Yon Wines (carbon neutral wines)
- Minister Brian Phillips (former Uniting Communities Board Member)

Chief Executive of Uniting Communities, Simon Schrapel (right hand side in photo below) announced at the event that the organisation has committed to Net Zero by 2035.



We would like to thank and acknowledge event sponsors:

- Toyota Motor Corporation
- CMI Toyota
- The City of Adelaide
- ANZ
- Marsh
- Colliers International
- Blanco Catering
- Hither & Yon Wines
- Sustainable Business Consultants

## About Uniting Communities

Uniting Communities is an inclusive not-for-profit organisation working alongside more than 80,000 South Australians each year as they strive for bright futures and great lives. We operate more than 90 community programs, travel over three million kilometres per year and have a team of over 1,500 staff and volunteers.

Uniting Communities seeks to reduce inequality and improve wellbeing for all who are striving to overcome disadvantage – individuals, their families and communities – so that they can realise their potential and live the best lives they can. Our service delivery, advocacy and community building activities are central to achieving this.

We support the needs of individuals and our community including mental health and counselling; residential aged care and support for independent living; housing crisis and emergency support; disability services; services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people; financial and legal; drug and alcohol counselling; family relationships; and respite and carer support.

Uniting Communities has been committed to reducing its impact on the environment since 2010 when the Board of Uniting Communities determined its goal of becoming a certified carbon neutral organisation by 2015. Our carbon program, Beyond Carbon Neutral (BCN) is now a core organisation commitment across all operations including our central administration and services

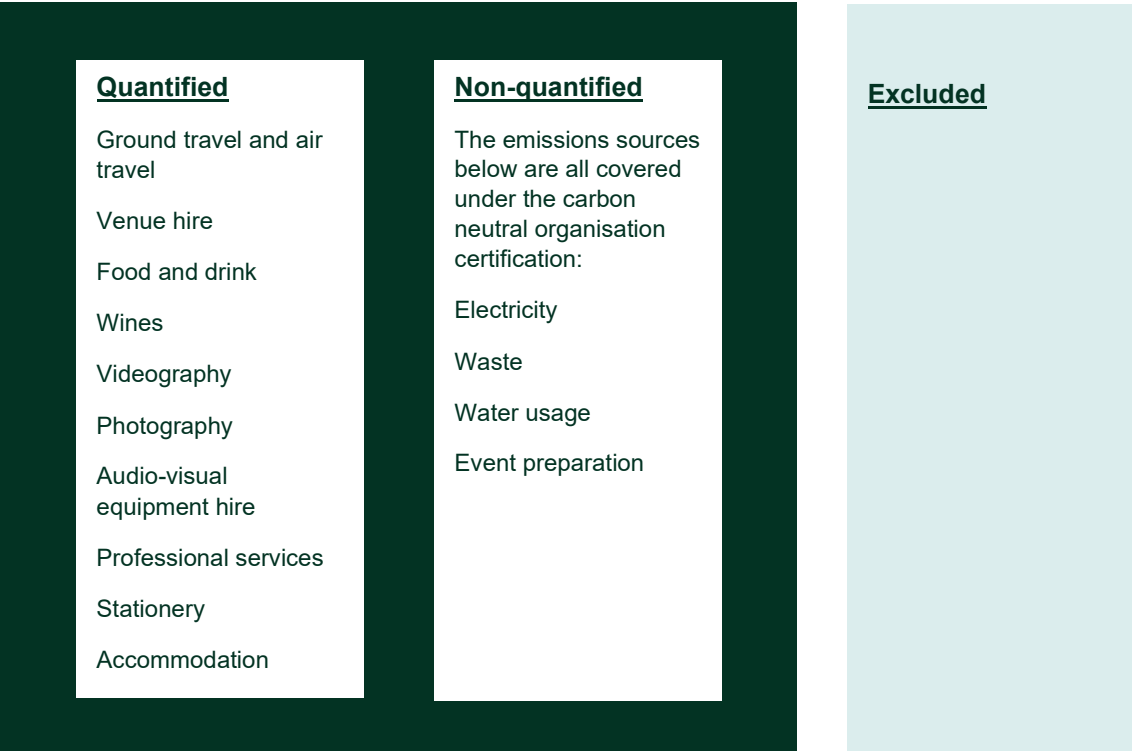
## 2. Emissions reduction measures

Uniting Communities already continually strives to reduce its carbon emissions relative to its revenue. Additionally, at this event the following emissions reductions were achieved:

- No disposable cutlery, plates, glasses or cups.
- Zero waste via U City's existing waste provider Suez. 'Dry waste' is processed by Suez into Process Engineered Fuel, which is used by Adelaide Brighton Cement to supplement its use of fossil fuels. All organic waste is sent to Jefferies for composting. Drink bottles, when provided, are recycled.
- Low carbon catering by U City Function Centre providers Blanco, featuring locally sourced produce (approx. 90%). Blanco chooses companies that support sustainable produce.

- Carbon Neutral certified wine from local winery Hither & Yon.
- All invitations, ticketing and promotions were digital, as was the event attendee survey.

### 3. Emissions boundary diagram



### 4. Changes since pre-event report

The emissions sources professional services and stationary were added to the list of quantified sources.

## 5. Emissions summary

Table 1 Emissions summary

Emission source category	Pre-Event tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> -e	Post-Event tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> -e
Electricity (included in carbon neutral organization certification)	0.000	0.000
Waste (included in carbon neutral organization certification)	0.000	0.000
Water (included in carbon neutral organization certification)	0.000	0.000
Venue hire (included in carbon neutral organisation certification)	0.000	0.000
Ground transport	0.438	0.300
Food, catering and soft drinks	2.304	3.790
Wine (carbon neutral winery Hither & Yon)	0.000	0.000
Stationery	-	0.133
Hotel accommodation	0.000	0.000
Computer and technical services – audio visual services	0.165	0.182
Professional Services	-	0.962
<b>Total tCO<sub>2</sub>-e</b>	<b>3.708</b>	<b>5.367</b>
Uplift factor 20% on local transport and food, catering and soft drinks	0.548	N/A
<b>Total tCO<sub>2</sub>-e + uplift factor</b>	<b>4.256</b>	<b>5.367</b>
<i>The 15% pre-event uplift factor provided for an increase in attendees compared with pre-event estimates</i>		
<b>True-up (total post event minus total pre event)</b>	<b>1.111</b>	

## 6. Carbon neutral products

Hither & Yon wines, of Willunga SA, kindly supplied the wine for this event.

## 7. Data collection

Table 2 Data collection

Emission source	Data collection method	Assumptions
Travel	Event survey – 32 attendees completed, extrapolated to total of 144	Our assumptions about travel were not far off the actual totals and mode splits, albeit that not every attendee completed the survey. A pleasing number of people reported that they had car shared to/from the event.
Accommodation	Not applicable	
Venue hire	Invoice	Not applicable

Food	Invoice	165 people – canapes at \$35.90 per head
Wine	Sponsored so not applicable	Not applicable
Electricity	Not applicable	The event's electricity consumption is covered under Uniting Communities' carbon neutral organisation certification and has not been estimated for this event

## 8. Eligible offset units

### Offsets summary

In 2020, Uniting Communities forward purchased a number of offsets for subsequent years. Some of these have been allocated to this event and are detailed in Table 3. The inventory total has been rounded up to the nearest tonne of CO2-e.

**Table 3: Offsets summary**

Project description	Type of offset units	Registry	Date retired	Serial number (and hyperlink to registry transaction record)	Vintage	Quantity (tonnes CO2-e)
InfraVest Changbin and Taichung bundled Wind Farms Project – Taiwan (Some used for 2019/20, some banked)	Gold Standard	VCS	30/11/2020	<a href="#"><u>GS1-1-TW-GS472-12-2017-6457-117603-122502</u></a>	2017	6
Note: Paired with Australian Biodiversity Units in EcoAustralia (see below for details)						
<b>Total offsets cancelled</b>						<b>6</b>



## Offset projects – co-benefits

Uniting Communities has a Board policy to purchase a minimum 50% of its offsets locally and the remaining 50% from overseas. In 2019/20 we purchased biodiversity offsets in EcoAustralia (see details below). As these are not eligible offsets under Climate Active, the corresponding eligible offsets are the InfraVest Changbin and Taichung bundled Wind Farms Project – Taiwan shown in the Offsets summary table.

### InfraVest Changbin and Taichung bundled Wind Farms Project

The overseas offsets paired with the Australian Biodiversity Units are from wind power projects in Taiwan. This Gold Standard project is expanding Taiwan's renewables sector and raising environmental awareness. The wind farms consist of 62 wind turbines that generate over 480,000 MWh of clean power on average each year, which is supplied to the local electricity grid. By harnessing the power of prevailing coastal winds to generate clean energy, the Changbin and Taichung wind farms power Taiwanese homes, while helping to expand Taiwan's renewable energy industry. The project is helping boost sustainable development through several local initiatives, such as guided wind farm tours that raise awareness about climate change and pollution, supporting the elderly and a scholarship program.

**EcoAustralia** - Mount Sandy biodiverse native vegetation projects in South Australia. EcoAustralia is an award-winning stapled carbon credit product, provided by South Pole in partnership with Australian biodiversity protection organisation, Cassinia Environmental. The Australian component helps to protect and restore native vegetation. The product blends State Government-accredited biodiversity protection with international carbon offsets. An Australian Biodiversity Unit, equal to 1.5m<sup>2</sup> of government-accredited, permanently protected Australian vegetation is paired with 1 Gold Standard international carbon credit, representing 1 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e of avoided emissions.

The Mount Sandy project brings together indigenous and non-indigenous communities by promoting traditional land management for biodiversity conservation, in partnership with the Ngarrindjeri people. This project protects a rare pocket of wetlands and woodlands between the Coorong National Park and Lake Albert. As one of the last remaining areas of native vegetation in the region, the land forms a strategic wildlife corridor and is of great significance to the Ngarrindjeri people, the indigenous local nation. New plantings are from the local nursery run by the Raukkan indigenous community.

Co-benefits include climate action, job opportunities for indigenous people and the protection of flora and fauna.

## 9. Use of certification trade mark

**Table 4: Trade mark register**

Description where trademark used	Logo type
E-invitations	Certified event
Website (url no longer available)	Certified event