PUBLIC DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

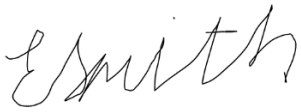
BLUE CONNECTIONS IT

ORGANISATION CERTIFICATION
FY2021–22

Australian Government

Climate Active
Public Disclosure Statement

An Australian Government Initiative

NAME OF CERTIFIED ENTITY	Blue Connections IT
REPORTING PERIOD	1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022 Arrears report
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.* 
	Erica Smith Head of Marketing and Vendor Alliance 01 December 2022

Australian Government
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources

Version March 2022. To be used for FY20/21/CY2021 reporting onwards.

1.CERTIFICATION SUMMARY

TOTAL EMISSIONS OFFSET	1559.8 tCO_2-e
OFFSETS BOUGHT	100% VCUs
RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY	48.3%
TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT	16/01/2023 Mylene Turban Pangolin Associates Next technical assessment due: FY2025
THIRD PARTY VALIDATION	Type 1 13/02/2023 Katherine Simmons KREA Consulting Pty Ltd

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2. CARBON NEUTRAL INFORMATION

Description of certification

This inventory has been prepared for the financial year from 1 July 2021 to 31 June 2022 and covers the Australian business operations of Blue Connections IT, ABN: 66 630 573 349.

The operational boundary has been defined based on an operational control test, in accordance with the principles of the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007. This includes the following locations and facilities:

- Melbourne HQ
- Gippsland Office

The methods used for collating data, performing calculations and presenting the carbon account are in accordance with the following standards:

- Climate Active Standards
- The Greenhouse Gas Protocol: A Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (Revised Edition)
- National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (Measurement) Determination 2008

Where possible, the calculation methodologies and emission factors used in this inventory are derived from the National Greenhouse Accounts (NGA) Factors in accordance with "Method 1" from the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (Measurement) Determination 2008.

"In recognition of the urgency to act on climate change, Blue Connections IT has committed to becoming a certified carbon neutral organisation to partner with vendors and customers with likeminded leadership, innovation, and deep commitment to a more sustainable future."

The greenhouse gases considered within the inventory are those that are commonly reported under the Kyoto Protocol; carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O) and synthetic gases - hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) sulphur hexafluoride (SF_6) and nitrogen trifluoride (NF_3). These have been expressed as carbon dioxide equivalents (CO_2-e) using relative global warming potentials (GWPs).

Organisation description

Blue Connections IT (ABN: 66 630 573 349 / ACN: 630 573 349) is a provider of best-in-class IT solutions and has served some of Australia's best-known and established companies as well as organisations navigating the challenges of business growth.

Blue Connections has locations in Melbourne HQ (1B Dalmore Drive, Scoresby VIC 3179), Gippsland (3/107 Marine Parade, San Remo VIC 3925) and in Sydney (postal address only).

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 relevant and are quantified in the carbon inventory. This may include emissions that are not identified as arising due to the operations of the certified entity, however are **optionally included**.

Non-quantified emissions have been assessed as relevant 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

Excluded emissions are those that have been assessed as not relevant to an organisation's or precinct's operations and are outside of its emissions boundary or are outside of the scope of the certification. These emissions are not part of the carbon neutral claim. Further detail is available at Appendix D.

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

Achieving Climate Active certification enables Blue Connections IT to demonstrate leadership, innovation, and deep commitment to a more sustainable future. As a leading Australian solutions integrator and managed service provider, Blue Connections IT has established a strong commitment to sustainability through its go-to-market strategy and climate-focused initiatives. In recognition of the urgency to act on climate change, we have committed to becoming a certified carbon-neutral organisation. An important aspect of ongoing certification is to demonstrate that in addition to calculating and offsetting emissions, there is an ongoing, concerted and effective effort to reduce operational emissions.

Certification, as part of broader sustainability ambition and endeavour, assists in the delivery of Blue Connections IT strategic priorities, and in fact, informs them into the future. While these processes are underway, there is an opportunity to establish a suite of engagement programs in tandem, to actively involve all staff in sustainable practices, building on operational change to generate long-term cultural change within the organisation.

Blue Connections IT has invested in measuring and reporting on our energy consumption and carbon footprint- these initiatives include:

Scope 1 emissions will be reduced by:

- Continuing to employ locally, to both support regional communities and reduce our travel footprint as well as embracing a flexible WFH strategy, this strategy will be completed in 2023
- Power & Cooling upgrade to Scoresby office in 2023
- Educating and engaging our team to reduce work-related emissions including reduce, reuse & recycle in 2023

Scope 2 emissions will be reduced by:

- Embracing technologies such as electric motor vehicles via government offset initiatives and increased installation of EV charging stations in 2023
- Seek out solar company initiatives for home installation for our employees in 2023

Scope 3 emissions will be reduced by:

- Acting on opportunities to reduce our emissions by improving operational efficiencies – including maximizing e-waste contributions by 2024
- Encouraging our suppliers to reduce carbon impacts in our supply chain by working with them to measure and reduce their emissions. And by seeking out vendor and supplier relationships with likeminded suppliers who already measure and offset their emissions by 2025

To be an industry leader, it is essential that Blue Connections takes relevant steps to reduce our operational carbon footprint. As such, we have defined a company goal to reduce emissions by 30% by 2030 relative to FY2021-22. To achieve this, we will adopt the above listed initiatives.

5.EMISSIONS SUMMARY

Use of Climate Active carbon neutral products and services

Pangolin Associates Services

Opal Australian Paper (Reflex)

Organisation emissions summary

The electricity summary is available in the Appendix B. Electricity emissions were calculated using a market-based approach.

Emission category	Sum of Scope 1 (tCO_2-e)	Sum of Scope 2 (tCO_2-e)	Sum of Scope 3 (tCO_2-e)	Total emissions (tCO_2-e)
Accommodation and facilities	0.0	0.0	7.2	**7.2**
Cleaning and Chemicals	0.0	0.0	5.9	**5.9**
Climate Active Carbon Neutral Products and Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	**0.0**
Construction Materials and Services	0.0	0.0	22.5	**22.5**
Electricity	0.0	171.7	0.0	**171.7**
Food	0.0	0.0	23.6	**23.6**
ICT services and equipment	0.0	0.0	40.4	**40.4**
Office equipment & supplies	0.0	0.0	22.3	**22.3**
Postage, courier and freight	0.0	0.0	744.5	**744.5**
Products	0.0	0.0	65.3	**65.3**
Professional Services	0.0	0.0	154.8	**154.8**
Refrigerants	4.3	0.0	0.0	**4.3**
Transport (Air)	0.0	0.0	0.5	**0.5**
Transport (Land and Sea)	7.1	0.0	212.8	**219.9**
Waste	0.0	0.0	29.1	**29.1**
Water	0.0	0.0	1.0	**1.0**
Working from home	0.0	0.0	47.0	**47.0**
Total	**11.4**	**171.7**	**1376.8**	**1559.8**

Uplift factors

N/A

6.CARBON OFFSETS

Offsets retirement approach

In arrears		
1.	Total emissions footprint to offset for this report (tCO_2-e)	1560
2.	Total eligible offsets purchased and retired for this report	1560
3.	Total eligible offsets banked to use toward next year's report	0

Co-benefits

Pacajai REDD+ Project is working to provide legal land-use permits that will result in official land titles for those villages that actively participate in forest protection. Through funds raised, the project can continue to improve food security through agroforestry techniques, while introducing sustainable livelihood alternatives to local communities. With over 56,000 hectares of land dedicated to these inhabitants, it is expected that each family will receive approximately 140 hectares, and each town will have its own land donated to it. In partnership with local NGOs, the project will provide capacity building to local families to develop and submit business plans (individually or in groups) to apply for funding to start small sustainable businesses – those that take advantage of non-timber products in the project area, such as the highly valuable Acai fruit. We are also building local capabilities in the use of agroforestry techniques, to diversify and secure food consumption, while achieving a sustainable production of cassava – used in farinha production. Since the world's forests are our greatest ally in the fight against climate change, we've made it our mission to prevent over 10 million tonnes of harmful CO2 entering the atmosphere over the 40- year lifetime of the project. We have been successfully validated and verified against the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) and validated to the CCB Standards Second Edition - achieving Climate Adaptation and Biodiversity Gold Levels.

Eligible offsets retirement summary

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**	**Stapled quantity**	**Eligible quantity (tCO_2-e)**	**Eligible quantity used for previous reporting periods**	**Eligible quantity banked for future reporting periods**	**Eligible quantity used for this reporting period**	**Percentage of total (%)**
Pacajai REDD + Project, Brazil	VCUs	Verra	28 Feb 2023	11026-270426197-270427756-VCS-VCU-259-VER-BR-14-981-01012014-31122014-0	2014	-	1560	0	0	1560	100%
									Total offsets retired this report and used in this report	**1560**	
									Total offsets retired this report and banked for future reports	**0**	

Type of offset units	Quantity (used for this reporting period claim)	Percentage of total
Verified Carbon Units (VCUs)	1560	100%

7. RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTIFICATE (REC) SUMMARY

Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) summary

N/A

APPENDIX A: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

N/A

APPENDIX B: ELECTRICITY SUMMARY

Electricity emissions are calculated using a **market-based approach.**

Location-based method:

The location-based method provides a picture of a business's electricity emissions in the context of its location, and the emissions intensity of the electricity grid it relies on. It reflects the average emissions intensity of the electricity grid in the location (State) in which energy consumption occurs. The location-based method does not allow for any claims of renewable electricity from grid-imported electricity usage.

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 ($kgCO_2$-e)	Renewable percentage of total
Behind the meter consumption of electricity generated	121,680	0	36%
Total non-grid electricity	**121,680**	**0**	**36%**
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)	39,397	0	12%
Residual electricity	172,528	171,659	0%
Total grid electricity	**211,924**	**171,659**	**12%**
Total electricity consumed (grid + non grid)	**333,604**	**171,659**	**48%**
Electricity renewables	161,077	0	
Residual electricity	172,528	171,659	
Exported on-site generated electricity	**0**	**0**	
Emissions ($kgCO_2$-e)		171,659	

Total renewables (grid and non-grid)	**48.28%**
Mandatory	**11.81%**
Voluntary	**0.00%**
Behind the meter	**36.47%**
Residual electricity emissions footprint (tCO_2-e)	**172**

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

Location-based approach summary

Location-based approach	Activity Data (kWh)	Scope 2 emissions ($kgCO_2$-e)	Scope 3 emissions ($kgCO_2$-e)
VIC	211,924	192,851	21,192
Grid electricity (scope 2 and 3)	**211,924**	**192,851**	**21,192**
VIC	121,680	0	0
Non-grid electricity (Behind the meter)	**121,680**	**0**	**0**
Total electricity consumed	**333,604**	**192,851**	**21,192**

Emissions footprint (tCO_2-e)	**214**
Scope 2 emissions (tCO_2-e)	193
Scope 3 emissions (tCO_2e)	21

Climate Active carbon neutral electricity summary

Carbon neutral electricity offset by Climate Active product	Activity Data (kWh)	Emissions ($kgCO_2$-e)
N/A	**0**	**0**

Climate Active carbon neutral electricity is not renewable electricity. The emissions have been offset by another Climate Active member through their product certification.

APPENDIX C: INSIDE EMISSIONS BOUNDARY

Non-quantified emission sources

The following sources emissions have been assessed as relevant, 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 one of the following reasons:

1. **Immaterial** <1% for individual items and no more than 5% collectively
2. **Cost effective** Quantification is not cost effective relative to the size of the emission but uplift applied.
3. **Data unavailable** 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
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

APPENDIX D: OUTSIDE EMISSIONS BOUNDARY

Excluded emission sources

The below emission sources have been assessed as not relevant to an organisation's or precinct's operations and are outside of its emissions boundary. These emissions are not part of the carbon neutral claim. Emission sources considered for relevance must be included within the certification boundary if they meet two of the five relevance criteria. Those which only meet one condition of the relevance test can be excluded from the certification boundary.

Emissions tested for relevance are detailed below against each of the following criteria:

1. **Size** The emissions from a particular source are likely to be large relative to the organisation's electricity, stationary energy and fuel emissions

2. **Influence** The responsible entity has the potential to influence the reduction of emissions from a particular source.

3. **Risk** The emissions from a particular source contribute to the organisation's greenhouse gas risk exposure.

4. **Stakeholders** Key stakeholders deem the emissions from a particular source are relevant.

5. **Outsourcing** 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.

Emission sources tested for relevance	(1) Size	(2) Influence	(3) Risk	(4) Stakeholders	(5) Outsourcing	Included in boundary?
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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